

May 2009
Issue 33

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Easter – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan and the Indonesians

For our Easter service we were glad to have Campbell Egan preaching for us and conducting Communion. We were also glad to have a large contingent of our Indonesian friends come, sing and join with us.

The meal afterwards was a time of real fellowship.

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Above: The Indonesian Choir in action.

Below: Congregational hymn. It sounded very good with nearly 70 voices.



Above: Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan delivering the message “The Emmaus Experience”.

Below: All in readiness for our after service meal / time of fellowship.



When our fellowship first got to know Bob Prior, we learned of his work as a chaplain to the racing industry. He was already visiting the Canberra Racecourse and hoping to start visiting other not too distant tracks in the near future. We were glad to support his work with a donation towards expenses.

Things have progressed. Bob has visited the USA to meet with many others there involved in racecourse chaplaincy work. In a short report he titled "The flame that flickered in the USA" he told us it was more of a bushfire.

He was encouraged by the people he met and the speakers he heard. He was also encouraged by the response of people to the talk that he gave. He came away with many ideas which he has thought through with Australian conditions in mind. Unlike the USA where there are full time racing chaplains, Bob believes Australia needs many part time chaplains who can visit the courses regularly, but combine their chaplaincy work with other activities. They will still be close and available if particular needs arise. Bob's goal is that by 1 August (the official birthday for horses) 8 chaplains will have begun working at different tracks. In another year he hopes most tracks will have a chaplain catering to their needs.

He asked us to pray that IF IT IS GOD'S WILL, not just his enthusiasm running wild, that God will provide the \$15,000-00 he believes he'll need for expenses in getting things set up (travel costs, accommodation, etc.) AND the right people to take up the chaplaincy positions.

Bob began his sermon with a sad story. He had come in contact with a lady after one of his racecourse visits. She had at one time made a decision for Christ and become involved with a local church. The young lady on a subsequent occasion had overindulged and become quite drunk. She confessed it to the minister of the church but was thrown out of the church for her behaviour. Since then both she and her mother who attended the church with her, have never been in a church again.

For Bob this posed four questions:

- **Why did Jesus come to earth?**

Bob reminded us of Jesus' words after he had called tax collector Matthew to be a disciple and eaten with him at his house, "*It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*" (Matthew 9:12,13 NIV) We should remember that we are all sinners and any righteousness we might have is the righteousness that Christ gives to us.

- **What did Jesus tell the Church to do?**

Jesus wanted the Church to go out to sinful people and make disciples of them, helping them learn, grow and mature as His followers. He said "*go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (Matthew 28: 19,20 NIV)

- **Is the Church meant to judge and condemn?**

The Church's role is not to judge or condemn people. Instead we should allow the Holy Spirit and God's Word in the Bible to speak to people. As people who are a part of the Church, we should take our place along side people, helping them, encouraging them, supporting them and pointing them towards what God says in the Bible always doing that in a spirit of love.

Jesus provided a good example for us to follow when dealing with someone else's sin.

'The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." (John 8: 3-11 NIV)

He did not condemn the lady but neither did He condone what she had done. Instead He encouraged her "*Go now and leave your life of sin*".

- **What is the Church supposed to do?**

Peter, when addressing Christians said:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall" (2 Peter 1: 2-10) NIV)

Peter was encouraging all the Christians to keep growing in their Christian life. None of them and none of us have got to the point of being 'perfect' Christians. There are always ways we can improve in our Christian understanding, experience and practice. As 'Work in progress Christians', we shouldn't expect other, perhaps less mature, Christians to suddenly become 'perfect'. They need to learn and grow just as we do.

To finish, Bob warned against good intentions. We can get a good feeling from all our good intentions, but unless we actually DO SOMETHING, we achieve nothing.

Read your Bible more, pray more, live out your faith more. Don't just think about and intend to do those things. Do them. ID

Right: Our Fijian guests may have been small in number, but they certainly added something special to our service. L to R – Rachel Tonga (from Tonga), Miriona and Paul Tabulutu.

Below: Bob Prior enjoying the fellowship after the service.



Cliff Night

On 24 April, the Fellowship enjoyed Ian Denton's personal account of pop musician Cliff Richard's 50-year career, enlivened with samples of his music and exhibits of the artist's memorabilia. Ian's own story was interwoven with Cliff's: Ian's discovery that great songs heard by chance were the work of one man; Cliff's early rocker years and subsequent conversion to Christ; Ian's steady accumulation of material associated with Cliff from all over the world; and Richard's unfinished and continuing work as an active musician (147 days to the start of his next European tour, according to his official website (<http://www.cliffrichard.org/>)).

The night closed with supper contributed by everyone present, in the tradition of the Fellowship.

