

SEASON OF PRAYER: May 12 - 22

Nourishing your prayer life – individually and communally

This is the prayer journal of

For 10 days before Pentecost, the first disciples of Jesus meet to pray: For the 10 days before Pentecost 2004, the Opawa disciples of Jesus are being asked to pray.

Every weekday evening from May 20-30, between 7:30-8:45pm, there will be a prayer meeting at the church. (Feel free to come and go during these times). Each evening will focus on a different area of our church life. Each evening will introduce a different way of praying, that can deepen the ways we relate to God.

This booklet is a gift to you and your prayer life and is intended to complement the corporate gatherings for prayer.

Each page has a suggested daily Bible reading and a brief thought for the day.

Each evening the main thing that God has said at the corporate gatherings for prayer will be discussed and recorded on answer phone message. The next day you can phone 0508 ASK GOD (0508 275 463) to find out what God has said. This pray booklet includes a space for you to write down this message and thus as an individual keep up with what God is saying to the church.

Can I encourage you to take every opportunity, on your own and in a group, to deepen your prayer life during this season of prayer?

Produced by Steve Taylor for the Season of Prayer 2004

Thursday – May 12 – the gift.

Listening: Acts 1:1 – 5

Birthdays are a lot of fun. They start with an invitation. The reading today is an invitation: to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Spirit.

We read this story after the birthday. The gift of the Spirit has been given. To use the birthday analogy, the presents have been opened. The wrapping paper is strewn on the floor. We now have access to all the gifts of the Spirit. So it is easy to miss the excitement of that first invitation.

The reading today is asking us to imagine that first invitation; the freshness, the excitement, the anticipation. What would this gift be like? How might it change our lives? Change the church?

Pray for a similar freshness, excitement and anticipation of the things of the Spirit of God in our midst at Opawa.

From today's communal gathering,
What is the main thing God is saying to Opawa?

Friday – May 13 – the gift of mission (2).

Listening: Acts 1:6 – 11

The movie *Finding Nemo* is about a father fish looking for his lost son fish. A reappearing feature of the movie is a group of seagulls screaming “Mine, mine, mine.”

It is easy to go: “Mine, Mine, Mine.” The reading today reminds us that the gift, and gifts, of the Spirit are not “Mine, mine, mine.” They are for others (in our city, our Jerusalem), for others (in our nation, our Judea and Samaria), for others (in our world, to the ends of the earth).

Pray for a repentance of any attitudes of “Mine, mine, mine” at Opawa and for a new spirit of mission to be our gift to Opawa this Pentecost.

From today’s communal gathering,
What is the main thing God is saying to Opawa?

Saturday – May 14– the gift of mission (2)

Listening: Luke 4:16 – 21

The Spirit is promised by Jesus. This Spirit will continue the mission of Jesus. The mission of Jesus is detailed in Luke 4. Spirit-filled mission is word (*to proclaim liberty to the captives*) and deed (*to set free the oppressed*) and power (*the recovery of sight to the blind*) and politics (*announce the Year of Jubilee*).

Let us do an ‘Audit’ of our mission and our community ministries. How holistic are we at Opawa? Are we word and deed and power and political people?

Pray for the Waltham Youth Trust, Side Door, Conversational English, Craft Groups, Alpha – for the Spirit to anoint their missions.

From today’s communal gathering,
What is the main thing God is saying to Opawa?

Sunday – May 15 – the gift of waiting

Listening: Acts 1: 12 – 14

My four year old loves to be a leader. She will run ahead of us down the street, saying, “I am the leader.”

The reading today warns us of running ahead of God. Jesus has been with the disciples for forty days. He leaves. The church must not run ahead of God. The church must wait. God is the leader.

This time period has been called the “significant pause.” It is the time when the church is to wait and pray. Come, Holy Spirit.

From today’s communal gathering,
What is the main thing God is saying to Opawa?

Monday – May 16 – the gift of leadership

Listening: Acts 1:15 – 26

At Opawa we need leaders. A prayer leader, a small group leader.

