

# Good News

"I must  
proclaim  
the  
good news  
of the  
kingdom  
of God"

Catholic Charismatic Renewal  
serving the Church



The newsletter of the  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal.  
Melbourne, Australia.

[www.ccr.org.au](http://www.ccr.org.au)

## Pope Francis and CCR: Five Years of Grace

By CHARLES WHITEHEAD



Since 1967, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) has always enjoyed the quiet approval of successive Popes, but for the first time we have, in Francis, a Pope who is happy to openly identify himself as part of this Renewal.

His involvement began as a bishop in Buenos Aires, culminating in his appointment as spiritual advisor to the CCR in Argentina.

In marked contrast to his first encounter, when he likened it to "a school of Samba", he took time to properly understand what CCR was all about.

This resulted in an open apology for his initial reaction and his personal involvement in what he came to see as a life-transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

Elected Pope in 2013, he soon began to promote CCR throughout the Church.

### A Tremendous Encouragement

When the Pope publicly voices his personal commitment to the CCR, it gives tremendous encouragement to everyone who is trying to establish parish prayer groups, Life in the Spirit Seminars, evangelisation ministries and more.

In June 2014, my wife, Sue, and I were present in Rome when he met 50,000 charismatics in the Olympic Stadium.

After enthusiastically singing "Vive Jesus El Senor", he said: "When I celebrated Holy Mass in Buenos Aires with the CCR, after the consecration and a few seconds of adoration in tongues, we sang this song with so much joy and power as you did today. Thank you - I felt at home! This meeting gives me so much joy. You, Charismatic Renewal, have received a great gift from the Lord. You were born of the Spirit as a current of grace in the Church. This is your definition - a current of grace! Charismatic Renewal is a great force at the service of the proclamation of the Gospel in the joy of the Holy Spirit."

### Conversion, Witness and Unity

He went on to explain what he expected from the CCR:

1. Conversion to the life-changing love of Jesus.
2. Sharing the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit with all in the Church.
3. Evangelising with the Word of God, which proclaims that Jesus is alive and loves all people.
4. Witnessing to spiritual ecumenism with all those brothers and sisters of other churches and Christian communities who believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour, remembering that the CCR is ecumenical by its very nature.
5. Being close to the poor and needy, touching in their lives the flesh of Jesus.
6. Seeking unity in the CCR because unity comes with the Spirit and is born of the unity of the Trinity.

### Going from Strength to Strength

In 2017, at the Pentecost celebration of the great jubilee of the CCR, Pope Francis publicly thanked the CCR: "Thank you, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, for what you have given to the Church in these fifty years!

The Church counts on your fidelity to the Word, on your availability for service, and on your witness of life transformed by the Spirit! *Continued on page 5*



# ACROSS MY DESK

By LENYCE WILLASON

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We have just celebrated the wonderful season of Easter and we have walked with Jesus through his passion, death and resurrection. During these weeks I have found myself pondering a question I am often asked: how do I pray for myself for healing?

Possibly the worst condition that can affect the human heart is forgetfulness - the failure to remember. Jesus gave us the great gift of the Eucharist with these words: do this in memory of me. He wants us to remember what he has accomplished for us, and *Galatians 2:20* reminds us that Christ lives in me! The gift of Jesus himself in the Eucharist has a great power to bring healing.

I try to receive Eucharist every day. This reminds me what Jesus did - the price he paid was more than adequate for any situation I may meet. There isn't anything in my life circumstances (nor yours) that was not purchased at Calvary. A cornerstone of our Christian faith is the concept of the Cross - that by his stripes we are healed (*Isaiah 53:5*). There is nothing can happen to us that Jesus has not already paid for and when we live with that realisation something happens in our heart, to our faith. It is not a magic pill but a choice to believe.

The whole meaning of the body and blood of the Lord is so critical - in one way it is the meal of health and healing. When it becomes routine, becomes a token then St Paul would say to us that we are receiving in an unworthy manner and that for this reason many are weak or ill (*1 Cor 11:30*).

When we receive the body of Jesus we make a declaration over ourselves and our families that by his stripes we were healed (*Isaiah 53:5*). We operate out of what Jesus accomplished 2000 years ago - Jesus said it is finished.

When I receive the body of Jesus I pray for friends who are suffering different kinds of ailments and everyone who I have prayed over - not because I want to persuade him to do something but because he has already done it. I thank him that by his stripes I/they are healed. He purchased our sin, divisions, ailments at Cavalry. Those stripes are the payment that Jesus made for our grief, our diseases, our illnesses, our torments.

When I take the chalice, I hold my family line before the Lord and declare as for me and my house we will serve the Lord. And then pray over each member of my family, my children and my grandchildren by name. I pray for their protection, that God would provide for their needs, and the promise in the book of *Jeremiah 24*: I will give them a heart to know me. I ask the Lord that my whole family will be given the heart to know him. I pray that we would be able to navigate loss and grief, disappointment and criticism and to continuously be willing to forgive. It seems to be easier to forgive when we are receiving the blood of Jesus, when we are holding the chalice. The way we handle the differing problems or challenges that come up in our lives seem to make more sense when we look at them through the blood of Jesus. I have found that it is treacherous to revisit any part of my past without the protection of the blood of Jesus. I pray for anyone who would hold animosity toward me in their heart. I lift them to the Lord and ask for them to prosper in every area of their lives, that the touch on their lives would be fulfilling for them. There is a joy in praying for those who would oppose you.

