



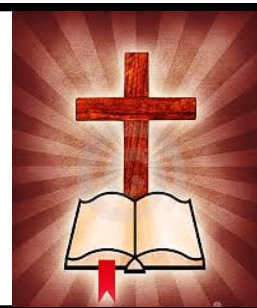
THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Emerald/Fernlees Uniting Church

Cnr. Borilla & Yamala Sts., Emerald

www.emeraldunitingchurch.org.au

17TH AUGUST to 24TH AUGUST



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Mission Statement

As Followers of Christ we seek to know Him: worship Him and share His love with all people

Regular Meetings

3rd Tuesday:

Church Council/
Worship & Pastoral Care Meeting
at the Church office

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-

"BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING, 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 YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS."



Word For Today

PRAYER AND YOUR RETICULAR ACTIVATING SYSTEM (RAS)

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.' James 5:16 NIV

To understand how prayer is powerful and effective, look at it from a neurological perspective. At the base of our brain lies a cluster of nerves called the **reticular activating system (RAS)**, which monitors our environment. We are constantly bombarded with countless stimuli vying for our attention, and it is the job of the RAS to determine what gets noticed and what goes unnoticed. For example, you download a new ringtone for your mobile phone. You're sure that you've never heard it before. But after downloading it, it seems like everybody else has the same ringtone. It's not that lots of people went out and downloaded it when you did. It's the simple fact that when you downloaded that ringtone, it created a category in your RAS. That ringtone went unnoticed by you before you downloaded it because it wasn't important to you. Once you downloaded the ringtone, the RAS recognised it as relevant.

Prayer works that way. When you pray for someone or something, it creates a category in your reticular activating system. And now you notice *everything* related to those prayers. A pastor writes: 'Have you ever noticed that when you pray, coincidences happen? And when you don't, they don't? It's more than coincidence, it's providence. Prayer creates divine opportunities. But prayer also sanctifies the reticular activating system and enables us to see the God-ordained opportunities that are all around us all the time. And once we see them, we have to activate our faith and seize them.' Prayer is the portal to God's kingdom and through which His blessings flow to us. **So, pray each day.**

