

Lord Mayor's Breakfast

Blessing Upon the Future Leaders of Our City - by Joseph Skaf

My prayer this morning is for the future leaders of our city. I'd like to invite the students in this room to stand up, to represent the next generation of men and women who will lead this city for us in the not so distant future.

Jackie Fisher, was a British Admiral of the Fleet known for modernising the Royal Navy with a structure that was capable of meeting Germany during First world war.

One day, a young cadet, greatly daring, wrote Lord Fisher [a] letter on behalf of [the] junior officers in his gunroom to this effect: "My Lord, you were once a cadet like ourselves; and now you are at the head of our profession. Can you tell us how you did it?"

[Fisher responded,] "Get a *vision* of the great thing you want to accomplish. Get a *plan* of the way in which you hope to achieve it. Be prepared to *battle* for it. *Pray* earnestly to God to give you the victory."¹

Lord Fisher's advice remains current. Do you have a vision for our city? A movie clip of the future that plays in your mind and makes you smile? Makes your heartbeat accelerate with joy and a sense of urgency?

God promised through the prophet Joel, in the 7th century BC, that it would come a day where young men and women, like yourselves, would be given visions and dreams that would inspire them to fulfil God's plan for mankind, for their families, for their cities.

This vision is a gift from God. Do you have a Vision of God's glory, of God's incomparable beauty to be reflected in this city?

Do you see and dream of a city whose architecture and landscapes are a reflection of God's own beauty and magnificence?

Do you see and dream of a smart city that reflects God's own wisdom and intelligent design?

¹ Source: Christian World Digest (Winter 1946).

Thursday, 3 June 2021

Do you see and dream of an ever inclusive city that reflects God's own Grace and accessibility toward mankind?

Do you see and dream of a city of creative Industries that reflects God's own creative power? Of a sustainable city that reflects God's care for His creation? Of A healthier city, that reflects God's love and mercy for mankind? Of a more just and equitable city that reflects God's righteousness and justice? A city filled with educational opportunities, that reflects God's wisdom? Do you see and dream of a safer city, that reflects God's strength and protection over His people? Or of a city abounding with world-changing jobs, that reflects God's desire of dignity and productivity for his Creation?

Do you see and dream of a spiritually revived city that will bring God's blessings not only to every household of Newcastle, but that will spread His influence beyond the borders of our town, state and even our country?

Do you have a vision, and a dream for this city? Because God does, and it's glorious, and he wants to infuse it in you, O future leader's of our city.

Let's pray:

Almighty Father, Holder of the Vision of the Universe, I pray that you grant the future leaders of our city a glimpse into your own incomparable beauty and be inspired with visions and dreams of how your glory can be reflected in our city, for it's wellbeing and perfect peace and prosperity, both material and spiritual. Instruct them about the plans on how to get there, and strengthen their hands to fight for that vision, as they earnestly come to you every day in prayer and supplications that your glory will be seen and felt by all the inhabitants of this city so dear to your heart. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.