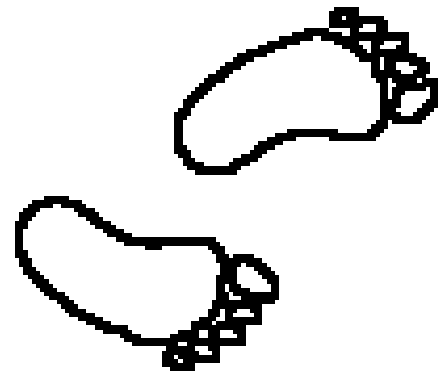


December 2008
Issue 29

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

**5th Annual
Multicultural Carol Service**

ALL WELCOME Sunday, 7 December 2008
5-00 pm
Campbell Primary School Hall
Chauvel Street,
Campbell

With Aboriginal, Austral-Asian, Chinese,
Fijian, Indonesian, Korean,
Papua New Guinean and
Tongan contributions

Refreshments
after
the service

Organised by the
Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the METHODIST tradition)

www.canberracf.org.au

*Canberra Christian Fellowship
in the Methodist tradition*

*5th Multicultural
Christmas Carol
Service*

*7th December 2008
at Campbell Primary School*

This year the carols attracted a crowd we estimated at 320 - 330. It was a joy to have so many come to remember and celebrate Jesus' birth.

Unfortunately our Tongan friends were unable to come at the last minute and their attempts to let us know failed. We will catch up with them early next year.

While attempting to publicise the carols, we made contact with a Samoan Methodist lady and it was great that a good number of their group joined us. We will have the chance to get to know them better before too long.

Rev. Peter Nelson spoke about names, pointing out that Joseph was told to give the baby the name Jesus, which means saviour. Jesus was also known as Immanuel, meaning God with us. Unlike some people who don't live up to their names or nicknames, Jesus did. He is the saviour of the people and is truly God with us.

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Left: The Welcome (Howard)

Below: The Musicians



Right: The Austral-Asian Choir





Left: The Prayer (Rev. Abraham Tang)

Below: The Papua New Guinea Choir



Below: The Chinese Methodist Choir and the congregation





Above: The Chinese Methodist Choir



Left: The Bible reading (Chris Sloane from The Aboriginal Church)

Below: The Fijian Methodist Choir



Right: The Message (Rev. Peter Nelson)



Below: The Indonesian Christian Choir



Above: The Reid Korean Church Choir



Above: The Congregation

Below: The Christmas Blessing
(Ian)



Below: Refreshments



Bible Studies are in recess until February 2009.

Pictured is the last Friday study group for 2008.

Left: (clockwise from closest to camera) Zacchaeus, Ted, Joy, Howard, Marie (mostly hidden), Keith, Wally, Alec.

Right: Zacchaeus, Ted, Marie, Keith, Wally, Alec.

Ian taking photos.



The Ultimate Cat Story

I was recently shown a supposedly 'true story about the pastor of ...[a] church. He had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down.

The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied a rope to his car and pulled it until the tree bent down, he could then reach up and get the kitten.

That's what he did, all the while checking his progress in the car. He then figured if he went just a little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved the car a little further forward, the rope broke.

The tree went "boing" and the kitten instantly sailed through the air – out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighbourhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. No. Nobody had seen a stray kitten.

So he prayed, "Lord, I just commit this kitten to your keeping," and went on about his business.

A few days later he was at the grocery store, and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food.

This woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, "Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?" She replied, "You won't believe this," and then told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat, but she kept refusing.

Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the Mum finally told her little girl, "Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it." She told the pastor, "I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her."

Lesson learned: Never underestimate the power of God and His unique sense of humour.'

from Family, August 2008

Rev. Peter Nelson – Grace is like the Sun – Sunday, 30-11-2008

The reading for this Sunday was Matthew 5:43-48.

We heard that God's love extends to everyone, illustrated by the sun shining on both the just and the unjust.

We, as children of God are to be like our Father.

On the cross Jesus prayed for those responsible for his suffering. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, also prayed for his persecutors as they stoned him.

It is not natural to love our enemies or those who persecute us. God can fill us with His love and enable us to do it.

The kindness God puts in us is to help lead people to repentance.

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Highlight of the Meeting

Our meeting on Wednesday, 10 December was a successful one. The pre-meeting meal was tasty, discussion in the meeting itself was constructive and a decision was made that we agreed was right for our fellowship.

The highlight however came from Maurine. She told the story of a lady travelling in a car with a friend. The lady was getting rather edgy as her friend had just driven through three red lights. Nervously she mentioned the red lights to her friend. Her friend replied "Oh, Am I driving?"

Moving Forward in Faith

After prayerful consideration of our future witness and ministry, The Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist tradition) has decided to start using **The Finnish Lutheran Church in Turner (corner of Gould and Watson Streets)** for our services and Bible Studies from the start of **February 2009**.

The Finnish people have been very friendly (It was good to see some of them at our Carols) and are happy for us to use their church. A Samoan Seventh Day Adventist group also uses the church, but as they meet on the Saturday, there will not be any clash.

Our last service at 17 Chauvel Street (on 25 January) will be one of thanksgiving for all God has provided in the first few years of our existence as a fellowship. We plan to invite members of the Gospel Chapel to join with us on that occasion.



Coming Up

Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm

Now in recess until February 2009

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

Discussion Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm

Now in recess until February 2009

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

Services



← Sunday 14th December at 5pm – Rev. Kevin Kim

Sunday 21st December at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan →



← Sunday 28th December at 5pm – Dr. E. Dennis

Sunday 4th January at 5pm – Mrs. Joyce Hall →



← Sunday 11th January at 5pm – Mr. Laurie Hockridge

Sunday 18th January at 5pm – Rev. Ron Peters →



↓ Sunday 25th January at 5pm – Dr. Howard Bradbury
Thanksgiving Service – Last at 17 Chauvel Street, Campbell

Sunday 1st February at 5pm – Rev. Bob Prior

1st Service at The Finnish Lutheran Church, Cnr. Gould and Watson Streets, Turner



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