We need to take the time before the Lord and REMEMBER the beauty of his brokenness - he was broken that we might be made whole. He shed his blood that we might be redeemed. He made every victory possible.

# REDISCOVER NOW

By PETER McHUGH



Last year in October, the Rediscover event in Federation Square was a remarkable expression of how God's people can co-operate together when we acknowledge the place and power of "reconciled diversity".

Unity across the Body of Christ can be elusive when we are uncertain about what we are reaching for. Over the next eight months I have been offered the privilege, (by the Rediscover Committee) of exploring with you, the reader, how we could share a model for understanding what "reconciled diversity" might look like in Victoria.

What if we understood the pursuit of oneness that Jesus calls us to in His prayer captured in *John 17* to a continuum marked by two book ends. At one end of the continuum the book end would be described as places where God's people co-operate with a degree of vested interest in the outcomes being pursued. Relationship at this end of the continuum could be characterised as being transactional, with a prescribed outcome in mind reflecting the pursuit of unity of purpose.

At the other end of the continuum the book end would be described as places where God's people have chosen to invest in long term relationships with a willingness to be vulnerable and pay a price for an outcome that benefits the Body of Christ. Relationships at this end of the continuum could be characterised by discovery and curiosity, to establish the oneness prayed for reflecting the pursuit of unity of heart.

## Clearing Log Jams

We are the eyes of the Body of Christ. It is our responsibility and privilege to remove the splinters from the eyes of those whom we are called to serve. We are even commissioned to extract logs from the hearts of the hurting. But we simply cannot help other people when we are viewing the world through a worthless value system of our own (a "log" made of wood, hay or stubble) because it blinds us to the King's perspective.

Jesus puts it this way:

*Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?*  
(Matt 7: 3-5)

One of the ways I can discern if I have a log in my eye is by the way I view others. Most of the time, our opinions of others are more of a commentary on who we are than on who they are. For example, if I do not feel good about my performance at work, it is often easy to build a case against my co-workers who are high performers. My opinion of them is affected by my disappointment in myself, so I view them through the lens of jealousy. My assessment of them is really a commentary on my own heart and life.

This attitude of viewing others through a "log" is common among poor people, who often view wealthy people through the eyes of envy. Because other people have something that they cannot seem to attain, they build a case against them. As a side note, I have never been hired by a poor person. People with money create jobs and generate a healthy economy. The love of money is evil, but money itself can be used for good by someone with the right core values.

Honestly, the only way to have the core values of the Kingdom is to be enlightened by the King. Paul puts it this way:

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power toward us who believe.* (Ephesians 1: 18 – 19)

The word enlighten in the passage is the Greek word *photizo*, which is where we get our word *photosynthesis*, meaning "to build with light". In essence, Paul is saying that the key to building with light is having a worldview rooted in the revelation of eternal realities. This revelation of Christ will alter our reality so that we are accurately guided by Kingdom core values as we negotiate our way through the circumstances of life. For example, if we believe that God is angry, we will interpret world events through that lens. Having "God is angry" scratches on our lens will affect how we see and hear. We will see and hear out of that paradigm. We will view natural disasters, terrorist attacks and famines as acts of God.

Here are just a few examples of how "angry scratches" can affect our hearing and ultimately our ministry:

- We will give judgmental prophetic words.
- We will view natural disasters as God's way of punishing people for their sins
- We will look for what is wrong in the world instead of what is right.

Since we are created in the image of God, we become like the God we imagine(image).

*This is an excerpt from School of the Prophets by Kris Vallotton. For more resources from Kris, visit krisvallotton.com.*

*“Praise  
and worship  
of God is  
the pinnacle  
of prayer.”*



Len Airey

# The Gift of Praise and Worship

By LEN AIREY

Praise and worship of God is so big and so beautiful we cannot explain what it means; we can only experience its beauty and majesty. Nevertheless, each of us is able to speak out of our own experience and insights into what it means to participate in this type of prayer.

Praise and worship is at the headwaters of the stream that flows from the heart of God. This is a message I was blessed to receive during a time of prayer. Headwaters – the source, the origin, the beginning of a stream. Praise and worship has its origin in the heart of the Father. It is the stream of Grace that pours into our hearts as the God of love.

In our world, we can picture the origin of a stream somewhere in the mountains that had its beginnings with rain. We know that as the stream flows, other streams, which come from the same origin but a different location, join the flow. The stream grows and becomes a river that has a significant influence on the environment through which it travels. It is the product of so many other elements of creation – air, clouds, heat, cold, thunder, lighting, mountains, landscape, gravity and it has its own unique way of giving glory to the Creator (*Is.55/12*). Many waters come together to become a vibrant living organism which nourishes and gives life (*Ez.47/12*). It cuts through some of the toughest ground, finds its way around obstacles and wears away the hardest rock in its quest to join the waters of the ocean.

This analogy provides us with an image of the river of life which has its headwaters in the heart of God. “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city” (*Rev. 22/1 NRSV*). The river of life rises and finishes in the heart of God. God is the Alpha and the Omega (*Rev. 1/8*), the stream and the ocean of Grace in which we seek to be immersed.

