

THE VICAR WRITES

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You might have noticed that I've been speaking a lot on prayer. The repetition is intentional, as I'm addressing a matter of *utmost* importance in the life of our church. And so, to borrow the words of the apostle Peter, I would like to stir you up by way of reminder (cf. 2 Peter 1:13) to move into a higher gear in our personal and corporate prayer life this year.

Let us grow in our personal prayer life.

I urge you to set aside time daily to commune with God; spend time in prayer and keep up your Bible reading. Delight in His presence. Meditate on His Word. Listen to His voice. Develop a habit of journalling, as this can help you discern how God is speaking to you. The SAC prayer journal is now on sale in the Welcome Centre, and I encourage you to use it to enrich your devotional life!

Let us grow in our corporate prayer life.

We need to spend more time praying together, especially through our church prayer meeting. When I started going to church as a youth, we had a prayer meeting on Saturdays at 1.30pm, which some refer to as the post-lunch graveyard shift! There

were times when I felt reluctant to attend the prayer meeting, but every time that I was there, I was blessed! I felt refreshed, and the time was never wasted. Nowadays, there are still moments when I don't feel particularly enthusiastic about praying, but God has revealed Himself too many times through corporate prayer for me to doubt that something good will happen when we come together to seek His face.

Our next Prayer & Praise meeting will be held on Friday, 23 January. In faith that the turnout will be much higher than it has been in the past, we'll be moving the meeting from the Prayer Halls to the Cathedral New Sanctuary, and I hope that the change of venue will be permanent! We'll commence the meeting at 7.14pm. This peculiar start time was inspired by 2 Chronicles 7:14, which reads: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." This verse instructs us regarding the importance of prayer and the posture we must take as we come before God. I pray that it will convict you to come and be part of our church's "engine room"!

Charles Spurgeon astutely said: "I know of no better thermometer to your spiritual temperature than this, the measure of the intensity of your prayer." May our prayer life, both personal and corporate, be indicative of hearts that are truly on fire for God!

