

July - September 2006
Issue 19

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Instrument for Noble Purposes

27th August, 2006, Rev. Kevin Kim

A new minister, Rev. Kevin Kim, has recently come to the Canberra Korean Uniting Church and he was our guest preacher on 27th August. Kevin likes to “bring a song” to congregations he visits and so he sang “*He Touched Me*” for us. The Korean choir also attended and their music made a wonderful contribution to our service as well.



Kevin began his sermon with a story of 3 trees that dreamed of the great things their wood would be used for: valuable, finely made pieces of furniture; strong and

reliable timbers for great ships; and strong materials used in important structures. One tree was used for furniture, but only as a humble manger animals ate from; one was fashioned into a simple fishermen's boat; and one became roughly hewn logs for use as needed. The trees would have been disappointed, yet they were used in ways that gave each of them an important role: the baby Jesus was placed in the manger; Jesus and His disciples used the boat as they fished and as they travelled across Lake Gallilee; and the logs became the cross on which Jesus was crucified.

What do you want to be in God's plan? People want to be used by God dramatically, but it is not our decision. It is totally God's decision how He will use us. We are His instruments.

God uses those who are near to Him. We should seek to come as close to God as we can. As we become closer to God, we will become more useful to Him and be used more by Him.

God prefers clean vessels. Just as we like to use clean plates for our food, God wants us to be clean for His use. We should cleanse ourselves, asking God for His forgiveness for those things that dirty our lives.

God requires empty vessels. If we are filled with our earthly baggage, there will be no room for the Spirit to fill us with the things of God. We need to be available.

We need to 'Let God be God' and recognise our place as His people.

ID

Beetles

On Saturday 22nd July, about twenty of us got together for a night of fun and friendship. We met at Bradburys' about 7pm and all joined in the fast moving game of "beetles"! It was fast moving, as we sat four to a table and the 1st person to complete their artistic drawing, called "beetle" after shaking the correct numbers from their die – 6 for a body, 5 for a head, etc.. The winner on each table then received a chocolate bar prize (courtesy of Valda) and then moved on to the next table.

It was a great time - a lot of fun and we all got to know each other a lot better.

RMB

Worship! Why Bother? (John 6: 24-35)

23th July, 2006, Rev. Dr. Ross Kingham

Why do we come to worship? We come out of devotion to Jesus.

At the front of some older churches was written a text "Sir, we would see Jesus" (John 12: 21). This was a challenge to all preachers that their message was to show Jesus to all. We go to Jesus to refresh our souls.

In the Bible reading (John 6: 24-35) we see that people were impressed with His powers, but they didn't come for the right reasons. They were wanting more bread. Have we come for the right reasons? Do we give homage to Jesus? Jesus is the bread of life.

A communion service followed Ross's sermon.

JHB

Weekly Services

For some time, a number of our congregation have felt a need for services every Sunday. As a result, a decision was made to move to weekly services and the decision was implemented from the first Sunday in August.

Our experience so far has suggested the right decision was made. Attendances have remained good and a number of positive comments have been made. More services means more preparation and more preachers however our needs have been supplied.

Moving forward in faith may sometimes feel like a step into the unknown, but God is watching over us and will go with us. We should always be ready to take the opportunities He offers, do the tasks He asks of us and reap the rewards He provides.

ID

Children's Talks

It is wonderful to have a number of children at most of our services. In order to make the services a little more friendly to them we have begun having a children's talk each week. Ray Hughes has led the way with a couple of attention grabbing scientific experiments and others have also provided messages that both catch the attention and teach a worthwhile lesson.

Sometimes sermons can become a little dry for younger minds, so we are also providing puzzle or colouring sheets for the kids to work on if they wish while the sermon is preached.

ID

Pussycat, Pussycat

Children's Talk 6-8-2006 – Dr. E. Dennis

In the Children's talk, we heard the story of a pussycat that went to visit the Queen.

'Pussycat, pussycat,
Where have you been?'
'I've been to London to visit the Queen.'
'Pussycat, pussycat,
What did you there?'
'I frightened a little mouse under her chair.'

Dr. Dennis said the pussycat had the chance to do and see all sorts of different and interesting things in London but chose to just do the same as at home – frighten a mouse.

He said God gives us lots of chances to learn and do different and interesting things. He said we should take the chances God gives us.

Rachel & ID

Lord, Revive Me (Isaiah 6: 1-8)
13th August, 2006, Rev. Abraham Tang

In the Bible reading, it is clear that Isaiah saw that the people really didn't follow God – only with their lips.

