To all Ministers and Session Clerks,

As advised in my last communication I foreshadowed a call to corporate prayer, including prayer points, concerning the current Court case before the Supreme Court of Queensland. Our desire remains that the short devotional reflection provided below, along with the associated prayer points, will provide a resource for the Church, and especially your congregation, as we prayerfully await the judgement of the Court.

Devotional reflection

There are life situations that cause us concern, even anxiety. I understand that our current situation under receivership has stirred up these emotions in many of us. There are different responses to these situations and one of the responses shown us in the Bible, particularly in the Psalms, is lament.
Lament in our modern context is usually a passionate expression of grief, most often born out of regret. While this is partially correct, we need to understand the context of biblical lament. Lament in the scripture is sharing our anxiety, grief, regret and even complaint to the God we know is immeasurably good and most importantly, loves us and hears us.

I remember some years ago, when the iron curtain came down in Europe, reading the sad case of little ones and toddlers in institutionalised orphanages in Romania. These little ones didn't cry out for food or any help because they had no relationship with their carers, who they knew wouldn't respond in any way....
Conversely, we have a heavenly Father who cares deeply for us and can be depended upon to hear us and respond.

Here is an example of some process steps to biblical Lament ....

1. Direct your conversation to God.
2. Describe your anxiety, grief, regret and even complaint to Him.
3. Depend on Jesus for your help.
4. Diligently live in the knowledge of God's faithfulness, and trust in His perfect character for the best outcome for you.

While psalms like Psalm 13 or 22, are excellent examples of lament, I would also direct you to Psalm 40 and some New Testament passages as a further pattern of response to our anxious circumstances.

1 Peter 5 v6 and 7

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."

Psalm 40:17
"As for me, I am poor and needy,
but the Lord takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer.
do not delay, O my God!"

Philippians 4 4-7
"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard you r hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for our Letters Patent Office Bearers, other Church office bearers and Assembly members who have shouldered much of the stress and workload of this situation, particularly in the earlier stages of the Court Appoint Receivership and the period leading up to it.
- Pray that the PCQ would remain resolute regarding our responsibility to Preach, Teach, Disciple and Share the Good News of Jesus (the Gospel)
- Pray for and thank God for our Court Appointed Receivers as they work to "Preserve and Maintain" the church under their Court appointed care.
- Pray that we would be humble in our approach to any Court decision handed down, and that we would rely on God's wisdom to navigate our steps following the decision.
- Pray for our legal advisors as they await the outcome of the case and prepare for any future developments.
- Pray that post receivership, the PCQ would be in the best position to reach more Queenslanders for the Gospel.

Peter Eckersley
Moderator-Elect
18 November 2024