

# Inspire

## The Power of the Public Meeting Pt 2

In the rise of the missional model of doing church the Sunday services have taken a bit of a back step in some places. Which is o.k. providing the purposes you have taken the backward steps for are being achieved. Like increased discipleship and mission. Personally I believe we can take forward steps in all areas including the public meeting and all it entails.

Yes I believe the church needs to increase in its discipleship and its ability to reach into the community through missional expression but I believe our public meetings can go hand in hand with our missional expression and our discipleship program. We've just got to work on it. Massage it, make it interesting, digestible, colourful and transferable. It doesn't need to cost a lot or consume endless hours of organization and its skill.

In this letter let me share with you on the power of the preached word.

### The Power of preaching and teaching

Acts 2:42—they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching.

Acts 20:20—they taught you publically and house to house.

*"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching"* 1Timothy 4:13

Sometimes we can lose faith in the mediums of the public meetings like praise and worship like preaching and teaching. We can shrink back to story telling, lecturing, giving chats or having discussion which is all good but nothing replaces the preaching of the word of God in the public meeting by called ascension gifted preachers. (Ephesians 4:11-12) and not just gifted orators' or communicators.

For people to grow spiritually, they need to be spiritually fed with spiritual food by spiritually gifted people.

### Called to Preach

I know in mentoring the ascension gift spoken in Ephesians 4:11 but I actually believe that these gifts are callings from God and not something

we can put our hand up for or just choose ourselves like Hebrews 5:1-4 says no one takes this honour upon himself, he must be called. That is why it says He gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. The average minister is usually a pastor and teacher and that is why it is important to invite into your pulpit the apostle, evangelist and prophet—to build an all rounded maturity into your congregation and that they might move in the whole expression of God.

You see preaching and teaching is not just a matter of the passing of information but one of impartation. I know that when I preach it is not just going into people's heads but into their spirits. That is why in some places within the body some people are just creating fat heads and not fat hearts, that stir people into action.

### Paul believed in the power of preaching and what was preached.

*"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."* Romans 1:16

1. He believed in the gospel 1Corinthians 15:1-3.
2. He believed in preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified. *"When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."* 1Corinthians 2:1-5
3. He believed in the foolishness of what he preached. 1Corinthians 1:21, the foolish to the arrogant but powerful to the open. He believed in the who I council and will of God and was not hesitant to proclaim it. In Acts 20:27 he believed in all the scriptures as being God breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training., that people might be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2Timothy 3:16.

He challenged Timothy to preach the word (2Timothy 4:2) because he knew what the word was:

(Hebrews 4:12) *"...it was sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit."*

In Romans 10:17 *"...faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word..."*

Also in Acts 20:32 *"...which can build you up and give you an inheritance..."*

Preachers, don't lose faith in the word of God. Preach it! Paul said in season and out of season because the day has already come that people are not putting up with sound doctrine. We live in a consumer society that is gathering preachers around them that satisfy their own desires. (2Timothy 4:1-5).

### The Word of God

So as you can see Paul was fairly into the preaching of the Word of God. We must realize the Word is no ordinary book, it is God breathed, just as it says in 2Timothy 3:16: *"All Scripture is God-breathed..."*

God's Word was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. (1Peter 1:20). God's Word will stand forever. (1Peter 1:23-25)

God's Word is living and sharp (Hebrews 4:12)

God's Word has supernatural ability (Jeremiah 1:12).

The Word was written over a 2000 year period by 40 different authors in five different countries making up 66 different books that fit together like a hand in a glove.

Let's believe the Word of God and believe in the preaching and teaching of it. When we do and the people that receive it do, it changes their lives. *"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe."* 1Thessalonians 2:13.

Paul actually encourages Timothy to devote himself to the public reading of the scriptures and to the preaching and teaching of it.

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So in your preaching—make it interesting but fill it with the Word of God because at the end of the day it is the Word that changes lives. It is in the word that the power is. If you live in the scriptures, soak yourself in them, meditate on them and memorize them they will just automatically jump up and have way in your sermons.

**Let the Holy Spirit Flow**

Don't let your preaching and teaching be delivered in your own strength and ability but let the Holy Spirit empower you and flow through your gift. Preach under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Let's face it, the Word of God came to us through men speaking as they were carried by the Holy Spirit. (2Peter 1:21). Let us have it revealed to us and delivered to the people the same way. That is what will cause people to be cut to the heart just like in Acts 2:36. You and I being filled with the Holy Spirit like Peter was in Acts 2:4 and then standing

and speaking in Acts 2:14. Remember the Baptism isn't a one off experience, it is a continued experience because we read in Acts 4:8 that Peter was filled again and spoke boldly and again in Acts 4:31 they were all filled again. Don't let your preaching be ordinary or just coloured with modern technology. Don't enforce your folks to have to say "Amen" or "preach it" or "come on" so that you are encouraged when you preach. But you be continually filled with the Holy Spirit as you speak with one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord with a thankfulness and appreciation. (Ephesians 5:19-20).