The Holy God took away the guilt and the sin of Isaiah. God revived Isaiah.

God is the Almighty God high above and everywhere and yet He is here with us and He cares about us. Love makes the relationship good. We must fix our eyes on Him.

John Wesley encouraged miners and the other ordinary people to embrace scriptural holiness. Wesley believed strongly in personal salvation and an assurance that God has saved us through the death of Jesus.

May God revive us as we follow Him.

JHB

Rocket Balloon
Children's Talk 20-8-2006 – Rev. Ray Hughes

Goal

To hit a target with a balloon

Experiment 1

What you need:

Balloon

- Blow up the balloon
- Aim the balloon at the target
- Let go of the balloon
- See where it goes

Observation

Most of the time the balloon misses the target.

Conclusion

The balloon is a good engine but it needs a guidance system to make it go to the target.

Experiment 2

What you need:

Balloon

Long string

Straw

Sticky tape

- Put the string through the straw
- Take the string from the launch site to the target and hold tightly
- Blow up the balloon
- Sticky tape the balloon securely to the straw so it is aimed at the target
- Let go of the balloon
- See where it goes

Observation

The balloon follows the string to the target.

Conclusion

The straw and string guide the balloon along.

Rev. Hughes did the experiment with just the balloon and was surprised because it hit the pulpit (the target) and he didn't expect it to. He told us that it usually misses. The balloon did actually do a couple of loop the loops before it hit.

Next he got the string and we took it across the front of the church. When he let go of the balloon that was stuck to the straw on the string, the balloon went across the church following the string.

Rev. Hughes explained that to make things go the way they should, they need something to help them go the right way. The balloon had a string that guided it.

We have something that helps us live the right way. The Bible helps us know the way God wants us to live.

Rachel & ID

Moments of Celebration (Isaiah 25: 6-9, John 11: 32-44)

20th August, 2006, Rev. Ray Hughes

In the reading from Isaiah, we read about a feast given by God at Mt. Zion (Jerusalem). It is a great banquet for all people. and we are told that He will swallow up death forever. This is God's supreme act of compassion. He is our God. This is the God who gave His Son.

Moments of celebration nourish our lives. Without them we are busy, busy people. Every church service is good. At church we celebrate God's greatness and what He has done for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and give Him praise and worship. Church creates a safe space. We are saved by grace. We can be filled with the spirit of the Lord.

JHB

Friday Study

For a few months a small group has been meeting on Fridays for discussion using the book "The Purpose Driven Life" as a guide. Last friday the group started to work through a new book "How To Give Away Your Faith".

If you would like to join this group you would be most welcome. It meets at 2-15pm each Friday.

Looking forward to Christmas

Christmas is still nearly 4 months away, however planning is already well underway for our Christmas activities.

In both of the last 2 years, we have held special multicultural Christmas services which have attracted particularly good congregations. We will hold another of these services this year on 10th December.

It was a thrill for us to recently receive an invitation to join the Crossroads people, a week after our service, for their Family Carol Service which will be held at Stage 88 in Commonwealth Park. That will be led by Rev. Paul Dudley who we are getting to know fairly well from his visits to us. 17th December – put it in your diary.

Coming Up

Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at the chapel, 17 Chauvel St., Campbell
All welcome - contact Joyce Hall (6241 2085) for more information

Discussion Group

Fridays at 2-15 pm at the chapel, 17 Chauvel St., Campbell
Discussing "How To Give Away Your Faith"
All welcome - contact Ted Dennis (62593487) for more information

Services

Sunday 3 September 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Warwick Brain (Communion)
Sunday 10 September 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Ron Peters
Sunday 17 September 2006 at 5 pm – Dr. E. Dennis
Sunday 24 September 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan
Sunday 1 October 2006 at 5 pm – Chaplain Rev. Phil Anderson
Sunday 8 October 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Ray Hughes
Sunday 15 October 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Jim Midgley
Sunday 22 October 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. David McDonald
Sunday 29 October 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Peter Nelson
Sunday 5 November 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Warwick Brain
Sunday 12 November 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Ray Hughes
Sunday 19 November 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Paul Dudley
Sunday 26 November 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Matthew Bolte
Sunday 3 December 2006 at 5 pm – Rev. Ron Peters
**Sunday 10 December 2006 at 5 pm – Multicultural Carol Service,
Rev. Abraham Tang**
**Sunday 17 December 2006 – Crossroads Family Carol Service
Stage 88, Commonwealth Park, Rev. Paul Dudley**

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