

---

April / May 2004  
Issue 2

# The Next Step



---

## Stepping Forward

As predicted, April was a busy time with some people out of town visiting relatives and / or friends, while others were occupied in catering for the needs of visitors to Canberra. Many were just caught up in general busy-ness; coping with easter, ANZAC Day and the various demands of everyday life.

Amongst all this rush and bustle there has been some thought and tentative steps towards determining what God wants of us and how he is leading us forward.

While we don't have a definitive answer concerning future directions, we have seen God's presence in many little events of the past few weeks.

God has been with us and we can be confident He will stay with us no matter what circumstances we face.

Ian Denton

---

## Getting Together

One goal of our 'encouragement group' was to support each other as we look to the future. This is rather hard to do if we each go our own way and never meet up. To get around this problem, the Bradburys are inviting us to their home 118 Vasey Crescent, Campbell on **Sunday 9 May 2004 at 6-00pm** for a pot luck dinner. While this is primarily a time to get together and chat over a meal, we may break out some hymn books and exercise the vocal chords as well.

It will also allow us to share ideas and gain a better picture of what our options are and if / when / where and for what purpose we should meet up again.

ICD

---

## Wendy & Bill

It was a pleasure to join Wendy and Bill Jensen at their new church (Woden Valley Christian & Missionary Alliance at Warramanga) on the occasion of them being welcomed into membership (Sunday 18 April). Others receiving membership that day included Rev. Warwick Brain and his wife plus a few others who until recently worshipped at Weston Creek Uniting Church.

Wendy and Bill's gifts are already being put to good use in God's service at Warramanga including through music and youth work.

ICD

---

## Sickness

Unfortunately Ian Hall has recently been ill and required a short stay in hospital.

During this worrying time, Ian and Joyce have been given much care and support from the Gungahlin Presbyterian Church where they have been worshipping recently.

ICD

---

---

## Rev. Abraham Tang

Many of us have met Rev. Abraham Tang who ministered to the Canberra Chinese Methodist congregation and has taken a service at Reid.

As part of the process of feeling our way forward, Howard and Ruth Bradbury have mentioned the current circumstances and various ways of progressing to Abraham. In response he indicated a willingness to assist by sometimes taking a service **IF** that is the way we believe God is taking us.

ICD

---

## Campbell Gospel Chapel

Recently several of us have attended worship at Campbell Gospel Chapel (an Open Brethren congregation). We have also enquired concerning the possibility of using their building for meetings of our own.

They have been very welcoming and would be happy for us to meet there, although due to other commitments we would need to meet at 5pm or later should we go there.

Another difficulty would be insurance. It seems all groups need to have insurance cover for accidents, and insurance cover is expensive. This would be a problem wherever we met unless it was in a private home.

ICD

---

## Praying

Sometimes it seems as if we are alone in making a stand against what we believe to be wrong and the direction the Uniting Church is taking. This is not so!

Around the country thousands of people are making known what they believe to be right and voting with their feet. Many of God's people from other denominations are also very concerned and are offering support and prayer. In the last week I have been reminded of the concerned interest of people from outside the Uniting Church and reassured by the promise of their prayers.

ICD

---

## Service at Reid

Invitations have been received in the last day or so to a **Service of Blessing and Thanksgiving** at Reid on Sunday 23 May at 9-30am. While each of us may view this service differently, I am glad that the Reid people want to recognise *'the many years of love, fellowship and service ... offered at the Reid Church in the past'* and to give the chance for *'us all to offer each other our blessing and our prayers for the future.'*

I personally am sad to have left Reid (although I'm sure it was the right thing for me to do) and will continue to pray for God's people and my friends there.

ICD

---

## Have your Say!

While some of us are still searching for new spiritual homes, others seem to have found theirs. A mutual support group may still be valuable with perhaps a fortnightly afternoon service. Is that what you want?

If you have a suggestion as to how we should proceed, please let someone know so your idea can be considered.

ICD

---

## **Contacts**

Howard & Ruth Bradbury  
118 Vasey Crescent  
Campbell 2612  
A.C.T.

Bradburys  
02 62489574

Ian Denton  
02 62487953

TNS editor : Ian Denton – e-mail : iand@naa.gov.au