

Leadership

Prayer letter: February 2011

BEACH

Dear friends in **fishing** (Matt 4:19),
finding (Matthew 7:7),
sometimes floundering (Matt 14:30)
and faithing (Matt 8:10).

I have spent my summer on the beach at McCrae, both as part of the long tradition of **mission** with McCrae SUFM team, and as part of the long tradition of being **family** with the Barnett Family. Sometimes the edges of these two zones are quite blurred, which I like a lot. I am not a natural beach girl, and I am not a natural evangelist. I have a passion for people to know God, but that is not the same as having the gift of evangelism; I love my family, but that doesn't mean sharing spaces and timelines comes naturally.



Nevertheless, Jesus calls us to be family and calls us to be disciple-makers, which in both cases can look like lots of different things. Let's pray for each other in our various disciple-making endeavours and our family (both blood-line and spirit-formed) contexts.

Beach Prayers

Back to the Beginning

The Risen Jesus who called the Relapsed Peter back from fishing on the beach of Galilee comes around again with **second and third and plenty chances** for us. At the start of 2011 we pray **again** for the things that we have prayed before – that we will hear Jesus' call, that we will follow closely and pay attention to his words, that we would bless peacemakers and those poor in spirit, and that the kingdom would come.

If you are a person who keeps a journal or a diary, spend some time revisiting your reflections and prayer from the beginning of 2010, or earlier! Reengage with those prayers – how have they shifted, and what has slipped under the radar?

Pray for those who are **beginning things** for the first time: First time leaders, CRE teachers, Pastors and Ministry Leaders taking up new positions, for new parents, parenting for the first time, for children going into a new stage of school. For all who are facing a beginning of sorts; we stand on the beach landing together.

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The Beach in between

The beach is that liminal space, the space in between...its not the ocean, it's not terra firma. Anyone who's heard the stories of Jesus knows you don't want to build your house there. And yet it's a significant space. This tidal, shifting, launching, recovering space. The Space between the **almost** and the **now**; the **now** and the **not yet**.



Pray for one another as we are in the **almost** of term. The **now** of the moment that demands, with perhaps not enough resources or preparation. And pray for all that is **not yet**, that is to come. For what is way out on the horizon still. For families that don't yet recognise Jesus in their midst, and especially those that don't know that they don't know.

The Beach in between

The Barnett Family are re-engaging with a church planting initiative that our church had begun several years ago. As a family and as staff and as local community members we were at the pointy edge of this missional manouvre. **We saw it's birthing, it's flourishing and it's folding.** Now we are trying again. The tide comes in onto the sand and there it is...and then it is gone again. It is there again, and then gone once more. Over and over as we stare at the one spot, it is marked and washed, something then nothing, there and not. Looking only at the shore, we might be unsure. Unsure of whether next time we look the water will be there. But lifting our eyes and looking out at the ocean, there is no doubt about the magnitude and reliability of the source.

Pray this prophetic vision for one another: that we would see the **magnitude and reality of God on mission** in the world, in our communities, in our tidal, seasonal lives. Pray for one another, that we would **catch God's wave and ride it in**, that we would have eyes to see it coming. Pray for communities where **the sense is that the tide is going out**. For ministries where key leaders, or key families have left, for the sense of the sand left flat and empty. Pray hope for one another.

Please send me your specific prayer requests, your summer stories and your stories of disciple making and adventures in the kingdom.

Grace & Peace,
Beth

Matthew 4:19 Jesus said to them, "Come with me! I will teach you how to bring in people instead of fish."

Matt 7:7 Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened for you.

Matt 14:30 But when Peter saw how strong the wind was, he was afraid and started sinking. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

Matt 8:10 When Jesus heard this, he was so surprised that he turned and said to the crowd following him, "I tell you that in all of Israel I've never found anyone with this much faith!"