
March 2004
Issue 1

The Next Step



What's in a Name?

What is this newsletter all about?

Recently a number of people have become dissatisfied with the direction their church is taking and as a result have resigned their membership, withdrawn from active involvement, reduced their church related activities or in some other way made known their disagreement with the church's actions. Others are likely to follow suit. Such actions are being repeated in numerous churches around the country, although news of such protests is being kept very quiet.

Many of us who have believed it necessary to leave the place we have made our spiritual home, have felt, and expressed, the need for some form of fellowship where we can support each other and worship together while we look to God for our future direction. This may take the form of a support group that operates only for as long as it takes each of us to find a new church to which we believe God is leading us. It may become the basis for a new permanent congregation. As yet none of us really know. What we DO know, is that God is not the source of the problems we have faced. God still cares for us and watches over us. He is still fully deserving of all the praise and worship we can give Him. He has a plan for each of us.

It is very easy to lose sight of God and to lose contact with others at times such as we are currently experiencing. This publication is an attempt to keep us all in touch with each other and to encourage us all by sharing information on what is happening so we can participate in the excitement of discovering what God has in the future for us.

I picked the name "The Next Step" because I am sure that there is a next step, it is just that I'm not sure where that next step will take us. That next step is going to be an adventure, it will be a step into the unknown, BUT God will be with us as we take it and also the steps that follow.

Ian Denton

Options

Several options are being considered for our fledgling support group.

We could meet for worship together on Sunday afternoons / evenings using a home, hall or church. (Campbell Gospel Chapel is a possible venue). An afternoon meeting would have the advantage of allowing those who wished to worship elsewhere or to go 'church shopping' to do so while still participating in our group. We believe we could get some ministerial support from ministers who share our concerns about the church.

The group could be an encouragement group that meets on a social basis for mutual support while our spiritual needs would be met by participation in worship services at churches of our own choosing. Some people might choose not to meet as part of a group but welcome being kept informed of what is going on and being supported in prayer.

Perhaps we could, as a group, find a new church where we could all worship.

Initially our group is likely to consist of mainly ex-Reid people, but could grow if people from other congregations who share our concerns wish to join us.

Ian Denton

Getting Started

While we do want to keep in touch and support each other, there are some practical difficulties to overcome.

Not everyone knows just who else feels strongly about the issues that are a major concern to us. We have nothing to hide, in fact our actions have been quite a public statement of what we believe, so if we discover others who are interested in what we are doing, feel free to pass on what information there is to them. If they wish to participate they are welcome to do so.

Easter is drawing near and some people are likely to be away from Canberra before, during and just after Easter. This could disrupt communication between us to some extent for a few weeks. If you don't hear anything for a while, don't assume everything has collapsed in a heap. Instead think of us all being refreshed for the challenges ahead as we meet with family and friends and celebrate Easter with them.

ICD

Have your Say!

We are all very much feeling our way at the moment. There are a few ideas being floated, but there is certainly room for more. If you have a suggestion as to how we should proceed, please let someone know so your idea can be considered.

ICD

Difficult Times

I'm sure all of us are still adjusting to our new circumstances church-wise and would appreciate the prayers of others. Others who also need prayer are those friends we have left behind. While some don't see things as we do, others may. There are also a good number who believe their place is at Reid as it has been their 'home' over many years and their age precludes them from searching out a new 'home'. They are likely to face difficult times too.

We all need to pray for each other, for the resolution of problems facing the church and for the future witness of God's people wherever they are and wherever they worship.

ICD

Reforming Alliance Service

On Sunday afternoon, 21 March, a service was held at Tuggeranong Uniting Church for people interested in the Reforming Alliance. Between 50 and 60 people attended and 11 different congregations were represented.



After a time of praise we heard a testimony from one of the men from Tuggeranong then Rev. Ron Peters preached on 'Transformations'. His points were:

1. God is a transforming God – he loves us as we are but too much to leave us that way.
2. We should revisit scripture and look for God's message in it.
3. God revitalises our spirits.
4. We should recommit to evangelism.
5. We should revalue unity and holiness.
6. We should reassure each other of our blessings.

We all left the service encouraged.

ICD

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