Many thanks to Arnold and Ailsa for graciously opening their home to host the event; and, of course to Ian for the effort, expertise and risk he put into the night. Risk? Fragile 50-year old shellac records were probably not built to be handled by so many, and it's a blessing that Ian's valuable collection survived the night unscathed.

VL

Ready for Supper

Back: Howard
 Ailsa, Arnold
 Ruth, Warren, Heather, Coral, Denis
 Marie, Elizabeth
 Dominica, Ian
 Carolyn, Derek
Photographer: Vince



Five Years of Preaching

Our Fellowship met together for worship for the first time on 30 May 2004 (Pentecost). Sunday 31 May 2009 will be our 5th Anniversary service. We began by meeting monthly and in our 4th month introduced a fellowship tea / time of singing as a second gathering each month. Weekly services commenced in August 2006.

In the 5 years since our beginnings we have welcomed 40 different preachers and been blessed as they brought God's Word to us. Of course there have been others as well who have spoken as part of our services, bringing news of God at work in different places and in different ways or providing children's talks. While those contributions have been significant and greatly appreciated, the information below relates only to those people who have brought the message to us each week. ID



Dr. Howard Bradbury
30-5-2004 (1st Service)
12-6-2005 (1st Anniv.)
11-9-2005
26-2-2006
9-7-2006
7-1-2007
4-1-2007
13-5-2007
22-7-2007
14-10-2007
27-1-2008
27-4-2008
31-8-2008
23-11-2008
25-1-2009



Rev. Abraham Tang
27-6-2004
26-9-2004
19-11-2004 (Carols)
27-3-2005
28-8-2005
11-12-2005 (Carols)
13-8-2006
10-12-2006 (Carols)
20-5-2007
2-12-2007 (Carols)
9-11-2008
5-4-2009



Dr. E. (Ted) Dennis
25-7-2004
23-1-2005
8-5-2005
24-7-2005
8-1-2006
14-4-2006 (G. Friday)
6-8-2006
17-9-2006
17-12-2006
31-12-2006
18-3-2007
3-6-2007
8-7-2007
23-9-2007
16-12-2007
6-1-2008
28-12-2008



Fellowship Service
8-8-2004
5-9-2004
10-10-2004
14-11-2004
13-2-2005
29-5-2005
31-7-2005
30-10-2005
30-7-2006



Rev. Ron Peters
22-8-2004
22-6-2005
25-9-2005
22-1-2006
14-5-2006
10-9-2006
3-12-2006
28-1-2007
24-6-2007
26-8-2007
9-12-2007
24-2-2008
25-5-2008 (4th Anniv.)
7-9-2008
18-1-2009
10-5-2009



Mrs. Mary Hawkes
24-10-2004



Rev. Dr. Ross Kingham
28-11-2004
23-10-2005
23-7-2006
18-2-2007



Rev. Don Purdey
26-12-2004



Rev. Malcolm Richards
27-2-2005
10-7-2005
9-3-2008



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan
13-3-2005 (Vanuatu Mission)
24-9-2006
10-2-2008
4-5-2008
17-8-2008
21-12-2008
22-2-2009
12-4-2009



Rev. Warwick Brain
10-4-2005 (Bible Soc.)
13-11-2005
12-3-2006
3-9-2006
5-11-2006
1-4-2007



Mr. Allan Melmoth
24-4-2005
7-10-2007



Rev. Phil Anderson
22-5-2005
1-10-2006



Rev. Paul Dudley
14-8-2005
11-6-2006
19-11-2006
15-4-2007
1-7-2007
11-11-2007
16-3-2008



Rev. David McDonald
9-10-2005
25-6-2006
22-10-2006
27-5-2007 (3rd Anniv.)
17-5-2009



Rev. Laurence Coutts
27-11-2005



Rev. Rod James
(Friday) 27-1-2006



Rev. Ray Hughes
12-2-2006
23-4-2006
28-5-2006 (2nd Anniv.)
20-8-2006
8-10-2006
12-11-2006
11-2-2007
11-3-2007
6-4-2007 (Good Friday)
8-4-2007
19-8-2007
13-4-2008
20-7-2008
14-9-2008
8-3-2009
24-5-2009



Rev. Jim Midgley
9-4-2006
15-10-2006



Mr. Winston Newman
30-4-2006 (Sudan
Inland Mission)



Rev. Kevin Kim
27-8-2006
25-3-2007
5-8-2007
25-11-2007
23-3-2008
3-8-2008
14-12-2008
15-3-2009



Rev. Peter Nelson
29-10-2006
25-2-2007
29-7-2007
30-9-2007
30-12-2007
30-3-2008
29-6-2008
24-8-2008
30-11-2008
7-12-2008 (Carols)
31-5-2009 (5th Anniv.)



