

NEW ZEALAND

Pelorus Sound, Marlborough

From a farm in New Zealand

We enjoyed our 10 days of Fasting and Prayer leading up to A Global Day of Prayer. We greeted a red sunrise that coloured our bay on the 27th of May.

A shophar called us to prayer on our 550 acre property. As the shophar called, many farm animals surrounded us as we prayed. Ostriches, chickens, turkeys, donkeys, horses, cats and dogs all wanted to part of the great beginning of A Global Day of Prayer.

We raised our new wind turbine, with the sign-writing "Jesus is Lord" and "REVIVAL" to be fanning that message across New Zealand, as it delivers power to Tira Ora.

Four intercessors in our group felt a strong weight upon our chests and shoulders in the morning. The following day we realised that we had the weight of the world on us, beginning first to lead the world in Prayer, and needing to cut through the spiritual battles like the point in an arrow, must have been the cause for the weight. As more time zones joined us in prayer, the burden was lifted, and we ended up with a deep sense of joy.

We continued our prayer, songs of praise, and scripture readings into the night.

We lit candles for each of the countries participating in the Prayer Day, spanning all time zones.

We broke our fast with a Pentecost Banquet and went to sleep before midnight.

On Tuesday the 28th we all woke with JOY, Praise, and wellbeing. We received a remarkable answer to prayer when the secretary for the Minister of Corrections, rang to say that the Minister would like to visit Tira Ora this week, and bring the Associate Minister of Child Youth and Family with him. We have been lobbying the New Zealand government to accept our programmes for youth at risk and their families for the past 10 years. We have always been told that our work was "too Christian" for the secular humanist government that has held political power for the same time period.

The tide has now turned, and with continued prayer and praise we hope to see No-Excuses Corrective Training being delivered in prisons, and skills in parenting, and family building being delivered in our communities.

Thank you dear brothers and sisters for praying with us, and for organising the world to pray together, in unity, with one accord.

Blessings of Love Joy and Peace

Anthony & Annebeth Riles Broad
Tira Ora Lodge

Christchurch

Here in NZ I believe there has been good involvement across the country. Radio Rhema's three networks, which operate through 77 fm and am frequencies covering the country, did a great job in past week. It would seem announcements were run on the top of every hour and throughout the week there were many interviews and clips to promote the GDOP.

In our local church the morning service featured the GDOP and was well done. Congregational members from China, Korea, Cambodia, Thailand Fiji, Cook Islands, Holland and Norway taking part and praying in one of their native languages. For Africa we had a prayer in Swahili (East Africa) and Shona (Zimbabwe).

In the evening we had a great celebration in the city as churches combined. It was a great time and next year the organizing team of pastors is talking of taking a large indoor sports stadium.

Ross Campbell

Hello – in our school in the central north island of New Zealand, our class of 11-13 year olds participated in the Global Day of Prayer by praying along with the booklet each morning. Our town has also held Morning Prayer watches and a combined churches prayer service. One group of prayers travelled to Wellington on Sunday to participate in a prayer gathering at Parliament. Many churches in town held similar daily prayer meetings of their own.

Coincidentally, one other teacher in our school has been praying with her class for a relative in England who was on life support over a week ago. Doctors were going to shut off life support, but the woman's husband asked them not to so they could pray. During the week, prayers have been said in our school and by other relatives and friends of this lady around the world. She is making a recovery. The staff at her hospital refers to her as "The Miracle". Our teacher is overwhelmed by the commitment to prayer shown by others. I give glory to God for this and see that it is really no coincidence that this has happened during this particular week.

Antony

Oamaru

Oamaru must have been one of the first places in the world to have launched the Global Prayer Tsunami which swept around the world, as over 50 prayers from many denominations gathered at Cape Wanbrow, overlooking Oamaru, at 7am, dispersing at sunrise just before 8.

To round Pentecost off, having celebrated the day in our own churches, at least 10 denominations came together at 7pm for multicultural all-age Worship in the Orwell St. Gospel Chapel. It was led by Tony Dudley, the Orwell St. Music team, and Beverley Goodsir, leader of the local GDOP Action Group.

We used the GDOP Prayer in 5 sections, plus 3 video clips to focus on local Youth and Community matters, plus one on worldwide concerns to focus our prayers in small groups. The Service finished by singing "God Defend New Zealand" in Maori and English.
John Gregory, for the Oamaru GDOP Action Group.

Auckland, Waitakere City

We have had 20 sessions over the course of 10 days, 6.30 to 7.30 in the morning and 7.30 to 8.30 at night. We averaged 8 people a session and in all 163 people (about 90 – 95 different people) with equal numbers of men and women from throughout Waitakere City.

In the morning we covered the Global Day of Prayer international prayer topics. In the evening, topics included the New Zealand Government, our City Council, Police, schools, mainly music, and others. Each time was started with the National Anthem and these were very special in their own way.

