

HeartBeat



The open door of thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a powerful concept that the Father has given us to live life on earth abundantly.

It seems that we need to be reminded of this constantly and to encourage others to do it. It can powerfully position us for the miraculous release of Heaven on earth.

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 69:30 (NKJV)

It is interesting that the Hebrew language does not appear to have a word for 'thank you'. Some African and Indian languages don't either but would use 'I will tell your name'. This expresses the idea of thanksgiving — telling others how 'thankful' they are of the work you have done, your provision, your help or some other blessing to them. They tell others how good that person has been to them and recommend that person.

In the Old Testament culture the closest word used in place of thanks was 'praise'. Telling who God is remains a part of that, but includes more!

Thanksgiving is often a sacrifice. Giving thanks when you're happy and when everything is great is good — but deciding to give thanks when everything is feeling terrible and disastrous will position you with the strength and ability to walk through it. This requires supernatural help. This is operating in the opposite spirit. It will often open up miraculous provision and will strengthen you to walk through the circumstances.

This is meant to be a lifestyle with us that needs to be practiced.

When Jesus was faced with five thousand and more hungry people, he took five loaves and two fish and... gave thanks. That act placed him in a position of allowing the Father to do a miracle through him and turn hungry people into filled people with amazing leftovers.



diary date

15 October 2011

South Australia State Gathering

This is all simply based on the fact that **God Is**.

Habakkuk seemed to understand that when he said:

Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labour of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls — Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NKJV)

Giving of thanks is the key to many closed doors — try it today and see what happens.

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around the churches

Elijah Restoration Ministries and Communities Caroline Springs Vic

Ray and Rebecca Jeffries continue in their counselling ministry of restoring hurting Christians who have turned their back on the kingdom of God.

They have seen excellent fruit in establishing new communities — groupings of people around Melbourne who support one another through ministering and counselling.

One woman who had been seeing therapists for years was set free in a moment by the power in God — as part of general conversation in one of their dialogue sessions.

Ray and Rebecca Jeffries have recently sold their trusty caravan and moved into a house at Caroline Springs. The house is making things more convenient logistically and also providing a base for people to come.

Ray is also branching out as a vocational trainer and assessor in the financial services industry, which will be the ministry's key source of income. Please pray for their new contacts and new living arrangements and that God will continue to bless their ministry.

Covenant Family Church Victor Harbor SA

Personal revelation is big right now at CFC, and it's not just the members! Pastor Paul Glazbrook has been getting revelation particularly about God being central in marriage. People are beginning to ask questions like 'how does a Godly family work?' and 'how does a Godly marriage work?' — and marriages are changing as a result.

In a situation similar to Philip and the Ethiopian, one man came to

the church and said 'Explain the scriptures to me'. This and other similar incidents are creating great opportunities for the church to change lives and make a real difference in the community.

The new building is functioning well, but the working bees continue for things like landscaping and signage.

Paul and Robyn are expecting their fifth grandchild next year, with more babies due in the congregation as well.

CFC are realising that when you preach the Word of God to hungry people, they grab hold of it!

Northern Highlands Christian Outreach, Jamestown SA

Gloria Alcock and the team at Northern Highlands are gearing up for their big October garage sale. Everyone brings their surplus gear to the church for two days of selling, with all profits going to the needy in the community. Last year they raised over \$1000 to give to places like the local hospital and the home for the aged. Greg and Annette Phillips have been helpful, supplying some extra goods from their opportunity shop in Adelaide.

The garage sale has quite a reputation with the surrounding towns and is a great opportunity to connect with people from all walks of life.

The Jamestown community spirit continues to run strong, with Northern Highlands combining with other churches for Pentecost and Lent.

Gloria and the team's next project is a thanksgiving celebration for the harvest. The plan is to invite local farmers for a time of celebration and thanks, and hopefully an opportunity for evangelism.

River City Life Christian Church Launceston Tas

RCL's 'Focus' conference in Launceston earlier this year had a strong city-wide, cross-denominational focus, in contrast to the previous gatherings which were effectively an 'in-house' conference with external speakers and prophets from other places.

This new local emphasis has spawned a group of seven pastors from across different denominations in the city who get together to pray every week. Each Tuesday morning at 10am the group spends time in focused prayer as well as some fellowship over coffee.

