Prayer Focus

6th May 2011

May Devotion

So begin – make the resolution – NOW! Be daring.

None of us have a long time to live….what years we have left to us, live them with God. *Let us be in his presence, walking closely with Christ.* Brother Lawrence (italics Sheryl)

Our ever present Father, we pledge to surrender to you, but confess that most of the moments that make up our actual life are not surrendered to you. Help us to remember you and offer ourselves up to you in this moment and in every moment.

Gregory Boyd: Present Perfect

Compartmentalisation

In a meeting I attended recently participants joined in from all around the world. The common denominator was we were all involved in considering what God was saying to us about mission. What was fascinating was the evidence of the varying worldviews present. You might think that as all of us were Christians involved in mission we would share a common worldview – not so.

What do we consider of utmost importance, for example:

- Was it relationships?
- Was it history, present or future focused?
- Was it creation, a living and integral part of us?
- Was clarity of output of the meeting essential?
- Was defining terms and outlining plans key?
- Was theology primarily needed?
- Etc.

I am sure you would agree that all of the above are important and have their place.

The brainstorming we did drew on each of our own and shared experiences and skills, as we all longed to consider how we could further mission being transformative. We explored how we could promote this more and more in our communities and ministries.

It struck me that as we tried to forward integral mission could we honestly say that our own lives and worldviews were integrated or have we become compartmentalised?

Here are a few questions that help us consider this:

1. What do you think is secular or Christian in your everyday life and surroundings?
2. What do you think is worship during your day?
3. Where and how often do you set time aside to pray during the week, during your day?

Gregory Boyd in his book *Present Perfect* says that many of us go about our daily lives as functional atheists. We pray and worship God on occasion in specified time frames, often isolated and separate from what we consider our “normal” routine of living. We compartmentalise our lives, isolating the spiritual from the rest of the day or week. Thus our relationship with God is a hit and run experience, boxed into a formula.

If we are going to live an integrated life living in the presence of God we are going to have to remove the barriers that compartmentalise the spiritual and the “normal”. We are going to have to let our worldviews be challenged and changed.

What does this practically mean?

- Each moment of your day, welcome God into it.
• Ask him to open your eyes, ears, senses and heart to the world around you.
• Thank him for his engagement in the world.
• Cry out to him for what you see.
• At times simply be silent, conscious of him there with you and enjoy his presence.

It is helping you to let God into every part of your life – day and night. It’s transforming your worldview, how you see the world around you, it’s being aware of the presence of God. The impact will be felt as you see how you grow in discernment and ability to pray, to be filled with joy and peace. How exciting!

John 15:4-5 – Remain in me and I will remain in you….

**Strategic Framework**

**Promoting Integral Mission**

- Amahoro Africa is hosting their annual gathering in Mombasa this week. Please pray for Claude and Kelly as they lead this, that God’s presence will not only be felt but that for all who attend there will be an encounter that draws them closer to God and mission.
- The next Micah Network Integral Mission Conversation is in Indonesia from the 9th to 11th May.
  - Pray for the participants who are registered and ready to attend, that they will be able to make this event and will find real fellowship and growth.
  - Pray for safety and logistics to be in hand.
- June will see the review of the Micah Declaration being held. Please pray for:
  - Wisdom on how to facilitate and support this process so as to discern the way ahead.
  - Financial support to help participants attend.

**Enhancing Capacity**

- Regional consultation for 2011:
  - Africa: 15th to 19th November in Zambia (Africa Mobilising for Integral Mission): we need to finalise the flyer and send out invitations.
  - Asia: 17th to 21st October in Sri Lanka (Asia Mobilising for Integral Mission): pray for wisdom as we struggle to find the location in Sri Lanka for this to be held. Please pray for a breakthrough and a place that is affordable and inviting.
  - Latin America: Please pray for discernment for the Coordinating Group as they meet this month to decide the way ahead.
- 5th Triennial: 10th to 14th September 2012: we are thankful to Tear Schweiz for taking up the challenge to co-host this in Thun, Switzerland. Please pray that we can use this opportunity to touch the lives of the church in Switzerland too. Pray for the choice of themes and the title.

**Networking**

- Please pray for wisdom as we finalise 2010 annual report and audits and consider how we can cover the needs of 2011.

**Global Prayer**

- **Japan**: we have found some one to help mentor the local mission / church coalition responding in Japan and are exploring if this is the right way to move forward. Please pray for wisdom for us and CRASH as we look into this. Pray that
the international community will continue to remember and support Japan in its recovery.

- Let us continue to stand together this month and cry out to God for his mercy and intervention to stop the leaking radiation and cool the reactors. Pray for his supernatural intervention on behalf of the Japanese.

**Osama bin Laden:** The news is flooded with the story of Osama’s death and frankly I was appalled to see celebrations. Please pray that Christians would extend love to Al Qaeda and to his family who mourn his loss. Pray that they would see another face of Christianity that demonstrates God’s love.

Pray that the “eye for an eye” revenge cycle would be stopped and that peacemakers would be identified to build dialogue and bridges between parties.

**UN General Assembly Comprehensive AIDS Review:** Pray for countries preparing for this High Level meeting in June 2011. Pray that they will reflect carefully on their own national HIV and AIDS scenarios, and articulate themselves clearly at the meeting. Specifically, pray for initiatives relevant to preventing the “vertical transmission of HIV”, e.g. the transmission of HIV from mother to child. There is a growing sense that the world has the capacity to completely eliminate this form of HIV transmission. One example of how leaders might commit specifically to this vision was made at a recent civil society meeting, and is as follows...

“Eliminate vertical transmission by 2015 through access to triple combination therapy and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and family planning services for women throughout their lifecycles.”

**Cambodia:** Pray against the child sex and slave labour trade. Pray for justice to come to bear on those culpable of such despicable crimes and for the girls affected to have salvation from their terror. There have been recent cases of young women trafficked for arranged marriage to Korean men, only to have their virginity taken and abandoned; abused and without any prospects for their future. Pray that the authorities will take action to protect their citizens.

**News Alert**

**Ben Akpera** is travelling again – please pray for him as he attends Amahoro Africa’s conference this month and shares about Micah Network with them. He will then be in Uganda supporting our members and national coordination group, before taking our first trip to South Sudan to build links with the Christians working there.

**Sundar Daniel** is currently away on sick leave. Please continue to stand with him for his health and recovery.

**Ruth Alvarado** as she meets with the Latin America Regional Coordinating Group to plan the conversations and consultations this year.

**Greg Manning** as we try and work out the complicated labour laws and insurance issues for Greg’s continued work with the HIV Forum – pray that the people who can advise and help us are found and responsive.

Have a blessed week!

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Pray through the Micah Network work values. This month:

**Humility:**
Humility, nurtured by a proper appreciation and understanding of God, self and others, is critical to godly relationships (1 Peter 5.5). We aspire to the humility that will enable us to learn from each other. Such humility liberates us from the need to dominate and own, to serving one another in love (Philippians 2.1-8).