

July, August 2009  
Issue 35

# The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

## Sunday, 19 July 2009 – Rev. Ron Peters - Energised



Ron Peters was one of the first people to preach for us when our Fellowship first started and he has continued to visit and support us over our 5 years. We will miss him now he is retiring and moving up north of Sydney.

Using Ephesians 4: 1-16 as his text, Ron's sermon was titled 'Energised'.

Each person is given gifts from God which can be used in His service to build up the Body of Christ as we grow to be more like Christ. We should all be keen to discover and use the gifts God has given us.

Many church members assist their minister to conduct church, rather than allow the minister to help them BE the Church.

By looking for the right signs, it is possible to tell if a church is sick, even if it outwardly appears healthy or if a church that appears sick is actually healthy. The true indicators of health are when church members are all undertaking "works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4: 12 NIV). Each part of the Body needs to be working properly and each person exercising the gifts God has given them.

We enjoyed a sumptuous sit-down banquet of casseroles, quiches, cakes and desserts with Ron following the service to thank him for the contribution he has made to our Fellowship and to wish him well for the future. ID



Ron, Isobel, Coral, Natasha and Carolyn after the service



Our after service meals are normally good, but not this good!

## Cobwebs and Spiders

Maurine mentioned a lady who always prayed at the Prayer Meeting she attended "Please God, brush away the cobwebs from my mind". Another participant, having heard this prayer many, many times, decided a new approach was warranted. At the next meeting she got in first and prayed "Dear Lord, please get rid of that spider."

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## Sunday, 6 July 2009 – Rev. Kevin Kim – Shalom Aleikhem!

Shalom Aleikhem is a greeting often used by Jews meaning 'Peace be with you'. (Shalom – peace, Aleikhem – be upon you) In fact its meaning is quite broad and could also be given as 'Peace and quiet be with you'.

What is peace?

Equality and fairness for everyone contribute to peace.

Peace is not just an absence of conflict but is a positive power.

Some of the ingredients of shalom (peace) can be found in Colossians 3: 12-14, - compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and love.

The wounds of Christ bring us peace

We were very happy that the Korean choir came along with Kevin and sang for us.

ID

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## Sunday, 12 July 2009 – Rev. Don Purdey - God's Faithfulness to Us

On 12<sup>th</sup> July, Rev. Don Purdey from Glenunga Uniting Church in Adelaide preached on the subject of "God's faithfulness to us."



God is faithful, He is reliable and reacts predictably with love towards us. Don told a story of those who packed parachutes for use by paratroopers in World War 2. There was a failure rate of about 1 in 20 cases, but then the packers were asked to also do some test jumps using the parachutes they had packed. Not surprisingly, the failure rate decreased greatly, and the reliability of the parachutes greatly increased.



God is completely reliable. He is reliable in the big things and also in our personal lives as well.

"God is faithful, he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear" (1 Corinthians 10: 13).

Jesus prayed "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." He will persist with us even when we fail Him.

Our response to this amazing, faithful, persevering God is to be faith-full (full of faith), so that one day we may hear Him say to us "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25: 21).

HB



Rev. Kevin Kim preached for us the previous week and we were glad to welcome him back along with wife Kay and their children as part of our congregation when Rev. Don Purdey preached.

**L to R :** Kevin with Wesley, Kay with Evangeline, Natasha (from the Korean Church who has played the piano for us several times recently), Annette and Don

## Sunday, 26 July 2009 – Mr. Allan Melmoth – The Key To True Happiness



Many of us know Allan from the days when he was a student in Canberra. Jason and Philip, two of our more youthful members read the Bible Readings and Allan noted that he was around their age when he had got to know their parents and with them been involved in church activities in Canberra. He expressed pleasure at seeing the next generation actively involved in church life.

Allan also briefed us on the bike ride he and his son will undertake in August and September to raise money for the Bible Society. The 'Bike for Bibles' riders will be travelling from Perth to Sydney beginning on 17 August and reaching their destination on 19 September. Allan and Luke would value our prayers for safety and health on the journey and for success in raising funds. Allan's wife Robyn will also be making the trip, performing the very important support role of cook.



