

# **REPORT OF THE FIRST ACC NATIONAL PRAYER GATHERING**

**WEDNESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2007  
MACEDONIAN EVANGELICAL UNITING CHURCH, PRESTON, VICTORIA.**

On Wednesday 14th November 2007 and the morning of Thursday 15th November, the ACC National Prayer Network, hosted our very first National Prayer Gathering at the Macedonian Evangelical Uniting Church in Preston, Victoria. This was an historic occasion with approximately 30 to 40 people gathered at different times throughout the prayer gathering. This event was just prior to the ACC National Conference in Preston.

The program for the prayer gathering was

**Wed 9:00—12:00 a.m. *Worship and Waiting on the Lord***

*Speakers: Rev Anne Hibbard, National Coordinator of A.C.C. Prayer network  
and Mandy Scott, S.A. ACC Prayer Coordinator*

**Wed 2:00—5:00 p.m. *Repentance and Forgiveness***

*Guest speaker: Brian Pickering, National Director of Australian Prayer Network*

**7:00—9:00 pm. *Empowered to be salt in family, church and nation***

*Speaker: John Obed, National Prayer Coordinator for A.C.C. Cross Cultural Commission*

**Thur 15th 9:00—11:00 a.m. *Worship, communion and prayers for ACC  
conference, leaders, congregations, states and meetings.***

The theme over the prayer gathering was the passage from 2 Chronicles 7:14.

***“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14***

The highlight for the prayer gathering was the session led by Brian Pickering the national director of the Australian Prayer Network. A brief summary follows.

## **SUMMARY OF BRIAN PICKERING’S TALK ON REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS.**

Brian Pickering, National director of Australian Prayer Network, addressed the first ACC National Prayer Gathering on 14th November 2007. He spoke about and how God had challenged the Australian Prayer Network to ask the praying people of the nation to seek God’s face for forty days for the breaking of the drought.. This was done from 22nd October till the 30th November 2006. They asked the people, individuals and groups from around Australia, to each send a word and a scripture that came from the season of 40 days. One theme stood out from the thousands of scriptures sent in by people across the nation. This was the need to “repent”. One scripture came in 4 times more than any other and Brian said stood out clearly as the word of the Lord to His people, the church as a whole and to the nation. It was not *2 Chronicles 7:14*, as was expected, although that was in the top six scriptures.

It was *Haggai* 1:2-11. In this passage there is a call to restore the house of the Lord. Brian told us that we have been too busy building our own houses. We have put in much effort, “planted much”, but produced little. We have not done what God wants. He will build His house. God does not want us to build His house.

The Australian Prayer Network called a National Solemn Assembly in March 2007, in Canberra, focussing on repentance, and the leaving behind of our own ways to follow the Lord’s ways. Six “areas” of sin were highlighted by the Australian Prayer Network. These were “sins of the Nation” although Brian told us, many of us can identify with them as “our” sins also. These were

1. Lack of Intimacy with God
2. Sexual Immorality
3. Idolatry
4. The Shedding of Innocent Blood
5. Injustice
6. Broken Covenant

Brian told us that God wants to remove each of these 6 areas of sin, but until we recognise and call sin what it is, He cannot.

On the 22nd October 2006, the Australian Prayer Network as a national body, turned and sought God’s face over a 40 day period of time. Brian explained that at the end of that 40 day period, the Australian Meteorological office said that El Nino, the cause of the drought, was weakening and that rain may come. At the end of a further 40 days of preparation and on the eve of the National Solemn Assembly in March 2007 the rain oscillation indicator was back to neutral. The neutral position was interpreted by the Australian Prayer Network as God saying, “Which choice do you make?”

Some rain fell in February during the 40 days of preparation; further good rains following the National Solemn Assembly through until July. In the August-October 2007 period there has again been little rain. Could it be, Brian asked, that the momentum of repentance has stopped.

This specific call to “repent” Brian believes, is primarily directed at this time, to “those who are called by His name” and not to those outside of the Kingdom. Since the Mardi Gras began in Sydney 30 years ago, there has been prayer for the Mardi Gras to stop. The Australian prayer Network people would pray along the route, beforehand and afterwards, to cleanse it. Six years ago, the Australian Prayer Network heard the Lord saying that the people were to stop those prayer journeys and that they were to gather well away from the Mardi Gras. They were not to pray against the Mardi Gras as they had before. Brian explained how they believed that God was saying that He would deal with the Mardi Gras and homosexuality when Christians repent of their sin (not necessarily homosexuality) which caused it to grow. Amazingly Brian reported, this led to the lessening of the Mardi Gras, more effectively, than direct prayers had.

Brian told us that God also wants us to repent in order to restore life to the church and to the nation. He believes that repentance needs to begin in our own lives, and our humbly allowing the Lord to challenge and deal with sin in our own lives, by His grace, can impact the nation. Brian told us that we are to seek intimacy with God, to radically obey Him. We are not to worry about numbers. We as this remnant, can cause a change. In the natural, speakers do not come from Sydney to speak to 25 people as there are in this gathering. Brian said that he came to plant a seed that we might make a difference. He challenged us that we are to consider our ways and to confront the wickedness in our hearts because God is not Number One in our lives.

Following Brian's talk there was a time of questions and answers, and then opportunity for individuals to repent, and receive the Father's forgiveness, healing and grace, through the powerful work of Jesus Christ upon the cross, and the victory won in His resurrection.

*Rev Anne Hibbard  
ACC National Prayer Coordinator*

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**A resource provided by the Assembly of Confessing Congregations**

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