

Mainstream



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Andrew Tonkin
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10th January, 2016

Many of our New Year resolutions include a resolve to make more time for prayer. And behind our struggles with time lies a deeper issue—sometimes we have very little inclination to turn to prayer at all.

In my own practice, and in supporting that of others, this struggle to pray is often present. Sometimes it is because subconsciously I think God is displeased with me or disappointed in me, because I have been persuaded that “getting on with the action” is more important and I have become over-busy, or because I have become “stale” in my devotional practices and need new inspiration.

But sometimes I simply need to find the grace and humility to say, “Lord, help me to *want* to pray.”

Why is this so? Why do I forget God? Why do I sometimes need prompting to pray?

Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that in the depths of my being I both yearn for God and yet run away from God. I seek grace and mercy and yet I also seek to avoid the “leap of faith” in which I depend on an external source for guidance and help.

To truly enter into prayer is to experience the deep silence and stillness in which I am alone before my God, and that can be scary. To truly enter into prayer I am invited, like Jesus, to draw aside from what I am expected to do in order to seek wisdom and direction, and this can be threatening.

To truly enter into prayer I need to risk acting as if God is always turned towards me in love and there is in this universe a power at work that is on the side of life and goodness.

Now there’s a thought! What would my life be like if I truly believed that I was surrounded by great love, which looks at my goodness and potential more than at my sinfulness, and that when I pray I simply step into that Presence?

-Ann Siddall

*Ann Siddall is a Spiritual Director.
She lives in South Australia*



Welcome to church today. If you are a visitor we offer you a special welcome. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee in the hall following the morning service.

Today, Sunday, 10th January, 2016

10.00 am Brendan Moritz
Worship Leader Joshua Cole
Communion Leader Matthew Cameron

Renovations

6.00 pm Brendan Moritz
Worship Leader Brendan Kiley

Next Week, Sunday, 17th January

10.00 am Andrew Tonkin
& **Being in the Will of God**
6.00 pm

Dates for 2016

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|---------------|---|
| February 1-14 | Prayer and Fasting |
| February 15 | Prayer and Fasting Celebration |
| February 27 | Vision Summit with Ted Keating |
| March 4 | World Day of Prayer |
| March 6 | Commence two morning services |
| March 7 | Church Annual General Meeting |
| March 25 | Good Friday |
| March 27 | Easter Sunday |
| April 28 | Billy Graham Evangelistic Crusades commence |
| May 21 | Ladies' Day |
| June 4 | Leadership Weekend with Graham Agnew |

Loving God - Loving People

GODLY GENEROUS GENERATIONS GRACE GOSPEL



Family News & Prayer



- Piano Tuner:
Ian Mansell's grandson, Shaun Pragt, is in Mildura for the month of January. If you would like to have your piano tuned (grand or upright), please contact him on 0447 211766 or by email on sjpragt@gmail.com
- Continue to pray for Marianne Haigh.
She was to go to Adelaide on Friday, 8th January, to have another knee replacement on Wednesday, 20th January. She also needs to commence kidney dialysis in the near future.

PINK FORMS

In order for the new Rosters for the rest of the year to be finalised, you will need to return the Pink Forms you received in the mail, by the end of January please. We already have the first one in. If you didn't receive one in the mail, we don't have your address and yours will be in your pigeon hole.

Going Through the Door

Once a dying patient asked his doctor, who had come to make a house call on him, what death would be like.

The doctor fumbled for a reply and then he heard his dog scratching at the door of the man's room. The answer came to him.

The doctor looked at the patient and said, "Did you hear that noise? That is my dog which I brought with me tonight, and I left him downstairs before I came up to your room. He climbed those stairs for he knows that I am in here. He has no other ideas about what is in this room for he has never been here. All he knows is that I am in here and that is good enough for him.

You don't know what is on the other side of the door of death, but you do know that your Master is there."

That should be good enough for all of us. We will never walk through the door or through the valley of death alone. He will always be there to go with us through the door to the other side.

-From Illustrations Unlimited.

Preacher: When I ask members to volunteer for church responsibilities, I try to get them to listen to the voice of reason. And, in turn, get to listen to the voices of many reasons!

Mission Update



Syrian Suffering Brings Blessing of Belief

Lebanese church leaders, Camille and Stefan, are seeing hundreds of Syrian refugees arrive destitute on their church doorstep. But it isn't long before the refugees begin to express gratitude for their trauma—because it has enabled them to discover a God of love.

Pastor Stefan says that in conversation with Syrian refugee families, he regularly hears statements such as; 'We thank God that we lost our houses, we thank God that we left our country. If we hadn't done that, we wouldn't have heard about Jesus, and that God is our father who loves us.'

For Stefan and Camille, discovering a destitute Syrian family desperately trying to shelter at the foot of the church stairs is a common occurrence. The average couple might have several children with them—and they will be grappling with sickness, financial difficulties and the pain of having lost family members.

