
NATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING – MAY 26, 2007

The Australian National Day of Thanksgiving is now a recognized national day in the calendar. It is a day to be thankful, to share our thanks with each other and to thank God for His blessings in our lives and on our nation. We have much to be thankful for in Australia. We enjoy freedom of worship, of speech and many other privileges that many others do not experience. We are thankful to those nations all around us who are our friendly neighbours. Let's thank each other for friendship and support.

Suggestions for who to honour and thank this year are:

Senior Citizens – Acknowledge and honour those who have contributed much to the laying of the foundations on which the current Australians continue to build. Write to your local ARV (Adventist Retirement Village) and thank the seniors there.

Indigenous people – As we remember the seniors amongst us, we will honour and thank our First Nation people. Write and thank ATSIM for the work they are doing. epiez@adventist.org.au

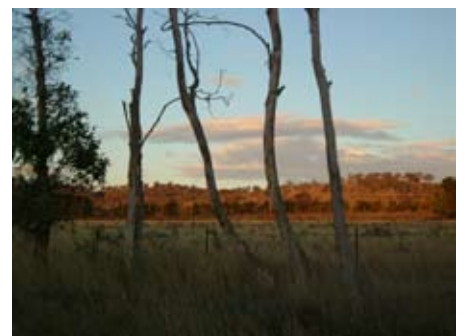
Volunteers – Thousands of Australians freely give their time and talents in community life. Let's find, honour and thank those often quiet people on this NDOT day.

Service organisations – Many community groups fundraise and undertake projects to help others here and in other lands. It is our turn to thank those who serve in this way.

ADRA – Write notes of encouragement and thank the ADRA personnel in your area or at head office at 148 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga, NSW 2076. May 26 is also ADRA Disaster and Famine Relief Offering day.

- Cards can be bought individually or in bulk for these purposes from Koorong bookstores or make/buy your own card.
- Thank you ribbons can be purchased through info@thanksgiving.org.au or order by phone – 02 9939 2113
- Church kits are available for immediate delivery by writing to info@thanksgiving.org.au

1 Thessalonians 4:16-19 "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit."



PRAISE & PRAYER

By Sarah Plummer - Intercession Working Group
Chair

Isaiah the prophet has this to say in Isaiah 61 about his calling:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.”

I come from a town called Wilberforce in Australia, a town named after William Wilberforce. We are celebrating the 200 years since the Abolition of Slavery Bill was passed on 25th March 1807. This great man influenced the entire British House with the gospel of Christ and then the entire empire at that time. He challenged their evil acts and abhorrent attitudes with the power of God's word.

So this month in our Praise & Prayer, let's focus on the type of slavery that binds and the freedom we have in Christ, freedom that seeks to release and proclaim.

Praise

Praise God for his Amazing Grace in calling us from darkness to his glorious light

Praise God for the Amazing change as he transforms individuals, families, villages and towns

Praise God for the Amazing freedom those in Christ have from the slavery of Sin

Praise God for the Amazing life we start to live towards eternity

Prayer

Ask God to bring to light the deeds of darkness in your community that need to be exposed

Ask God to set the captives free in your cities

Ask God to enable a challenging of the abuse of power against Men, Women and Children in work places and modern slave trades

Ask God to transform the church so more will speak into the abhorrent acts around them

Ask God to send us to bind up the broken hearted

In Jesus Name, Amen

PRAYER MINISTRIES

South Pacific Division of Seventh-Day Adventist
Church

Resources on offer

Christian Meditation Brochure

How to meditate on the Word, on God, on Scripture, on the Testimonies

Email Prayer Chain

Be part of the Tuesday email connection with prayer requests

Open Doors

A global ministry that responds to the needs of persecuted Christians in 45 nations

Prayer for Schools booklet

Guidelines on how to begin a Prayer ministry for your school

Prayer Journal

Prayer journal for adults, for children

Prayer Pack (\$5.00)

For suggestions, how to start, resources

Uplink

Bi-monthly newsletter with suggestions, stories, inspiration

For more information or details on any of the above items, please send your name, address or email to :

jbutler@adventist.org.au

RECENT EXAMPLES OF WHAT OUR PRAYER WARRIORS ARE PRAYING FOR:

The newly launched IT IS WRITTEN TV programme on Channel 7, every Sunday morning at 3.30 am in Australia. This started on April 22 and already more than 40,000 people are watching. Pastor Gary Kent, with a number of laypeople together with support from SHF have put this in place and are expecting great results. Books have been requested through to the Discovery Centre as a result of the programme.

