

Leadership

Prayer letter: September 2011

Dear Praying Brothers and Sisters,

The season has turned, winter is gone, and spring is emerging. A different landscape, with new colours is before us. The light falls differently, and casts shadows we had forgotten. A new sweet aroma is in the air, the day is longer and fuller. In my house full of boys, footy is reaching its zenith, and cricket is revving its engine. The end of semester essays are piling up for marking, and the editors are breathing down my neck for the final writing project of the year.

The season turns.

And so we pray...Pray for the new ministry and missional opportunities that come with the spring break; holiday programs, camps, and plans for the final term of Advent and Christmas opportunities. Pray for families making new connections in their local sporting clubs as the new season's teams are formed. Pray for families and their children in Kinder and Grade 6 who experience this season as one of great change, and adventure and challenge in preparation for finishing well and moving into a new learning community.



The season is also turning in Australian civic life. These past months have seen a new demonstration of sensitivity to the ethical concerns of the public, and politicians are finding the challenges of responding in new ways. The touchstone issues - same sex marriage, chaplains and religious education in schools and our immigration and asylum seeker policies – whatever position your conscience and biblical engagement leads to, have been remarkably recognised within our media life as matters not simply for pragmatism.

The season turns.



Leadership

Prayer letter: September 2011 continued...

And so we pray...Pray for a continuing culture of respectful, nuanced and sensitive dialogue around matters that cannot be just a matter of business. For the experience of families of many different kinds to be recognised with compassion, even if they are not consistent with our convictions. Pray for our church communities to live as Salt and Light, as worked examples of grace. Pray that we will remember that our children are listening to our rhetoric and watching our decision making and actions.

The season is turning in the Baptist Union of Victoria. A new structure of staffing will be brought to the October gathering. The need for new leadership in the position of the Director of Ministries still impinges on our function as a union. New technological opportunities for communication and networking beckon us, and invite an adventurous reimagining. New communities are growing in exciting ways. Old communities are responding to the renewing movement of the Spirit.

The season turns.



And so we pray...Pray for wisdom within our Gathering, for prophetic insight into the dynamics of what reshaping will impact and release. Pray for all of the staff whose current roles are undergoing radical reformation. Pray for the cause of children and families within our communities of faith, and for the cause of children and families who live beyond the embrace of faith. Pray for our attention to the core mission of being multi-age, multi-cultural, multi-faceted disciples of Jesus.

Thankyou for your prayers for me, and for the privilege of praying for you.

Grace & Peace,

Beth