

# Pray Bendigo Newsletter

*Bendigo*  
**Be in God**

## From the Coordinator

Welcome to the new format of the Pray Bendigo Newsletter. Our sincere thanks go to Lois Barker who has kept us informed over the past few years about activities and prayer points for the city. The new editor is Alida Robinson who can be contacted at the View Hill Fellowship office on Fridays. This newsletter will appear each month and if you want material included it needs to be at the View Hill Fellowship office by the third Friday of the month so that it can appear by the first of the next month.

The newsletter will include the regular matters of prayer points for the city and information about coming events. It will also include regular articles of interest for city transformation as well as detailed information about Bendigo so that we can pray in a more informed way.

We have come together as Pray Bendigo because we have a passion for our city. We long to see the city transformed by the power of God into the best it can possibly be. This will involve each person in the city doing what they have been called to do under God. The Churches are called to pastor the city and its leadership, to pray and seek God's blessing on all the endeavours of those who seek the welfare of the city. The secular authorities are called by God to work for the welfare of all the citizens of the city, to provide a safe and harmonious environment, and a place where all can find profitable and enriching work and leisure.

We are convinced that this can only happen when all aspects of the city, secular and church, operate together in harmony and respect. I have included overleaf my dream for the city as given at a public meeting some years ago. My dream has not changed, and if anything has intensified. Over these past few years we have seen both ups and downs in the city, but overall I believe it is in a much healthier state now than before. That has to remain our aim: to see continual improvement in the city, especially for those with little or no voice of their own.

Under God we will see this happen, but it will need a dedication to the task of prayer. People of good will can work as hard as they are able, and still not achieve the result they expect. When that effort is empowered by the prayers of the Church then God prospers the work of everybody. The people involved may not know the reason for their success but none the less that success comes as a result of the divine power added to their best effort.

I trust you will be greatly blessed by this newsletter in the months ahead and will rededicate yourself to the work of prayer and unity under Jesus Christ, so that we can all live in a 'prayed for city'.

Many blessings in Jesus  
John Steele

**My Dream for Bendigo**

by Rev'd John Steele

I dream that all in the city will see that there are two indispensable elements of the Kingdom of God that need to work together:

- The church leaders
- The community leaders

Each holds one of the two keys to the unlocking of the riches inherent in the city by divine appointment.

- The church is called to be both the prophetic voice declaring the word of God and the pastoring voice bringing the healing and comfort of God to the city and its leaders
- The community leaders are called to act with complete integrity and justice to enable all in the city to live in peace and prosperity

Each is called to serve the other – the church serves the community and the community calls on the church for a word from God and a healing hand..

### **How do I see this operating?**

I see the time very soon when the community leaders in all areas of leadership realise there is a spiritual dimension to their work and ministry. Hard work will produce effective results when all the spiritual barriers are removed and the grace of God is received through the prayers of the church.

I see the community leaders asking for prayer before decisions are taken and then seeing the ease with which those decisions produce the desired results.

I see the church taking up its responsibility to pray and support all the leaders in the city.

### **What do I see the effect of this being?**

- A city transformed by the power of God
- Crime rates down dramatically
- Personal hardship alleviated
- Prospering businesses
- Jobs for all with dignity and satisfaction
- People able to remain in Bendigo after training here
- Mental and physical health standards improved
- Physical and sexual abuse eliminated
- Chemical dependence replaced by healthy living
- Prayer meetings filling the largest buildings regularly as thanksgiving is made and prayer covering for the city maintained
- The land healed of the effects of ecological devastation and becoming more productive
- Church buildings filled to overflowing and new churches established
- The 'glory days' of the past far surpassed by the glory of God in our midst
- Harmony between old and young, men and women, all races and peoples.
- Families strengthened and homes being places of support, safety and growth
- Education reaching such a stage of excellence that we lead the nations in ways of pursuing knowledge that enhances humanity
- The arts redeemed to enrich the soul of the community and its citizens so that the riches of pure hearts can be expressed freely in all forms of the arts: music, decorative arts, graphic arts, dance, etc

In other words, a society healthy and whole

### **How realistic is this?**

God has done it in other ages and in our present age in other places. Why not here?

All we need to do is to make him welcome. Where he is welcomed, he comes with great power to redeem and transform the very structures of our society and the lives of the people in the city. The city will then fulfil its redemptive gift which in Bendigo's case is 'to be a blessing'.