Building these relationships has seen the pastors preaching at each other's services, meeting members of the congregations and 'growing the treasure within' the city of Launceston. Those involved have remarked how highly they value the group, and the encouragement and support that they bring back from the meetings is flowing on to their own ministries.

Hilltop Christian Church, Scottsdale Tas

At their three month ultrasound a couple in the church had their baby diagnosed with spina bifida and were given the choice to terminate — which they refused. At the six month appointment they were told the baby would be mentally and physically incapacitated.

Baby Coen is now six weeks old and despite the prognosis of motor complications, he has motion in his legs and all signs are that he is developing well without any problems. Praise God for his grace and mercy!

Picton Opens the Doors

Hanna and Huda Fakhouri with their team are excited at the changes that have been happening at Picton.

In May 2010 HisHouse commenced ownership and management of The Bridge Street Indoor Sports Centre. Since then the church has extended its community care arm by creating the registered charity HisHouse Care and opening an opportunity shop/depot, a Christian bookshop and more recently a drop-in centre. The shops and drop-in centre have been combined into a family centre called 'The Way Ahead Family Centre'.

An Open Day for the family centre was held on 16 July 2011 on the church property. Approximately 320 shire people attended for the day of celebration and saw the centre opened by Picton Mayor Michael Banasik. All the doors to our buildings were open to welcome everyone in. Profits from the shops and sports centre feed back to the charity, which in turn funds the drop in centre. Future plans are for funding to extend to free financial and grief counselling plus food parcelling. This is all about



Picton Mayor Michael Banasik, Pastor Hanna Fakhouri, shop and family centre worker Gai Ripley and His House Elder and charity coordinator Eric Drescher at the Open Day

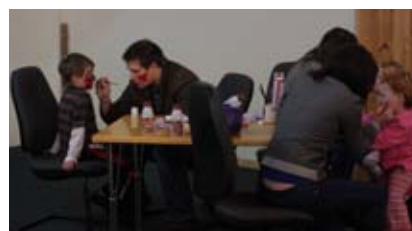
connecting with people at their point of need and showing them Christ's love – and this has already started happening.

HisHouse Care also funds the Picton High School Breakfast Program which has been growing in number to approximately 120 students every Friday. The program has been blessed this year with grant funding for a conveyor toaster, 30 litre urn, half funding for a new BBQ trailer for the school (which the church or charity can use when it needs it), and most recently has been given milk sponsored by the local dairy. Further to this our youth ministry Grace Unbound has commenced lunch time sessions in the school. The youth have quality chat time with students about Christ, and this is steadily growing in numbers.

Structured discipleship commenced in the church this year and personal growth in the church body is evident.

HisHouse continues to be open to change and ready to minister to its community.

Michele Drescher, HisHouse Church, Picton NSW



The face painting crew and the jumping castle were kept busy



Inside the opportunity shop



The Picton Fire Service showed true community spirit at the Open Day

89 year old breakfast volunteer Esther Wildman manning the new conveyor toaster





Young Action

David Abbott's Ministry for Children

David Abbott is an Englishman with an itinerant Children's Ministry. As part of BMI he travels widely, promoting Christ's message to children. Here is his latest report of his recent activities around the globe.

Uganda

Jesus at work in Africa

In my first twenty one years I ministered in eleven different African countries, some a number of times. Then I gave up, as it seemed the cultural barrier of wrong attitudes towards children which seriously stunted their spiritual growth couldn't be overcome. Seventeen years later in 2009 I returned to Uganda as a friend of mine is there now as a full time missionary. We both have the same vision for children so we set out to make a model for other churches to see what God can do in children. This year we had a large Spirit-filled group and a young but established ministry team doing the one to one ministry (both miracles for Africa in my experience). They branched out into visions, interpretations and prophesies. I taught them in the first meeting, and then in all six meetings after that more and more stepped out, with the words and the message different every meeting. It concluded in a family service where the children continued to share words while no adults did — 'a child shall lead them'. At the same time we began speaking into their hurts, pains and rejection. They opened their hearts and faces changed as they began to be set free.

