



ACC Prayer Diary

September 2013

Greetings all,

Prayer points for September

- An encouraging reunion was held recently for Emerging Leaders Award alumni. Pray for these young people as they follow God's prompting into Christian leadership.
- Pray for Rod and Shirley James as they visit the St George congregation (Qld) on their way to the National Conference. Rod will be preaching at St George UC on Sun 8th.
- Pray for the ACC Conference being held on 12th-14th and especially for the conference speakers: Max Champion, David DeMers, Noel Due, Anne Hibbard, Ivan Kirk, Glen O'Brien, Greg Pearce.
- Pray also for wisdom in the AGM deliberations and for those who will be elected to office.
- Please pray for ACC team who are meeting for the Assembly conversation on marriage as well as the convenor this Monday [2 Sep]; for clarity, unity, strength, wisdom and protection in our Lord Jesus Christ. Members: Max Champion, Ross Carter, Clive Skewes, Jonathon Button, Shane Kammermann, Lulu Senituli, Anne Hibbard, Katherine Abetz, Peter Bentley.
- Please pray for Anne Hibbard; for Christ's healing and protection as she's had vertigo the last week and not getting better; prayers for safe travelling to Melbourne.
- Thank-you for your faithfulness in Prayer.

Loving people we don't know?

Conventional wisdom today says that we can only love someone once we get to 'know' them. This is what Thomas Aquinas meant when he said that *'one can love only what one knows, since love comes from knowledge'*. Our bible readings today [1 Sep], however, challenges this way of thinking. Jesus in effect is saying, what is the point of loving only your friends and brothers and sisters and your rich neighbours etc. i.e. the one's you 'know'; anyone can do that. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind and you will be blessed" (Luke 14: 13-14). The writer of Hebrews 13: 2 says, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers". What? Show love to someone I don't know? YES! *"Once the possibility of knowledge arises as independent of and prior to the act of communion (Love) with the other being, it becomes possible for man to dissociate his thought from his act and thus falsify the event of truth. Thus man can become a hypocrite"* (p.427 Zizioulas). It is why Jesus himself called the religious leaders hypocrites. The lectionary readings for this week beginning the month of September challenges us to show love to all, not just the ones we 'know' and like. Our Father, by your Spirit, please enable us to love others in the same way you love us.

Grace and Peace – Hedley Fihaki