We are the offspring of the Creator (*Acts 17/22-28*). We have the same origin but come from different backgrounds and situations in life. We each represent a different stream of the same Grace. Coming together in the Spirit to enter into the river of life, we become a vibrant living organism, which provides the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to influence the environment in which we move, to nourish, to heal and give life. Like the natural world, we are the product of many other elements of creation but together we form part of the worldwide stream of Grace that is called to unity with the Hosts of Heaven to praise and worship our Creator and draw others into this heavenly stream.

“In praise, you are drawn into my presence. In worship, you are in my presence,” says the Lord through prophecy. We journey into the presence of God through praise and there we rest in His presence in worship.

Praise and worship of God is the pinnacle of prayer. It is a natural response to coming into knowledge of our glorious Creator. It is the vehicle which carries us into an experience of the fruits of our baptism in Jesus Christ. It carries us naturally into discipleship in Jesus Who provides us with the power and the stamina for ministry - even to martyrdom. It is a life lived in the heart of the Father. It is the means by which we journey in Jesus who is the Song in creation (*John 1/3. Col 1/16*). The Song is a secret to those whose hearts are closed to the influence of the Holy Spirit but to those who have opened their hearts, the Song is the glorious presence of Jesus Who through the power of the Spirit, carries us into harmony with the golden symphony of the world of creation which is not only within us but between us and around us.

Praise and worship of God is the purest prayer the human heart has to offer. It is the purest because it is the embodiment of all that we are pouring forth in an abandonment of self for the elevation of God into first place in our lives. “Praise lauds God for His own sake and gives Him glory, quite beyond what He does but simply because



HE IS. Praise embraces the other forms of prayer and carries them toward Him Who is its source and goal.”<sup>1</sup>

There is nothing in this type of prayer about self, our intellect or lack of intellect, our worthiness or unworthiness, our successes or failures, what we have done or failed to do or what others think of us. Praise and worship of God lifts one out of oneself, it deals with pride and brings one to nakedness before God. God the Father, for His part, accepts our praise and worship as perfect through the salvation wrought by Jesus Christ. It is only the cleansing blood of the Lamb that perfects our offerings and makes them acceptable. Through the merits of Jesus, every person is considered righteous before God and worthy to sing His praises entering His gates with thanksgiving in their hearts and His Courts with praise (*Psalms 100/4*). In the company of the angels, we prostrate ourselves and worship before the throne (*Rev. 5/11-14*). We each have this all-encompassing and most powerful prayer from the least to the greatest. It follows that when we praise and worship God, we are most fully ourselves.

Praise is the fruit of our lips poured forth from spirit-filled hearts. In using our voices and our bodies, we offer ourselves as a sacrifice of praise (*Hebrews 13/15*). This sacrifice goes forth into the realm of the whole of creation to join the ongoing symphony of universal praise to our Creator. Our quest to exalt and adore the greatness of the Lord “is the first attitude of man acknowledging that he is a creature before his Creator.”<sup>2</sup>

A life lived in praise and worship leads to holiness in Christ. “You shall be holy for I am holy,” says the Lord (*1Peter 1:16 NRSV*). For us, holiness is an unaccomplished task.

Many years ago, at a conference in New Orleans, USA, a Baptist Pastor, E.V. Hill said, “Our position is holy because we are covered by the Blood of Jesus who has restored us to the Kingdom through his death and resurrection but our condition is, we are trying! Our daily and lifetime task is to work with God to lift our condition to our position.” Because we have been baptised in Christ and Jesus is at the right hand of God (*Acts 7:56*), we are in a sense already in heaven – our position is holy but our condition is something at which we have to work.

Everything we are, everything we aspire to be and everything God wants us to be is revealed through the highest prayer of the human heart – giving praise and worship to God as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. There in the heart of the Father with our brother Jesus and our comforter, the Holy Spirit, we are renewed citizens of heaven – there the Song of Creation is brought alive in our hearts so that like the stream, we become a vibrant living creature of the Kingdom joining the whole of creation acknowledging He Who is the I AM.

Our sense of not being able to find words to express the inner joy and appreciation for what God has done in us and for us through the work of salvation, is overcome by experiencing the simplicity of spirit-filled human expression

present in praise and worship. All we have to do is start to praise God using words that come to mind and by having a conscious awareness that everything we are is in the Song – our relationship with God, our families, our work, our giftedness, our ministry, our meditation - they are all part of the Song of Creation Who is Jesus. Everything within us, every gift we have, every work we do can be a sacrifice of praise and worship which is nourished and strengthened by the Holy Spirit carrying us to great heights and extreme depths of joy and peace in the river of life, regardless of personal circumstances.

The work we do in living a life of praise and worship has the stamp of the Kingdom. It is sealed with the seal of the King of Kings. We become ambassadors - we become a living image of the divine – we are clothed with the scent of Jesus Christ – we have the breath of His royal perfume.

There are many parts within the Song. We just simply allow the Holy Spirit to conduct our participation so that as His instruments, we are in tune with the symphony of heaven and the will and direction of the Lord. We will sing and play different parts as we grow in the orchestra of divine giftedness, but we will never exhaust the beauty and majesty of our Creator, our heavenly Father who sent and spent His only Son to be our Song of Joy and closest friend. Our song might get harder to sing at times but we are given the strength to endure and receive new insights into the orchestra of life. In our sacrifice of praise, we capture years of neglect of God on our own behalf and we intercede on behalf of others as our praise and worship goes forth and we seek a more sanctified life living in discipleship with Jesus as our brother and in the glory and majesty of the Trinity.

