

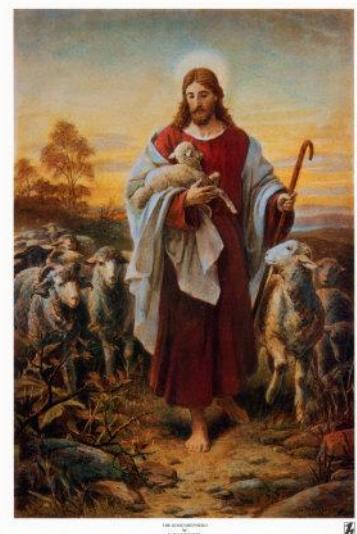


## **PRAYER MUSTER 2008**

**Coramandel Valley Uniting Church  
Wednesday 10th September 2008**

### ***Isaiah 40 : 11***

***He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,  
He shall gather the lambs with his arm  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and shall gently lead  
those that are with young.***



## **PRAYER MUSTER**

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**Introduction and Call to Prayer**  
**Rev Anne Hibbard ACC National Prayer Convenor**

**A CALL TO PRAYER – using Psalm 23**

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want  
He makes me lie down in green pastures  
He leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul.  
He guides me in paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*



**1. Call to Prayer: Prayer as relationship**

*The Lord is my shepherd*

**2. Intercession**

*I shall not be in want*

**3. Quietness**

*He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters,  
He restores my soul*

**4. Prophecy**

*He guides me in paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.*

**5. Pastoral Care**

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

**6. Fasting**

*You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

**7. Worship**

*Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*



## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

**Geoff Harrison (ACC NSW Prayer Coordinator)**

### **Some reflections on conflict and intercession in the context of the ACC and UCA.**

Based on 2 Cor 10:1-5

*By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you – I, Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” when away! I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expected to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

What are these weapons of warfare? The Life Application Bible commentary mentions **prayer, faith, hope, love, God’s Word, the Holy Spirit**. Are there others? What about **worship** and **fasting**?

If prayer is one of the powerful weapons available to us, how should we be praying and who should be praying? What should we be praying for? What are the strongholds, arguments and pretensions that we are up against? How do we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ? What is the Holy Spirit saying to us in all this?

The ACC has as one of its short term goals to “establish prayer as a central activity of the ACC” (Vision and Goals 2007-2017, short term, no 3). It has established a national prayer network and is in the process of setting up state networks. So it is taking prayer very seriously. But are we? How can our prayer be effective in bringing change for good within the UCA and the wider church?

We are encouraged by the words of James in 5:16 where he says *that the prayer of a righteous man (or woman) is powerful and effective*. What a promise!

We are also encouraged by the prayers of Jesus. He spent a lot of his time praying. If he needed to pray, how much more do we need to pray.

And what about the other weapons available to us? Are we using them effectively? Perhaps this discussion is for another time and place.

Some of us have been given the important task of calling the Church/ACC to prayer and fasting. We have begun to mobilise a network of praying people across Australia. How then should we be asking them to pray? Some suggestions for effective intercession could be:

1. Beginning by praising God for who He is through worship. (2 Chron 20:22)
2. Asking for unity of heart with God (and other intercessors) and His purposes for His people and the church for righteousness, justice and holiness.(Deut 32:4)
3. Allowing the Holy Spirit to convict of any unconfessed personal sin. (Ps 139:23-24)
4. Asking for the enabling of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 8:26)



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5. Renouncing the ways and works of the enemy. (James 4:7)
  6. Waiting before God and listening for His direction. (Ps 37:7a)
  7. Acting in obedience and faith on what God brings to mind, believing. (John 10:27)
  8. Thanking God for what He has done. (Rom 11:36)
- (Ref: *Intercession* by Joy Dawson, 1997, YWAM)

God has called us all to pray continually (1Thes 5:17) and not to give up (Lk 18:1). And to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests (Eph 6:18). The prayers of the Saints are precious to God (Rev 5:8). Why does God need us to intercede on behalf of others? It is because he commands it. It is a profound mystery. And God in his sovereign will, answers these prayers

Intercessory prayer is a “hidden” ministry. It is between just you and God. Nobody knows you are praying or what you are praying about. The only “person” offended is the Devil. So we need to protect ourselves by putting on our spiritual armour, and by being alert and on guard against satanic attacks (Eph 6:11-17). .

