
May – October 2007
Issue 24

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Website

After a couple of months of being all but complete, our Canberra Christian Fellowship website went live back in early June. The address is

<http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

In addition to the website, we have also set up an e-mail address for our Fellowship. This will be checked regularly and any e-mail for the Fellowship can be sent or forwarded there.

canberracf@yahoo.com.au

Not content with getting organised in cyberspace, a Post Office box has been obtained for ordinary mail. That address is

Canberra Christian Fellowship

P.O. Box 184

Campbell 2612

A.C.T.

Children's Talks

I know this is creeping into ancient history now, but earlier this year we had several memorable children's talks which deserve a second thought.

We had a visit from Bruce the camel on Sunday, 1 July when Paul Dudley was preaching. Bruce came looking for Paul who had disappeared. He was wanting his water bottle and was concerned he might have been forgotten.

When Paul turned up moments later just after Bruce had left, he explained God is always looking out for us and doesn't ever abandon us.

Ted Dennis introduced us to measuring things. He told us about a number of different units of measurement and how they were measured and came into use. A cubit, we discovered, is the distance between your elbow and the tip of your fingers. We pondered the problem of trying to make something that had parts to fit together when everyone had different arm lengths and so measured cubits of different sizes. A standard length cubit was needed.

Just as we need standards for measuring things, we need standards for living, rather than making up our own rules as we go. God has provided those standards and we can find them in the Bible.

ID



Denis & Coral Lee with Doreen & Rev. Perry Smith after the service at which Perry preached (Sunday 22nd April)
Perry married Denis and Coral 40 years ago in June

Open our eyes Lord

20 May 2007 – Rev. Abraham Tang

Rev. Abraham Tang preached on the subject “Open our eyes Jesus” based on the account of the two men who met Jesus as they walked on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-45). We too, need to open our eyes to the wonderful Jesus, whose coming was predicted and announced by all the prophets from Moses onwards, and who lived on this earth and died on the cross that our sins may be forgiven and who came back to life and lives now.

The service included a communion service.

JHB

Canberra Christian Fellowship Third Anniversary Service

27 May 2007 – Rev. David McDonald

This was a very good service with 60 people present and the Fijian Methodist members and choir present. The singing of the hymns was greatly augmented by our Fijian visitors and their choir gave us a musical item. David McDonald gave us a very thought provoking and important message - “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” based on Prov 1: 7.

JHB

The Gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)

3 June 2007 – Week after Pentecost – Dr. E. Dennis

Pentecost is 50 days after the Jewish Passover Festival and was the Jewish “Festival of Weeks” – the Jewish Harvest Festival.

The Spirit of God has existed from the beginning (Gen 1:2 talks about the “Spirit of God”). Jesus (the Word) was also present from the beginning (John 1).

Man was made in the image of God so we are spiritual beings.

At Pentecost ALL were filled with the Holy Spirit, all the apostles and all the women.

They all spoke in the different languages of the Jews gathered from all over the Roman Empire; declaring the wonders of God in these diverse languages. What a wonderful witness to the assembled Jews from everywhere. This was the birth of the Church.

There is much evidence of the Holy Spirit throughout the Acts and the Letters as the young church became established.

The gifts of the Spirit such as prophecy, healing, tongues, etc. are special gifts given only very sparingly. By contrast the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22) are in all of us – the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. All believers are given the Holy Spirit, but ‘I don’t always see it in me’. We often ignore or perhaps repress our natural response which is to follow the Holy Spirit.

JHB

Orkney Islands

Those with good memories will remember that at the start of this year, Vince, Dominica and Antoinette left us for some weeks to attend to some matters needing attention in the Orkney Islands, just north of mainland Scotland (see map).

On their return, our fellowship shared an interesting evening (and delicious pot luck meal) with Vince and Dominica who told us just about all there is to know about the Orkneys. We learned about the history, the industry, the geography, the culture, the climate, the wildlife and many more aspects of the islands.

Now who will be the next person to travel to somewhere we’d all like to learn more about?

