



Renewing the Soul

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"
1 Thessalonians 5:23

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We are a spirit having a body experience or we are a spirit that lives in a body that has a soul. Our soul is made up of our mind, will and emotions. It is beautiful to see in this passage that God is not just interested in our spirits alone, but in all of us. He is not just wanting to get our spirit into heaven, but he wants to renew our souls here on earth.

Renewing the Soul - Cont.

2

When we become Christians our spirit is saved and changed (2Corinthians 5:17), as we walk with God our souls are being saved and changed. (Romans 12:2). When we die, and the resurrection scheme of things takes place our bodies will be changed. (1Corinthians 15:51-54).

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Our Souls are Mind, Will and Emotion.

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Our souls are about what we feel, what we think and the choices we make. Our attitude is a part of our soul. It is easy to see that through life these areas can be damaged and badly affected. Your mind can become unstable because of overload, confusion, wrong thinking and sin. That can eventually move into mental sickness which is becoming an increasing problem throughout the world.

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"But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself" [his soul] Proverbs 6:32.

Your emotions can be broken down through overuse and abuse causing emotional breakdown.

This is your soul:-

What you think;
How you feel; and your
Ability to choose

It is not hard to believe your life can be affected through your soul. That is why John the beloved, without any understanding of modern psychology said:

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well". 3 John 2

I like that John knew a sick soul can create a sick body, bad finances and poor relationships. It can affect your marriage, roleship, leadership and even our spiritual life.

"Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God" 1John 3:21

If our hearts (soul) do not condemn us then we have confidence before God. It can affect how we move in God – you can see this with the disciples in Luke 9:37-41. They could not cast out a devil because they were feeling insecure, inferior and rejected, because for the second time, they were not picked to be in the "inner circle" with Jesus. (Luke 9:28 and Luke 8:51). You could see this in them because of the statement that proceeded this incident. An argument broke out of who was the greatest out of all the disciples (Luke 9:46) and an exclusion of others. (Luke 9:49-50)

Doctors will tell you that 80 percent of sickness is psychosomatic. People get sick because of the way they feel and think. You can clearly see this in a number of verses in Proverbs 14:30, Proverbs 16:24 and Proverbs 12:25.

A sick soul will effect our language and confession (Matthew 12:34), our treatment of others (1Samuel 30:6),and our confidence in ourselves (Judges 6:15). So many people live small crippled and sad lives because of the condition of their souls. As Leaders and Ministers we should make it one of our priorities to work at helping our people renew and rebuild their souls.

An elephant at a circus is held by a rope that it could easily break free from but in its early years it was conditioned to not escape by being held by a chain that bound it until it realized that it could not escape. As soon as it was conditioned to that frame of thinking and feeling, its will power was broken then the owners replaced the chain with a rope.

So many people are like that elephant, bound by their own thinking and feelings and limited by the deficiency of their soul.

God wants to renew and restore us - not with rules and regulations like some want to think and like the church has tried to do over the years but God renews us from the inside out, not the outside in and He does it gradually like it says in Colossians 3:10: *"and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator"*. The word being renewed is used. Our spirit has been saved and changes instantly when we received Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17), but our souls are what we need to work on.

Matthew 16:26 basically says: [so what if we gain the world and forfeit our souls]. Let us not put our soul on the back burner and instead of forfeiting it, lets fortify our souls

1. Guarding it

"Above all else, guard your heart [soul], for it is the wellspring of life" Proverbs 4:23.

Guard your mind, will and emotion don't just let anything go in. Your eyes, ears and mouth are the portholes to your soul. Don't just listen – look and confess anything because it will determine the condition of your soul. What you think determines what you speak. Your speaking or confession determines your actions, your actions determines your lifestyle and your lifestyle determines your destiny.

Renewing the Soul - Continued

2. Renew it

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will".
Romans 12:2.

Renew your mind, strength and your emotions and rebuild your will power by feeding it the right stuff like the word of God (Joshua 1:8), like positive things right things, excellent things, praiseworthy things, lovely admirable and pure things – Philippians 4:8.

In Psalms you can see David speak good things into his soul – Psalm 103:1-2.

3. Resting it

We live hard, fast, busy and sometimes complicated lives. So many people are:-

Overworked, Underpaid,
Overstressed, Underlaid.

This is why we need to learn to rest.

