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

Our lack of prayer suggests that perhaps we don’t really believe God is so powerful after all. We’re infected with an unbelief in the power of God to work in our lives. This unbelief comes in two forms:

Type A: Misunderstanding nature and super-nature

As modern people, we have been taught to divide everything that happens into two categories: natural and supernatural. There are the natural, ordinary, scientifically provable things that happen; and then there are the inexplicable, weird, ‘supernatural’ things that you just shrug your shoulders about.

This is not a biblical way of thinking at all. God can use natural means to achieve natural results, such as simply sending the rain to water the earth and produce crops. But he can also use natural means to achieve extraordinary results—such as sending a strong east wind to drive back the Red Sea and allow the Israelites to cross on dry land (Exod 14:21). Or God can suspend the normal, natural pattern of his creation by making a man dead for four days come back to life (John 11:38-44). All of these are equally the work of the powerful, sovereign God of all the world.

If we are infected with the modern view—and all of us have been taught it explicitly and implicitly since we were kids—God gets parked off into the world of weird phenomena and unexplained events. He becomes a last resort when all ‘natural’ means have failed; or perhaps a supplier of psychological strength and calm to deal with the ups and downs of daily life.

Christians who are infected with this way of thinking about God and the world can end up virtually prayerless. If, deep down, we don’t think that God is actually able to act or intervene to change anything in the course of our daily lives, but is only going to give us a bit of fortitude to put up with things as they are, then prayer doesn’t seem so urgent or necessary. We can just get on with managing things ourselves, firing off the occasional brief request for some extra patience and perseverance.

This is a grave danger for modern Christians, especially those living in the prosperous West. We live in a technological society, where most diseases seem easily curable and where life is, for the most part, secure, comfortable and healthy. If we don’t take active steps to the contrary, our default way of thinking about the world will be that life goes on very normally without God— that he doesn’t really do anything in the world any more, and that his activity is limited to making us feel a bit better.
PREFECT ASSEMBLY

At a school assembly this morning we introduced the 14 new student councillors to the school community.

Parents, Grandparents and friends were present too and students and families shared morning tea together following a short assembly.

Mr Gabrielson reminded the student councillors of the importance of service and humility in leadership, their responsibilities as role models and even comforter and friend to students who sometimes feel alone.

He also reminded the rest of the students of their responsibility to respect and follow directions from student councillors when required.

We thank God for the student councillors and their families and pray God’s blessing on their lives.
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.

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 (eg 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 9.00am and 1.00pm 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 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
ASTHMA, EPIPENS etc

All parents are reminded of their responsibility to check medications kept at school are UP TO DATE

This is a matter of importance and should be attended to immediately.

Help us to support you in the good care of your child whilst at school.

ASTHMA - ANAPHYLAXIS - ALLERGIES

The school must be well informed so that your child will receive the correct, timely treatment prescribed by the doctor. There are many school families with children suffering either Asthma or Anaphylaxis, therefore URGENT ATTENTION IS REQUIRED ON THIS MATTER.

Both Asthma and Anaphylaxis require medication and an Action Plan - SIGNED BY YOUR DOCTOR.

ANAPHYLAXIS FORMS - REQUIRE A VISIT TO YOUR DOCTOR AND SIGNED FORM.

ASTHMA FORMS - REQUIRE VISIT TO YOUR DOCTOR AND SIGNED FORM.

MEDICATION / SICKNESS

It is the parents responsibility to ensure that information provided is current and to inform the school whenever there is a change.

School staff will not administer ANY ORAL medicines (eg Panadol) to students. This is a parent responsibility. However, teaching staff may assist primary students taking medication.

A child who is unwell should not attend school. Naturally, the best possible care will be given to sick or injured children. HOWEVER, if your child is unable to continue with the normal school routine after care and rest, you will be required to collect the child or have a friend or relative do so. The School is not able to nurse or supervise an unwell child for an extended period of time.

If parents require a primary student to carry and self-administer prescribed medicine while at school, they must advise the School Office of all relevant details by completing the Student Medication Advice form (available from the office). All medication is to be kept in the admin area.

School staff are not expected to administer prescribed medication or treatments which require specialist training, such as giving injections. However, school staff will assist with the straightforward administration of prescribed medication. Parents must provide written authorization for school staff to administer the prescribed medication by completing a Student Medication Advice Form.