Our origin is divine and thanks to Jesus Christ, our future is also divine.

<sup>1</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church 2639*

<sup>2</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church 2628*

*Len Airey is the President of Catholic Charismatic Renewal Brisbane.*

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**continued from page 1**

Share with all in the Church Baptism in the Holy Spirit, praise the Lord without a break, walk together with Christians of different Churches and Christian communities in prayer and in action for the neediest. Serve the poorest and the sick; this is what the Church and the Pope expect from you, Charismatic Renewal. Thank you!”

With the public support of Pope Francis, the CCR can go from strength to strength. It rests with each of us to give Pope Francis every reason to continue his support and encouragement.

*Charles Whitehead is a life member of the NSC (National Service Committee), the principal co-ordinating organisation of the CCR in England.*

*Used with permission CCR UK.*

# TESTIMONIES

## A leap in Faith!

This is my story. You can choose to believe it or choose not to believe it but this is how God healed me.

Over the years of being in Charismatic prayer groups, I have heard leaders quote the words of *Mark 16:14-18*. This passage is called "The Great Commission". Another passage I have heard many times is *Luke 10:17-20*. "Authority" given to believers.

I became aware something was wrong with my feet about 6 to 7 years ago when John (my husband) and I were holidaying in Port Fairy. We were walking along when I suddenly said to John, "Can you slow down? My feet are hurting". This had probably been building up for some time, but I was not aware of it until it became very pronounced and very painful.

The next few years I became more conscious that my feet were causing me more pain. I thought it was the sneakers I was wearing. They must be old now and quite worn out, so I bought new ones. The feet still hurt.

Maybe I needed more exercise, so I started walking more and joined the gym - all seniors. But my feet grew progressively worse. I thought maybe swimming would help. I love swimming so I started going 2 to 3 times a week but it didn't help my feet. The pain mainly under my feet grew worse. I also got terrible cramps.

Shoes would be my answer I thought. I bought expensive new ones for a wedding but they nearly crippled me. So I went and bought more new shoes recommended by a friend - really expensive ones that were orthotics. They helped somewhat but did not fix my problem. My feet still ached and gave me grief.

I thought if I lost some weight that would help. Not so. So, exercise, new shoes, losing weight, swimming; NOTHING HELPED.

While all this pain was growing in my feet, I was engrossed in listening to the Lord on YouTube! My son Steven gave me his old iPhone, so we went to Telstra to set it up with email, internet and a new plan. Unlimited access to the internet! From then on, my life with the Lord took on a new and wonderful togetherness. I began watching and listening to all kinds of preachers on YouTube. While cooking, cleaning, doing the washing, the ironing, I was listening to God's Word teaching me, filling me, thrilling me with new insights into the Old and New Testaments. I would listen to amazing priests from America, Pentecostals from mainly America and Britain. I became quite discerning as whom to listen to and not listen to. God and I would have amazing times together. I would look up Scriptures in my Bible and get very excited when reading them.

Late 2015, I went to a local Podiatrist to see about a problem on one foot, so I mentioned all my feet problems. He asked me if I had any lower back problems to which I answered yes. I relayed the times when my back gave way and I would be in terrible pain for nearly a week.

"Therein lies your answer", he said. "You have nerve pain in your lower legs and feet. This often happens to people who have suffered lower back problems. I will write a letter to your GP to send you off to a Neurologist". I became quite excited. At long last my feet were going to be fixed! My GP said "No - it's not the answer. It's your Lipitor (for Cholesterol)". One of the side effects to Lipitor is sore legs. I came off Lipitor for 6 months. My Cholesterol went up, so back onto the medication and the feet remained very painful. My legs were extremely sore too and felt swollen at times.

So off to a Neurologist. This was the middle of 2016. He tested my legs with a machine that checked the nerves. The small nerves were not working any more. They were dead. I was prescribed Lyrica medication for the pain starting at 25mg increasing to 75mg to which I said I would not go any higher. I would put up with the pain and trust God to help me through. One of the things I found most difficult was standing at the kitchen bench preparing meals. Standing doing the ironing was difficult and genuflecting in church became almost a no-go. Sleeping was the hardest. The legs would pulsate most of the night and a shooting pain would go from the right foot up to the hip, so I had to sleep flat on my back which I found most distressing as it blocked my breathing. I was also getting confused about many things.

I continued listening to YouTube. At the time I wasn't looking for any healing. I was just soaking up the learning and the new and varied ways how the Holy Spirit presents Scripture to preachers and teachers. It fascinated me more and more. The 3 main preachers I was listening to all taught how to act on God's word and cast out demons, especially the Spirit of Python. I truly believe God placed them there for me to learn from. He knows my impulsive nature which you will read about next.

On Sunday 17 December 2017 I was rethinking my YouTube sessions. When I went to bed, leaving John watching TV, I had my Rosary beads in my hand. I suddenly thought I'm going to give this a go! What's the use in listening to all these sermons and soaking up the Word of God if I just do that and never act on it! That's a bit like starting up my car but never going anywhere. What's the use of having a car?

