



SWOT REPORT

What is SWOT?

The South West Outreach Team (SWOT) are a team of Christians who travel by car to our south-west agricultural towns once or twice a week to encourage and pray with local believers. SWOT began some six years ago when Pastor Brian Whitehurst retired from pastoring churches and was "nudged" by God to ministry in the Great Southern. SWOT's vision is to light a small fire in each of the south west towns and then to call upon the Holy Spirit to fan these flames into one large flame, engulfing the south west in the fire of revival. The vision is reflected in the Team's logo.

Ps Brian Whitehurst
SWOT Founder

Message from Geoff Pittuck

Greetings Praying Friends,

It is hard to believe that half of 2017 has passed and many thousand kilometres travelled. We have been so blessed to see many miracles and hearts turned towards the Lord. I still feel Brian beside me with great encouragement shouting "Glory, Glory!". We go out faithfully to one or fifty people with the love of the Lord with this message from Isaiah 41:13:

"For I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you. Do not fear; I will help you."

BUNBURY, Thursday, 1 June, 2017

Pastor Joe O'Donovan drove us to Bunbury to meet with Reverend Cuzie (previously from the Anglican Church in Williams), now at the Bunbury Seafarers Mission. How pleased we were to pull up alongside Cuzie as we arrived at the Mission in Bunbury and greet our dear brother after such a long period.

We were given a tour of the Seafarers Mission. Cuzie explained to us the Mission to Seafarers is a mission society of the Anglican Communion which offers help and support to merchant seafarers. The charity provides its services through the chaplains that it appoints to port centres in over 50 countries. The Mission offers practical, emotional and spiritual support for seafarers of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs. Cuzie said he was really enjoying the appointment and though it was not without its challenges, we could not but help observe his deep love for the Lord and his earnest commitment to the people he served.

The seafarers that come through the Mission often have limited English, have been away from home for long extended periods and miss their loved ones, and wonder what will await them when they return. The spiritual needs are great.

We held hands and prayed in the Mission Chapel, not only for the seafarers but for an anointing on Cuzie for his life and work in the Mission, and for the volunteers that so faithfully serve in the charity.

For information on the Mission's services visit:
<http://www.mts.org.au>



BEVERLEY, Wednesday, 7 June, 2017

Travelling out to Beverley for the first Wednesday of the month meeting, I was greatly blessed to be able to take another Annual Leave day and travel with Geoff and Margaret out to Beverley.. Today we were going to be meeting once again in the home of Terry and Glenda, the original venue for these fellowship meetings. With Terry's recent bout of ill health, the group had been meeting in the church hall at Beverley Real Life Church.

At the last minute, Geoff advised me that we would be picking up a passenger in Karragullen for the trip out. To my surprise our passenger was Terry himself. He and Glenda were stuck in Perth with car troubles, and Terry, not wanting to rearrange the meeting at the last minute, suggested that he be picked up, with Glenda making her way home later that day when the car was repaired. The time passed very quickly on the drive and we found ourselves in Beverley a little early, which enabled us to go via the bakery to pick up some morning tea provisions.

There was another good turn out today with nine in attendance including ourselves, and a wonderful time of fellowship ensued with all sharing about what had been happening in their lives recently.

Just as we were about to start proper, Terry shared a word of testimony regarding his recent bout of very serious ill health and subsequent miraculous recovery. Terry summed up with these words *"that he, Terry, was still here by God's grace because God still had work for him to do"*.

Geoff had asked if I could share a small teaching/message again this day. Terry's words, by God's grace, timing and providence, very naturally led into:

- (a) the scripture that I had on my mind for today, and
- (b) the theme for today's message "The Best is Yet to Come"

Scripture – **1 Corinthians 15:58** *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

Picking up on the word "abounding", we looked at it in the sense of "ever increasing/ongoing" work for the Lord in the context of "the Best is Yet to Come" but keeping a wary eye on the danger of overlooking the importance of what we are currently doing, being called to do in order to see the "best" that is yet to come.

As part of our discussion I also shared part of a reading from Oswald Chambers daily devotional "My Utmost for His Highest" (A title in itself that epitomizes the very ideal of "the sense of "ever increasing/ongoing" work for the Lord".)

Visions Becoming Reality - July 06 **My Utmost for His Highest**

We always have a vision of something before it actually becomes real to us. When we realise that the vision is real, but is not yet real in us, Satan comes to us with his temptations, and we are inclined to say that there is no point in even trying to continue. Instead of the vision becoming real to us, we have entered into a valley of humiliation.

God gives us a vision, and then He takes us down to the valley to batter us into the shape of that vision. It is in the valley that so many of us give up and faint. Every God-given vision will become real if we will only have patience. Just think of the enormous amount of free time God has! He is never in a hurry. Yet we are always in such a frantic hurry. While still in the light of the glory of the vision, we go right out to do things, but the vision is not yet real in us. God has to take us into the valley and put us through fires and floods to batter us into shape, until we get to the point where He can trust us with the reality of the vision.

Ever since God gave us the vision, He has been at work. He is getting us into the shape of the goal He has for us, and yet over and over again we try to escape from the Sculptor's hand in an effort to batter ourselves into the shape of our own goal.