Thank God for our leaders: Noelene Diggs Administration, Jan Kennedy & Emma Richardson in children's ministry, Jason King Community Ministries, Hugh Dimock in evangelism; Alan Currie in mission; Neville Stewart in facilities; Anne Sparrow in pastoral care, Elizabeth Brown Spiritual Growth, Amy Hay worship leader, Logan Matthews & Amy Hay Youth.

Thank God for the Board: Judy more, Norma Pheasant, Gavin Rowse, Kevin Richardson.

Thank God for our Pastor, Steve Taylor and his team: Ken McCormack, Jason King, Deirdre Wilson, David Smith.

In the reading today, the church chose new leaders. A key to the future of Opawa will be new leaders. Pray this Pentecost for the Spirit to anoint more leaders.

<p>From today's communal gathering, What is the main thing God is saying to Opawa?</p>
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Tuesday – May 17 – the gift for all

Listening: Acts 2: 1 – 4

The Spirit before Pentecost was selective. A few people were gifted. The Spirit comes on the tabernacle craftsperson in Exodus 31:1 and upon Saul in 1 Samuel 10:10.

The Old Testament prophets ached to see the Spirit poured out on all (Joel 2:28,29).

Afterwards I will pour out My Spirit on everyone.
Your sons and your daughters will proclaim My message.
Your old men will have dreams
and your young men will see visions.
At that time I will pour out My Spirit
even on servants, both men and women.

The gift of Pentecost is the gift of the Spirit for all; *tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there.*

Pray for Opawa to be a Spirit church which means that young and old, male and female are agents of the outpouring of the Spirit. Ministry not for a select few, but for all. Pray this for Opawa.

From today's communal gathering,
What is the main thing God is saying to Opawa?

Wednesday – May 18 – the gift of rest.

Listening: Genesis 2:2 – 4

God took a break. God rested. Cycles of work and rest need to be part of our life.

Today is the seventh day of the season of prayer and thus a day of rest. There is no prayer at the church, although the Youth Discipleship Training Cells will pray. Enjoy the break.

Thursday – May 19 – the gift of many voices.

Listening: Acts 2:5 – 12

Lots of languages... accents from Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Rome, Crete and Arabia. Hard enough to type, let alone say.

Lots of languages, united by one Spirit.

We live in a society with lots of languages. The current events – charges of racism against Asians in Christchurch, the foreshore and sea bed issue – remind us of the need for lots of languages to be united under one Spirit.

What will it mean for Opawa Baptist to be a place where lots of languages are united under one Spirit?

Praise God for conversational English. Pray that the uniting Spirit of God will bring diverse peoples to Opawa, and unite us as one.

From today's communal gathering,
What is the main thing God is saying to Opawa?

Friday – May 28 – the gift of preaching.

Listening: Acts 2:14 – 37

People are confused; (v. How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? (2:8)What does this mean? (2:12)These people are drunk! (2:13)

Peter preaches, bringing the confusion of people’s life experiences under the teaching of the Scriptures. Lives are transformed.

Opawa has a long history of strength in preaching and teaching and for seeing lives transformed. Praise God.

Pray for our preaching and teaching ministries today; for a freshness of the Spirit, for Biblical grounding, for life application that sees lives transformed.

Pray for hearers of our preaching and teaching ministries; for the courage to ask questions and respond.

From today’s communal gathering,
What is the main thing God is saying to Opawa?

Saturday – May 21 – the gift of healthy community.

Listening: Acts 2:43-47

What a wonderful glimpse of what a church community could be...

Experiencing the power and presence of God, deep sharing, radical community life, prayer, teaching, lives transformed.

Hold one person at Opawa before God. Pray the power and presence of God, transformation in their life.

Hold our small groups, our community ministries, our church services before God. Pray the power and presence of God, transformation in their life.

From today's communal gathering,
What is the main thing God is saying to Opawa?

Sunday – May 22

Reflect on this symbol:

(balloon)

Today is Pentecost.

It celebrates the gift of God's Spirit.

It is considered the birth-day of the church.

Blow up the balloon and bat it around the room, thanking God for this life.

From today's communal gathering,
What is the main thing God is saying to Opawa?