Rev. Matthew Bolte
26-11-2006



Mrs. Joyce Hall
24-12-2006
21-1-2007
21-10-2007
13-1-2008
6-4-2008
19-10-2008
4-1-2009
29-3-2009 (Harvest
Thanksgiving)



Mr. Vince Lorimer
14-1-2007



Mr. Bob Edwards
4-3-2007
10-6-2007



Rev. Perry Smith
22-4-2007



Rev. Mark Warren
29-4-2007
2-9-2007
9-9-2007
3-2-2008
17-2-2008
2-3-2008
18-5-2008
1-6-2008
21-9-2008
5-10-2008
8-2-2009
15-2-2009



Mr. Laurie Hockridge
6-5-2007
16-9-2007
4-11-2007
23-12-2007
20-1-2008
20-4-2008
13-7-2008
11-1-2009
26-4-2009



Mr. Zane Edwards
17-6-2007 (Bible Soc.)
15-6-2008 (Bible Soc.)
3-5-2009 (Bible Soc.)



Rev. Geoff Findlay
15-7-2007



Mr. Ron Dawes
12-8-2007 (Leprosy
Mission)



Mr. Jeff Mason
28-10-2007 (Scripture
Union)



Mr. Allan Windley
18-11-2007 (Christian
Blind Mission)



Mr. Adrian Milne
11-5-2008
16-11-2008
22-3-2009



Rev. Dr. Murray Earl
8-6-2008
26-10-2008
1-3-2009



Pastor Peter Nduati
(from Kenya)
22-6-2008



Mr. Tim Omrod
6-7-2008
12-10-2008



Rev. Bob Prior
27-7-2008
28-9-2008
1-2-2009
19-4-2009



Mr. Craig Webber
10-8-2008 (Scripture
Union)



**Pastor Andrew
Kiwanuka**
(from Uganda)
2-11-2008

Sunday, 26 April 2009 - Mr. Laurie Hockridge

Jesus' disciples were gathered in a room. They had heard about the empty tomb and some had seen for themselves. Jesus appeared and greeted them "Peace be with you".

He showed them his hands and side. This would have helped them understand that his death had been a real death and that his presence with them could only be the result of a real resurrection.

Jesus commissioned the disciples "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

God came into this world in human form in Jesus and for effective mission the disciples (and us) needed to 'enter' other people's worlds.

The Church does Jesus work and Jesus gives the Church the message, power and authority. God sent Jesus and Jesus sends the Church.

The Church should always act according to God's will, not its own.

We (the Church) must know who sends us. Jesus gave the disciples authority and power and the Holy Spirit.

Thomas missed that encounter with the risen Jesus, but a week later Jesus appeared again when he was present. Thomas was challenged "Stop doubting and believe." His response was a positive "My Lord and my God!"

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Sunday, 3 May 2009 – Mr. Zane Edwards (Bible Society) – The Importance of Forgiveness

It was a pleasure to welcome Zane to our fellowship once again. He told us of the success of the Bible Society's archaeology nights and that the presentations were to continue for another year. He also advised us that the "Jesus: All about Life" campaign would be repeated in September.

Zane began his sermon by suggesting that many people get very upset over quite trivial matters – forgiveness seems to be in short supply in the community.

He then posed four questions.

- **Is God's forgiveness contingent on our repentance, or, is it God's nature to forgive anyway?**

1 John 1: 9 tells us *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* (NIV)

At His crucifixion, Luke 23: 34 tells us *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"* (NIV) His persecutors had not requested forgiveness. God wants to forgive.

- **For whom is forgiveness most important – the forgiver or the forgiven?**

Proverbs 19: 11 says *A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offence.* (NIV)

Christian author Lewis Smedes suggests, "to forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you".

- **Is forgiveness a discrete conscious act at the point of considering a wrong, or, is it an embedded value and attitude that impacts our approach to living?**

Colossians 3:12-14 says *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.* (NIV)

Luke 6:32,35-36 tells us *If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. ... But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.* (NIV)

As Christians we are given a higher calling which is marked by forgiveness.

- **What impact does our attitude to forgiveness have on our spiritual experience?**

Mark 11: 25-26 *And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.* (NIV)

1 Peter 3: 9 *Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.* (NIV)

Not forgiving impedes our relationship with God but living a life of forgiveness brings blessing.

Jesus prayed "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors". We cannot fully experience the grace of God until we manifest grace in our relationships with others.

ID with the aid of Zane's sermon notes



Julie, Zane and Rosalie singing and playing for us.
Glen was also with them.

Sunday, 10 May 2009 - Rev. Ron Peters

On this Mothers' Day, Ron spoke about "God's New Family" and used Acts 2: 1-6, 36-47 for the Bible reading.

Just as a couple becomes a family on the birth of the first child, so the small group of Jesus' followers grew into a Christian family at Pentecost when 3,000 were added to their number.

This christian family had four characteristics that Ron looked at.

They were **joyful**. Third century African Bishop Tertullion commented that pagans who were Christianity's greatest foes, would say; "See how these Christians love one another."

