

Leadership

Prayer letter: May 2011

Dear Friends

May is traditionally 'Mission' month across Baptist-land.

It never fails to prompt the question for me – "What are we doing the rest of the time?"

This is not a question for us to ask in accusation, or condemnation, but with **imagination**.

The protagonists of May as Mission Month surely do not intend this month to be a quarantining, and limiting of our prayers and our missioning – but a time for pouring the rocket fuel of prayer in large glugs into our tanks, a time for revving the engine of our passion and vision, and for checking all our calibrations for launch.

So let's pray with our imaginations on full throttle:

Imagine if we changed every instance of the word 'ministry' around our church culture to 'Mission'.

Let's pray that way – let's pray for the missions of the church – the worship and music and creative arts mission, the children and families mission, the youth mission, the playgroup mission, the pastoral care mission. Pray for the senior missionary – and the associate missionaries.

What else!?!

Imagine if you had just landed in your neighbourhood as a missionary. What would be your first prayers – for the neighbourhood, for your selves, for your resources?

Let's pray that way too: with a fresh sense of our complete dependence on God – to set the agenda and to provide the resources.

Imagine yourself reassigned tomorrow to somewhere else on the globe? Into a majority world urban or rural community?

How would you pray? For understanding of those whose lives have to this point in history been so different to yours? For courage to share their path and their load? For Solidarity? For strength and wisdom in complex situations? All of these are great prayers to pray – wherever we are physically present. Pick a place (maybe your community has an existing partnership with somewhere else) and pray yourselves there!

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Prayer letter: May 2011 continued...

Imagine yourself truly as you are and all that you truly have: the gifts, the limitations, the culture, the history, the wounds, the friends, the co-workers, the nay-sayers, the mission...and the Spirit, the Word, the Grace, the Love of God.

How shall I pray for you?

The Baptist Union of Victoria is imagining itself – or re-imagining itself.

Continue to pray for the conversations, the search and discernment towards a new Director of Ministries, for hearing God.

I also invite you to imagine me...and to pray for a busy month ahead, in which I will be:

- Finishing the Love & Justice resources (CD & Book)
- Speaking at Boost in Greensborough (14th)
- At Leaders2Go conference in QLD (17-20th). Both Christopher and I are attending, which means leaving our boys for a few days, something we never like to do.
- Marking essays
- Continuing work on writing the 2012 Mission material for Scripture Union
- Studying
- Loving my family, my neighbour and my enemy all as best as I can.

How gracious is our God, to give us the gift of praying for one another.

Grace & Peace,

Beth

Proverbs 6:22
Speaking of the laws of God.

When you walk, they will lead you
When you lie down, they will watch over you
When you awake, they will talk with you