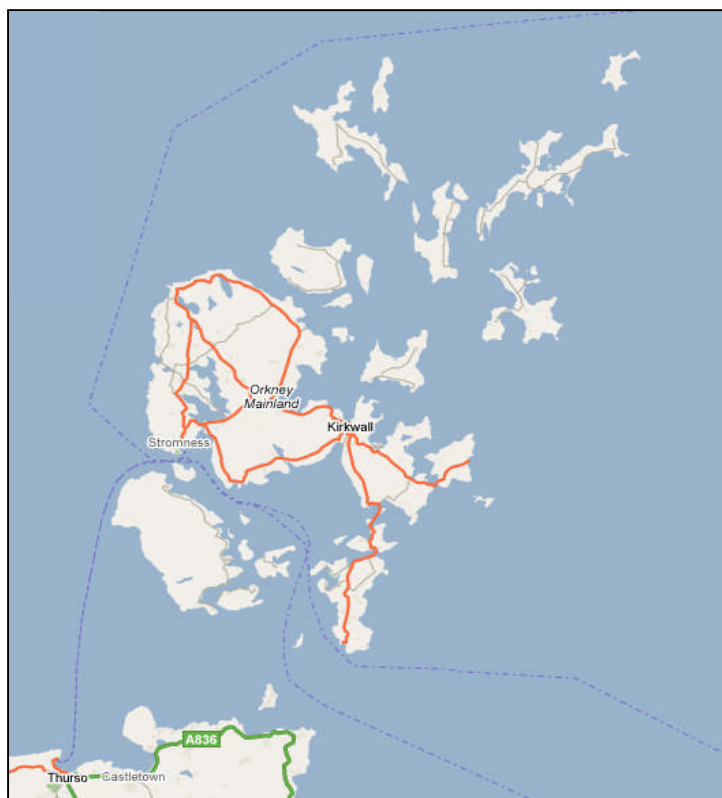
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A happy evening was spent on Friday 8th June when about 21 of us gathered at Bradburys’ for a “pot luck meal” followed by a talk from Vince and Dominica on the Orkney Islands.

We all enjoyed a sumptuous meal of tasty casseroles and delicious desserts followed by a very interesting illustrated talk on the history of the Orkney Islands. Dominica first told us about the various islands and places in the Orkneys, then Vince led us through the history of the islands from the earliest time they were settled. We heard of villages lost which had been re-discovered, stone circles, burial chambers, the arrival of the Vikings and other very early settlers from Norway and elsewhere, right up to the present day settlements.

It was a very interesting and happy evening and we were all pleased to have been able to take part

RB



Who needs a Saviour?

17 June 2007 - Bible Society Service – Mr. Zane Edwards

The Bible Society service was a really great service with Zane singing and playing guitar, his wife Rosalee playing the piano and singing and Julie, who came with them, singing a solo. They gave us two special items. Rosalee gave the children's talk and Zane preached on the subject "Who needs a saviour?"

He told us how his son had said one evening in his prayer time that he didn't need to pray that night because he had not done anything wrong that day. There are many people today who are like that. The person at the greatest risk is the one who doesn't think that he/she is in danger.

But we know that no one is righteous (Rom 3:10) and that we continuously fall short of the glory of God. It is an acknowledgment that we can't fix it, yet in the world people these days think that they can fix everything. The essence of the Good News is that Jesus, by bearing our sins, "fixed it".

In China Bibles were basically banned, but now they are printed there. Zane also showed us a ZVOX that has biblical passages in Cambodian and are distributed in Cambodia. It is great for the many people who are illiterate, because they can hear the Word of God.

JHB

Indonesia

On 1st July, Jillian Purdey was with us while holidaying back home from her job teaching in Indonesia.

She shared with us a little of what her church in Indonesia is doing to help some of the poorer people there. There are a number of people who have made their homes under a freeway bridge due to the lack of anywhere else they can go. The church people visit them regularly. During recent floods most of the under bridge dwellers lost most of the little they had and were for a time homeless. The church continued to visit, bringing food and what help they could until conditions became more normal and the people were able to resume their normal way of life.