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."
Psalm 23:1-3



We need to rest in the green pastures and still waters so that God can restore our souls. He says in Matthew 11:28-29: *"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".*

4. Come to Jesus

Jesus is the Pastor of Pastors, the Counsellor of Counsellors – the Chief shepherd. Just because you came to Jesus when you got saved, don't stop coming to Him especially if you are weary and burdened when you do come to Him. Let His burden and yoke for His life come on you, it is lighter and easier than yours. Yours is sometimes created out of ego, competition and expectation of others. Jesus' is designed for you because it comes from a humble and gentle heart.

Be Blessed

Kevin

Leader of OzReach & Life Church

A Look at Re-Imagine Internship

I personally had no idea what an internship involved, it is only that I am so hungry to learn as much as I can that I agreed to do it. I must admit, I arrived in Sydney for the forge conference with a pre conceived idea that we will be doing lots of bible studying, only to find it was a group of people sharing from their hearts, stories of doing church in a different way. It is so out of the box that it challenged everything I knew church to be.

I recently spent 3 months going to visit the homeless guys that live in squats in the city of Newcastle. I would go weekly. I spent all my efforts trying to get them to

church. Many times they allowed Joan and myself to pray with them and share about Jesus, but this wasn't enough for me. I wanted to see them come to church.

Finally a breakthrough, 5 guys all rolling drunk from their daily cask of wine rolled into church, worshipping God and crying. They came 6 weeks in a row then stopped coming. I was so disappointed that they never fitted in and didn't find it relevant to their lives. I just felt disheartened.

During the forge conference of hearing people share, I realized that what I had when I went to the squats was church and

these guys are just a small percentage of the marginalized that we will always struggle to get to church. So lets take Jesus to them. It has totally reframed my mind. I look forward to this years internship and all the challenges it will bring.

Nikki Gibson

Senior team leader @ Life

Re-Imagine is a one year training course on church planting. If you are interested or would like more details contact Fred David on 0412 284 710

Lessons for Leaders

A little bird was flying south for the Winter. It was so cold the bird froze and fell to the ground into a large field. While he was lying there, a cow came by and dropped some dung on him.



As the frozen bird lay there in the pile of cow dung, he

began to realise how warm he was. The dung was actually thawing him out! He lay there all warm and happy, and soon began to sing for joy. A passing cat heard the bird singing and came to investigate. Following the sound the cat discovered the bird under the pile of cow dung and promptly dug him out and ate him.



Moral of the story:

1. Not everyone who shits on you is your enemy.
2. Not everyone who gets you out of shit is your friend.
3. And when you're in deep shit, it's best to keep your mouth shut.



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Cambodia July 2008 TBC
 Contact Kevin Wilcock
info@globereach.info

India October 2008
 Contact: Colin Hedges
Colinhedges@optusnet.com.au

Indonesia October 2008
 Contact Kevin Wilcock
info@globereach.info

Philippines October 2008
 Youth Camp, Contact: Brendon Elliott
 on Ph: 02 4267 1588

Bali 2008 TBC
 Contact Elly Webb
cafe@nelsonbay.com.au

A Middle Class Missionary in Manila

It is an adventure..., really exciting actually. We save up, hear the stories of people who have gone before, pray, really feel as though we are stepping out with God into the unknown. Then there's the flight over. The in flight movies and that wonderful delight of the international traveler – free drinks (purely for the sake of my stomach of course).

We take our first steps into the alien environment of another culture and ask ourselves (and possibly others around us) 'What is that smell?' There are also other 'stupid westerner' questions that the locals just smile and nod at, like, the toilet paper goes where? Why is the food cold? Is that dog alive or is it an undead zombie dog? What time did you say this meeting starts? Why are they putting coke into plastic bags? They don't eat that do they?

Depending on where you are taken on the first day, the reaction will be somewhere between 'this is ok' and 'God what are you doing to me!!!' We make it to our first meeting – this is more familiar – but wait a minute, why is the whole congregation

coming out for ministry? The front of my shirt is wet with their tears, they are actually dragging people in from outside to be prayed for – by me!

This may be a little tongue in cheek but it is also quite a bit true. The culture shock can be hard, but for me I found the hardest thing was having to live up to the people's expectation of meeting God through our ministry. In Australia we have so few needs that we have forgotten how to have faith. In the Philippines faith in the provision of God is a daily necessity for many of these people.

They have a generosity and joy that truly shames me. They have a hunger for and openness to the gospel that challenges my concepts of ministry. Broken down buildings, hard seats, no air-con, late starts and latter finishes, no extras except a fan, an out of tune guitar and a worship leader who is never destined to be on 'Idol', but their hearts are hungry to stay until God says go.