You stay full, refreshed and on fire and you wont need to encourage the people to clap and encourage you in what you say. They will be stirred encouraged inspired impacted and imparted as you stay filled and move in the Holy Ghost.

**Preach It!**

Kevin



**Senior Leader @ Life**

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Follow Kevin on TWITTER

<http://twitter.com/KevinWilcock>

P.s.

Kevin has written some notes on "Preaching and Teaching" that can be sent by email to anyone interested. They also include "Preparation" and "Presentation" and "Preaching with Spiritual Authority". These notes also come with a three year preaching plan. To receive your copy just email: info@lifechurch.org.au or alternatively we can post them to you— Phone Donna on 4961 0211.

# A DAY IN THE LIFE 24HR EXPRESS @ LIFE

**Will be on the 23rd October 2009 playing at Soapbox will be Kere Buchanan, Steve Clisby & Bill Risby**

24hr express is a 24hr experience for ministers & leaders that will give you a missional approach to church. You will experience a Soapbox night where some of the best muso's in Australia play. It will have its own bar and restaurant. Then you'll serve in Soul Café among the needy of Newcastle. You will also get to see an art exhibition, attend A.A. and spend time with Kev talking about the whole missional church and what that means to you, your church and your community.

For more information and accommodation suggestions contact Life Church office on 4961 0211 or Kevin Wilcock on 0407 467 798.

Our next 24hr Express will be on 23rd & 24th October with

**kere buchanan**  
starting over *live*

featuring  
steve clisby / james tuialili / michelle martinez  
bill risby / alexander hewetson / chris kamzelas  
james muller / craig walters / tony azzopardi  
members of the *bodacious cowboys*

plus  
**steve clisby & bill risby**  
performing songs from their debut album  
*golden ring*

friday october 23rd  
**@ soapbox cafe**  
15 denison street newcastle west  
8.00pm \$45

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Dedicated to Bill Elkin  
& his work at Soul Cafe

Ros' work is very diverse with linocut, photography and other medias used in her artwork.

SATURDAY  
24TH OCTOBER  
2PM TO 3PM @ LIFE





# GlobeReach some of the works we support overseas

## Philippines—Ken & Maisie Gibson

We are looking forward to spending some quality time with Lolit and the staff as this will be the first trip in some years that we are not taking a team with us.

While all of our schools are functioning well under the direction of Lolit there is always the need for encouragement and praise for the work of this ministry.

The school at Bagong Silang will be part of our main focus this trip. This school is part of Child's Faith Academy but we love the work that they are

doing as it reminds us of our earlier beginnings. The families in this area are desperately poor and the needs are great. We are hoping to cement our relationship with this work and to see how we can help without interfering with the energy and vision they have for the area. As we as a ministry have been blessed we feel it is time we pass some of that blessing to other works.

Life Church Philippines continues to grow, the church purchased a lot of ground last year and have begun to lay

the foundations for the building. These are exciting times for the congregation. We will also be meeting with the local Pastors to assist in organizing the net South East Asian conference to be held in February of 2010..



**Ken & Maisie Gibson**  
Elders @ Life

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## Empower Asia—Paul Somerville

Empower Asia (EA) operates 11 leadership-discipleship homes for teenagers from Asian ethnic groups that have historically been resistant to the Gospel. Their work is in Burma, Nepal, Cambodia and Thailand and cares for about 200 young people.

EA do not follow the normal missionary paradigm whereby the missionary has a tendency to stand around barking out orders at the natives. Over a period of some years EA's indigenous partners have been developed and empowered to run their own nations' EA operations. They make their own decisions, seldom needing to consult with missionaries. Because they have such *buy in* they are more loyal to the program, they spend less money and far

less inclined to pilfer the funds! They control their own people, decide their own wages and do not require a western person to *crack the whip*.

Mission as it should be...in Jesus, the recipients are the masters of their own destiny.

Paul Somerville says that: *"Initially our method of operation meant that it took longer to get results, but now, those kids who we first took into our homes 13 years ago are beginning to run our works. This is particularly the case in Thailand where for instance our girls' preventative prostitution home, Esther House is run by our own graduates (young women now aged 22-23). Our church, our farm, our outreach programs are all pretty much run by our kids.*

*We are also moving our young people on to our board of control. From our pool of talented kids we even have our future board chair lined up. He is studying his PHD at present so we won't bother him too much yet."*

We actively believe in that old phrase of *"the lunatics taking over the asylum."*

Want to know more?

EA requires support because the overall program is running at a monthly deficit of A\$875.00

Interested to support?

Then go to **www.empower.asia**

Interested to have Paul come and speak?

Contact him at

Email: empowersia@gmail.com

## H.I.M Ministries—Paul & Veronica Harb

### Back in Australia

After five years of ploughing non stop, and in the midst of revival and on the edge of planting our second church, my family and I felt that it was time from the Lord for us to come back to Australia. Our three months back has been great for us as a family and very refreshing to catch up with family, friends and the body of Christ throughout Australia.

