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January – February 2009  
Issue 30

# The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

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## The Next Step

This newsletter has the name “The Next Step” because when it began there were a whole lot of us trying to determine what path to take and what step to take next in our spiritual journeys. We recognised that, trusting in God’s guidance, we needed to step forward in faith, knowing there was always that next step ahead of us.

This January / February sees us take yet another next step as we farewell 17 Chauvel Street, where we have met since our Fellowship began and commence holding services at Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church in Turner.

We take this next step confidently with a strong, shared belief that we are going to where God wants us for now.

As we move, we are also grateful to God for his provision over the last 4½ years and to the people of the Campbell Gospel Chapel who welcomed us and provided us with somewhere to meet over that time.

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## Dr. Howard Bradbury – Thanksgiving – Sunday, 25-1-2009

The focus for this service and Howard’s sermon was ‘Thanksgiving for how God has led us’.

We read in Psalm 127:1-2

“Unless the Lord builds the house,  
Its builders will have toiled in vain.  
Unless The Lord keeps watch over a city,  
In vain the watchman stands on guard.”

Howard suggested that unless God had built up our Canberra Christian Fellowship, all of us in the fellowship will have laboured in vain. He noted our support for various causes including chaplaincies, the growth in our interaction with ethnic congregations and the Multicultural Carols services and saw those things as evidence that God is indeed working through and building up our Canberra Christian Fellowship. Similarly, if our decision to move was not one prompted by God, we will achieve nothing by doing so.

Howard closed by reminding us to be joyful always, to pray continually and to always give thanks to God for who He is and what He has done for us whatever the circumstances, as we are told God wills in 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18.

During the service we took the opportunity to thank the Gospel Chapel people for their hospitality and friendship over the last few years and also to have a good sing – after all, Methodism was ‘born in song’ and we see ourselves as being ‘in the Methodist tradition’.

Refreshments, a cuppa and a few photos completed the evening.

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**Last service at Campbell – 25-1-2009**



**Four and a half years ago –  
after our first service –  
30-5-2004**

**Back L to R:** Jason, Valda, ?,  
Wendy, Howard, Warren,  
Rodney, Ted, Jack, John,  
Margaret, Ken, June (behind),  
Shirley, Carlene (mostly hidden),  
Ruth, Marie (in front), ?, Heather,  
?, Ailsa, ?, Paul (behind), Myra,  
Joyce, Ian, Pam (CGC).  
**Children in front:** ?, ?.  
**Photographer (insert):** Ian



**After our last service at Campbell - 25-1-2009**

**Back:** Warren \*, Rodney \*, Coral, June \*, Ken \*, Denis, Chris (CGC, mostly hidden), Ted \*, Jason \*, Matthew, Dawn,  
Keith (CGC), Isobel, Ian (mostly hidden) \*, Howard \*, Joyce \*, Alec, Pam (CGC) \*, Wendy \*.  
**Front:** Elaine (CGC), Shirley \*, Maurine, Dinah, Norma, Claudia (CGC), Jack \*, Ian \*.  
**Missing / insert:** Ruth (photographer) \*, Heather \*, Vince, Dominica, Antoinette + young friend.  
**CGC = from the Campbell Gospel Chapel, \* = was also at our first service at Campbell**




Joy

t h a n k   y o u

Dear Howard & my friends of Bible study.  
 I am Joy (Korean Uniting Church minister) who  
 have studied with you.  
 Unfortunately, now I have to go back to my country  
 tomorrow (11th January). The reason why I should go  
 back is my new church where is waiting for me,  
 also to be a reverend of KMC (Korean Methodist  
 Church) at April. I will never be able to forget  
 the Bible study group.  
 I heard from Kevin Kim that your church would be  
 moved to new place. I will pray God for the  
 issue and our Bible study group.  
 Thank you. God will bless you.

11.01.2009

Sincerely  
 Joy Lee (Lee Kyung Seob - 이경섭)  
 \*My E-mail address:  
 yaul4@hanmail.net  
 (joyks7@gmail.com)



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Joy singing as part of the Korean choir at our MultiCultural Carols in December.

Joy was an assistant minister to Kevin Kim in the Canberra Korean Uniting Church at Reid and was a regular at our Friday Bible Study.

The letter he sent explains he has returned to Korea (at very short notice) to become the minister of a Methodist Church there.

Our prayers go with him for himself, his ministry and his congregation.

In a very thoughtful gesture, Joy has left bookmarks for members of the Friday Bible Study group.

One of the bookmarks Joy left for Bible Study members



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## **Rev. Bob Prior – Enjoying Peace in a Troubled World – Sunday, 1-2-2009**

Bob's text for the evening was Colossians 1:15-22.

He began by mentioning a discussion he had had with a friend he meets with regularly for Bible Study. From the experience they had gained through their work they identified four things they felt were essential for people to experience peace.