WOMEN AT THE CENTRE planning August 8-11 at Ayers Rock. The planning for this first-time exciting event for the indigenous women of Australia is going ahead and we are needing to finalize a number of items including travel for speakers, registration procedures, bookings, workshops finalized and getting the word out far and wide. See the website about what is happening and please pray. www.atsiwomen.org

To become a prayer warrior, please register your details by email to jbutler@adventist.org.au

THE PRAYING CHURCH

What can YOUR church do to grow strong in prayer? Here are the keys to having a praying church:

1. Praying leaders are essential.
The church's greatest deficiency today is in prayer—not in programs, strategies, materials, or ideas. The power for ministry can be released only through prayer.
2. Give prayer high priority in the church's life and ministry. It is impossible to explain the power and effectiveness of the New Testament church without reference to prayer. Prayer is the most important work in God's kingdom. It is a labor which has no substitute.
3. Correct thinking about prayer is important.
God rules the world through the prayers of His people. Christ actually meant prayer to be the great power by which His church should do its work.
4. Clear communication of needs and answers to prayer is vital. If we expect our prayers to make a difference, it is important to watch for the answers.
5. Prayer should be linked to ministry.
Ministry without prayer becomes work in the power of the flesh. Prayer without ministry is complacent Christianity.
6. Make times, ways, and places for people to pray together.
This encourages consistency in prayer. Praying with others expands our prayer life. As we listen to others pray, we learn from them things that will strengthen our own prayer life.
Praying together not only strengthens our faith, but mutual praying makes the large task of prayer more manageable.
7. Encourage personal devotions.
Private prayers are an indispensable part of every Christian's life. It is the highest activity in which any soul can engage. In personal prayer we dare to look into our hearts to discern those most private problems and issues we need to place before the Lord.
8. Encourage family devotion.
If family worship is neglected, other attempts at prayer are like sprinkling the foliage of a plant with water while leaving the roots dry. Family devotions should be part of every Christian family's experience.

Biblical Perspectives on Prayer:

God's answer is never a forced response. It is purely a gift of grace.

- You seek for God's will in your prayer and in doing so you marvelously find your needs fulfilled, your purposes achieved, and your desires responded to.
- God takes into account every prayer ever offered and is forever involved with us in charting the course of history.
- Here is the hope of our prayer: the kingdom of the enemy will fall and all its false pride will be exposed.
- The more we pray, the more our horizons expand and the more we come to expect from a supernatural, miracle-working God.
- When we short-circuit prayer, we give our lives and ministry a secularistic or humanistic framework to work with.
- Prayer is giving focus to the mission of the church.
- Does God exist to help fulfill our plans, or do we exist to fulfill the plans of God?
- God has chosen PRAYER as the key by which His church does its work. Through PRAYER we impact the world for God.

Why do We Need Prayer Centers?

1. It makes it possible to schedule prayer in a systematic way.
2. It promotes agreement in prayer.
3. It provides a place to register deeds of God in the life of the church.
4. It shows ownership of the Church's vision to win the city for Christ.
5. It gives advantages to evangelism.
6. It provides a place to practice prayer.
7. It has an inclusive impact on the church.
8. It provides a quiet place to hear the voice of God.
9. It provides a place for prolonged periods of prayer.
10. It provides a place where people can make a commitment to Jesus Christ



A simple way to increase the amount of effective prayer within a congregation is to effectively communicate prayer needs and answers.

STUDENT EXAMINATION PRAYER

Lord, grant to me a quiet heart,
Before examinations start
Teach me to use my leisure hours
To re-invigorate my powers.
My mind from daydreams liberate,
Give me the will to concentrate
From all distractions set me free,
That in my studies I may be
A student with the sole intent,
To make my work my sacrament.

From my faint heart in love expel,
All failure fears that therein dwell.
And from my pillow drive away,
All dark foreboding of that day.
Help me in faith to rest so deep,
That I may have untroubled sleep.
While notes and summaries I prepare,
May I not lose my zest for prayer.
And may I not forget to look
For daily guidance in Thy Book.

In quietness, confidence and peace,
May I find sure swift release
From needless fears and apprehension
From outward strain and inner tension
And may I ever grateful be
To all who offer prayer for me.
While for myself I intercede,
For other students I would plead.
So may examinations find
Each one alert in heart and mind.
Thus inward joy and peace possessing
Exams will prove a source of blessing.

CALENDAR

May 19
Open Doors National Conference,
Sydney
www.opendoors.org.au

May 26
National Day of Thanksgiving for
Australia NDOT
www.thanksgiving.org.au

May 27
Global Day of Prayer
www.globaldayofprayer.com

June 2-3
Worldwide weekend of Prayer for
Children at Risk
www.viva.org

