

YNOT

May, 2009

The Greater West Youth

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T live generously
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OT seek Him
OT share your faith
OT pursue holiness
OT walk humbly
YNOT be the change
YNOT want more
YNOT expect the impossible
YNOT follow Him
YNOT obey radically
YNOT pray
YNOT dare to dream
YNOT take the next step
YNOT walk the talk
YNOT act justly
YNOT love mercy
YNOT unite
YNOT be salt
YNOT be light
God





words words words -Hamlet

Our Divisional Youth Leader asks you to reconsider your choice of words..

Psalm 47:2 "For the Lord Most High is awesome. He is the great King of all the earth."

Today we hear the word "awesome" used to describe so many things eg "Did you see that awesome catch?", That person was awesome. This meal is awesome etc etc

The urban dictionary defines "awesome" as being totally cool. According to a survey I read, the word awesome is one of three words that is used the most in sentences today. Everything great is labelled as "awesome".

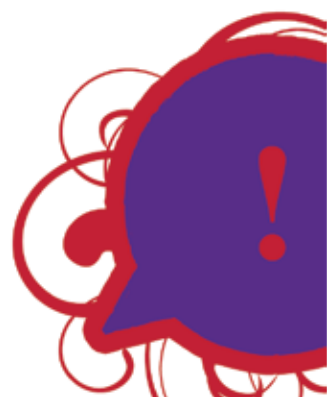
Many times, however, the word awesome is misused. This word should really be reserved for God alone. It needs to be set apart for the One who is like no other and whom can never be repeated.

Isaiah 40:12 describes the awesomeness of God with these questions: "Who else has held the oceans in his hands? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale? The first sentence in the Bible speaks of God's awesomeness: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." What more do you need?

There are amazing things that we see happen during our life, great catches, great people but all of them have been repeated in some way, shape or form. Only God has been unrepeated. There is no one like our God (1Samuel 2:2). So when you are doing things or seeing things this coming week, call it what it is, but don't call it awesome unless it is about God. Work on reserving that word for the only One worthy of its acclaim.

Gods Best to you and may you continue serving our Awesome God who is worthy of our praise.

Trevor



GATHER. UNITE. PRAY.

connect

1 Samuel 3:10

See You at the Pole
May 21st 2009



Australian High School students united in prayer.

www.syatpaustralia.com

I was reading in the word this week Colossians 4:2.... it says "*Devote yourself to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart*"

The first part of the verse really struck me.... "Devote yourself to prayer with an alert mind". It made me think on my own life - am I living in my own 'head space' thinking about me and my needs when praying OR is my mind also alert to struggles my not-yet saved AND saved friends are facing.... If I actually take time to sit and listen to what is going on in their life, I can pray for them so much more effectively - I can pray for them with a mind that is 'alert' to the things they are facing!

I want to ask you the question - are you alert to the things around you?

Are you alert to what's going on in your High School?

Are you alert to the things your friends are struggling with?

What is it you can pray for in your High School?

I want to encourage you legends, take time over the next couple of weeks to 'alert' yourself of how you can pray for your High School?


THEN

On May 21st - meet at your School flagpole (along with 1000's of Christians around Australia) and pray for your High School.... Pray with an alert mind!

See you at the pole!

Matt Gluyas





Harry Golden is a 16 year old follower of Jesus who attends Auburn Corps. He enjoys playing the guitar and drums, cricket, food, sleep and is an amateur song writer. We caught up with Harry to see what makes him tick.

OPEN MIC

AFTER SCHOOL AND SLEEP, HOW DO YOU SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME?

Eating and playing guitar =]. After a bad day at school or whatever, coming home I just play and it helps me to put everything out of my mind so I can focus on the good things like God and friends. It's a means of escape for me, a way I can express myself without feeling silly or unheard.

