

It is time to dream again

Ellenor Lotter

Yes, you read right. It is time to dream with God, about the future we want to see, for our city and the children in it.

I am reminded of the lyrics to a song that stuck with me... "May our homes be filled with dancing, may our streets be filled with joy, may injustice bow to Jesus as the people turn to pray."

Call me an unrealistic dreamer!

I am speaking about the possibility of looking at our school systems from a different vantage point.

It is very easy for us to point out what has been going wrong within Educational System and exactly who is to blame, but this is not the point of this conversation today.

Would you allow me to suggest a different narrative in which we as a community of fathers and mothers, grandparents and so many more, take hands and start moving forward using a different strategy.

A divine strategy.

A strategy in which we are moved with compassion, not only for the next generation but also for the people that we trust to lead them.

There is a way in which we can be involved in the schools of our city, a way in which we can 'serve' our schools and in effect our children.

It's so easy for us to be bystanders because we 'have done our part' raising our own children, but our responsibilities are captured in the old African proverb: "it takes a village to raise a child"

I want to suggest to you that we take James, the brother of Jesus seriously when he writes to us in James 5:16 ... "*The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available – dynamic in its working*" (Amplified Bible).

Maybe the plea of my heart goes out to the elderly [and a very valuable] part of our community, whose children finished school years ago.

You have a history with God. A history of walking with Him in a way that has allowed you to keep the faith and to pray with such authority, because you have seen what God can do when you trust Him.

You have what it takes to impact these young ones with the love of God, through your prayers!

Maybe this plea goes out to the mothers who have the opportunity to drop the kids off at school and who could make a plan to pray with other mothers for 20 minutes? After at least 18 years of being involved in prayer at different schools in our beautiful city, I can truly testify that I was strengthened and encouraged in the process.

We have to understand that prayer is actually an invitation to fight alongside the God of the Universe, the God Who loves to partner with us in bringing change, restoring what has been lost and bringing hope to a hopeless generation.

The good news is we do not have to re-invent the wheel!

For many years there has been a movement of prayer within our schools on a weekly basis called Mothers Who Care.

This movement started spreading throughout not only our country, but in fact all over the world.

Under the auspices of Campus Crusade for Christ here in South Africa, this movement has gained momentum over the years with provincial coordinators in all our provinces.

The reality is that many people have lost hope in the fact that God can and wants to use them to make a difference within their communities.

So, this is a very personal and heartfelt invitation to you, reading this article, to look around you.

Where is a school in your area?

Do they have a prayer group that meets in the school on a regular basis?

How can I help you to get started by praying in that school?

Again, there is an invitation to each one of us, to believe the Word of God where the account is recorded of Jesus speaking to His disciples and telling them in Matthew 18:19-20 *"For wherever two or three are gathered (drawn together as My followers) in (into) My name, there I AM in the midst of them."* Amplified Bible.

As Christians we are called to be Salt and Light in our communities.

More than ever before, I believe we have an opportunity to help facilitate the change we want to see, not only in our communities but especially within our schools.

In fact, this dream can have such far reaching effect that it can go way beyond the boundaries of our community.

How is it that we can still speak about such "fluffy stuff" like dreaming when we face adversity staring us in the eye and breathing its mildew smelling breath down our necks?

We can be part of the solution.

We can dream big with God about our city, our children and our future... stand with us as we build a wall of prayer around our city, around our schools, impacting this generation and the next, as well as the teachers leading them.

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Mothers Who Care