A couple of noteworthy times were: 1) One night a small group of Intermediate girls served us hot drinks and then joined us for the last part of our meeting. 2) Sunday night as we were praying for People's Park (Harbourview Park), the Lord birthed a vision for the next step of His plan for this land which overlooks Waitakere City, Auckland City and the North Shore City. It is possible that it will involve the wider church coming together and anointing the land so His cup can overflow (Psalm 23 v5).

Royal Oak Baptist

The prayer room was well utilized from Friday May 18 to Saturday May 26 with hourly slots taken and prayed through faithfully, though the middle of the night was exempt. These were rich times of intense, encouraging prayer for all who were involved.

Mangere

On the day itself, from 9am to 6pm at the Te Wananga Aotearoa Campus at 15 Canning Crescent, Mangere Central, a wide range of cultures gathered for worship, discussions and prayer on God's concerns for the nations. These included delegations of Maori, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Koreans, Tongans, Africans and Chinese who each shared inspiring special presentations from their own cultures in song and prayer. Sam Chapman officiated, assisted by his representative committee, and directed the three two-hour sessions with similar focus on the themes: 1) How can we Honor what God honors and value what God values? 2) How can we apply 2 Chronicles 7:14? 3) What contribution can we make to build God's Kingdom in Auckland? Results of the group discussions were all displayed on OHP and became the basis for our prayers in each session. We are looking forward to even greater involvement by more ethnic groups next year.

Aotea Square

In the evening, from 8 to 10pm, in the Aotea Square on Queen Street, in the heart of the city, several hundred gathered to praise God and pray for the increasing impact of His Word on the world. Rob Holding and Andrew Miller directed the activities, and the focus was especially on youth, with a fine youth music team leading us. John Fulford provided a challenge from 2 Chron.7:14, and much of the praying was in small groups. Youth pastors and leaders were called out and Sergio Rodriguez prayed directly for them, and some of these also led us in prayer. Many issues and concerns facing young people were dealt with, as well as their potential and opportunities for being used of God. It was certainly a memorable night.

Hamilton

As the theme was "The High Places" we chose four hilltops, one in each segment of Hamilton city for our prayer, gathering at 7am for an hour.

The weather was fine but there were heavy clouds and a brisk wind from the west.

It was dark as people arrived with thick jackets, woolly hats and some with gumboots suitable for walking on damp grass. There was a real sense of anticipation in the group I was in as we opened in prayer and worship on Tills Lookout in the NW corner. We felt that as NZ is first to see the sun, and we were meeting at day break, we were like an arrow head piercing the darkness, leading the way for this GDOP.

Each of the four groups had a sheet with the same declarations around the theme of high places, glory, and Pentecost. We worked our way through these developing the themes through individual prayer, expanding on some phrases and worship songs.

Isaiah 40:9 finishes with, "say to the towns (of Waikato) 'here is your God'." So we named as many of the towns in the Waikato region as we could saying e.g. "Huntly, here is your God".

At one point we turned from overlooking Hamilton city to look over the Mormon Temple now clearly visible in the weak sunlight and focussed our prayers on this 'high place'.

Back facing the city we made statements of vision using the words: "I see Hamilton as.....e.g. a city of peace".

Two people in my group, independent of each other, got the following song.

"Summon your power O God, show us your strength as you have done before. 2x

The chariots of God are tens of thousands, and thousands of thousands. 2x

Arise O god and speak the work and all your enemies will scatter,

A sound of war will soon be heard, a shout your warriors will utter."

We concluded with communion. Suddenly the sun broke through a hole in the clouds. We were reminded of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and how they recognized Jesus at the breaking of

the bread. It seemed that as we broke bread the sun/The Son broke through the dark clouds, the darkness over the city, and rays of glory began to shine on the city. Just as suddenly the hole closed. We prayed for a clearer sign. The hole appeared again, bigger, and stronger rays radiated over a bigger area.

Each of the four groups felt that break through had occurred. The sun was the sign. The Tills Lookout group were privileged to see this because we were facing east.

Forty people representing twelve different churches, dispersed from the four corners, to a well earned breakfast and some warmth.

FIJI

Taveuni Island

Hundreds of youth from several churches prayed throughout the night from 5:30 p.m. till 6:30 a.m. for their peers and for the youth of Fiji and the world. As the sun rose, they carried a flag of Fiji up to the platform and handed it over to four pastors who held it before the crowd as they prayed for their nation, which recently underwent a coup and has suffered severe economic decline.

As they prayed, they took soil and vegetation and held it before the Lord in prayer, dedicating the land and its produce to the Lord.

There was great celebration and dancing as they thanked God for what He was doing and had done through the night of prayer.

There were two public celebrations, the all night and morning celebration and the afternoon assembly. Taveuni is the only inhabited land area that is right on the 180 meridian—the international dateline. It is the location where the sun first rises each day.