- A clear conscience – when people act against their consciences it tends to lead to 'ship-wrecked' lives.
- Assurance of life after death – even though many people don't recognise it in themselves, they are anxious about what will happen when they die. This is often evident when they are thinking ahead to that time.
- Assurance of a loving relationship with Jesus – this gives an anchor in life and a purpose for living. Many people, when assessing their lives, have observed 'There must be another reason for living'.
- Contentment with what they have – even though we, as a society, are among the richest 5% of the world's population, many people are preoccupied with things they 'need' and want to get rather than what they already have and enjoy. We are bombarded with advertisements telling us of the many things we don't have and 'should get'.

The Colossians passage contains three truths that provide a means of achieving the essentials for personal peace.

- Who Jesus is. – We were created for Jesus (not the other way round). Jesus has supremacy in everything. Jesus is GOD. Because He is the creator, the things He promises, He can do. Jesus reconciles us with God giving us peace through His death on the cross. The peace offered by God is beyond human understanding. Our current circumstances are not the thermometer of God's love for us.
- The work of Jesus. - Jesus provides the means of reconciliation for all things to God through His death on the cross. His resurrection means He is with us. We need Jesus because we ALL fall short of God's glory and standards. We might be better than some others, but that is irrelevant, we do not meet God's standards.
- The result of Jesus' work for us. – In reconciling us with God, Jesus presents us Holy in God's sight, without blemish, free from accusation by God.

We need to have real faith in Jesus and what He has done for us. In Mark 9 we read of a man who claimed faith but also asked for help to overcome any lack of faith.

There are many stories we read and hear of God working in the lives of Christians. We should not assume He works only with others, not us. God loves each one of us and works in and through each one of us, providing guidance and support.

Satan hates us just as much as God loves us.

Satan is glad when we have doubts, a lack of confidence, insecurity and discontentment.

- Jesus presents us faultless in God's sight.
- Jesus died, returned to life and provides the means for us to live forever beyond death with Him.
- Jesus demonstrated His love for us in all He has done for us. We only need to respond to His love.
- Jesus gave us peace and reconciliation through His death on the cross. They are infinitely more valuable than a dependence on earthly things.

Mark 9:23,24 [Jesus said] ***"Everything is possible for him who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"*** NIV

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### **Chaplaincy Updates**

#### **Racecourses**

Bob Prior thanked us for the encouragement he received from our donation to his work at the racecourses.

He was chaplain to Canberra Racecourse, has started at Queanbeyan and opportunities are opening up at Moruya and Goulburn.

#### **Campbell High School**

No doubt Steve Lindner has been enjoying the school break for the Christmas holidays.

School resumes 3-2-2009 so he will now again be surrounded by the challenges that the school year brings.

We will contact him again shortly to assure him of our prayers and support.

**Please pray for the work Bob and Steve are doing.**



**First Service at Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church – 1-2-2009**



**After first service at Turner – 1-2-2009**

**Back row men:** Denis, Ian, Howard, Bob, Laurie, Ken, ....., Warren, Jack, Ian (mostly hidden), Vince  
**All but back row:** Lyn, Pam, Ruth, Maurine, Marie, June, Dinah, Heather, Norma, Isobel, Norma, Ted, Valda, Alec (behind), Shirley, Antoinette, Dominica, Wendy, Ailsa, Joyce  
**Photographer (insert):** Kingsley



## Coming Up

### Bible Study

**Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Turner.**

Lunch on 10 February (ring Joyce for details) then studies restart 17 February 2009

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

### Discussion Group

**Fridays at 2-00 pm at Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Turner.**

Restarting 6 February 2009

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

### Services

We meet at **Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Cnr. Gould and Watson Streets, Turner**

Sunday **8th February** at 5pm – **Rev. Mark Warren**

Sunday **15th February** at 5pm – **Rev. Mark Warren**

Sunday **22nd February** at 5pm – **Rev. Campbell Egan**

Sunday **1st March** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Murray Earl (Principal Air Force Chaplain)**

Sunday **8th March** at 5pm – **Rev. Ray Hughes**

Sunday **15th March** at 5pm – **to be arranged**

Sunday **22nd March** at 5pm – **Mr. Adrian Milne**

Sunday **29th March** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**

Palm Sunday **5th April** at 5pm – **Rev. Abraham Tang**



**Rev. Mark  
Warren**



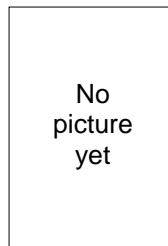
**Rev. Dr.  
Campbell  
Egan**



**Rev. Dr.  
Murray  
Earl**



**Rev. Ray  
Hughes**



**Mr.  
Adrian  
Milne**



**Rev. Peter  
Nelson**



**Rev.  
Abraham  
Tang**

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