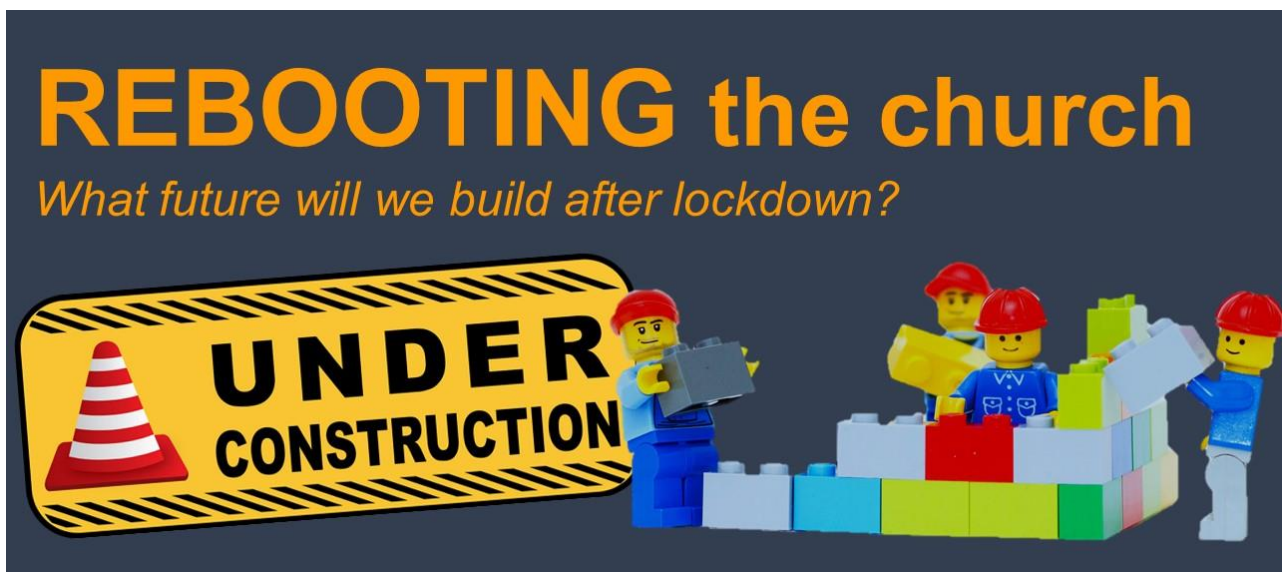


Clarence Park Baptist Church

Question for Week following service 1st August 2021



A PRAYING CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4 & Acts 62:1-7

Preparation

1. Watch the sermon from the church YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/HaSWoMVhTNg>
2. Read the passages on the next page and reflect on the questions before meeting with the rest of the group to explore your journeys together

Group Study

- Begin with a time of prayer – asking God to help you learn something new

1 Timothy 2: 1-4 New International Version - UK

Instructions on worship

2 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Acts 6:1-7 New International Version - UK

The choosing of the seven

6 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.'

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

New International Version - UK (NIVUK)
Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV® Copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.](#)® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Questions for discussion

Reflect and share your experiences together using the following questions.

Take time at the end to ask what is God teaching you this week to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus?

1. **Is there anything from the readings or message this week that stood out to you?**

2. **In his message Steve said about prayer:**

- 1) That corporate prayer ought to have the same priority as good preaching and teaching if we are to grow as a healthy church.
- 2) That Praying together is a vital key to opening God's presence and work among people.

Do you agree with these statements? Explain.

3. **How easy do you find personal prayer?** Is this your same experience for corporate prayer? Can you expound on this for the group?

4. **Thinking on corporate prayer:**

- a) What is a barrier for you in corporate prayer?
- b) On a scale of 1 to 10 how good is CPBC at corporate prayer?
- c) What can be done to help our church be a praying church?

Please ask someone in your group to share your ideas and thoughts with the church leadership.

5. **Have there been occasions when you have seen God break into situations in an amazing way because of prayer?** Why not share that story with the group.

6. **Do you think we have an expectancy when we come in prayer for God to be at work?** Explain.

7. **Discuss how each of the following can be a barrier to seeing prayer answered.**

- a) **Prayer with a wrong motive cannot be effective.** We learn this from James 4:3, and how often we pray selfishly! Only prayer which is offered for the glory of God secures His ear and His answer.
- b) **If we know of sin in our lives, prayer cannot be effective.** We learn this from Psalm 66:18. How easy it is to harbour sin! We need to pray the prayers that David prayed Psalm 139:23-24; Psalm 51:3-4, and act on 1 John 1:9.
- c) **An unforgiving spirit will hinder prayer.** We learn this from Mark 11:25-26. Is this a possible reason why our prayers for the conversion of our loved ones are not being answered?
- d) **An unwillingness to be reconciled to someone prevents prayer from being effective.** We learn this from Matthew 5:23-24. It is of little use to pray, worship, go to meetings, or engage in God's service and to expect His blessing, if we are unwilling first to be reconciled to another believer.
- e) **A wrong relationship is a barrier in prayer.** We learn this from 1 Peter 3:7. Perhaps our relationship with members of our own family is not all that it should be. According to this verse, that can be a hindrance to our prayer

How can we be accountable to one another to ensure that these barriers are not present in our own lives?

Prayer

Take some time to share prayer needs, pray for one another, for the church and for our local community before finishing with the words of the grace.