They were **focused**. *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* (Acts 2: 42 NIV)

They were **messy**. As in a normal family, things were not always strictly organised or tidy. Things kept happening and the Church took them in its stride and moved forward.

They were **growing**. *And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.* (Acts 2: 47 NIV)

Ron will be with us again on Sunday, 19th July for the last time before he retires and moves north of Sydney. We look forward to seeing him then. We will take the opportunity to wish him well and thank him for the support he has given our Fellowship over the last 5 years.

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It appears Murray Earl has been putting in a little practice preaching before he visits us again on Sunday, 14th June.



ANZAC Day Service

25 April 2009 at Noon

- Annual Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving to mark ANZAC Day
- Tickets from Australia High Commission and New Zealand High Commission

A Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving to mark ANZAC Day remembering the Gallipoli landings of 25 April 1915 and all Australians and New Zealanders who have given their lives in the service of their countries takes place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 25 April at 12 noon.

His Excellency Mr Derek Leask, High Commissioner for New Zealand, His Excellency Mr John Dauth, High Commissioner for Australia and His Excellency Mr Yigit Alpogan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkey will be amongst those attending the service which is held annually at the Abbey.

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall will lead the service. The Address will be given by The Reverend Dr Murray D Earl, Director-General. Chaplaincy Services, Royal Australian Air Force. Wreaths will be laid on the Grave of the Unknown Warrior as an Act of Remembrance during the service. Readers include the High Commissioner for New Zealand and the High Commissioner for Australia. The service will be sung by the Westminster Abbey Special Service Choir, conducted by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Chorists.

from <http://www.westminster-abbey.org/worship/special-services/upcoming-special-services/2009/april/anzac-day-service>



When a woman decided to send the old family Bible to her brother in another state, the postal worker asked her if there was anything breakable in the package. "Only the Ten Commandments," she replied.

An exasperated mother whose son was always getting into mischief finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?" The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says 'For Heaven's sake, Jimmy, come in or stay out!'"

SCRIPTURE UNION DINNER UPDATE

Last Issue of The Next Step we reported on the Scripture Union dinner held recently.

SU's surplus from that event currently exceeds \$40,000-00. I have no doubt it will be well used.

Also, recently received from SU:

SCRIPTURE UNION ACT SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY VACANCIES

There are currently school chaplaincy vacancies at:

Gordon Primary School (2 days per week)
Erindale College (3-5 days per week)
Caroline Chisholm School (3 days per week)
Melba Copland Secondary School (4 days per week)

The Role

The school chaplain will provide pastoral care, general religious and personal advice, and comfort and support to all students and staff, irrespective of their religious beliefs.

The school chaplain's role is to support school students and the wider school community in a range of ways, such as assisting students in exploring their spirituality; providing guidance on religious, values and ethical matters; helping school counsellors and staff in offering welfare services and support in cases of bereavement, family breakdown or other crisis and loss situations.

The positions are funded through Commonwealth Government grants and donations by churches and individuals. These are paid positions with allowances for professional development and staff support. **Applicants do not have to have formal qualifications but experience working with young people is essential.**

For further information please call Michael Clancy, SUACT Chaplaincy Coordinator on 6175 0102 or email- michael@suact.org.au

Coming Up

Bible Study

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

Prayer Meeting *** Prayer Meeting ***** Prayer Meeting**

Monday 18th May at 2-00 pm at Marie's – Villagio, 18/36 Burkitt Street, Page.
Alec will lead this FIRST meeting for this group. Future Prayer meetings are likely to be held on the 3rd Monday of each month, at least initially.

Services

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

- Sunday 17th May at 5pm – Rev. David McDonald
- Sunday 24th May at 5pm – Rev. Ray Hughes
- Sunday 31st May at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson (Anniversary Service)
- Sunday 7th June at 5pm – Rev. Bob Prior
- Sunday 14th June at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Murray Earl
- Sunday 21st June at 5pm – Dr. E. Dennis
- Sunday 28th June at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan
- Sunday 5th July at 5pm – Rev. Kevin Kim (and the Korean Choir)
- Sunday 12th July at 5pm – Rev. Don Purdey
- Sunday 19th July at 5pm – Rev. Ron Peters
- Sunday 26th July at 5pm – Mr. Allan Melmoth
- Sunday 2nd August at 5pm – Rev. Steve Prior



Rev. David
McDonald



Rev. Ray
Hughes



Rev. Peter
Nelson



Rev. Bob
Prior



Rev. Dr.
Murray Earl



Dr. E. Dennis



Rev. Dr.
Campbell
Egan



Rev. Kevin
Kim



Rev. Don
Purdey



Rev. Ron
Peters



Mr. Allan
Melmoth



Rev. Steve
Prior

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Need help with transport? If so, ask. Someone may be able to help.

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