



Canaan Prayer Points
June—August 2022

75TH JUBILEE!

In this past week we have been celebrating the 75th Jubilee of the beginning of our Sisterhood, that started in 1947.

We have spent time reflecting not only on the founding years of our Sisterhood, but also looking at God's unfailing love, and faithfulness that we have also experienced during the founding years of our branch 'Canaan of God's Comfort' here in Australia. When we walk across our property, we are amazed at all the things we see. A whole complex of buildings, prayer Garden and other gardens, pathways and the fountain of the Father's Goodness. Most importantly, we have come to understand that God's dealings, however painful, are sheer grace. Time and time again we have seen how challenges are changed into blessings - sometimes when we least expect it!

Looking back, we can see the wisdom of God's leadings when it comes to the many difficulties our founding mothers and sisters encountered while acquiring Kanaan. The sisters often gave thanks that He led them along these paths of chastening, even though they seemed so long to them at the time. For He made the sisters rich in a number of ways - in the process and not only at the end when He gave the promised Land of Kanaan.

Through the different generations of sisters, Jesus has taught us how to humble ourselves beneath His will in a way we did not know before. He has taught us to give our wills up to Him, to become closer to Him and taste His true peace, love and faithfulness.

*“Be very careful never to forget
what you have seen God doing for you.
May His miracles have a deep
and permanent effect upon your lives!”*

Deuteronomy 4:9 LBT

For everything we have experienced over the years at Kanaan and here in the branch we thank the Lord for teaching us how to wait patiently for help to come and how to humble ourselves beneath the blows of God, yet, at the same time, to be persistent in faith and NEVER GIVE UP!

We thank Him for teaching us to ask Him why He could not answer our prayers – what prayer hindrances we had put up ourselves. He has shown us in different situations, that we ourselves, through our behaviour, attitude, or distorted thinking, often prevented Him from giving us proofs of His goodness. So, we thank Him for showing us the way to repentance and - after the obstacles were dealt with - for answering our prayers based on the promises He had given.

Yes, the Father could not give us the great gift of 'Kanaan' or the fulfilment of the branches until He had purged away some of the bad things in our hearts, which otherwise would have destroyed this 'good gift'. For our land could never become a true 'Kanaan', a promised land of God, if He had not begun to deal with us and our disbelief, our everyday disagreements, self-will and everything else that grieves Him. Like a good father God disciplines His children in love, using pain and suffering, but only because He wants the best for us. He wants to free us from our sins and to bind us more tightly to Him. Then we will become free and happy. Then we will be able to cope with our needs in a new way; and He can continue to lead us into the future along the pathway He has designed for us, preparing us for eternity, which is all that counts.

So often we lose heart and confidence, because we are looking to the external factors: we are getting older and our strength is not the same. But this does not stop God establishing exciting new directions for the future based on the very foundations He put in place.

But for this to happen, He needs us to trust and put our faith in Him day by day, living in trust of His guidance and grace and not become distracted by our external situations and limitations.

This excitement comes to us afresh having just also celebrated Pentecost and Trinity Sunday! The coming of the Holy Spirit was a beginning, not an ending, and the Spirit wants to work through us today and into the future until Jesus returns.

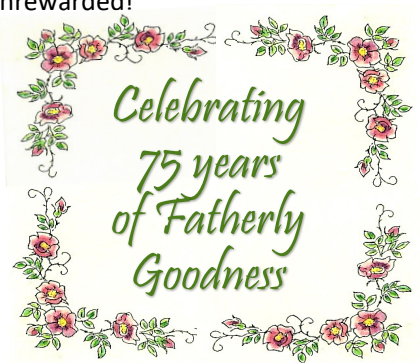
We were reminded of the times when Israel in unbelief rebelled against God. They refused to trust Him and claim their inheritance in Canaan. Part of the problem was the people's focus on the past and their repeated desire to go back to Egypt. They remembered the food they ate and the security they enjoyed because somebody took care of them, but they had forgotten the daily bondage, humiliation, and hopelessness. Another cause of their unbelief was fear of the future, because they didn't really believe they could defeat their enemies in Canaan and claim the land. They were walking by sight, not by faith, and had forgotten the promises of God.

We were reminded ever anew to remember all the things God has done and fulfilled in our Sisterhood ministry, and not to lose trust and confidence in who He is, what He can do and the promises He has given. No matter how old we are or what our physical capabilities are or are not, He has a perfect way for us. All He asks is that we trust and obey Him.

We know He very much has a continuing commission for the Australian branch, and this is why we continue to reach out to a world spiritually hungry that is searching for reality, purpose and fulfilment but has not yet found it. People are spending their money on that which is not sustaining them and their labour on that which does not satisfy.

Therefore as part of our ministry we have to ensure we don't just sit back in satisfaction, knowing we have a secure relationship with Jesus. There is always the danger of being so inwardly focused that we stop helping people to come into knowing Him and having a personal relationship with Him. If we fail them, we may one day hear them say, "I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat." And what will Jesus say to us? "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me." (see Matthew 25:42 & 45).