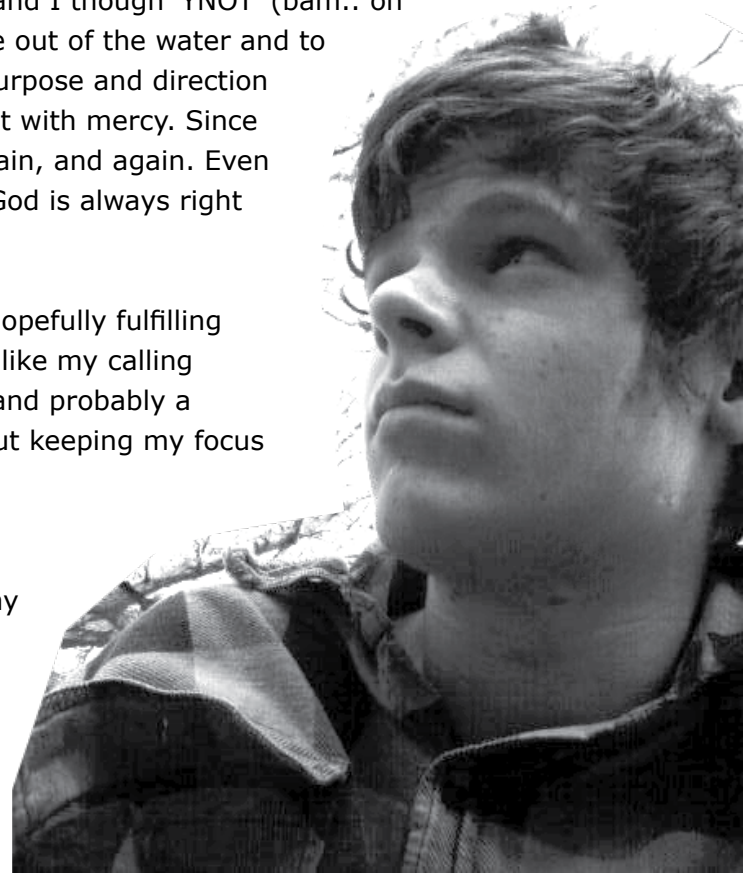
WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT?

What really gets me fired up for Jesus is seeing all the lost people in the world. Whether it's my mates at school, family, or even walking down the streets seeing the homeless and the gangs just wasting their life away, searching for life in all the wrong places. It breaks my heart to know where they are heading and it stirs me to action, so I guess that would be evangelism =].

HOW DID YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN? I was born into a Christian family.. grew up in the church scene, but it was always just a lie to me. Growing up I was looking to be the cool kid, you know, to be accepted and popular. I wanted to feel loved. So I started looking for it, but in all the wrong places. By the age of thirteen I was in such a deep hole of mistakes and I felt as though there was nothing else left to try. But in the summer of 07 I got invited to go to this "rock band conference" (Planetshakers.. Oh yerr..) with the guys at Christian Fellowship Centre, and I though 'YNOT' (bam.. oh yeah..=P). But little did I know that God would blow me out of the water and to new life. The chains came of and I could for once see purpose and direction in my life. God had lifted me out of that hole and filled it with mercy. Since then God just keeps on blowing me out of the water again, and again. Even though trouble sometimes shows up and it feels hard, God is always right there to save again with his loving arms of grace.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE IN TEN YEARS? Hopefully fulfilling God's plan for my life. (I know how cliché). I really feel like my calling lies in music so, playing guitar in a band of some sort, and probably a worship songwriter/composer, I really feel strongly about keeping my focus completely on Him.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE NEXT MONTH? Spiritually I would really like to align my heart to God's in a more intimate way. (Did that make sense? =]. But just to get more involved with my corps in terms of music, and cell groups and stuff. A new guitar would also be nice. =]





UNLEASHED 09

On the 4-5th of April, 150 young people from across The Greater West Division congregated at Parramatta for the Division's 2009 Youth Councils: Unleashed. It was a time of passionate worship and fellowship where lives were transformed by the power of God's love. The weekend featured Captain Janice Rees and Lt. Col. Miriam Gluyas. We heard from the youth of Hawkesbury who attended the weekend. Their stories are amazing!

Kim said: I wanted to mention to you though how much God is living and working in me and how much Saturday night meant to me. As I mentioned at Fairfield the other week, I suffer from incredible anxiety, and travelling for me the past few years has been something that I've struggled with and something that has put so much strain on my family, my youth ministry (as I haven't been able to take them places) and mostly my marriage.

On a good note, since about October last year I've slowly, completely with Christ started to move forward. I've started to go right out of my comfort zone...like right out of it and I'm feeling great. In our worship time, in fact from the moment we started on Sat night, I started crying (coz I'm a woman). I literally felt the chains fall off and what a wonderful feeling it was.

