



New Year, New Dreams!

Did you know that God is speaking to you all the time, and sometimes He speaks to you through dreams?

Often dreams come just because you have been thinking a lot about an issue, and those thoughts 'create' a dream at night¹, but sometimes dreams are direct visions and thoughts put there by God for a reason. Have you had such a dream lately?

The last time I had such a dream was on Tuesday 5th December 2000 at about 3am when I was living in Lilydale. In it, I saw amongst other things the streets Murray Rd, Albert St, Plenty Rd and Darebin Creek come into my mind, and I was told to come to this area for 3 to 5 years. And so I have been here as Chaplain for 3 years now!

How can we check, however, if our dreams are really from God and not just our own imagination? For example, you may have had a dream last night about marrying a certain person, or about selling your house, or going overseas, or winning Tattsлото,

or becoming a movie star, or whatever! How can you know it is from God?

Well, a good guide is to use the principle from the Bible "let every matter be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses"². When it comes to getting a 'word from God', either in a dream, or vision, or thoughts

which come to your mind, three good confirming witnesses are:

1. A matching word from God in the Bible;
2. Peace in your heart;
3. Confirming circumstances.

Allow me to illustrate from my own experience. Concerning the above dream to come to East Preston / Reservoir:

- 1. A matching word from God in the Bible.** Every morning I normally read a

portion from the Bible, and the scheduled reading I had the morning after the dream was from Isaiah 61:1-6, in which it says in verse 6 "And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God". In fact, the whole passage is virtually a job description for what I am doing as a Chaplain!

If God is speaking to you, He will most often lead you to a passage in the Bible which will confirm your thoughts.

- 2. Peace in your heart.** After I had the dream, I woke up, and I was so happy! I knelt down on the floor and



(1) Ecclesiastes 5:3. (2) Matthew 18:16.

worshipped God, and I really was full of inner peace about the vision.

If God has revealed something to you, there normally will not be fear or doubt or a 'sinking feeling' in your heart as you honestly talk to God about it, but rather a great joy and delight, even midst a challenge.



3. Confirming circumstances. The day after I had the dream, I decided to drive in to East Preston and have a look around the area. I parked my car opposite Northland, and began to walk the streets. The first person I met was an older lady, and I said that I was here thinking about starting up a church in the area. She replied that that would be really good because there was no church here, and that the area really needed a church! Talk about confirming circumstances! And I had many more confirming circumstances and encouraging words from godly friends and leaders from my church which have all shown me that the dream was from God, and not just my own imagination.

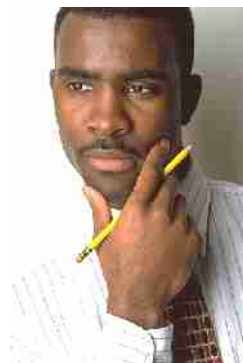
If God is speaking to you, the circumstances you are in will most likely match, including affirmation from godly influences in your life.

In the Bible it is written: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit

on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy."³

God is speaking to you this year! He wants to guide you in the way you should go⁴. As it says in Psalm 23: "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."

If you are not yet a Christian, that is, a committed follower of Jesus, the first thing God wants you to do is open up your heart to God, turn from your sins, and believe in Jesus. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life⁵. You will never find rest for your soul until you believe and put your trust in Jesus!⁶ He is the source of Living Water⁷. He is the Bread of Life⁸. He can satisfy your deepest needs!



But if you have put your trust in Jesus, you are now a child of God, you are a servant of God, and God has special plans for you!⁹ Be still, and know that God is God¹⁰. And then listen with your spirit, your inner-man, for what He might be telling you to do. And if the thoughts that come to you match the written Word of God, you have inner peace that the thoughts or decisions are right, and the circumstances are all pointing in that

(3) Acts 2:17,18. (4) Psalm 32:8,9. (5) John 14:6. (6) Matthew 11:28,29. (7) John 4:10-14. (8) John 6:48. (9) Jeremiah 29:11. (10) Psalm 46:10..

direction, GO FOR IT! Live your dreams!!

God bless you this year!

Let us pray:

*Dear Father in heaven,
Thank you that you are always wanting
to lead us in the best way to go!
Help us to be still to listen to your
voice.*

*May we not be deceived by our own
desires, or thoughts from the evil one,
but help us to do only what You want.*

*Thank you so much for your great love
for us!*

*In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen!*

My Answer

Q. Dear Chaplain, what do you think of Mark Latham's new policy platform for the Labor Party?

A. What I have noticed in Australian politics in general recently is that the Labor Party, whether consciously or not, seems to be taking up the agenda of the Church! If you have a look carefully at the social policy of Labor, say with its desire to have rogue parents attend parenting classes, and to provide mentors for boys, it sounds very much like advice from the Bible! Have a look even in our own community: the Victorian Labor government's "Community Building" program is trying to raise local consciousness and involvement with local issues so that everyone starts to feel more happy and in harmony with each other. That sounds just like Church to me!

The problem arises, however, when governments start to think that they themselves have the ability to bring

about such lasting change. Only God through Jesus Christ can change people's hearts to want to live in communal love and responsibility, and be able to live that way. Government policy and guidelines alone cannot do it. But they can provide good *platforms* which people of good faith can effectively use to truly bring about lasting changes.

So, in general I think Labor's new policy platform is commendable. Perhaps this is one way in which God is answering the prayers of people for our politicians, guiding them to make more decisions which uphold justice and righteousness and which help us to live godly lives. But let us remember that only the power and love of God can help people put the decisions genuinely into practice. I hope that all political parties will come to openly acknowledge this fact, and rely upon God's help to make Australia an even better place to be.

Laughs on us



**“Dad,” the boy asked his father,
“what’s a necessary evil?”**

**“A necessary evil is one we like
so much we don’t want to
abolish it, son.”**

News & Events

You're invited to our next

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

*a Community Church
Service for everyone!!*



- **Sunday February 15th**
(the 3rd Sunday of the month)
- **5pm - 6.15pm**
(followed by supper!)
- **Preston Nth East
Primary School Hall**

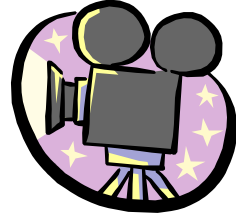


Bring your whole family!



Sullivan's Reserve Movie Night!

(Hosted by City of Darebin Leisure
Services and
Community Building Project)



Saturday 7th February 2004

**6.30pm - 7.30pm Kite Making
Workshop for kids, Vocal
Workshop & Hand Drumming
Workshop**

**Other activities include a
Sausage Sizzle, Face Painting,
& more!**

**8.30pm: the movie "Treasure
Planet" on the big screen**

(for more information, please
contact City of Darebin Leisure
Services on 9230 4305)

**Peter Kutschker
Community Chaplain, East Preston /
Reservoir (03) 8430 8574
5/3 McLennan Place, Preston, 3072**

A ministry supported by Regent Baptist Church
and LinC Northern Region