From the Principal’s Desk...

A Christian Community Must Reflect the Nature of God

Diagnosing a sick prayer life

Author: Tony Payne

Continuing from last week

Prayer may have beneficial effects on us (in increasing our daily trust in him, for example, but it has no effect on God himself. Otherwise, how can God be sovereign?

In this view, God remains supremely powerful, but his hands are completely tied (as it were) by his preordained plans.

There’s no point asking him for anything because he is not able to change his plans to grant us our request - unless he was going to give it to us anyway, in which case he would have done so whether we prayed or not. So what’s the point of praying?!

Again this is a distortion of the Bible’s view of God’s sovereignty. It has to be a distortion because the Bible contradicts this view on so many occasions!

What does “You do not have, because you do not ask” mean in James 4:2 if God does not respond to your prayers by giving us things? Or what are we to make of the many instances in the Old Testament which speak of God ‘relenting’ in response to heartfelt prayers, and not visiting upon people the wrath and destruction he had intended (eg Exodus 32:9-14; Jeremiah 26:19; Joel 2:13)? Why would God promise us that we could “call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you” (Psalm 50:15) if our calling upon him had no effect - that is, if the outcome of the day of trouble would have been precisely the same, according to God’s eternal will, whether we had prayed or not? And what do these words about Elijah mean if not that God acts in response to human prayers?

The Prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit (Jas 5:16b-18).

The Bible certainly affirms the absolute sovereignty and power of God over his creation at every moment, and his determination to work his plans and purposes out. But it never takes that to mean that God is deaf to our prayers - that they rebound without effect from the hard, shiny surface of his eternal decrees. Quite the contrary; scripture everywhere assume that God will graciously respond to his people’s prayers and include their prayers in his sovereign plans. Just as God works in and through the ‘natural’ events of our world in his sovereign way, so he works in and through our prayers to achieve his purposes. When we stop believing that God really listens to and responds to our prayers, we stop praying.

To be continued . . . . . . . .
Aboriginal Flag Ceremony

On Wednesday the 26th of February, the Aboriginal flag was presented at our school; by the year six students Elizabeth, Boston and Thomas.

We did this in honour of the Aboriginal people within our school and wider community.

We will also fly the Aboriginal flag during NAIDOC week every year in July. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements.

What do the colours mean?

BLACK: represents the Aboriginal people of Australia.

YELLOW: represents the Sun.

RED: Represents the red earth.

Victoria Hayward (year 7), Daniel Hayward (year 1) and Kay-Lee Winchester (year 5)
ANNUAL SCHOOL SERVICE - SUNDAY 6th April
Our Annual School Service and Staff dedication will be held in the Girrawheen Baptist Church on the 6th April, commencing at 10.30am. All students are expected to attend this service. Any absences should be covered by a parental note in advance of the service.

PARENT NIGHT - MONDAY 7th APRIL
Commences at 7.15pm in the Church.
Nominations for the EPG (Emmanuel Parent Group) - all positions
Information regarding Grade 7 in 2015 and beyond - High School

ANZAC DAY SERVICE - TUESDAY 8th APRIL
The service will be held on Tuesday 8th April commencing at 9.00am for 30 minutes.
It would be appreciated if students could be at school by 8.30am to remember our ANZACS and learn more of the service they gave. Parents, relatives and friends are welcome to attend this remembrance service.

EASTER SERVICE - THURSDAY 10th APRIL
We plan to have 2 short Easter Services at school. The First will be ‘Tennebrae’ service at 9.00am for 20 minutes. The second at 2.30pm will be Easter Celebration for 20 minutes. All parents will be welcome at our services.

**GRANDPARENT DAY - CHANGE OF DATE**
We are sorry, but we need to change the date of our Grandparent Day to MONDAY NOVEMBER 3rd in 4th Term.
Please mark this special day in your diary - and remove the previous one !!

Girrawheen Baptist Church

40 Days Of Prayer and Fasting - 5th March - 13th April 2014
We invite you to join us in prayer and fasting over the 40 days leading to Palm Sunday and Easter. We pray for a miraculous breakthrough of God’s LIFE in our nation and revival and transformation for Australia (2nd Chronicles 7:14).

Five Point Prayer Plan - LIFE

1. Call for you to renew your love and life for God.
2. Call for you to make a list of friends you will pray for on each of these 40 days, praying they will find new life in Jesus Christ. Write to each one of them a short note as a sign of God’s love.
3. Commit to prayer for a release of God’s LIFE in our nation.
4. Pray that we will see a culture of life replace a culture of death and that respect for life, from conception to natural death will be enshrined in law and public policy.
5. Pray each day for an outpouring of love, revival and transformation for Australia.
CYBER SAFETY

Constable Care will visit our school in term 2, on Thursday 27th May, 1-3pm.

The students in years 4 - 7 will learn about CYBERSAFETY and students in PrePrimary - 3 will learn about PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOUR.

The internet and the many devices available (laptops, ipads, phones etc) are a wonderful resource for learning. However, there are dangers and risks involved in unsupervised and uninformed use.