Some of us have been called to be intercessors at a much deeper level, which seems to be a far more intense level of prayer. These intercessors are those who have been baptised in the Holy Spirit and are totally consecrated and surrendered and yielded to God. They are “possessed” by the Holy Spirit and have given total control to him. *The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits (Dan 11:32)*. These believers are constantly in intercession, the ones controlled by God, who hear his every call, and heed his every word (Peter J Madden, *The Wigglesworth Standard*).

Those who are called to this next level of intercession are characterised by-

- a. The infilling of the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18) and
- b. A surrendered and consecrated life Rom 12:1) and
- c. Taking the time and having the total commitment to press through until the desired result is seen (Luke 18:1).

In the coming days we will no doubt be asked to pray for many things and issues that are happening within the ACC and the UCA . We will be asked to pray for various meetings taking place, right decisions to be made, wisdom for our leaders, the building up of ACC congregations and groups, the encouragement and support of ministers, pastors and lay leaders, the education and training of our leaders, the appointment of the right people to positions of responsibility, etc, all within the context of the ACC vision statement of –

*Confessing the Lord Jesus Christ, proclaiming the truth, renewing the church.*  
The formation of the ACC as part of the world wide confessing movement is the first step in the “turning around of the mainline” and the renewing of the church. We have the confidence of knowing that, through intercessory prayer and the grace of God, we have “divine power to demolish strongholds.... that are set up against the knowledge of God”.



## Notes for session and Powerpoint presentation **Intecessory Prayer**

2 Corinthians 10:1-5..

v 4 – What are these weapons of warfare?

Prayer as a weapon! One of many!

How should we be praying (in the context of the ACC)?

What are the strongholds, arguments and pretensions we are up against?

How can our prayer be effective in bringing change for good within the church?

**James 5:16 – prayer....is powerful and effective.**

Some suggestions for effective intercession:

1. Begin by praising God for who he is through worship (2Chron 20:22).
2. Ask for unity of heart with God (and other intercessors) and his purposes for his people and the church for righteousness, justice and holiness (Deut 32:4).
3. Allow the Holy Spirit to convict of any unconfessed personal sin (Ps 139:23-24).
4. Ask for the enabling of the Holy Spirit (Rom8:26).
5. Renounce the ways and works of the enemy (James4:7).
6. Wait before God and listen for his direction (Ps37:7a).
7. Act in obedience and faith on what God brings to mind, believing (John10:27).
8. Thank God for what he has done (Rom11:36).

Why do we pray? (Eph 6:18)

A “hidden” ministry.

The spiritual armour (Eph 6:11-17).

The deeper level of intercession, some characteristics-

- a. The infilling of the Holy Spirit ( Eph5:18).
- b. A surrendered, yielded and consecrated life (Rom12:1)
- c. Available time and commitment to press through until the desired result is seen (Luke 18:1).

The challenge ahead.



*Deep calls to deep  
In the roar of your waterfalls  
Ps 42:7*

### QUIETNESS Jill Walker (ACC Prayer Acting Secretary)

Through quietness , stillness, silence, we come to know God's presence fill our heart and soul, for He reveals to us by His Spirit (1 Cor 2:10) which is in union with our spirit (1 Cor 6:17) "Deep calls to deep..." Ps 42:7 – the Spirit of God searches all the deep things of God. The Spirit of God calls to your spirit, revealing the deep things of God to you.

Quietness allows us to enter into God's thoughts to touch His will and purpose where his will and thought becomes our will and thought. "you will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" Mt 6 : 10.

#### Removing outer distractions:

'come with me by yourselves to a quiet place' Mk 6: 31

#### Quieting of inner distractions:

'Be still and know that I am God' Ps 46: 10

'Fix our eyes upon Jesus' Heb 12:2

'The pure in heart.... shall see God' Mt 5:8

#### Quietness for intimacy :

'How lovely is your dwelling place' Ps 84:1

'I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste.'