ID



Tuesday Bible Study Group on two different occasions

Standing L to R: Ruth, Elaine, Janelle, Isobel
Sitting L to R: Claudia, Karen, Marie, Joyce

L to R: Keith, Claudia, Isobel, Wendy, Marie, Joyce

Getting Older



Recently two of our people have celebrated significant birthdays – birthdays that contain the numerals zero and eight, not necessarily in that order. On both occasions we have had an extra special post service meal to mark the milestone, however unfortunately we only have pictures to show you from the first celebration.

Congratulations Howard Bradbury and Ken McPhan.

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Heather, daughter Annette, birthday boy Howard, Valda, Joyce and Wendy enjoying a cuppa.



>>>>>
Norma, Denis (partly hidden), Maurine, Ken (your turn in just a few more weeks), Isobel, Keith, Ted (mostly hidden) and visiting preacher Mark tucking into the goodies.



“We sing ‘Make a joyful noise to the Lord’ while our faces reflect the sadness of one who has just buried a rich aunt who left everything to her pregnant hamster.”

Erma Bombeck in *A Bundle of Laughs*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books, p 215.

Our hymn singing has, on occasions, lent itself to being kindly described as ‘unpolished’. There are of course some valid reasons as to why this is so. Sometimes the music is set a fraction higher than our voices can easily adapt to and on other occasions the time since we last sang a particular hymn has left us a bit ‘rusty’.

This problem has prompted a little informal discussion. Perhaps it would be good to have a get together during the week (probably in the evening) to practice the hymns so we can sing them more confidently and more joyfully at our services. This time could be combined with Bible Study or just a social time together. **Would you be interested?**

Dominica is keen to explore the possibilities of some type of gathering, so have a chat with her and let her know what you would like and your availability.

The Good Samaritan
7 October 2007 – Mr. Allan Melmoth

After two and a half years since his last visit, we were very glad to welcome Allan Melmoth from West Wyalong Community Church back to our pulpit.

The evening's theme was set early in the service when Allan's wife Robyn spoke to the children about loving God, and the good samaritan.

Allan prefaced his sermon by warning us that he was in fact a better farmer than a public speaker. That said, he suggested that given the current state of his farm (West Wyalong is suffering badly from the drought) we should hope that he turned out to be a better public speaker than farmer.

Many pop songs suggest that "All you need is love" as did the Beatles song of that name. Popular sentiment would have us believe that love could solve all the world problems and bring peace but we just don't seem able to generate enough love. The gap between the theory of loving and the practical reality of loving is disappointing.

The first question asked of Jesus leading up to the parable of the good samaritan identified the path to eternal life as "Love[ing] the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

The man of law who had asked the question knew the theory but in asking who was his neighbour showed the shallowness of his knowledge. Jesus made it totally clear through his parable that it is not enough to know intellectually what is right but that that knowledge needs to be lived.

It can be easy to interpret 'love your neighbour' as 'don't do anyone any harm'. This was the attitude held by the priest and levite. They didn't add to the harm done to the unfortunate traveller, but they didn't help either. Their sin was one of omission. Another wrong attitude is 'charity begins at home', applying love selectively to those you know or like. This is not enough.

The Good Samaritan story tells us we should love everyone and help as we are able. Jesus turned the parable message from a story into fact by loving us, by helping us in our time of need (dying to provide for our salvation) and providing for our ongoing needs (sending the Holy Spirit to us).

Jesus wants us to love one another as He loved us.

Our thanks go to Allan for the message he brought to us and it was a pleasure to have him, Robyn his wife, Robyn's mother, two of their sons and a family friend with us for the evening. Our prayers are also with all the people of West Wyalong and other drought affected areas as they cope with the many difficulties that drought brings.

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PS Allan and son Luke were planning to make the return journey to West Wyalong by bicycle.

Waratahs and more Waratahs

While in a gardening mood, one of our fellowship picked up an Open Gardens brochure from a garden centre and from that beginning a few days later a small group of our fellowship folk headed off to Robertson for two days of visiting gardens.

The first garden was old and well established, one particular point of interest being multitudes of bonsai trees. We came away with a number of plants from the hostess.

Garden two was a new (less than 4 years old) normal house garden with plenty of colour and an enviable vege patch.