The Australian Government has an excellent on-line resource for students, parents and teachers at

www.cybersmart.gov.au

We recommend this site as a good place to begin educating children about the safe and responsible use of the internet and welcome any opportunity to work with the students and their families at Emmanuel

SCHOOL FEES

It is time to remind families about the payment of your school fees.

Billing Cycle

Fees will be billed in four instalments, with payments due by the end of Week 2 of Terms 1, 2, 3, & 4.

Payment dates for 2014 are :

1st Term : Friday 14 February 2014  
2nd Term : Friday 9th May 2014  
3rd Term : Friday 1st August 2014  
4th Term : Friday 24th October 2014

We are now in week 6 of 1st Term - please speak to Mr Johnson to arrange any outstanding fees.
EMMANUEL PARENT GROUP

Parents and extended families are very important to our Christian Community School. Many good, helpful and fun things cannot be done without you. Will you pray about this matter of taking a role in our Emmanuel Parent Group (EPG)? Perhaps you see a position for which you are gifted? Perhaps you would like to know more about a role? You will not have to work alone, others will support you.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO THINK AND PRAY ABOUT HOW YOU MIGHT HELP!

The members of the ministry team will be elected by vote at the first Parents Night Meeting on 7th April 2014

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<th>POSITION</th>
<th>NOMINATION FOR 2014</th>
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<td>CHAIR</td>
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If you wish to nominate for any of the positions listed below, please complete and leave your nomination form in the office - Thank You

.................................................................

**NOMINATION FOR EMMANUEL PARENT GROUP MINISTRY TEAM**

I ................................................................. Nominate .................................................................

(Name of Person making Nomination)

For the position of ................................................................. For 2014

NOMINATION ACCEPTED BY : .................................................................

(Name in Capitals)

SIGNATURE OF PERSON NOMINATED : .................................................................

DATE : .................................................................
BANKING AT SCHOOL

Is on Fridays: 8 - 8.30am in the library
Families are encouraged to have their children do school banking each Friday.
Forms can be picked up from the school office.
Accounts can be set up on-line, and by phone OR
We can arrange for Bank officers to come to school and help you set up your child’s account.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO THIS
Children can bank as little as 50c per week - banking each week is the key to good savings habits.

THANK YOU Mrs Eddy for volunteering your time to help with SCHOOL BANKING on Fridays
We really appreciate your time!

SPANISH CLASSES
Spanish lessons will commence on Monday 5th May. Classes are conducted from 3.30pm to 4.15pm.

If you would like your child to learn Spanish, please complete the form below and return it to the office.

NAME OF STUDENT / STUDENTS: .......................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................................................
ABSENTEE DETAILS
If students have been away from school on any day of the week, a note from the parent or the doctor must be given to the class teacher upon return to school. Please remember to note the date and day and also the cause (e.g., sick, holidays) for the absenteeism.

Children who arrive at school LATE or LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY should do so VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE, where attendance records will be updated. Class Rolls are submitted electronically at 9:00 am and 1:00 pm daily.

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP
Parents are reminded of the importance of informing staff if a person, other than yourself, will collect your child. This includes families who are picked up for after-school centres. Forms are with the class teacher.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL IN THIS MATTER

CAR PARK SAFETY!
Parents are reminded NOT TO DROP THEIR CHILDREN OFF OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS and allow them to walk across the car park. Reversing cars do not see small children and it is very dangerous.

Thank you for respecting the safety of our children.

TRAFFIC FLOW FOR PICK UP AT 3:15PM
Please observe the traffic rules and routes at pick up time for 2 reasons:

*** The safety of our children!
*** To ensure good relationships with our local residents.
**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER - 2014**

### TERM ONE

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>SUNDAY 6 APRIL</td>
<td>ANNUAL SCHOOL SERVICE</td>
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<td>MONDAY 7 APRIL</td>
<td>PARENTS NIGHT - 7:15PM</td>
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<td>THURSDAY 10 APRIL</td>
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<td>FRIDAY 11 APRIL</td>
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### TERM TWO

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<td>TUESDAY 29 APRIL</td>
<td>TERM TWO COMMENCES</td>
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<td>MONDAY 26 MAY</td>
<td>PHOTOGRAPHS</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY 28 MAY</td>
<td>PHOTOGRAPHS - KINDY / PREPRIMARY</td>
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<td>THURSDAY 03 JULY</td>
<td>END OF TERM</td>
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### CLASS ASSEMBLIES - 2014

**TERM ONE**

- THURSDAY 20 MARCH: YEAR 2

**TERM 2**

- THURSDAY 22 MAY: YEAR 6
- THURSDAY 05 JUNE: YEAR 1

**TERM 3**

- THURSDAY 31 JULY: YEAR 7
- THURSDAY 14 AUGUST: YEAR 5
- THURSDAY 28 AUGUST: KINDERGARTEN
- THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER: YEAR 4

**TERM 4**

- THURSDAY 06 NOVEMBER: PRE-PRIMARY
- THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER: GRADUATION - YEARS 6 AND 7

**INDONESIAN - ATTENTION**

The Indonesian vocabulary test programmed for this Friday (tomorrow) will not be given to the Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 students.

The test will be conducted next Friday 21st March.