A Little Word Was The Key

A young teenage boy was there whose face was always dull and expressionless, and he didn't enter into praise and worship. The first session of the second children's day

he had a word which was different to the others — he felt God had his hand on him. I felt it was of God too and I called him out to pray for him. My friend had a word, 'Man chose your brother, but God has chosen you'. He knew what God meant by that, and in the following meetings his face was radiant and he lost himself in worship.

Japan

A Different Japan

The earthquake and tsunami have changed things, with national power cuts and food shortages. My flight out is usually full but there was only fifty of us on a Boeing 777. Narita airport in Tokyo is normally a thriving metropolis but resembled a ghost town. Many waiting areas were cordoned off and in darkness making the building somewhat eerie. I felt strongly that God was sending me this year for a special purpose.

God's sending immediately became clear. The day after arriving was a public holiday and a 'children and young people's day' where I began a series of teachings entitled *Rise up and be the people God is calling you to be*. We continued on through the family service on Sunday and then began our May camp. The camp involved six sessions, at the end of which the local organisers called it 'a breath of fresh air in the midst of disaster, fear and pain'. The local pastor in charge said it was the

biggest and best we have had in a number of years. The age ranged from six to early twenties, but they flowed and responded together. After the first meeting the praise and worship was amazing with none of the usual Japanese reserve. One song where the chorus talks about rising up, setting eyes on God and going forward became our theme song, and it fitted really well with what I was sharing. Every meeting practically everyone responded for prayer and much repenting and dealing with issues in lives was done.

Cambodia

The Poorest of The Poor

Two ladies from a nearby centre brought around 140 children who were living on the rubbish tips in for two meetings. Many, many children responded for salvation and were prayed for. As a result of some money I was given we were able to make up 'goodie bags' for each one who came. Their little faces were a picture as they received them, full of treats they would never normally get.

The Incredible Journey

Going into one of the provinces involved a four hour bus journey over extremely rough roads, before a twenty five minute ride with three adults, two backpacks and an overnight bag squashed onto the double seat of a moped on a narrow un-surfaced dusty road. Finally we spent

twenty minutes on a 'lorry' — a flat wooden platform with a small motor perched on the back, which travels at a fair rate of knots along a disused single track railway line. Health and safety would have a heart attack — no safety rails, no seat belts, you just sit on the flat bed.

Staying with local people we stayed the night in what looked like a small rectangular box on stilts with no toilet or bathroom. We slept (or tried to sleep) on the bare wooden floor with howling dogs and loud mouthed toads underneath. For a toilet you find yourself a bush, and you shower in the open air wearing just a small wrap around and a bucket of water from the well. We were made so welcome and it was a privilege to share in their homes and to see God work in those precious children's lives.

The Reward

Many responded for salvation, with the final meeting on Sunday the icing on the cake. All the older children responded for prayer, and as I prayed for one twelve year old God gave me a special word for him. After our meeting we went up to the adult meeting for me to share about my work. Whilst I was sharing that boy sat on the top of the stairs near me. Immediately God told me to bring him before the church. I did and prayed for him and his parents together. Afterwards the pastor said they have not had words over children before but they were not surprised that God picked out this boy. Also what God did for him was a reward to his excited parents, who have greatly sacrificed for the gospel's sake.

Malaysia

New Contact, Long Weekend, Busy and Fulfilling

The most southerly town of Johor Bahru, a seven hour train ride from Kuala Lumpur, was the first stop of a day of ministry in a home school

centre (Christian School) of 250 pupils ages pre-school to top year senior. I had no time limit and full freedom to do what I wanted, so we divided them into two groups for teaching. We had plenty time to pray for the large number responding in each group and shared prophetic words in both groups. That same night we began five hours of seminars for fifty children's leaders from five churches and the school. We concluded with lunch the next day, praying for those who wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit and the many needs connected with their ministries. After lunch we had a meeting with the youth leadership team to encourage them, and finally a meeting with the youth which finished with many of them at the front on their knees crying out to God. On the last day we held two meetings with the junior church children — the first on the Holy Spirit and the second one using the gifts. Sixty to seventy were filled with the spirit, most had tongues and eleven shared in gifts.

Gods Sense of Humour

Malays are shy and reserved so the first to break the ice and share a gift was a quiet, tiny, under-the-age girl — when she stood next to me she barely came to my knees. She led the way and others followed.