The next place we saw was different again. Large, open and sprinkled with home made sculptures (the lady is preparing for an Exhibition at the Sydney Botanical Gardens), the highlight for me was the bower bird bower hidden away in one corner of the garden with all its blue treasures gathered to impress the lady bower birds.

Day two began with a short walk to Robertson Common and the Robertson Heritage Railway Station. Waratahs were everywhere. We couldn't help but be impressed by the magnificence of these plants with their lovely big red (and a few white) flowers.

We lingered for a cuppa at our first garden for the day – a normal home with colourful plantings all round the house.



Ruth, Howard, Maurine, Joyce, Ian, Ian and Valda.



"The Moorings" was next, - a large garden surrounding a house and part of a much larger working farm. This garden was very well developed with an amazing variety of plants grouped together around lawns, a small pool and the driveways. My practical mind enjoyed the beauty of it all but the work needed to create and maintain such a garden niggled at me and has persuaded me not to attempt anything on that scale just yet. My planter box of petunias will have to suffice as my garden for now.

Finally we visited the Castle. While it had some rare and interesting plants, it was the castle itself and its contents that caught our interest. The owner invited us in to see the place he and his partner had built themselves. It was chock full of antique furniture and items of beauty – quite a place and you can stay there if you wish – it is a B&B.

ID

Operation Christmas Child

At our 6th May service we were given information on Operation Christmas Child where gift shoeboxes filled with a range of items are distributed to children in less fortunate circumstances by Samaritans' Purse. Norma Hockridge offered to coordinate our contributions.



Above: Valda, Ann, Marie, Ailsa, Maurine and June at the shoebox packing day

Left: Dominica packing a shoebox

Since then many boxes have been filled, a box packing day held at Norma's and the boxes from our fellowship (approaching 50) dedicated at the 14th October service.

Still to come is a lunch when we can view the filling of boxes at St. Paul's Ginninderra Anglican Church, Spence.

Thank you Norma for your enthusiasm and for getting us all mobilised to help with this worthwhile work.



We can imagine the smiles on so many faces as the shoeboxes are distributed. Those smiles are a wonderful reward. ID

Left: Norma about to dedicate the shoeboxes including those that (L to R) Rachel, Mandi, Antoinette and Shannai have just brought forward.

Below: Some of the shoeboxes assembled by our fellowship.





After our 14th October 2007 service at which our Fijian friends came and sang for us

L to R: Roma, Valda, Mandi, Dominica, Rachel (totally hidden), Miriona, Vince, Paul, Coral, Norma, Laurie, Ann, Ted, Natasha, Norma, Denis, Eddy, Maurine, Antoinette, Vula, Joyce, Ian (mostly hidden), Rai, Amini, Shannai, Howard, Ian. Photographer: Ruth.
Missing when the photo was taken: Ailsa

Money can buy medicine but it cannot buy health,
It can buy a house but not a home,
It can buy companionship but not friendship,
It can buy entertainment but not happiness,
It can buy food but not an appetite,
It can buy a bed but it cannot buy sleep,
It can buy a crucifix but not a Saviour,
It can buy a good life but not eternal life.

From *A Box of Delights*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books, p 123.

Sunday, 2nd December at 5pm

Multicultural Christmas Carol Service

CAMPBELL PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL
location

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 2-00 pm at the chapel, 17 Chauvel St., Campbell
Currently discussing Ephesians
All welcome - contact Ted Dennis (62593487) for more information

Services

Sunday **21st October** at 5pm - **Mrs. Joyce Hall**
Sunday **28th October** at 5pm - **Mr. Geoff Mason (Scripture Union)**
Sunday **4th November** at 5pm – **Mr. Laurie Hockridge**
Sunday **11th November** at 5pm - **Rev. Paul Dudley**
Sunday **18th November** at 5pm - **Mr. Allan Windley (Christian Blind Mission)**
Sunday **25th November** at 5pm – **Rev. Kevin Kim**

**Sunday 2nd December at 5pm - Multicultural Christmas Carol Service
(at CAMPBELL PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL)**

Sunday **9th December** at 5pm - **Rev. Ron Peters**
Sunday **16th December** at 5pm - **Dr. E. Dennis**

Contacts

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