So, I took the crucifix on my beads and held it against my legs and told the Spirit of Python to get off me and move away back to the abyss from where it came! The spirit of python squeezes life out of you. The python does it slowly and methodically and can take many years creeping up on you before you realise something is wrong. Pain is the result. So here I was telling this python spirit to get back to the abyss in the Name of Jesus the Lord! Immediately I felt a movement round my legs from the knees down. I couldn't back out now or act afraid, even though I was somewhat. I moved my crucifix across my legs and kept telling this python to get out in the Name of Jesus. Get out! Go back to the abyss, in Jesus Name I command

you! It didn't want to go. A black presence covered me and I kept commanding it in the Name of Jesus. I suddenly began to shake and tremble in my spirit. I was unable to do anything but ride this out as it was angry it had been found out, caught out, exposed for what it was doing to my life. Jesus came to give life and give it to the full (*John 10:10*). I wanted what Jesus was offering and that was healing. Here was this black presence covering me and shaking me violently. Then suddenly it just went. The shaking stopped. The presence was gone and I lay there trying to recall what had happened. What seemed like a long, long time was in fact a short time. Remember God's world of timing is different to ours. I became aware my legs felt different. I drifted off to sleep and woke up and recalled what had happened the night before. I checked my legs which felt normal again. I was in awe of what had happened and how Jesus had been with me the whole time.

The healing of the nerve pain continued over Christmas. I noticed a big difference on my birthday when I wore normal sandals. As the days continued so did the healing of my legs. They didn't feel stretched any more. I was walking normally. I was not feeling pain or limping. I could genuflect in church. That was a big deal to me. I became more alert, less tired, more energized and interested in life again. I became less confused about everyday things to remember (e.g. who phoned, appointments etc).

Another interesting thing is that my lower back pain was disappearing. This was more evident after Christmas and into the New Year. Also my "sciatica" pain in my right leg disappeared.

On 3 January 2018, I went to see my GP, a new one, (the first one retired) and asked him to wean me off the Lyrica tabs I was taking for the nerve pain. He asked me why and I told him that God had healed me. He then proceeded to tell me how to wean off the Lyrica, but don't get rid of my leftover stock just in case I needed them again.

On 20 January I went for a walk around Lilydale Lake. I hadn't been around it for several years and I walked round it in 35 minutes. Praise God for my healing.

As I had already booked an appointment with my physio before Christmas, I decided to still go and get checked out. He was very surprised when I told him God had healed my legs (had a little chuckle). I told him I was almost off the Lyrica medication. He was very surprised with that. When he started working on me the feeling was very different to past treatments. There was no tension or feeling of swelling anywhere and I am sure (as he later declared) he noticed it too! Praise God. He did say all was good with a puzzled look on his face. He said to keep walking and how happy I looked. He had never seen me so happy!

On 25 January 2018 I went to see my Podiatrist who I also told that God had healed my legs and this was giving me greater relief in my feet to wear normal shoes again.

Life is much better now. Sometimes it's a bit scary because Satan does not give up and he torments with the words, "You're not really healed. They're still painful. Better pray more. Don't dare tell anyone cause it's all fake".

It's better to take that leap in faith and act on God's word than to just keep reading and listening, going to seminars and conferences and reading the Bible over and over. So, let us all remember every time we pick up our Bible to say to ourselves, I'm in here, too! I'm going to read about ME!!

Brenda DeLosa



Dear friends, every Saturday morning from 7am till 12 pm I park in front of Safeway to sell or give away Bibles, DVDs, CDs and Books.

I have at times been overwhelmed by the response from boys and girls from the State Schools wanting a Bible. Seems like we live in a world full of weeds but in their midst some beautiful flowers are springing up. The Spirit breathes where He Wills. As you know Bibles are very expensive, so I am hunting for second hand ones to give to the boys and girls and for the young to give away. God speaks to His children from Aid to the Church in Need. When I talk to them, I always tell them to take to heart Jesus' words "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" and how they will experience the glorious freedom of the children of God and experience His wonderful joy. They say, "You are spot on." I know I go on and on but I try and show them how sacred the body is and to keep it till marriage.

As I have a restricted licence, I travel the buses a lot and it seems I am called to promote the Miraculous Medal and show all people Mary is their Mother. I have had bus drivers weeping. We see people in the street and we say, "They have got it made." How little we know about them. A girl in a coffee shop asked me for a medal because her friend has one. She was covered in tattoos. Oh! How great is the hunger for God of these poor people.

God bless you all and thank you for your wonderful work in the Renewal.

Don Kempster

# WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

By ANGELO

I would like to give glory to God and share about his transforming goodness in my life.

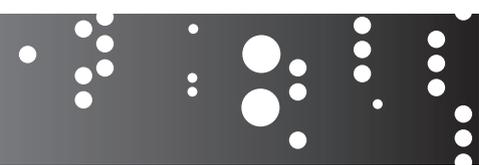
In my primary school years, I would dress up in my purple suit and go to Mass every Sunday with Mum. Dad would have a sleep in after working 6 days a week. It was his rest day. I did all my sacraments, like all Catholic kids, at my state school. I did not go to a Catholic school. In high school, I found Mass was boring. So the one hour of Mass became my thinking time, not God's time. I still went to Mass most Sundays as the priest would pique my interest at times with his homilies and because it made my mother happy.

