

## Points For Prayer

*Please pray with us for the following:*

- Pray for the Carle's work with the Portsmouth AC Church— that it will prosper.
- Pray for Michael Day and the Church meeting in his home in New Jersey.
- Pray that in all our churches worship and prayer will become a lifestyle rather than a weekly event.
- Pray that people will sense the Presence of God among us and will be drawn to believe and to worship Him.
- Pray for Carl Josephson, his family and his church as he battles cancer. Pray for a miracle.

Thanks and God Bless,  
David Burge (on behalf of ACCONZ)



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## Greetings

Greetings faithful prayer supporters. Having returned from the USA I want to share some highlights of my time away.

## Trip to USA

Garry Schache and I were privileged to attend the Triennial Session of the Advent Christian General Conference of America on behalf of the Conditional Immortality Association, ACCONZ and ACMissionZ. This was my third Triennial Session and Garry's first. The Conference was held at the Founders Inn, Virginia Beach, Virginia but our first stop (other than airports) was in Maine to stay a few days with the Carle family.

It seems only yesterday the Carle's were in New Zealand labouring alongside us, yet the Carle's children, Ryan and Emily, are both married, Peter is a young man now. Russell and Noelle are grandparents! We thank God for the time they spent among us - and pray their current work will prosper.

Russell now pastors the Portsmouth Advent Christian Church. Garry (Worship leading) and I (Preaching) took the service there Sunday morning, June 19. It was a blessing to us both. Tim (Russell's son in law) was moved by the service (and others also). We were encouraged to hear him say so. In the evening we did a Mission presentation on our NZ work. Folk from surrounding AC Churches attended this evening. We made a number of new friends.

After a few days with the Carle's we began our journey of around 600 miles to

Virginia. Russell, Garry and I, with our luggage, crammed into a VW Beetle. Staying over night with Russell's brother Barry and his wife Joannie in Connecticut, we set out early for New York. We experienced Central Park, the Empire State Building and "Ground Zero" as well as a New York Traffic jamb.

Our second overnight stay was in a New Jersey motel. We met up with Michael Day, an Advent Christian with no AC Church nearby. He felt called to begin one so now a church meets in his home. What an encouragement to talk and pray over our church planting efforts! Pray God will prosper Michael's efforts also.

The Advent Christian General Conference began for us on the evening of Thursday, June 23, with the Women's Home & Foreign Mission Society banquet to which - along with Grant Aldridge (ACMissionZ Missionary to the Philippines) and other international delegates - Garry and I were invited. On Friday we had opportunity to attend a seminar entitled "Growing a Healthy Church". Another inspiring seminar was on "Natural Church Development." Meeting with AC conference leaders from India, Philippines, Kenya, Malawi, and Africa, with missionaries Earl & Martha Wright, and Jeff & Penny Vann, as well as hundreds of leaders from AC churches and ministries from all over the USA was inspiring in itself.

A day and a half Mentoring Session followed the Conference for overseas guests. During this session we heard teaching on a number of topics important to the AC work around the world. The day before we left Michael and Pam Gardner (Pastoring Hilltop Advent Christian Church, Missouri) took us on a tour of America's largest Naval base nearby. Michael is an Army Chaplain (LTC), but he didn't have to pull rank to get us on the tour. On July 03 we began our journey home. It took until July 05 to make it back to NZ!

## Prayer & God's Presence

One of the speakers at the Conference was Dr. Terry Teykl, formerly a United Methodist pastor, now a member of America's National Prayer Committee and founder of Texas-based Renewal Ministries. He spoke about The Presence-Based Church. That is, a Church that seeks to know the presence of God rather than please people. Both Garry and I came away with a renewed hunger to know God as expressed through worship and prayer.

What happens on Sunday morning is the tip of the iceberg, an expression of all that goes on throughout the week under the surface. We want our churches to be like Mary (Luke 10:38-42), sitting at the feet of Jesus or like the Levites who served in the temple night and day, worshipping the Presence of the Lord. We want to rediscover worship as a lifestyle - not an event that happens for an hour or so once a week. Pray for us as we move in this direction!

Moses said the Presence of God with Israel was what distinguished them from all the other peoples of the earth (Exodus 33:15-16). The sense of the Presence of God among them as the early church gathered caused the inquiring unbeliever to fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!" (1Cor. 14:24-25). O that people looking for spiritual reality will be drawn, not by our programs or personalities, but by a sense of the Presence of God among us. Pray with us for this also.

## Prayer for a Friend

We ask that you remember our friend, Carl Josephson. Carl has been editor of the CI Association newsletter and Pastor of Owairaka Baptist Church. Carl has been diagnosed with lung cancer and a tumour. The cancer has reached his liver. He has been given only a few months to live. He, his family, and his church would appreciate your prayers for him. Pray that Carl will feel God's comfort and presence - and pray for a miracle.