Kenneth Greenlee, CEO
Teach Us to Pray International

AUSTRALIA

Binningup

12 people from 2 different churches met to pray in a little town called Binningup, near Bunbury in the South West of Western Australia. Unity in prayer was our aim, using the Global Day of Prayer as the vehicle. Thanks for all the work you guys put into this event. We plan to be praying again next Pentecost. Anton Gracey

New South Wales

We had a wonderful gathering of God's people out at the Warragamba Dam Grounds. This is the site of the main water supply for Sydney and the site of incredible drought. After much prayer this is where we felt God wanted us to gather. We have 150 came from many denominations. The Catholics, Baptists, Pentecostals, Vineyard, Anglicans, Church of the Good shepherd, YWAM, all came and shared time in prayer together.

The YWAM base organized by Generation Fire (Donny McGregor) held the ten day 24/7 prayer vidual for Sydney. This was the first of its kind in Sydney and people dropped in and spent time praying. We have asked the YWAM team if we can make this a National Initiative for next year with every base being a 10 day prayer base for each state.

The time of prayer followed the sample set out by the Our Father programme you did a few years ago. The children lead a beautiful time of prayer for children at risk and a little 18 month old boy came to the mike and prayed that God would bless his Mum and Dad. This lead beautifully into our time where we asked parents to pray for their children. I praise God for Generation Fire and YWAM base Sydney for which this event would not have happened.

Towards the end we asked all the pastors and leaders of churches to come forward and join a circle. We asked them to hold hands and we prayed a prayer of unity. It was a real highlight for me. We then showed the cave church clip and encouraged people with the concept of praying for transformation of Sydney in this same way.

Donny also organized High Places prayer in every state of Australia and this it was felt was a real highlight for the youth. We are keen to keep working / chipping at the churches in NSW and wake them to this call to prayer.

The Australian Prayer Network promoted the ten day of prayer after the Global day of prayer so it would not clash with the National day of Thanksgiving so we had people praying on either side of the weekend.

Some were disappointed by the turn out and the lack of "Fire" in the prayer time but many of the main stream churches really enjoyed the afternoon and did not find it to weird. We had a few unhappy about speaking in tongues in small groups just the usual Anglican – Pentecostal thing that happens everywhere.

But you know it was the first time I have seen so many denominations come together in Sydney. A small start but a very powerful one.

I pray you are greatly encouraged by our Great God.

In his Awesome Service
Sarah Plummer
Global day of Prayer 2007 NSW Australia

Redcliffe, Queensland

Redcliffe is a small city of 60 000 people just north of Brisbane, the capital of Queensland. On Sunday afternoon 27th may, from 2-4pm, some 200 people from at least 13 different churches in the city gathered for what was the first ever gathering of the citywide church in Redcliffe, to take part in the GDOP. Even though the numbers were smaller than we had hoped, the presence of God was clearly evident as we worshipped and prayed. We gathered in a open air theatre in the city, as the band played, and worship banners, along with flags of the nations were waving. I had asked the Mayor of our city to come and share some prayer points. To our (pleasant) surprise, he not only did this, but led the gathering in prayer. To have the mayor of our city publicly declare his faith and then led the church gathered in prayer was very special. Our region has been in the grip of a serious drought, an as we prayed for rain, that night we received heavy rainfall.

There is passionate enthusiasm to take part in the 2008 GDOP. To join together to pray for and with the nations of the world was a very special time. We experienced quite a bit of satanic attack leading up to the day, and also the week following. This is to be expected when we take part in the largest prayer meeting in the history of all time! We have a real sense of the change in the spiritual climate of the city, and know that the best is yet to come.

Blessings
Mark Setch

Chinese Church, Sydney

Thank God that our church participated the second time. There were 189 persons attended. We enjoyed the singing and prayers. Many hearts are touched and looking forward for such gathering.
David Wong

PERTH

The National Day of Thanksgiving was held on Saturday 26th May and it is one prayer event that had some success over the years. Rather than having two separate events we invited the NDOT committee to work on a joint event and that's when we decided to call that weekend of prayer – United Prayer 2007. We chose a neutral site in our city, the Challenge Stadium, host for NBL games and some top indoor events happening in our city.

The Lord had put into our hearts to address the Indigenous Australians plight through this event because we knew we cannot begin the transformation process unless we have addressed this nation's unresolved issue. We would not have the moral standing to share the gospel to the world.

Here's an account of an Aboriginal pastor, Tim Edwards, of his experience @ GDOP:

I've been involved with reconciliation ministry for 28 years nationally & internationally and yesterday was the best one I've seen. I believe God moved something in the heavenly that change our earthly environment, expect God to do greater things in your church, ministry & businesses because of your obedience. Obedience is better than sacrifice; at times it may seem like a sacrifice but because of the conviction in your hearts to do GDOP and also honoring us Indigenous People through an act of reconciliation, God will bless your obedience, on many levels, you will see results before the end of 2007 .

Here's another account from a leading prayer warrior:

Sunday afternoon was a fitting climax to the Event, how good it is when brethren come together in unity. How wonderful it was to greet each other - from every tribe and tongue, and church, and in giving our Indigenous brothers and sisters their rightful place of honor in our midst.

Tim Tay