At 29, I was already married. My wife and I both worked and we were expecting our first child. What joy! But I started to fall apart emotionally. I became angry, moody, disinterested and giving my wife a very difficult time. Sadly, I stressed out the baby too. This went on for several months. I would not go to a doctor. "I am not sick" would be my angry outburst.

In 1994, Father was doing good things with the youth in my parish, so I went to see him. I recounted some difficulties in my life. When I was 4, my younger brother died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). He was only 4 months old. This was devastating for my parents and caused a deep depression for them. I did not understand. All I was told was that my brother went to live with God.

When I was 20, I was involved in a near fatal car accident caused by a drunk driver. I spent 18 months in hospital and rehabilitation for injuries sustained. I am still not 100%, but I am getting there. Thanks be to God! According to Father, this was my mid-life crisis. I struggled to cope with everything. I was filled with fear for our baby. What if the same thing happened as it did with my brother? My brain was overwhelmed!

Father began counselling me. This involved seeing a psychologist, having prayer ministry and spiritual direction and 2 family tree Masses said. There was much prayer, tears, deep lows, more tears and more prayers until it plateaued into profound peace. God did not give me more than I could tolerate. Hallelujah! Carol and I were blessed with a beautiful boy we named Matthew which means a gift from God. How awesome is God!



**11**  
NIGHTS

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I kept receiving prayer ministry for many years after that mid-life crisis, so God could 'rebuild' me. I am happy to say that 24 years later, I have 3 wonderful children, a beautiful wife and am in a much better place emotionally. I have come to know that peace that surpasses all understanding.

When I first met Father and we prayed, he asked me to invite Jesus into my life. I clearly sensed and heard the words 'Trust me'. My immediate thought was there is no one else to help me. I was hurting, so I persevered. I continued to pray to Jesus and I still continue to build my relationship with Him. It has been difficult and challenging with the lows, the highs but His peace followed. Jesus never gave up on me and hasn't let me down. What a friend we have in Jesus.



# BLINDED BY YOUR GRACE PART 2: A REFLECTION



By RÓNÁN JOHNSTON

**From The X-Factor to Radio 1 and the Brit Awards, Stormzy's "Blinded By Your Grace Part 2" has inspired millions. Rónán Johnston explores the reasons for the song's popularity.**

This song by Stormzy, "Blinded By Your Grace Part 2", is so direct, honest and on point.

In a similar way, I always think people fundamentally respond to honesty combined equally with vulnerability and conviction.

When these three elements are present, there is a disarming quality and people cannot help but be impacted.

Stormzy has an authority because he manages to combine these three. The trap many Christians fall into is to preach (conviction) without admitting the difficulties of life (honesty and vulnerability).

Watch Stormzy perform "Blinded by your grace part 2" on Radio 1:

## Christian Music In The Mainstream

There has always been a place for Christian music in the mainstream. I am reminded of a host of U2 songs, such as "I will follow", "Gloria", "(Pride) In the name of love", "With or without you" and many more besides.

As well as U2 songs, others which have penetrated the mainstream include "Oh Happy Day" by Edwin Hawkins, "Shackles" by Mary Mary, "Let The Day Begin" by The Call, "Fireflies" by Owl City, "You Found Me" by The Fray,

"Place In This World" by Michael W Smith, "Everything" by Lifehouse, "Below My Feet" by Mumford and Sons, and a host more over time.

## Being Salt and Light

It is not surprising. Christian artists are in touch with the deeper truths of the human condition and the best of them can create music that really touch everyone's hearts, regardless of spirituality or religion. It is a case of being salt and light.

"Blinded By Your grace part 2" has impacted the culture in a powerful way.

It is wonderful the way Christian music, at its best, awakens something in people. They recognise its truth and its relevance on a subconscious level.

A national figure, a DJ here in Ireland with whom I have worked for many years, gets very triggered whenever I mention that certain tracks were inspired by Christian faith (particularly U2), but acknowledges the power in those tracks. I often think of him when I am writing myself.

With the Lord's help, we can really create material that impacts people in their hearts and minds.

I love the work of John Eldridge and how he says Hollywood has a greater understanding than we do of the deep archetypes which impact us.

When Christians get right to the heart of things, they can really begin to have an impact beyond what they can hope for or expect.

*Rónán Johnston is a psychotherapist, a writer of soundtrack for film, TV and theatre and a worship leader from Dublin, Ireland. Further information about his work can be found at: [www.ronanjohnston.com](http://www.ronanjohnston.com).*

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*Picture: EXIT FESTIVAL/FLICKR*



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# “NEGATIVE” PRAYER

By DINA MANANQUIL-DELFINO



**‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’**

(Jeremiah 33:3)

One afternoon, I needed to take a break from intensive prayer time, interceding for family, friends, community members, the world at large and my own needs. I switched on the TV hoping to find an entertaining show. Interestingly the film, *Sliding Doors* (1998) was on. It features Gwyneth Paltrow who plays Helen Quilley. She works in Public Relations and is dating a boyfriend who is cheating on her. After losing her job she heads home early, and the film then follows two Parallel realities, that cross over and intertwine in a very clever manner. One way, she gets home and finds him cheating, and the other way she is mugged and her boyfriend gets away with it.

