

June 2006
Issue 18

The Next Step

REFORMING
ALLIANCE

Within the Uniting Church in Australia

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)



SECOND ANNIVERSARY SERVICE: DARE TO BE A DANIEL

28th May, 2006, Rev. Ray Hughes (64 attended)

Rev. Ray Hughes told us about Daniel, who was taken to Babylon as a prisoner from Jerusalem. He learned the tongue of the Chaldeans and God gave Daniel the gift of interpreting dreams. Daniel focussed his eyes on God and He blessed Daniel.



Ray asked all of us a direct question "Why are you here worshipping in this place? - You have left the church where you were baptised because you could not accept the sexuality ethics of the UCA. You have honoured the Word of God."



Daniel influenced others and they really stood out. They wouldn't bow down and worship the king and foreign gods. As a result Daniel was

thrown into the lions' den because he put his trust in God, and God saved Daniel from the lions.

Ray reminded us that we are under the authority of the scriptures as stated in the Basis of Union of the UCA. We formed this Canberra Christian Fellowship two years ago and we have been greatly blessed by God, and we must keep our eyes on Him.

This was a great service at which the Korean Choir sang for us. We finished the service with the rousing hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" followed by the benediction.

Howard Bradbury

We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

GOD'S GREAT KING

11th June, Rev. Paul Dudley, Bible reading Psalm 2

Paul Dudley preached on Psalm 1 for us last year on his first visit to us. For his second visit on 11 June he preached on Psalm 2, so there is plenty of scope for him to come back again, since there are 150 Psalms.



Paul Dudley

Paul gave us a very simple childrens talk based on two apparently similar potted irises, but one turned out to be rootless. Our lives need to be rooted in the Bible.

Back around 1000 BC when Psalm 2 was written, the psalmist saw great plotting and scheming and battles going on between the kings of the time. How like the strife at the present time. How foolish. Why is it foolish? Because there is a great God who will dispose of everything. God laughs at their scheming against Him.

In Psalm 2 we read that a king will come in David's line. The King is God's son and He will rule the world with an iron sceptre and the blessed will take refuge in Him. At the time of God's choosing, Jesus came. In Mark 1:11 we read that, after his baptism by John, a voice came from heaven "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased". All the nations (the Jewish authorities and Pilate) conspired against Him and He was crucified, but God raised Him on the third day and He is first in the Kingdom. Christ will come again. Jesus is our Great King. Come Lord Jesus and rule the world the way it should be!

Howard Bradbury

Lifting Your Sights (Colossians 4:2-6)

25th June, 2006, Rev. David McDonald

People become focussed. Newly weds focus on each other and others become 'background' people. A new baby demands attention and so the parents tend to focus on the baby and its needs. This is not necessarily bad but we must retain a wider view of the world as well. Churches too can become focussed and inward looking – set in their ways. Church provides fellowship with God and with each other, but the Church exists not just for members but for non-members as well.

In our prayers we should be concerned with the things of God but also with the needs of those about us. Wisdom comes from knowing and living out the will of God.

The way we live matters. Our lives are lived in the view of society. People will notice the good or the wrong we do. We should try and make a difference using the time we have. We should seize all opportunities we have to do good.

People will question why we believe what we believe. Our lifestyles will be noticed and make a difference. David gave an example from his own experience. A young man came to him and declared he wanted to become a christian. He didn't know what a christian was, he just knew that the christians in the residences where he was shared a lifestyle and outlook on life he wanted. David helped him learn what it meant to be a christian and the young man enthusiastically embraced the christian faith.

People in general believe that 'being good' gets you to heaven. In fact the gospel (or good news) of Christ is a message of rescue for people who are bad. All of us need rescuing. We can never be good enough.

In talking with people about our faith, how we answer is more important than what we say.

ID

A Meal and a Meeting

On Wednesday evening 28 June a number of our fellowship met at Bradbury's for what turned out to be a delicious meal followed by a meeting to discuss our way forward.

There was much good conversation around the meal table. I was seated with Ted Dennis, Marie Allen and Dominica Lorimer and by the end of the meal I felt I had got to know each of them so much better.

Our main topic of discussion in the meeting was frequency of services. Many people felt the need for us to move to having a service every week. This need is felt particularly with the closure of Reid Uniting as some who were still worshipping there will now only be worshipping with us but they still want a service each week. With the UCA Assembly only weeks away and the potential of more people leaving the UCA depending on what happens there, we felt having weekly services would make us better able to offer a welcoming church home for any who might wish to join us.

We decided to recommend commencing weekly services from the start of August. If anyone wishes to contribute any ideas or thoughts concerning service frequency, please make your ideas known so they can be considered, otherwise we will go weekly in August. We do still have to confirm availability of the chapel.

Music was discussed. We have been well served by June McPhan. She also plays at other services and so we were concerned not to overload her. There may be other people who can help by playing at some services and if we are without a musician, we felt we could sing along with music tapes.

We discussed copyright and agreed to buy a licence which will allow us to use some more modern hymns in our worship.

Advertising is a concern. We briefly discussed ways we might make ourselves more widely know in the community. Dominica suggested an internet website and we will look into creating one. Dominica also suggested we should produce a short statement that outlines our beliefs and style of service so people interested in us can come to us with some knowledge of what to expect. She will draft something for us.

Insurance is something that must be considered these days. We are currently under the Campbell Gospel Chapel umbrella. As we move to more services we need to reexamine this more closely to make sure we have the appropriate cover.

ID

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

A very dirty little fellow came in from playing in the yard and asked his mother, "Who am I?" Ready to play the game she said, "I don't know! Who are you?" "WOW!" cried the child. "Mrs. Johnson was right! She said I was so dirty, my own mother wouldn't recognize me!"

Coming Up

Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at the Gospel Chapel

All welcome - contact Joyce Hall (6241 2085) for more information

Discussion Group

Fridays at 2-15 pm at the Gospel Chapel

Discussing "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren

All welcome - contact Ted Dennis (62593487) for more information

Services

Sunday 9 July 2006 at 5 pm – Dr. Howard Bradbury

Sunday 23 July 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Dr. Ross Kingham

Sunday 30 July 2006 at 5 pm – Pizza tea / Fellowship time

Sunday 6 August 2006 at 5 pm – to be advised

Sunday 13 August 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Abraham Tang

Sunday 20 August 2006 at 5 pm – to be advised

Sunday 27 August 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Ray Hughes

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