We are encouraged to hear many good reports of increase and God's blessings upon the church from Pastors and church members. During the three

months we have had the great privilege to minister non stop in many churches in Wollongong, Campbelltown, Sydney, Newcastle, Mildura Victoria, Canberra and Griffith etc.

I must say, we have had the most amazing time during our time in Australia. We have enjoyed catching up with many friends, pastors and also meeting many more lovely people throughout our trip here.

### Back to Argentina

My family and I will be going back to Argentina on 4th September 2009 to

continue the work of plowing, sowing and reaping, evangelizing, discipling, mercy ministry among the poor and needy and plant more churches in San Juan—Argentina and beyond.

We want to thank everyone who has blessed us and the ministry through so many different ways. Thank you for being part of what God is doing in Argentina. The harvest is so very ripe and ready to be reaped now! Let's do it together in Jesus name.

### Paul & Veronica Harb

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## Introducing a great church on the Central Coast

Back in early 1995 after completing a ministry in a denominational church, my wife Sue, our children Kaylie and Rob and six other families began to meet in our home on Sunday mornings for worship and teaching. Today, we are Tuggerah Lakes Christian Fellowship and have seen some good growth in the past 14+ years.

In our early days we were relating to "The Association of Vineyard Churches". This group had only started in Australia in the month prior to our formation however, due to some issues with their structure and leadership we never joined that group. Since then we have been looking to join a network of churches. In the past year we have begun developing a relationship with both Kevin Wilcock and the Ozreach Network. Our church is difficult to define. We are non-denominational and probably best described as evangelical in theology and charismatic in practice. These sorts of labels are becoming increasingly grey, and confusing. So unless you're into that sort

of thing, forget I mentioned it.

As a church, our vision is to be part of what God is doing in His kingdom and to express it dynamically in our own lives and in the world around us. In order to do this we have six priorities. These are: Worship, Word, fellowship, ministry, equipping and sending. Like most churches, we hit some of our goals and others we are still attempting to hit. At times our priorities are well defined. At other times we have been known to waiver.

I love our church. The people are great, the ministries are relevant, the pressure is nothing outstanding. I would imagine that a lot of this is due to the fact that we are non-denominational church (therefore if people don't like us—they leave.) Due to the fact that I am unpaid in my pastoral role and lastly, due to the fact that I am the founding pastor (therefore no one has been there longer than me.). Of course this does not mean that we don't have our issues. We do. It's just that they are far fewer than my

experiences elsewhere. It is a very good church.

For many years Sue and I have pastored together with another couple. Fay and Lesley Carter who have been wonderful to work alongside. Sadly Ray and Lesley tendered their resignation at the beginning of 2009, giving us 12 months notice. They inted staying in the church but realized they were moving into a new season of their lives. This has led the church into a time of looking at what we have been doing and where the Lord may be taking us in the future. What happens ultimately is in the Lord's hands.

One of the areas where I believe Tuggerah Lakes Christian Fellowship needs to grow is in our outreach to the lost, the poor, the disadvantaged, the marginalized and the dysfunctional. We are involved in these ministries, but there is a whole lot more we could be doing. This is where I appreciate our relationship with Ozreach. I have been able to glean a lot from the guys as I have had opportunity to meet with them. They each have a distinct heart for the lost and something that I can receive for both the church and myself.

**Bernie & Sue Higgins**

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## The Lutherans—Kim Hammond

This week I was the keynote speaker at the bi-annual national Lutherans Lay workers conference. The Lutherans in Australia were birthed from German Christians who moved here to establish the Lutheran Church. They are very proud of their heritage and hold their stoy close to their hearts and carry the pain that many German Christians experienced even in Australia for being German around the time of world war II. People were forced to change their name, hide their heritage and deny who they were because of the persecution brought on by the war. Lutherans value scripture and are proud of their orthodoxy. They are proud of their commitment to teaching through their private schools and

their formation for ordination which is a five year process at their own bible college.

Like every denomination there is politics and structures that seem to hinder rather than help growth. That seem to restrict mission and innovation rather than empower it. Every denomination is like a large ship which seems to take forever to maneuver and yet you see some incredibly innovative and risk taking individuals in positions of leadership.

Whether it is the Lutherans or the Salvation Army it is God's church, they are His people and He wants the radical missionaries to stay part of the body of Christ, influencing the gate keepers and permission givers.

If you ever get to S.A. drop in to see William hall an amazing communicator, singer and missionary or Jessica Kennedy who is a young leader full of fun, life and incredible loyalty or Tom Schmidt from QLD who is one of the best youth workers I have ever met and who has given his life to discipling young people.

I could share life and live in community with these people. This week was a taste of missional community with these and lots of others at the conference.

**Kim Hammond**

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## INNOVATE



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**KEVIN WILCOCK**

Kevin has pioneered and pastored a number of growing churches. Kevin's realness and ability to relate to the Australian culture has allowed him to travel extensively across the nation and beyond.



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