Level Up Strikes Again

'Level Up' is our leadership training seminars for children aged nine to thirteen. This year we had a hundred children from ten churches plus at least one child leader from each church. Again they defied Malay culture and were in no way shy and reserved. In all three sessions huge numbers instantly responded for prayer, and in the last session an even greater number responded to be filled with the Holy Spirit and almost instantly shouted out in tongues. I didn't have to keep encouraging them to get louder! A pastor coming in at this point could hardly believe this was actually Malay children doing this.

Prayer and Praise

- We celebrated the wedding of our son, Jason, to the lovely Emma in March this year. Emma has a six year old daughter and we delight in our ready-made granddaughter. They are very happy, live locally and are part of the same local church as us. They are excitedly expecting a baby in January.
- Praise God, He has once again provided the finance for our needs.
- Pray that God will provide the finance needed for the ministry and personal needs for this next quarter. This is an urgent need in this present recession, we have lost for different reasons a lot of monthly giving for both personal and ministry needs. Working with children who do not have bank accounts we rely on regular giving to provide some of the needs and then top it up from love offerings I receive in places I minister where the churches can give. Please pray that God will speak to those who are able to help us with monthly giving — no amount is too small!
- Praise God for the fruit in Uganda.
- Pray for the two camps for next year — and that the second one will actually happen.
- Pray for the young Ugandan ministry team as they continue to defy the cultural attitude towards children and push forward into more areas of ministry.
- Praise God for the reaching of the poorest of the poor in Cambodia.



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BMI Opens the Door to Hot Rock on the Radio

It is a catch cry in BMI that 'together we can!' And it must be said that the listening public of Glen Eira and Kingston will never be quite the same because 'together we did'.

Open Door Christian Church (ODCC) combined with House of The Rock (HOTR) to put excellence in Christian music to air on Sunday morning 6th August. And the suburbs are still agog!

A collaboration between Chris Whiting of ODCC, who has a Sunday morning segment on local radio, and Terry and Stephanie Barnes from HOTR saw some really awesome and edifying Christian music being broadcast that Sunday on 88.3 Southern FM. HOTR are blessed with an abundance of fine musicians, amongst whom are Candy & Buck Edwards, who not only lead anointed worship at HOTR but also head up a fine band called Paper Jane. Stephanie (as back-up singer to Paper Jane on their most recent

recording) was able to introduce Southern FM listeners to the band when we put a new-release track to air. This contribution was followed by a new worship song written by Terry Barnes. The song, called *Now I am Free*, presented a clear statement of the work of Christ's Cross in setting us in His righteousness and freeing us from sin's dominion. It was great to hear Terry explain how his recent musings on the book of Romans had inspired the song. It was just as good to hear him singing.

All in all it was a good broadcast and perhaps the harbinger of things to come. The injection of some contemporary Christian music did



much to improve and modernise the fare normally offered during Chris's broadcast (not everyone cares for Handel, Bach & Rutter) and no doubt was a stunning contrast for those listeners who would have missed their regular Sunday serve of Gregorian Chant (after all, Christian music has been around for a long, long time!). ODCC and HOTR are hoping that we can 'together we can' again. Perhaps by that time everyone in the studio will understand what the red light on the control panel means — 'That was a good selection Terry!'

*Chris Whiting
Open Door Christian Church, Melbourne*



relax
onedayofimpact2011

One Day of Impact is on this year at beautiful Moruya on Saturday 1 October. Featuring Marty Woodward, John Garrard, Christopher and Nikita Alves, Christopher Arnold and Hayley Jenkins, it's sure to be a great time of refreshing and equipping for BMI's young people. For more details visit www.onedayofimpact.com.

Saving Marriage in Canberra



On 16 August John and Jenny Barnes from Gisborne in Victoria travelled to Canberra to voice their support for marriage at The Australian Family Association's 'National Marriage Day' in the Great Hall of Parliament House.

Also in attendance were Linda Garrard from Ginninderra Christian Church in Canberra and hundreds of

others across different denominations and indeed religions.

Titled 'Don't meddle with marriage', speakers included Rebecca Hagelin (author and columnist for *The Washington Times*), Jim Wallace from ACL, MPs Kevin Andrews and Bob Katter, and Senator Barnaby Joyce.

It was good to see Godly marriage being upheld in a very public arena.

got something
to contribute to
HeartBeat?

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