Somehow it gave me a spiritual insight to the dimension of my prayer life. When the Lord says NO, WAIT or YES, how do I react? What if He shows me the reality of how my life will eventuate if he answered my prayer in a manner I demanded? If for example, I never met Boy and instead married an Italian suitor or stayed back in the Philippines in a relationship that was not healthy?

When the Lord says NO to prayers, it is rather disappointing, frustrating and discouraging. When He says WAIT it tests our patience, perseverance and self-control. A YES of course brings rejoicing (Praise the Lord! Whohhoo! Alleluia!). Yet when I look back in my life there were circumstances that a YES answer actually brought stress and heartache in the long-term.

So I have amended my prayer style to include a negative one: *“Lord my time on earth is precious. And so is my time with you. If this request of mine does not walk me closer to you, does not give glory and honor to you, will waste my time, that of others and Yours, (this applies only to daily affections, worldly desires, plans, activities, projects; serious matters involving life and death are a different lifting up as they are too complex to deal with here and take on a different breadth of praying) I ask Lord that you shut it down, close the door, and reject my request and remove my attachment to it. There are many more important needs in this world that we can respond to. Father, in Jesus’ Name I pray.”* I realise that intentions and plans although good, if not fully blessed by the Lord do not bear lasting fruit.

I also ask the Holy Spirit, my best counsellor, to give me a fuel gauge when I am running empty, when I start doing things on my own strength. My manifestations can come in the sudden loss of physical energy, evil forebodings, cloud of stress and anxiety or weird sensations that I cannot explain. Immediately I stop for a reconnection to God in prayer. Often I ask for the Lord to send me supernatural strength through His angelic ministry to assist me cope through the task and then I find that even hanging the clothes become a delight, the unplanned meal is cooked to perfection, an event is applauded or a meeting ends

productive and efficient. The work of the Holy Spirit is always empowering, encouraging, nurturing, nourishing and life-giving. Many times it is also convicting for refining purpose.

I am loyal to devotional prayers. They help me tremendously especially during times I am lost for words. But once they become routine and meaningless, they sound like a recorded message (quite similar to a company that greets you with an hour of recorded message) and you are dying to hear a human voice at the end. When will they ever pick up the phone? I could imagine God feeling the same – waiting for us to burst open our hearts of how we truly feel during that moment in prayer.

I have a big Sacred Heart of Jesus statue at home. I do not worship the wood or cement it is made of, but I am so comforted when I kneel to get a day’s blessing or sit before it at end of day giving Him a report of my day - my joys, victories, surprises, my woes, sadness, disappointments, the bills that need to be paid, heartaches from incidents, and even shed tears when I am really confounded.

But the best form of prayer is Bible-based. It serves many purposes, and one of which is a very powerful weapon against the enemy when he starts poking, prodding, annoying, tripping us. ***“In the heart of every true child of God, burns the sincere desire for deliverance from un-Christlike behaviour patterns and victory over sin-dominated self-life. However, many found to their dismay that a desire for purity and much prayer for divine forgiveness and help are insufficient to achieve success. God has provided a powerful weapon for this warfare. It is the Holy Scriptures, coupled with faith. Many voices in the world vie for our attention. The Bible is still and will always remain the one authoritative voice of Truth. If we cherish it in our hearts, hold it in our thoughts and speak it forth in faith, God by His Holy Spirit will keep His promise that it shall not return void.”*** (Frances Roberts, *Come Away My Love*). For us Catholics, we have the best form of prayer in the Eucharist/Mass. It has every component of prayer we need to express and if we just take it to heart and participate in it actively, we would have prayed the best prayer for the day or the week.

We combat the enemy with the Word of God. When I start losing strength, I pray *Psalm 28:7* ***“The Lord is my strength and my shield, my heart trusts in Him and am helped.”*** When confused, I claim *1 Corinthians 14:33* ***“For God is not the author of confusion but of peace.”***

We need daily bread for our bodies, but more so we need daily Word for our spiritual health. If we venture into the ministry of God’s Word and allow the transformation to unfold, our prayer life will take on a new meaning. Our relationship to God is two-way. We speak to God through prayer and God speaks to us through His written word.

***Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan*** (John Bunyan).

# A WORD... FROM MIRIAM

By MIRIAM MARKIS



I have the habit of reading a few pages of a spiritual book in bed at night. Recently, feeling very tired, I managed to read only a page but without really comprehending much due to tiredness, so I knew it was time to switch off the light and close my sleepy eyes. As I did so, I interiorly questioned myself as to what I had read and if I could remember anything of it at all. Perhaps this has happened to you too! In any case, the only words that came to me were the words, Stay Awake. But Lord, I said, I'm so tired. Of course, the physical tiredness was not what the Lord was referring to. Jesus reminds us often in scripture to stay awake, e.g. the parable of the ten bridesmaids (*Matthew 24:1-13 RSV*).

So, as I was drifting off to sleep I wondered how I was to stay awake and what did that mean. I share some of those thoughts with you. I recall thinking that in times of sadness, I was to stay awake and picture the Lord there with me sharing and then alleviating my sadness. In times of loneliness, I was to call on Jesus to be there with me absorbing my feelings of aloneness so that I could once again experience the tenderness of His presence. In times of difficulty, I was to call on Jesus to work through things with me, so I could overcome challenges.