I went with the idea that I would be bringing some teaching, some wisdom and praise. God actually allowed me to do that

and more. God in his wisdom allowed me to learn that I have as much to learn from the Filipino's as I have to give. They have made me more of a part of the family of God. There is something of them that I miss.

In addition to all this we did 2 marriage seminars, a 2 day leadership conference, a medical outreach, 2 youth talks, a Valentines day talk, 8 bible studies, preached at 4 separate churches, got robbed, got sick, shopped till we almost couldn't shop anymore, prayed for more people than I can count, established a new school, called a pastor for a new church plant, planned the next extension to the Graceville school, mentored a number of young folk who are now part of our family and then shopped some more. All in two weeks; Wonder why we come home tired?

Linden Green

If you want more details or are interested in going on one of these trips contact Ken Gibson at khgibson@idx.com.au

Peter & Jill Shultz - Fiji

It's late and the last of the bags are now squashed down and zipped up, without a doubt we are a number of kilo's overweight. I'm blaming Jill's chocolate and kitchen stuff; Jill's blaming my beloved cordless drill and books.

It'll be an early morning trip to Sydney all the while praying for a sympathetic check-in and then we can start to really get out heads back into Fiji time and all that waits for us back in Suva. It's a strange feeling to want to be saying goodbye to Australia.

As I look back at the weeks here are just a few of the highlights;

* We held meetings with and have begun an ongoing discussion with an International mission agency with a view to a partnership

* Met some fascinating people in the places that we had the opportunity to speak. Your stories and encouragement to us have been memorable.

* Preparations with Rod Davis for his guest lecturing workshops on Relationships commencing in Suva in May 2008.

* We connected with and had a great time with the leadership of our supporting churches.

* Attended my youngest brother's wedding in Tathra.

* Met with the team and team leaders from Sydney Missionary Bible College who are coming to participate in prison and outreach ministry in July.

* Spent time with each of the board members and had a constructive board meeting a few weeks back.



What Jill and I return with is your great encouragement, prayers and support. We have been overwhelmed by your interest and

the many ways that you have shown your support. What stunned us was the ways we have been blessed from a house to live in, cars to drive, mobile internet access to keep up communication. Jill was lavished with the gift of an afternoon being treated with facials and things at a day-spa. You have showered us with love and we thank you for that.

Kim (my young American volunteer) has held things together admirably and I am hugely in his debt for the work that he has done with the prisoners in Nasinu Prison. We have several weeks of hand-over before he leaves to commence his Masters of Psychology. Just to prove that life in Fiji is NEVER PLANNED and NEVER DULL - today I discover that the weekend after next I'm listed as the main speaker at a 4 day church camp!!!

We go back with a full year ahead and much anticipation for what that year holds!

Blessings,

Peter & Jill

Contact email: peter.d.schultz@gmail.com



24HR EXPRESS

Ministers Getaway - 24hr express is a 24hr experience that will show you how a church can reach in to the higher levels of society and down to the lower levels. This program is simply to help ministers think outside of the box, to do church differently, and to reach into the grassroots of society. For more information and accommodation suggestions please refer to the attached brochure.

New Products

Vision - \$20

3 Great speakers share on Vision. Kevin shares on Personal and Church vision, Donna Byham shares on vision for our world, and Emil on Vision for relationships.

Back to Basics - \$20

A six pack of CD's for New believers to get a hold of some of the basics.

6 Pack No.3 - \$20

Kev's latest 6 pack is out with topics like: Handling grief, Dealing with Sin, Did Adam have a belly button, Judgment, and two other speakers: Ex - KKK Clan member Johny Lee Clearly and Trevor Bates speaking about his 14 year prison sentence.

If you would like copies of any of the products here or previously advertised, Contact OzReach office by email: info@lifechurch.org or phone the church (02) 4946 2957 to order.

Leadership Meetings with Kevin Wilcock

3rd April

Byron Bay

Contact Sid Vicious on 0431 651 691

4th April

Gold Coast

Contact Greg on 0414 674 881

5th April

Coppers Creek

Room 9/888 Boundry Rd
Contact Ken on 0414 778 568

For more information on these dates please phone the contact person shown or Contact OzReach office by email: info@lifechurch.org or phone the church (02) 4946 2957

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For a brochure on Ozreach just email or phone us and we will send you one that contains our vision, mission, values and beliefs.

MISSION

To plant, parent, and partner with Churches across Australia.

To empower leadership and ministry by providing relational and visionary oversight in order to see them impact the unchurched.

GIVING into OZREACH

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