### **How do we welcome God into our city?**

- United leadership
- Persistent prayer
- Holy living

(2 Chr 7:14 NIV) If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

## **Living In A Prayed For City**

Paul urges us, first of all, to pray for all people. As we make our requests, we are to plead for God's mercy upon them and give thanks. We are to pray this way for Presidents and for all have authority so that we can have quiet and peaceful lives. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

### ***What Would It Be Like To Live In A Prayed For City?***

- \*A town where every boy and girl are being prayed for by name.
- \*A suburb where every household is assigned to someone for daily prayer.
- \*A neighbourhood whose streets have been prayerwalked.
- \*A community where believers gather in homes to pray for their neighbours
- \*A city of congregations who have caught the vision to pray for by name every man and woman, youth, and child...so that...they will be open to and interested in the good news of eternal life in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **What Would It Be Like To Live In A Prayed For City?**

- \*Would mayors and city councils be favourable to new church plants?
- \*Would gangs begin to lose members to the church?
- \*Would families begin to eat meals together?
- \*Would school classrooms become places of respect and learning?
- \*Would neighbours begin to communicate and help one another?
- \*Would congregations change the spiritual atmosphere by serving the community?
- \*Would children and youth look to the Church for entertainment and enlightenment?
- \*Would the police be known as those who serve and protect all people?
- \*Would Christians pray over people they meet on the streets, in stores, at school?
- \*Would spiritual awakening be the lead story on the evening news?

### **What Would It Take To Live In A Prayed For City?**

- \*Pastors take the time to meet together with Jesus in a Pastors' Prayer Group
- \*Hundreds of congregations commit to becoming Houses of Prayer
- \*Prayer Coordinators in every church begin new prayer groups and ministries
- \*Concerts of Prayer in every district bring several congregations together for prayer
- \*Church Planters initiate many new and very different church starts
- \*Intercessors pray every day for new churches to begin and to be blessed
- \*Church members in every church are mobilised into Lighthouses of prayer
- \*Pastors declare prayer as the basis of ministry, not an added or specialised ministry
- \*Christian business person meet in office buildings to pray for co-workers
- \*Church leadership promotes workshops & seminars designed to equip pray-ers

### **What Would It Take For YOU To Live In A Prayed For City?**

Are you serious when you pray Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heave?

Are you sure God is able to do above and beyond anything you dare to ask? Are you secretly content with the status quo of your life, your church, your impact?  
Are you resistant to the challenge because you know it is life-threatening?  
Are you even aware that you do not live in a prayed for city?  
Are you even curious, to experience even one day in a prayed for city? Are we, the alive-in-Christ, willing to die so the dead-in-their-sin may live?  
How will we ever pray for these millions upon million of lost people?  
I'll pray for my neighbours. You pray for yours. House by house. Name by name.  
I'll ask those I serve to pray for their neighbours. You ask those in your church or class, group or ministry to pray for their's...  
People with faces who live next door, across the alley, upstairs and down the street.  
Lord, we ask for the joy of living in prayed for city, so those who do not even know they need you, begin to search for the One who is their way to truth and life; Jesus.

## Coming Months

Each month we will feature a different aspect of the city for which we can pray for that month. Examples of such areas will be:

- City Council
- Local Politicians
- Education
- Police and Emergency Services
- Courts and the legal profession
- Commerce and Industry
- Health
- Recreation
- Service clubs and organisations
- Community groups
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## Coming Events

### Prayer Night

Date: Friday 13th June

Time: 7:30-10pm

Venue: Bendigo Christian Fellowship Eaglehawk Rd, Long Gully

Prayers led by Ps Alan Lamb, Ps Gordon Lingard,

Ps Graeme Barker, Rev'd Walter Abetz

### Highway Cleanup

Date: Saturday 14th June

Time: 9am

Meet at Baptist Church Junortoun

## MISSION

Pray Bendigo is an expression of the Christian Church of Bendigo. Our purpose is to be a catalyst for the transformation and blessing of Bendigo by the power of God, to reflect His purposes for the benefit of all citizens.

## VISION

Our vision is to play our part in the transformation and blessing of the city through: **Prayer**, which will include worship and intercession, in order to bring the fullness of heaven down to the community.

**The fulfillment of a city eldership role**, which will be expressed in pastoring the leadership of the city and speaking the word of God into the community.

**The honoring of each other** in mutual encouragement and support.

## Prayer points for June

Continue to pray for:

- The work being done at the Bright St Park, Eaglehawk
- Relationships to grow in harmony and respect at Virginia Hill, Eaglehawk
- That the needs of the Tornado victims will be met
- View Hill Fellowship's outreach into Long Gully through the Café Church Ministry to be established at St Matthew's

This part of the newsletter will be dedicated to all those projects being undertaken by Pray Bendigo churches to reach those unchurched residents in our community. Please forward all requests to this office by the deadline date. Those prayer requests that fall under the mission and vision of Pray Bendigo will be given priority.

## DEADLINES

### Information:

3rd Friday of each month

### Send out:

last Friday of each month

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