We want to take this opportunity afresh to thank our many friends and supporters, who selflessly place themselves at God's disposal and assisted and continue to assist us in our commission. Without your prayers, sacrifices and support, our ministry in the branch could not continue to be carried out and each one of you over the many decades have had a vital role. We always ask our Father in heaven to bless and reward each one of you, knowing He does not let the smallest sacrifice go unrewarded!



The Evangelical Sisters of Mary

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Main Kitchen Renovation

- Please pray that we can find the right “affordable” company to work with, for the renovation of our main kitchen benches that require replacement.

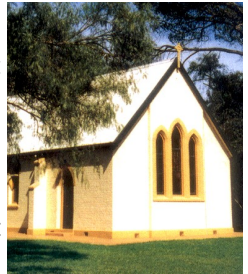


Maintenance for Guest Accommodation Areas

- Please pray for the maintenance work required on some of our guest accommodation areas and that this work can be completed before we open up again.

Chapel Maintenance & Renovation

- Please pray that we can find the right “affordable” company to replace the Chapel roof with a colour bond roof. Also for the on-going maintenance work to restore and maintain the inside of the Chapel, as it was last restored 30 years ago.



Guest Kitchen and Prayer Room

- Please pray for the right company that can reclad our guest building so that it can continue to be used for visitors during the day.



THANK POINTS

Tree Removal

Father we Thank You! For providing the finances and the right company that were able to remove nine trees from our 'rainforest' garden. We had to remove them as they would otherwise damage our new pathways and also one of our nearby buildings.



Replacement Air Conditioner Unit

Father we Thank You! For the new air conditioning unit for Jesus Joy. This was purchased in time, before some significant price increases came into effect.



PRAY FOR AUSTRALIA

(taken from Prayercast)

Traditionally a Christian nation with freedom of religion, Australia is becoming increasingly secular. While the majority of the population still claims to be Christian, only 10% attend church regularly. The largest Christian contingents are Roman Catholic (25%) and Anglican (17%), and the many immigrants living in Australia have also brought a wide variety of religions with them. The Church is being challenged by a New Age, self-created spirituality, and more people are developing negative attitudes toward the Church. Followers of Christ also face ideological debates about topics such as human origin, sexuality, and the existence of God, and discord among the believers concerning these issues is leading to division within the church. Pray that the Australian Christians will be bold witnesses, show the love of Christ to those who oppose them, and be revived once again in their faith

Prayer Points:

- Pray for believers to stand firm on the Truth of the Gospel in combating increased secularisation of their culture.
- Pray for Jesus Christ to capture hearts of the next generation before they succumb to competing influences.
- Pray for a move of the Holy Spirit to transform Australia and revive its Church

*JESUS
IS VICTOR!*



Faith into Practice

- Please pray that when we open up, the Lord will call those He wants to participate in the “Faith into Practice” volunteer programme at Canaan.
- Please pray for volunteers from a variety of countries, so that there is a good multicultural balance in the group.
- We are happy that many young people from overseas have previously taken part in our “Faith into Practice” volunteer programme. Please pray for the former participants, that the Lord would continue to bless them in their spiritual walk and make them a blessing for many others.
- For those former helpers who are praying about their future pathways, please pray that they will discern God’s guidance.

Outreach

- Please pray that the Lord continues to provide innovative ideas for outreach in the wider community during these Covid-19 times.
- Please pray that the Lord would continue to show us new ideas for outreach through our website and other social media avenues.
- We would be grateful if you would support us in prayer for our ongoing ministry of love and reconciliation—especially to the Jewish community, Aboriginals, and the various ethnic communities in the Sydney area.
- Please pray for the e-mailings, literature and DVDs being sent out from Canaan, that God will use them to bring much blessing to people.

- Pray that people will ask for the Canaan publications at their local Christian bookshops, as this helps to make the literature more widely known. Some of the things that Mother Basilea wrote prophetically more than 50 years ago have been dramatically fulfilled in the meantime, and friends are often “re-discovering” the books and finding them so relevant for today. Pray that God will continue to use Canaan’s legacy to change lives, and to help prepare the Bride of Christ.
- Please remember our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted in many of the countries we serve. We thank the Lord that our internet ministry enables us to have contact with many of them. They are so grateful for the contact, prayer support and literature when it can be sent safely or read online.
- Pray for all of us here at Canaan as we seek to put the Lord first and to be obedient to His leadings. Since our time and strength are limited, pray that we will always know what God wants us to take on and what He would have us say no to, especially moving forward when restrictions lift.
- Pray for continuing protection, strength, wisdom, and unity for everyone at Canaan, and also for the wider fellowship groups of Canaan.
- Please continue to pray for Sister Theophania, who is living in residential care off Canaan.
- Most of all, we pray that as Sisters and Friends of Canaan we will all love our Lord Jesus more day by day, helping to extend His kingdom and prepare His Bride.

JESUS,

You are my one and all.

*I want to talk with You
and work for You.*

*I want to think over everything
with You and make all my decisions
with You.*

*Nothing shall be done without You.
Bind me tightly to You,
so that I constantly live in Your
holy presence:
for You are there!*

MB