

Raise up gospel workers!

Paraklesis

[‘encouragement’, ‘exhortation’, for life and ministry]

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Dear friends,

Populate or perish!

The next generation of gospel workers for Australia and overseas are among the children in your church, or in your youth group, or in your congregation. If you don’t have a culture of training everyone for ministry in your church, if some young people are not being mentored to be leaders, then there are not likely to be a great number of future gospel workers being raised up from your church. Your church will need them. God’s world needs them. Where will they come from? Here are some ideas.

A FOUR-POINT PLAN FOR RAISING UP GOSPEL WORKERS

1. PRAY

- Pray daily, privately and publicly, that the Lord of the harvest would raise up abundant workers for his abundant harvest.
- Pray for God’s gospel plan, and for his current workers, in your Sunday intercessions in our churches each week, and in your ministries. When you pray for gospel workers and missionaries, pray for their ministries, and for God to be at work in the people they serve, and not only for their personal welfare.
- Ensure that in your intercessions you not only pray for the congregation, or ministry but also for our local community, for our nation, and for the world. And ensure that you not only pray that people’s needs would be met, but also for conversions, church-plants, maturity, and evangelism.
- Pray that God would provide gospel workers for gospel-needy people groups and places.
- Start a regular monthly prayer meeting with two or three colleagues in ministry in other churches to pray together that God would raise up gospel workers from your congregations.

2. TEACH

- Teach the content and message of the Bible, the identity of Christianity, basic Christian theology, Christianity as public truth, and Christianity among contemporary world views.
- Teach the gospel as not just God’s plan for us as individuals, but as God’s global gospel plan to create his people, the church of Jesus Christ, with people from every race, nation, and people group.
- Teach not only for personal maturity, but also for the corporate maturity of the church, to equip people to do mutual ministry with believers, and to equip them to teach the gospel to unbelievers in the context of discussion, questions, and answers.

3. TRAIN

- Ensure that in our preaching and teaching we are not only teaching the faithful, but also training them for their mutual ministry of teaching and encouraging, and training them to speak to unbelievers of their faith in Christ.
- Encourage lay ministry, and provide effective training and feedback for every ministry person doing every ministry,
- Open people's eyes to the many subcultures in our society, and train people and giving them opportunities to do cross-cultural ministry, and ensure that our churches model effective and loving cross-cultural mission and ministry.
- Get our churches and ministries to support theological and Bible colleges, missionary societies, and evangelistic ministries in Australia. Tell people about the opportunities for gospel ministry in our denominations and networks.

4. MENTOR AND INFORM

- Be pro-active in identifying men and women, and young people, who have the potential character, maturity, love, resilience, and gifts to be trained for long-term gospel ministry: then talk to them, pray with them, provide specialist training for them, give them stretching opportunities in ministry, give them feedback on their ministry, and open their eyes to the wide variety of ministry opportunities that are open to them in Australia [city, regional, rural, outback, indigenous] and overseas, including Anglican ordination and missionary service. These include church ministry, church planting, chaplaincies, Bible translation, 'tent-making ministries', evangelism, children and youth work, Bible and Theological college teaching, etc.
- Avoid public criticism of Christian ministries, your denomination, churches in general or missionary work and missionary societies, and avoid unnecessary public comments on your frustrations with your ministry!
- Support and pray for those who have gone from your ministries or churches into trained gospel ministries.
- Table this plan at your church council, circulate it to your people. Share the vision!

Workers wanted!

Denominations need lots of ministers to replace those who are retiring. There are many parts of Australia which need church plants. There are many vacancies for overseas workers. **Pray, teach, train, mentor and inform.**

Thank you for your fellowship in ministry.

With warmest good wishes,

Yours,



- I send out these messages about once a month.
- They go to about 200 people: I do not expect a response!
- They are not confidential, so you are welcome to pass them on to others in ministry.
- If I would prefer not to receive them, just let me know by return email.