The church gives them food, clothes, mattresses, medical supplies, baby milk and nappies and tries to find them a place to live. Pastor Stephan says the common response from the Muslims who attend their church meetings is a desire for a relationship with Christ.

COCOA

There is still time for you to return your Mission donations in the envelopes you received on Christmas Eve. More envelopes are available from the foyer table.

Please Note: All church Bank Account Numbers have now changed! When keying in BSB, it may come up with INDUE Ltd BSB, but this is correct. Please change your bank account debits as soon as possible.

*Must Say 'Mildura Church of Christ' on both accounts now. *

Have you changed your direct deposits yet? Please do this before we close off the NAB Accounts!

This includes the Extend Account!!

GENERAL ACCOUNT

DIRECT DEPOSITS- Mildura Church of Christ

BSB number 703-810 Account Number 05300208

EXTEND ACCOUNT

DIRECT DEPOSITS - Mildura Church of Christ

BSB number 703-810 Account Number 05300270

This Week

| | | | |
|-----------|------|---------|------------------|
| Sunday | 10th | 9.30 am | Prayer |
| Monday | 11th | 7.30 pm | Elders' Meeting |
| Wednesday | 13th | 7.30 pm | Sunraysia Prayer |



JANUARY

PEANUT PALS

We had a fantastic night on the 21st December last year, sharing a short devotional time and singing carols together. Then the fun of finding out who your Peanut Pal was from 2015 and surprising your Pal with your reveal. A reminder that if you weren't there on the night, there may be a gift on the table in the foyer and please check your pigeon holes for the details of your 2016 one. A huge thank you to all ladies on the night; we collected nearly \$128 and were able to place 13 gifts under the K-Mart (Christmas) Wishing tree!! A great effort! I wish all Peanut Pals a great year of fun and caring as you look after your special lady. God bless, Robyn.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, March, 7th at 7.30 pm

We invite all Deacons, Group Leaders and Bible Study Leaders to contribute to the AGM Booklet which will be brought out mid-February. Please write a report on your group's activities in 2015 and send it to the Church Office by the end of January.

There are still some out-standing Membership Forms. Please collect one from the foyer table or your pigeon hole or return the one you took home last year.

PIGEON HOLES

In the foyer there are some pigeon holes, where you will find, from time to time, someone has left some mail for you.

There are many items in those holes at present: Christmas cards, rosters, Peanut Pal notes, etc. Please take home your mail today.

NEXT WEEK, 17th January, 2016

10.00 am

Worship Leader
Communion Leader
Singers
Band
Projector/Sound
Officer on Duty
Children's Church
Welcome/Reception
Helpers

A. Tonkin
B. Moritz
D. Morrall + Prayer Leader
A. Thorne, B. Kiley
A. Thorne, D. Ferrett, B. Kiley, G. Stewart, I. Stewart
J. Cole / J. Armstrong
W. Whitehead
No Adventure Sunday
D. Ferrett / D. Hind
C. Meade, B. Eaton, J. Barthelson, J. Booysen, H. Atkins,
U. Willsmore, C. Beasy-reader, M. Cameron, P. Leng

Crèche

Cuppa

Communion Prep.

Cleaning / Grounds

6.00 pm

Worship Leader

Singers

Band

Projector/Sound

Officer on Duty

Reception

R. O'Connor, H. Nicholson

G. Beruldsen, E. Phillips, R. Brown

K. Underwood

A. & B. Munro / M. Cameron & I. Cross

A. Tonkin

S. Armstrong

A. Gray, A. Beasy

K. Stewart, I. Fabich, B. Herman, R. Jemmeson, B. Moritz

T. McGinty / J. Armstrong

W. Whitehead

R. Hawtin

A man stumbled through the woods, totally drunk when he came upon a preacher baptising people in the river. He proceeded to walk into the water and subsequently bumped into the preacher.

The preacher turned around and was almost overcome by the smell of alcohol.

Whereupon he asked the drunk, "Are you ready to find Jesus?"

The drunk answered, "Yes, I am."

So the preacher grabbed him and dunked him in the water. He pulled him up and asked the drunk, "Brother, have you found Jesus?"

The drunk told him, "No, I haven't found Jesus."

The preacher, shocked at the answer, dunked him into the water again for a little longer this time. He again pulled him out of the water and asked again, "Have you found Jesus, my brother?"

The drunk again answered, "No, I haven't found Jesus."

By this time the preacher was at his wit's end and dunked the drunk in the water again—but this time holds him down for about 30 seconds and when he began kicking his arms and legs he pulled him up. The preacher again asked the drunk, "For the love of God, have you found Jesus?"

The drunk wiped his eyes and caught his breath and said to the preacher, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

In the olden days when a youngster misbehaved to get attention, they really got attention.