'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love' S of Songs 2: 3,4

'My sheep hear My voice , and I know them, and they follow me' Jn 10:27

### **WHEN I LOOK INTO YOUR HOLINESS**

When I look into your Holiness, When I gaze into your loveliness,  
When the things that surround, Become shadows in the light of you  
When I've found the joy of reaching your heart,  
When my will becomes enthralled in your love,  
When all things that surround, Become shadows in the light of you.  
I worship You, I worship You, The reason I live is to worship you.  
I worship You, I worship You, The reason I live is to worship you.

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**PROPHECY**    **Judy Harrison ACC NSW Prayer Coordinator**



John 10: 27

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.*

.....  
.....

**What is Prophecy, and what is it not?**

1 Cor 12: 7-11; 1 Cor 14: 23-25, and 22

**What is its purpose?**

1 Cor 14:3,4

**Who should prophesy?**

1 Cor 14:1, 31; Joel 2: 28

**Earnestly desire the gift of prophecy**

1 Cor 14:39-40; 2 Pet 2:21

**How can we receive this gift**

1 Tim 4:14; 1 Corinthians 14:1

**How should we prophesy?**

- delivery
- target audience.
- right time
- in love - 1 Cor 13:1,2; 1 Cor 14:32

**False Prophets**

Mt 7:15; Acts 13:6-12

**Test the prophecy, not the prophet**

1 Thess 5: 19, 20

**How can we test the prophecy?**

a simple three point test

- does it line up with scripture?
- does it bring peace rather than discomfort or fear?
- does the Holy Spirit witness within us to the truth of this word?

**Jesus, the good shepherd, speaks to his sheep**

John 10:14, 27 & 1-5

**Have we learned yet to hear his voice?**

**What does his voice sound like?**

**Let's do it!**



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### **Prayer**

**Writing down what we hear**

**Sharing time: What is he saying to us?**

### **Response**



**PASTORAL CARE**

**Annette Blaze**

**AFFIRMING AN EASTER FAITH**

- L. Celebrate the seeds of life which lie within us.
- P. Let us carry them on the way of the cross and safely into risen life in Christ.
- L. For God is with us, around us and within us.
- P. Life and love are stronger than death. Thanks be to God.

We believe in God

Who, when there was nothing  
Planted the seeds of life in all creation,  
Green in the desert, gold in the wattle trees  
And breathed into the clay of human life.

We believe in Jesus Christ

Eternal seed of life  
Who entered the deaths of our existence,  
Walked deeply through our earthiness,  
Took into his body all our painfulness,  
And lifted it into the victory of love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit

Who waters our grief with tears,  
Nourishes in us the courageous buds of life,  
And carefully tends our slow growings  
Until they break forth into the fruits of hope and faith

**Song: "He turned my mourning into dancing"**

**1 Kings 19:9b-18, Matt 18 1-5, Rev. 21 5-7**

There are stages of grieving being like going around a mountain. You might seem to come back to where you are before, but you have moved through it and will continue to move up the mountain however slowly.

God told Elijah to look around him. He was not the only one left serving the Lord. We need to link up with other people confessing our Lord Jesus Christ across the Kingdom of God. We need to be ever mindful of those suffering for their faith in our own denomination and to draw alongside those people as Christ did to the disciples on the Emmaus Road. He listened to them. He joined with them in their struggle to find meaning and then he went away. We need to support these people and help them to move on. It is important for us to link together in prayer across the nation, to arrange network meetings, to have fellowship in different groups across the Uniting Church and also across the body of Christ. We need to come before God humbly with a childlike faith. God says to us. 'Behold I am doing a new thing! The springs of living water never run dry'. Remain thirsty and seek that living water continuously. My word is ever new! Melbourne theologian, Stephen Curkpatrick likens our journey to the spirals on a sea-shell.



**FASTING -**  
**Barrie Robinson Tasmanian ACC Prayer Coordinator**

**Fasting Passages in Scripture**

Ex. 34:28 Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant—the Ten Commandments.

Judg. 20:26 Then the Israelites, all the people, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the LORD. They **fasted** that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD.