For so long I've been a slave to my anxiety and taken everyone with me, finally I feel free. Daniel and I went on Sat night because the people we took hadn't experienced the Salvo's like that and we wanted them to. Not for one second did I think or Dan think that we, or more specifically I, would be freed from anything, least of all my anxiety, SO PRAISE GOD.

Although I know I have a long way to go I really can see a future now that doesn't include me hearing about what wonderful things are happening in our community but seeing them and being part of them.

Joanne said: I'm glad I went to Youth Councils, I haven't been in a few years as I've been running from a few problems and hearing Janice speak really helped me see that.

Sophie said: I had a fun night, the worship was so passionate, there was so much focus on God, God honouring! I felt closer to God and it deepened my desire for God. Although I'm still struggling with a few things, PRAISE GOD, HE'S AWESOME!

Daniel said: The experience I felt as I watched my wife fall down and break free of something that has held onto her, mine and my children's life was unspeakable, God is amazing and there's not a day that goes by that I don't thank him for the new found happiness we have and the freedom he has given us. Thank you my God!

Jaye had a great time he loved doing the worm and on the Sunday in my announcements I got him up in front of the entire Church and got him to do the worm across our platform. He is now known as the worm boy!

After we left Youth Councils we went and had some Maccas. Everyone felt enthusiastic and pumped for God, it was a great atmosphere. Praise God ay!

Top 5 Local Salvo Websites:

1. salvos.org.au/more This is the Salvos Australian Eastern Territory youth website. Articles (they call them blogs) by various youth leaders from around the Territory are always solid and relevant. Plus there are stories from youth from around the Territory, upcoming events and enough random stuff to accompany you through many an evening of procrastination. Updates: almost daily.

2. salvos.org.au/edify If you're interested in doing an Edify Gap Year or S.T.U.M.P mission trip to inner Sydney, then this will be your first port of call. Sometimes there's info on other justice-y events too. Updates: when there's something to report.

3. salvos.org.au/winteroasis All you need to know about the Winter Oasis youth sleepout and how you can be involved, plus information on youth homelessness and the issues surrounding it. Updates: more regularly as the event approaches.

4. sexyjustice.com.au Edify's blog, spearheaded by Nath Moulds. "Confront. Renew. Empower." is their tagline, and they do just that through challenging, justice themed articles by justice types (but then shouldn't we all be justice types? But that's a soapbox for another day) from Sydney and around the world. Prepare to be made uncomfortable. Updates: at least weekly.

5. missionteam.salvos.org.au All of the information you could possibly need on upcoming mission trips as well as updates on trips already in progress. You can sign up for prayer updates on specific mission trips. Updates: whenever there's a trip to talk about.

And some other stuff you might be interested in..

alove.co.uk The Salvation Army UK's youth movement. This website, in my humble opinion, is a stellar example of what a good youth website should look like. Plenty of articles, podcasts, individual and group bible study resources, and more. Updates: at least once a week.

soulpurpose.co.nz The website for New Zealand's largest faith-based youth culture magazine, this website is boss when it comes to lifestyle articles and stories that tackle stuff young people actually want to know about. Plenty of content so you won't get bored. Updated: a couple of times a week, I think..



WINTER OASIS
THE SALVATION ARMY

SLEEPING OUT FOR YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Right now there are more than 32,000 young Australians without a place to call home. This is an emergency!
Over the June long weekend in the dead of winter young people across the nation will be sleeping out in support of Australia's homeless youth. Will you be joining us?
To find a Winter Oasis sleep out in your state, and to learn more about the issue of youth homelessness, check out the website: salvos.org.au/winteroasis.
Talk is cheap. Let's take action and do something about this!


an **uprising** event

salvos.org.au/winteroasis



BIBLICAL JUSTICE. PARTICIPATE OR SPECTATE?

 <http://salvos.org.au/edify>

“A DEEP SOCIAL CONSCIENCE AND A LIFE Poured out in deeds of service to others and especially the poor is the inevitable sign of real faith and a real connection to God.”

WHY DO WE THINK engaging with the poor, the needy, the oppressed and those on the margins of society is an option and not a biblical mandate?

At EDIFY, we believe that we should all play our part in involving our lives serving those less fortunate than ourselves. But don't just take our word for it. Visit our website to find out what Biblical Justice is all about.

SALVOS.ORG.AU/EDIFY