



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 Margaret Pittuck

Greetings Praying Friends,

Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (NIV).

Thinking of what to write for this section, I began to reflect on all the challenges and hard circumstances that beset our lives. The Holy Spirit reminded me of the above scripture, and in particular the last four words "according to His purpose." God has a purpose and a plan. His plans to accomplish that purpose are perfect.

No matter how difficult "all things" in our lives become, we can take comfort in knowing that God choreographs everything in a way that brings Him glory and is for our good, even if at times it may not feel like it. When we trust God that he takes the events of our lives and orchestrates them for good, our perspective is transformed.

BEVERLEY, Wednesday, 12 September, 2018

Due to Brad Makin's funeral on Wednesday, 5 September, (being the first Wednesday of the month) the meeting was rescheduled for 12 September. Due to a hospital appointment, Geoff and Margaret could not make Beverley for the meeting. Once again, Brian Lownes from Mustard Seed Community Church presented the message. Brian reported that few people attended (probably because it was not the normal Wednesday). Brian felt the message below was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 11:28-30 New International Version (NIV)
"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

This scripture came out of my asking myself how do I handle stress? Do I follow or am I successful? Just how do we handle those times that challenge us?

Do we go around walking and leaping praising God or resort to other measures?

For me I don't handle that time very well but only for a short time until I come to grips. I like food it can be my stress breaker.

Some weeks ago, Andrew Parsons from Mustard Seed Community Church, spoke of his life issues of the road he walked down and the battle he endured. For me to hear this and see his life's battle, I take my hat off in awe of what he has achieved. At times, we all become stressed and have a battle coping with what is going on. I've been there; marriage break down, work place, health, at home kids, finance, the pet dog, neighbours, these are just a few of the

issues of life that get into our lives and try to bring us down and make life difficult.

Question time.

Some years ago, I stressed to the point of an anxiety attack. It came out of nowhere but had been building over a matter of years. What triggered it? I had to find a new rental. I was happy and content in that place. It was a home where I helped the owner buy out of property settlement money that in my mind, belonged to my ex-wife, and because of that, I had a right to live there.

The ex-wife requested that I vacate in 30 days so she could move back in. This triggered an anxiety which fortunately only lasted a couple of days but those days I was devastated. It was like a second separation. I was shattered. Lots of tears, lots of worry for my future.

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BEVERLEY, Wednesday, 12 September, 2018 - Continued

One of my daughters picked me up on my fragile demeanor and helped me come to terms with what was about to happen, and what I needed to do. I got my head and heart around the whole situation. She was there to help me. In doing so, I was able to focus back on the Lord and the whole episode was all over in two days. What started as anxiety ended up more resolved.

So let's get into Matthew 28-30. ***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."***

1. ***Come to me all who labour and heavy laden and I will give you rest.*** Come to me – here and now. This was discussed it and other points of view.

2. ***All who labour and heavy laden.*** It is a wearisome effort to be alive at times. It is hard work. It takes toil. It is an effort. You can grow weary and tired. It all brings grief. This was discussed.

3. ***Rest*** is to refresh. To refresh. Be still and know that I am God.

Psalms 46:10 ***"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."***

4. Be patient with expectation.

V29. ***Take my yoke upon me and learn upon me for I am gentle and lowly of heart and you will find rest for your souls.***

We discussed taking our yokes upon us. The yoke is a load bearing device. It equalises in sharing the load but it is also a bondage. As an example, from the dictionary, a type of slavery.

Learn from me. As we take up the yoke we see the limitations of our weaknesses. With the yoke of Jesus upon our shoulders we see roads which we cannot travel, out of bounds because we are held within the yoke which hinders our movement.

Learn is to increase our aspects of our lives.

Philippians 4:8-9 New International Version (NIV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Gentleness – spirit of weakness, mellow, soft,

receptive to what is happening around you. Meekness towards God is that disposition of the spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as GOOD and there without disputing or resisting.

Lowly means humble. 2 Corinthians 10.1

By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" toward you when away!

Rest for your souls. Recreation, sensation of motion, coming to a stop, letting the Holy Spirit feed ourselves and again, Be still and know that I am God comes to mind. The yoke means when the other person stops you stop or go.

Verse 30. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. The yokes were used as a restraint but Jesus tells us today to be yoked to Him is for our benefit, leads and guides us in our life issues. The more you work with Him the better off you are. For example, In the workplace, use ropes and chains to weight bear. The more you use, the lighter the load for that rope or chain. As we rest there is a reward for us all.

Hebrews 10:19-24 The Passion Translation (TPT)

¹⁹ And now we are brothers and sisters in God's family because of the blood of Jesus, and he welcomes us to come right into the most holy sanctuary in the heavenly realm—boldly and with no hesitation. ²⁰ For he has dedicated a new,^[a] life-giving way for us to approach God. For just as the veil was torn in two, Jesus' body was torn open to give us free and fresh access to him!

²¹ And since we now have a magnificent King-Priest to welcome us into God's house, ²² we come closer to God and approach him^[b] with an open heart, fully convinced by faith that nothing will keep us at a distance from him. For our hearts have been sprinkled with blood to remove impurity and we have been freed from an accusing conscience and now we are clean, unstained, and presentable to God inside and out!^[c]

²³ So now we must cling tightly to the hope that lives within us, knowing that God always keeps his promises! ^[d] ²⁴ Discover creative ways to encourage others^[e] and to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love.

Prayer and discussion was had using other versions of the bible. A good study.

Mavis Shadbolt and Nola Henry from Eternal Life Ministries accompanied us to Beverley. It was a cool and a very windy, overcast morning. The canola, no longer flowering, was just starting to dry off. However, the farming countryside was still lush and green and lovely to behold. We knew that, God willing, the next time we travelled to Beverley, as the season progressed to summer, it would look completely different.

Hope promotes joyful confidence. Romans 8.28

On our journey home we took the dirt road through the forest. Once again, our Creator God blessed us with some beautiful wildflower displays.

Romans 15:13

3 October, 2018

Jeremiah 29:11



BEVERLEY, Wednesday, 7 November, 2018

Brian Lownes travelled alone to Beverley. He reported that he preached from 1 Peter 1.1-25. Only one person from Beverley attended.



Prayer Points

Please continue to pray for :

Pray that God would open the heavens and pour out a great and mighty move of Holy Spirit fire across the south-west. Please pray that there would be unity amongst the brethren as miraculous waves of Holy Spirit fire break out across the nation.

Please persist in prayer for the south-west and the communities of: Williams, Narrogin, Wickepin, Popanyinning, Pingelly and Brookton.

The SWOT team give praise and thanks to the Lord for bringing them thus far. Please pray for the SWOT team that the Lord would pour out fresh grace, strength, guidance and wisdom for the work in 2018, and for vision and perspective for the way ahead. Please pray for open hearts and ears to the Lord's prompting and leading.

