

March 2009
Issue 31

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Bible Study Resumption Lunch

It has almost become a tradition for Joyce's Bible Study group plus friends, to commence a new year's study with a time of fellowship over lunch. 2009 was no exception.

A small but hungry gathering found its way downstairs to the 'Garden Court' restaurant in Ainslie Avenue to eat in a new year of Bible based learning.

The following Tuesday, Joyce and her group began their examination of I Kings.

ID



At lunch to launch a new year of Bible Study

Clockwise around the table, starting closest left : Isobel, Ian, Ian, Joyce, Marie, Wendy, Howard, Ruth, Maurine.

Music, Music, Music

At Campbell we were fortunate to have the use of a good piano and organ. In our new 'home' there is a small organ belonging to the Finnish Lutherans and a good looking, but poor playing, piano owned by the Samoan Seventh Day Adventists that meet there on Saturdays.



A Kurzweil RE 100 Digital Piano like ours

As our musicians tend to be pianists and piano skills don't necessarily translate well across to the organ, we had a problem.

Expert advice we received suggested that it would not be possible to make the piano usable even if we had it tuned for the Samoans. During our enquiries we were offered an electronic piano for a particularly good price (it was the last of the old model in stock). After some negotiation with the Finnish Lutherans and through them the Samoans, we went ahead and ordered the piano. It was delivered next day during Bible Study.

At the time of writing we have held one service at which the new piano was used. Rodney was our pianist / organist for that service. Being electronic, the piano can be played as a piano but also as an organ.

Our musicians all seem quite pleased with our acquisition, as was everyone in the congregation who were there to hear it used. ID

PS We have now had two services with the new piano. June has taken her place at the keyboard and given it a workout.

Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan – Pressure Points – 22-2-2009

Psalm 116:10 *I kept on believing, even when I said, "I am completely crushed,"* (Today's English Version)

Campbell pointed out that all of us experience problems from time to time. He suggested that, as the psalmist did when he was 'completely crushed', we should keep our faith in God. The pattern of faith that emerges is: Problem, Prayer, Faith, Deliverance.

He offered some examples.

A young girl had to cross a busy road and was terrified at the prospect - PROBLEM. She asked the Earl of Shaftsbury who was passing by for assistance - Request. She put her hand in his - FAITH. They crossed the road together - DELIVERANCE

William Henry Jackson became blind while a boy - PROBLEM. He grew up wanting to serve God – PRAYER. He did missionary training and went to Burma – FAITH. The blind in Burma were largely rejected by their society but William set up a school for the blind, gave them a sense of self worth and introduced Braille to Burma. God used William's disability to achieve a great deal – DELIVERANCE.

Fletcher Jones intended growing tomatoes for a living. For four years he grew tomatoes but each year problems arose that thwarted his plans – PROBLEM. He continued to have faith in God – PRAYER, FAITH. He gave up tomato growing and was very successful making clothing – DELIVERANCE. He later said 'God has helped me manage my life by sending the right person at the right time so my success is not by myself alone'.

These people and many others have felt completely crushed by the problems they faced. We need to keep believing in God and His ability and desire to help us, bring our problems before Him in prayer and trust Him to answer those prayers. God is faithful and will stay with us and help us even though we may feel completely crushed by the problems we face. ID

Rev. Dr. Murray Earl – Towards The Cross – Sunday, 1-3-2009

Mark 1: 9 – 15 ⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

¹²At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, ¹³and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. (NIV)

After providing some background information about Mark's gospel, Murray explained that in this passage Jesus interacts with John the Baptist, God the Spirit, God the Father, Satan and Angels.

In His baptism by John, Jesus identifies with us. He experiences our spiritual, physical and emotional form. As a result he is later able to fully represent us on the cross.

The Spirit descends on Jesus in Dove like form, rending heaven asunder as later at the crucifixion the temple curtain would be rent, and afterwards sends Jesus into the desert. This is a 'commissioning' of Jesus to the task God has for Him.

God the Father speaks his love and approval of Jesus.

Mark deals with Jesus' time in the desert very briefly – for a fuller account we must read Luke's gospel. Time spent in a desert focuses your mind on the things that are really important. Jesus faces temptation right at the beginning of His ministry, just as new Christians often find themselves challenged by doubts and fears very soon after gaining their Christian faith. Temptations can not only trip us up but in us facing and overcoming them, they strengthen us.

Angels attend Jesus. We know only a little about angels, but they appear to be God's emissaries and they can be our companions. We are told we entertain them unawares.

Following on from these events, Jesus went on to proclaim the Good News of God. ID

Chaplaincy

Racecourses

Please continue to pray for Bob Prior's work at the racecourses in and near Canberra.



Campbell High School

Please remember the students and staff and their families that make up the Campbell High School community in your prayers. Pray for Steve Lindner and his role there as chaplain. He is normally at the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Last year Steve asked for prayers for a particular student who was having a tough time and had a low sense of self worth. Let us continue to pray for him.

Scripture Union are holding a fundraising dinner on Tuesday 24th March (6-30pm for 7-00pm start) at the Hellenic Club, Woden. The dinner is free but there will be the opportunity to contribute to the work of Scripture Union.

Warren is coordinating a table for our Fellowship. If you intend going, Warren needs your **RSVP by Wednesday 11th March**. His phone number is 62543971.

Scripture Union ACT is the Territory's largest provider of chaplains in schools. SUACT has chaplains in 28 ACT Government schools (including Steve Lindner at Campbell High) reaching more than 10,000 students. The chaplains are in the schools from 2 to 4 days per week.



Church Organists

Q: What is the difference between terrorists and church organists?

A: You can negotiate with terrorists.

It must be true since I heard a church organist (pianist really) say so.

Coming Up

Bible Study

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

Currently studying 1 Kings

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

Discussion Group

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

Currently studying "The Sermon on the Mount"

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 March** at 5pm – **Rev. Ray Hughes**

Sunday **15th March** at 5pm – **Rev. Kevin Kim**

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

Sunday **29th March** at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall**

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

Easter Day **12th April** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**

Sunday **19th April** at 5pm – **Rev. Bob Prior**

Sunday **26th April** at 5pm – **Mr. Laurie Hockridge**

Sunday **3rd May** at 5pm – **Mr. Zane Edwards (Bible Society)**

Sunday **10th May** at 5pm – **Rev. Ron Peters**

Sunday **17th May** at 5pm – **Rev. David McDonald**

Sunday **24th May** at 5pm – **to be advised**

Sunday **31st May** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson (Anniversary Service)**



**Rev. Ray
Hughes**



**Rev. Kevin
Kim**

**Mr. Adrian
Milne**



**Mrs. Joyce
Hall**



**Rev. Abraham
Tang**



**Rev. Dr.
Campbell Egan**



**Rev. Bob
Prior**



**Mr. Laurie
Hockridge**



**Mr. Zane
Edwards**



**Rev. Ron
Peters**



**Rev. David
McDonald**

To be advised



**Rev. Peter
Nelson**

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