A good deal of discussion ensued around vision and God's call on our lives. With an eye to our theme of "the Best is Yet to Come" we finished with two thoughts:

1. Oswald Chambers final words from his devotional:

Visions Becoming Reality (Cont'd)

The vision that God gives is not some unattainable castle in the sky, but a vision of what God wants you to be down here. Allow the Potter to put you on His wheel and whirl you around as He desires. Then as surely as God is God, and you are you, you will turn out as an exact likeness of the vision. But don't lose heart in the process. If you have ever had a vision from God, you may try as you will to be satisfied on a lower level, but God will never allow it.

2. that God's thought to us are always, and in all ways, for our very best (regardless of how we perceive them), and that that very best is always found in ever increasing, "abounding" measure, in Him.

As I write these words, in reflection, I would summarise this message thus:

The best is yet to come, an invitation to walk closer and closer with Jesus. An ongoing invitation to a continual walk in ever deepening relationship with our Lord and Saviour.

Oswald Chambers daily devotional "My Utmost for His Highest" can be found online @ <https://utmost.org/>

Written by Brad Makin

A Prayer of Lament from Habakkuk Abridged version by Christina Fox

There are times and seasons in our Christian life when we wonder where God is. We pray and wonder if God even hears us. We plead and cry and yet nothing changes our circumstances. There is a place in scripture the writer wonders where God is: the book of Habakkuk.

The book begins with the prophet looking at the sin and idolatry around him and asking, ***"O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity and why you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise"***. Hab. 1:2-3

God responded to Habakkuk's question but not in the way he expected. God told Habakkuk that he would deal with the sin and idolatry. He would deal with it by sending Babylon to exact his justice. God would judge not only Judah, but their enemies as well. ***"Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own"***. Hab. 1:5-7

This was hard for Habakkuk to hear. Babylon was an evil nation. Yet Habakkuk responded and affirmed God's sovereignty, holiness and power. ***"Are you not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof."*** Hab. 1:12

But he still wanted to know why? It may seem that evil is winning the day, but one day, God's glory will cover the earth. ***"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea"***. Hab. 2:14 For those of us who watch the evil around is in the world or in our own lives and wonder when God will move, this is a good reminder. As our Saviour said, ***"I have said these things to you that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*** John 16:33

Habakkuk placed his trust and hope in the God who was faithful to his people in the past and trusted in his promises for the future. Jesus came as the answer to those promises. He is the answer to the suffering, injustice, and evil in the world. He is the One to whom all the stories of redemption and deliverance in the Old Testament point to. On this side of the cross, we can trust in God's perfect plan. We too can *"quietly wait"*. We can rejoice even in the midst of our anxieties. Christ has come and is with us in the darkest days. And he will come again and make all things new.

Prayer:

Lord, my joy is found in you. You are my salvation and my strength. Whatever my circumstances, whatever fears or anxieties I have, whatever darkness lurks on the horizon, whatever is happening in the world around me, you are my salvation and my joy. When the world around me seems confusing and hopeless, I pray that you would fill me with incredible hope in your goodness, grace and sovereignty over all things. Help me fix my gaze on you the author and perfecter of my faith all the days of my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WILLIAMS, NARROGIN AND POPANYINNING, Thursday, 29 June, 2017 - CANCELLED Due to Geoff and Margaret coming down with the flu.

PRAYER POINTS



Rainfall has been very much below average across much of Western Australia. This is very much evidenced by the poor germination of crops that were dry seeded in autumn in the hope of much needed rain. The west of Western Australia experienced below average rainfall for April and May, seeing the emergence of serious and severe rainfall deficiencies for a three month period. The July and August indicators are for a drier than average winter across the south of Western Australia. The lack of rain is threatening to wipe more than \$1 billion off this season's grain harvest. This is a very dire situation for the farmers and as a consequence the prayers of the righteous for rain are much needed.

... CAN THE HEAVENS GIVE SHOWERS! ARE YOU NOT HE, O LORD OUR GOD! THEREFORE WE WILL WAIT FOR YOU EXPECTANTLY; FOR YOU HAVE MADE ALL THESE THINGS. FOR HE SPOKE, AND IT WAS DONE; HE COMMANDED, AND IT STOOD FAST.

Jeremiah 14:22; Psalm 33:9

Loving Lord, You are the living God, who gives us, the children of this world, richly all things to enjoy. All power is given to You in heaven and in earth. You did speak, and it was done; You did command, and it stood fast! Yes! Father, it is in Your power to send abundant rain on the earth and thus bless its inhabitants. I do not in the least; hesitate to confess Your power and authority even over nature. Father, the Bible tells us that the heaven is shut up and there is no rain when we sin against You. If our sins be the reason for this lack of rain, Lord I plead for Your forgiveness. Graciously forgive us O Lord our sins and forget them according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies. Lord have mercy on us and for a moment think about our plight - the struggle for water for crops failing and stock dying. Hearts have also grown weak constantly anxious over the future. But I know Lord that You are in perfect control. Hear our cries and open the windows of heaven and rain all over our Land. I give You all the Praise and Glory, in Jesus' name I ask. Amen.

Please continue to pray for :

A great move of the Holy Spirit across the country.

Unity amongst the brethren

The wardens of the Anglican Church, Williams

The Lord's favour for a connection with the Christians in Wickiepin.

As the SWOT team yield to the Holy Spirit, their hearts and ears be open to the Lord's leading, guidance and direction. That the SWOT team would liberally be granted wisdom, favour, good health and safety in their travels.