Posting of photographs or other images on Facebook and other social media outlets

The School has become aware that photographs of students involved in activities at the School are appearing on social networking sites such as Facebook. The School recognises that parents often take photographs of their own child at various school events and display these photographs as they see fit. However, the School requests that parents do not publish photographs of other students in any media or on any form of social networking sites without the express written permission of the other child’s / children’s parents.
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.

We are in need of a parent to help with banking each Friday - 8 - 8.30am
Would you like to help out in this way?
Please see Mrs Davis

BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTIONS - Each week there will be 5 questions for you to answer. In this way you will be able to learn even more from the Word of God. Note your answers and check them the following week - in your school newsletter.

QUESTIONS

What was the name of Jesus’ mother? : __________________________
What was the name of the garden where Adam and Eve lived? : __________________________
With what food did Jesus feed 5,000 people? : __________________________
What method did the Romans use to kill Jesus? : __________________________
From which part of Adam’s body did God create Eve? : __________________________

M E C O (MIDDLE EAST CHRISTIAN OUTREACH)

LUNCH ON TUESDAY 4th MARCH - Sausage Sizzle, Juice, Fruit and Ice Cream

Please Note: If you do not want your child to have this lunch, they MUST BRING THEIR OWN LUNCH ON TUESDAY

Please make sure that money is handed in by 9.00am on FRIDAY (Tomorrow) 28th February

$5.50
CLASS ASSEMBLIES - 2014

TERM ONE
THURSDAY 06 MARCH YEAR 3
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

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.
### Important Dates to Remember - 2014

#### Term One

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY- FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Swimming - Years 4-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 4 MARCH</td>
<td>Sausage Sizzle Lunch</td>
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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>
<td>End of Term</td>
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<td>FRIDAY 11 APRIL</td>
<td>Staff PD</td>
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#### Term Two

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 29 APRIL</td>
<td>Term Two Commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY 19 MAY</td>
<td>Grandparent Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY 26 MAY</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 28 MAY</td>
<td>Photographs - Kindy / Preprimary</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY 03 JULY</td>
<td>End of Term</td>
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#### Desks For Sale

Grade 7's old desks are for sale.

Interested?

$20 each

Information from the school office.

#### 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**: .................................................................

........................................................................................................
A Morning of Mourning

Some say Emmanuel's high school is the most significant change in its 30 year history. But on Wednesday, 20th February 2014, Emmanuel's high school paled into insignificance, all because .... the hand-crafted wooden desks from the 1960's were removed from the Year 7 classroom. They were then clinically replaced with 'state of the art' monstrosities.

Gone are the days when Year 7's can place stationery into perfectly carved grooves on their desktop or fit all their work in well designed trays. Gone is a whole lot of history and memories. Some narrow-minded people saw the artistic etchings on these retro, wooden marvels as graffiti, but to those who've experienced the desks, it was more than that. It was the knowledge that they'd shared memories with those who also sat at their particular desk.

The pain of this move was immediately evident. A collective cry broke out from Year 7's when the new desks were delivered at their door. Some hugged their desks, others quickly tried to etch their names into the wood whilst most just cried for their mementos. Even the desk with 'Mataly Valejos was ere' scratched into the lid was removed despite the DOTT teacher tying herself to one leg of "My desk" in protest. It was a sad, sad scene and the school, whilst served well by the professional counsellors that were on hand, will never be able to completely cure the hurt that many were delivered that dark, dark morning.

For all those who've experienced the 'old' school desks from Year 7, the grieving period will be understandably long and should be respected. For a macabre few though, this was a chance to gloat and celebrate a 'changing of the guard'.

"Seriously, tell them to build a bridge and get with the times," was just one insensitive comment made by the Year 7 Art Specialist, all within earshot of a group of mourners. In protest, a number of her Year 7 students did really messy artwork that day.

As a precious piece of Emmanuel's history is moved on/sold on Gumtree, a new era begins - an era of characterless, cold, disinfected desks that can only live in the shadow of 'the old wooden school desks'.
Not used to an environment of fresh air, the desks seemed disorientated and yes... homeless.

In the foreground, one of the 'huggers'. In the background, two of the 'fry up Manymas'.

Not happy! Their pitiful protest lasted a massive 2 minutes and 25 seconds, 30 seconds longer than their protest against boys having to learn netball.