# PRIORITISING PRAYER



FAIRFIELD VISION 2014

Tim Goodall 5 January 2014



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#### Where we're going...



- R What do we mean by prioritising prayer?
- <sup>™</sup> Why prioritise prayer?
- Real How do we at Fairfield prioritise prayer?

#### Philip Yancey



'I write as a pilgrim, not an expert ... before beginning this book I mostly avoided the topic of prayer out of guilt and a sense of inferiority.'

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PRIORITISING
PRAYER:
What do we mean?



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### What do we mean by prioritising prayer?

≈2 examples:
≈Eric Harmer
≈Beccy Manley Pippert

Theory vs. practice

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## What do we mean by prioritising prayer?

- Bridging the gap between theory & practice
- Making sure we are talking to and listening to God in all we do at Fairfield

### What do we mean by prioritising prayer?

Richard Foster:

'We today yearn for prayer and hide from prayer. We are attracted to it and repelled by it. We believe prayer is something we should do, even something we want to do; but it seems as if a chasm stands between us and actually praying.'

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PRIORITISING PRAYER: Why?

Affect of the same

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#### Why prioritise prayer?

- Real It's thoroughly Biblical
- R The Psalms:

  - Demands to be saved (6:3-4)

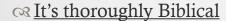
  - Anger, outrage, bitterness (137)

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#### Why prioritise prayer?

- Real's letters:
  - 1 Thess. 5:16-18 pray continually
  - Romans 12:12 be faithful in prayer.
  - ⇔ Eph. 5:20 always give thanks to God in everything
  - € Eph. 6:18 pray in the Spirit on all occasions
  - Col. 4:2 − devote yourselves to prayer
  - 1 Tim. 2:1 prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made
  - 1 Tim. 2:8 lift up holy hands in prayer
- Philippians 4

#### Why prioritise prayer?



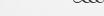
□ Jesus' teaching:

○ Our Father

Relationship, not technique

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#### Why prioritise prayer?



- If we don't, we drift
- Without communication with God, there's no relationship with God.
- At Fairfield, we don't want to ignore God!
- But, good news!

## PRIORITISING PRAYER: How do we do it?



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#### How do we prioritise prayer?

- 2. Prayer sermon series:
  - What is prayer & how does it work?
  - ™ How do I pray?

  - Representation and accountability
  - ™ Intercessory prayer
  - What about unanswered prayer?
  - Worship & thanksgiving

#### How do we prioritise prayer?



- 1. Collective prayer times:
  - ™ Sunday morning 9.30am in room 4
  - ™ Thursday morning 9.15am in small hall
  - ™ Monthly House of Prayer:Fairfield:
    - Whole day prayer Tuesday 21 January

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#### How do we prioritise prayer?



- 3. Prayer ministry team

  - Open to all
  - Opportunity to respond to God each week
- 4. Illuminate
  - ™ Monthly on Sunday evening
  - Space to let God's Spirit work
  - Real Prayer ministry always available

#### How do we prioritise prayer?



- 7. Sunday services

  Results Always a part of our time together

## PRIORITISING PRAYER



Much going on...
...ultimately down to you & I.

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