

The Body of Christ

An interview with Greg Beros Councillor of Ward 1 Richmond Hill

Last month's article 'Who's Flock?' discussed Christians working together, beginning with Jesus' prayer that his followers might be "brought to complete unity".

To provide us with a glimpse of what Jesus might expect from his bride-to-be, I spoke with Greg Beros about 'The Annual Richmond Hill Mayor's Prayer Breakfast', an ecumenical event he helps organize.

Greg explained: "Former Mayor Bell contacted the churches and said 'I'd like to do a prayer breakfast, would you guys organize it?' They were all 'wow, we've been called to the mayor's office to organize a Christian prayer breakfast, of course we will', and there it started. We have scripture that says to pay your taxes and to submit to the government.

We're not just praying for the Mayor, but for the councillors and elected officials in Richmond Hill and York Region. The current Mayor Barrow fully supports what we are doing."

"In the early days it was (a lot of) knocking on doors and sitting with pastors and saying 'we need you to help make it happen' – but as soon as the face to face stopped, the participation stopped."

Greg wondered how to keep Christians actively praying together and proposed the idea for a more permanent structure, a website called 'Pray For Them'. "Prayforthem.ca is an opportunity to bring these churches together, but not just at the pastor level. It's creating an opportunity for the layperson to get plugged in. Part of the vision is to categorize

incoming prayer requests so people can sign up and say 'I want to be a prayer warrior, I have a passion for Missions', those prayer requests go to him. Someone else has a heart for sick kids so that's where those requests go."

Regarding the future of cooperation between churches, Greg ventured: "Denominational boundaries might not break down, but we may end up with a lot of ladders. We will still meet once a year for corporate prayer, but we can continue to pray together all year long, no boundaries between denominations, just sharing and praying together."

But where to draw the line? Greg recalled an illustration: "Imagine a dartboard with the bulls-eye 'Christ died on the cross and shed his blood, and because of that selfless act

we can have eternal life'. As the rings go out, one ring may say 'we only use the King James bible' – but who cares? It's not the bulls-eye; it's not the Primary Purpose, but if someone tries to put the KJV into the bulls-eye, that's a problem. Types of worship might be another example: Brethrens have no musical instruments in worship, but if that's how they worship, praise the Lord. If any church agrees with the Primary Purpose, we fellowship."

www.ecclesiact.com

www.evangelicalchristian.ca/2008-10#33

John 17:22

Rev 19:7-8

www.greberos.com

www.prayforthem.ca

Mark 12:17

1 Peter 2:13-17

1 Timothy 2:1-4



Martin Francis

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