In times of doubt, I was to ask Jesus to clarify things for me so that I could move forward in His light. In times of struggle and wrestling I was to call on Jesus to help me with reinforcements from above, just as He had reinforcements during His agony in the garden. In times of spiritual dryness, I was to believe in faith that He was leading me and teaching me through the power of His Holy Spirit as scripture says "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (*Matthew 28:20*).

It all sounds simple enough but it's amazing how often we can all forget and allow ourselves to be caught up with the troubles of this world and with trying to organise and fix things ourselves. Stay Awake! Of greater concern, however, is our spiritual blindness about the works of the enemy against us! If he's tried one way to ensnare you and has not succeeded, then he'll try another more subtle way. So, the question remains, "Do we stay awake as Christians and invoke the Lord's protection on a daily basis?"

It is commonly believed that Pope Leo XIII in 1886 after having celebrated Mass had a vision which left him visibly shaken and subsequently instructed that the prayer to St Michael the Archangel, be recited after every Mass. Many people still recite this wonderful prayer and I would humbly suggest that it's a good idea to make it part of your daily prayer not excluding, of course, other forms of charismatic prayers. In *1 Peter 5:8* it says "Be alert (stay awake) and be of sober mind. Your devil the enemy prowls around like a roaring lion seeking who to devour". Remember Jesus is right there beside us to help us, so **STAY AWAKE**.



## Miriam's testimony

I first noticed that I was often breathless when exerting myself on my first Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. At the time, I put it down to being sedentary and not having much time to exercise and get fit by walking as I used to do.

A short time after the January 2017 Conference I was approached by a colleague and asked whether I had considered having some heart tests done regarding this problem. To be honest I hadn't as I always put it down to my lack of fitness.

Upon visiting the Cardiologist in May 2017, much to my surprise, he said I had a leaking heart valve. This explained the breathlessness and lack of energy. The Cardiologist did not order any medication and simply said to do some form of mild exercise if I could and that he would see me again in twelve months' time.

Then in September 2017 I attended talks and ministry with an International Preacher with a Healing Ministry. As he prayed over for me I felt what seemed to be like an electric charge about the size of a twenty-cent piece hit my heart and the jolt made me reel backwards a bit. On the way home I realised that I was breathing differently. I believed that I was healed.

In early May 2018 I revisited my Cardiologist who said he was extremely surprised at the great improvement in my Echo Cardiogram results and asked if I had been doing my exercise. Shamefully, I admitted that I didn't really do that much as I had quite a sedentary job. He listened to my heart and took my blood pressure and declared that he was truly surprised but to be sure he wanted to see me again in twelve months' time.

I give thanks to God because he has healed my heart quite unexpectedly and I encourage you to never give up seeking the Lord's healing touch. All glory and praise to Jesus!

# MARK YOUR DIARIES...

## Renewal Days

An opportunity for fellowship with others and growth through teachings.

**2018 dates: 18 August and 24 November.**

Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, 49 Nicholson St, East Brunswick.

**NO PARKING IN SCHOOL GROUNDS.** *Public Transport:* train to Parliament Station, tram no.96 along Nicholson St to stop no.22.

## Ladies Day

Thursday 5 July 2018

Come along for a day of surprises at the CCR Centre, 101 Holden Street, Fitzroy North.

Coffee and welcome 9.30am with a 3.00pm finish.

## Can't make it to a Healing Prayer Centre during the week?

Saturday 23 June 2018

You are welcome to come to the Open House Healing Ministry Day. 9.30am - 2.30pm at the CCR Centre.

CHARISMATIC MASSES	TIME	VENUE
Third Sunday	12 Noon	St Benedict's, Burwood
HEALING MASSES	TIME	VENUE
Each Sunday	7.00pm	Holy Family, Doveton (Ministry after)
First Saturday	2.30pm – 5pm Adoration followed by Healing Mass	St Peter's, 38 Guinane Ave, Hoppers Crossing
First Sunday	2.30pm	St Peter Chanel, Deer Park
	3.00pm Praise & Worship, 3.30pm Mass	St Christopher's Parish, 5 Doon Ave, Glen Waverley
	5.00pm	St Benedicts, Burwood. Prayer Ministry after Mass, Praise Rally at 7.00pm
	5.30pm Praise, Worship, Adoration 6pm Mass, followed by Prayer Ministry	St Marks, Fawkner
First Monday	7.00pm Praise, 7.30pm Mass	St Joseph's, Springvale Phone 9547 9557
First Wednesday	7.30pm	St Peter & Paul, East Doncaster
First Friday	7.30pm Eucharistic Adoration	St Pius X Church, Heidelberg
	8.00pm Healing Mass	St Pius X Church, Heidelberg
	8.00pm	St Anthony's, Glenhuntly Cnr Neerim Road & Grange Road, Glenhuntly
	8.15pm	St Peter's, Clayton
Third Wednesday	7.30pm	St Mary's, Castlemaine
Third Thursday	7.30pm	Our Lady Help of Christians, Henry St, Eltham
Third Sunday	5.30pm	St Francis Xavier, Frankston
	5.30pm Praise, 6.00pm Mass	Good Samaritan Chapel, 1-29 Southern Cross Drive, Roxburgh Park
Fourth Tuesday	10.00am	St Joseph's, Chelsea

**St Peter's, East Bentleigh - Healing Masses: Monday 21 May and 19 November 2018.**