1Sam. 7:6 1Sam 14:(1-)28-45    1Sam. 20:34    1Sam. 28:20

1Sam. 31:13(1Chr. 10:12) Then they took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they **fasted** seven days.

2Sam. 1:12 They mourned and wept and **fasted** till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

2 Sam 3:31-35    2Sam. 12:16-23 \*

1 Kings 19:3-8    1Kings 21:1-26

1Kings 21:27 When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and **fasted**. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.

2Chr. 20:3 Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a **fast** for all Judah.

Ezra 8:21 ¶ There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a **fast**, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions. ....

<sup>23</sup>So we **fasted** and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.

Ezra 10:6 Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and went to the room of Jehohanan son of Eliashib. While he was there, he ate no food and drank no water, because he continued to mourn over the unfaithfulness of the exiles.

Neh. 1:4 ¶ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and **fasted** and prayed before the God of heaven.

Neh. 9:1 ¶ On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, **fasting** and wearing sackcloth and having dust on their heads.

Esth. 4:3 In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with **fasting**, weeping and wailing. Many lay in



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sackcloth and ashes.

Esth. 4:16 “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and **fast** for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will **fast** as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

Esth. 9:31 Psa. 35:13 Psa. 69:10 Psa. 109:24

Is. 58:3-6 \*

Jer. 14:12 Jer. 36:1-20 ff Dan. 6:18

Dan. 9:3 So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in **fasting**, and in sackcloth and ashes.

Dan. 10:2 -3 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

Joel 1:14 Joel 2:12

Jonah 3:5 The Ninevites believed God. They declared a **fast**, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

Zech. 7:3 Zech. 8:19

Matt. 4:2 After **fasting** forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Matt. 6:16-18 \**important*

Matt. 9:14-15 Then John’s disciples came and asked him, “How is it that we and the Pharisees **fast**, but your disciples do not **fast**?” Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will **fast**. Also Mark 2:18-20 and Luke 5:33-35

Luke 2:37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, **fasting** and praying.

Luke 18:12 I **fast** twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

Acts 9:9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

Acts 13:2-3 While they were worshiping the Lord and **fasting**, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had **fasted** and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and **fasting**, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Acts 27:9 Acts 27:33



**WORSHIP:** Mandy Scott ACC South Australia Prayer Coordinator

**A FAITHFUL AND STEADFAST WOMAN OF PRAYER AND  
WORSHIP ~ THE PROPHETESS ANNA**

Men, women and younger people will be encouraged by a small glimpse of this woman of purpose.

**LUKE 2 : 36—38**

*There was also a prophetess. The daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. She had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage then became a widow till 84, she never left the temple and worshipped and prayed and fasted day and night. She gave thanks to God, and spoke about a child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem*

The name "Anna" means "Favor" or "Grace" and originates from the Hebrew *chanan*, meaning "to bend or stoop in kindness" and "to find favour and show favour" What a beautiful picture ~ the title and name, associated with her, gives us of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ a faithful servant, full of grace and truth

**CHARACTER QUALITIES ABOUT ANNA**

*The Scripture says Anna was "serving night and day". She served God and man and remained in a state of readiness for opportunities the Lord would bring her way.*

*Anna served night and day "with fastings and prayers." Notice the emphasis placed on "fastings and prayers" as a significant type of service in the eyes of God. Anna serves as an example well because she was continuously seeking, asking, entreating the Lord on behalf of others. She truly esteemed others more highly than herself.*

*She had a disciplined life, and stayed devoted and unwearied in prayer and worship. With an incredible anointing and steadfastness in ministry*

**A THANKFUL HEART**

After many years of praying, interceding and Prophetic Intercession. Anna found favour with God, because He showed her the Messiah.

As she approached Jesus, when he was brought to the temple to be dedicated by His parents, and God gave her the eyes to see, that the baby she was looking at, was indeed the long awaited was Messiah and the HOPE of God's people.

**God can use each of us, in a fruitful ministry, as we too serve Him faithfully in  
Prayer/Intercession/Worship and Prophetic  
Intercession.**

Assembly of Confessing Congregations "Prayer Muster"  
10th September, 2008 ~ Mandy Scott