Allan mentioned that happiness is the goal or dream of many people and often they equate happiness with wealth. Unfortunately wealth is a very poor measure of happiness with many very wealthy people not being happy.

Psalm 128: 1 says "*Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways.*" (NIV) The word translated blessed could also have been translated happy, so "Happy are all who fear the LORD". The fear mentioned is not 'being scared of' but rather taking God seriously and giving Him the reverence He deserves. Happiness is a by-product of a life lived for God.

Psalm 128 presents one path in life – fearing God and walking in his ways. Psalm 1 suggests a second path and warns it is not the path for blessings or happiness – "*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.*" (Psalm 1: 1 NIV)

If we truly revere, honour, trust and serve God, we will be blessed with the happiness that comes from knowing we have acted rightly and from the satisfaction that gives. ID

## Sunday, 2 August 2009 – Rev. Steve Prior – A Model for True Rejoicing



Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians while in prison, seemingly with little to rejoice about, yet he was rejoicing.

Mostly when people rejoice or are joyful, it is associated with some good thing that relates to themselves. In Philippians 1: 18,19 ("*Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.*") Paul appears to be rejoicing because he has an expectation of deliverance, however his statement in verse 21 "*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*" shows his focus is on Christ and his rejoicing is because Christ will be honoured through what happens to him.

Paul was thinking of the Philippians and how he could benefit them. He believed "*that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.*" (Philippians 1: 26 NIV) He had a love for others and a concern for their faith.

Steve told the story of a man he had known some years ago in Gundagai. This man was a passionate believer and addressed the local church youth group, stressing the words written by Paul, "*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*" Within a week he had died. His talk, his subsequent death and the witness that was so evident through his funeral service had a profound impact. It nudged some sufficiently for them to accept Christ for themselves and for others it spurred them on to greater service. Paul looked to deliverance and life for the progress of others, whereas the death of the man from Gundagai was what contributed so much to the progress of others.

The recipe for joy and rejoicing is to "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind*" and to "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" ID

## Some Fun

The Lone Ranger and Tonto are camping in the desert. They have set up their tent and are asleep. Some hours later, the Lone Ranger wakes his faithful friend. "Tonto, look up at the sky and tell me what you see." Tonto replies, "I see millions of stars."

"What does that tell you?" ask the Lone Ranger. Tonto ponders for a minute. "Astronomically speaking, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, it's evident the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Kemo Sabi?" The Lone Ranger is silent for a moment, and then speaks. "Tonto, you idiot. Someone has stolen our tent."

from <http://www.brisbanechristianchat.com/and/humour/jokes.htm>



## Campbell High Chaplaincy

Regularly meeting with Campbell High School chaplain Steve Lindner has proved a real blessing for Warren and myself as Steve updates us on his work at the school and we spend some time in prayer together. Marie also joined us for our most recent meeting.



### Prayer Points

- Steve mentioned that the chaplaincy work in schools was being evaluated by a university team (as an independent party) and future government funding for chaplaincies could depend on their findings. Campbell High is to be the subject of a more in depth study.
- "Focus on the Family" is to visit the school on 7 September and will speak to Year 9 & 10 students. They will also hold an evening session with parents. Their visit last year was very worthwhile. See [www.families.org.au](http://www.families.org.au) for information on Focus on the Family.
- The Seasons for Growth sessions have been a success with participants being enthusiastic and open.
- A university student from St. John's Church, Reid is very keen to start a lunchtime group for students at Campbell. The difficulty at the moment is that her timetable makes Fridays her preferred day, but Steve is only at the school Tuesdays and Thursdays. A staff member, that in this case would be Steve, must be present for such a group to go ahead.
- Around forty Year 10 and Year 9 students will be taking a 10 day trip to Central Australia in September. Steve will be part of the group.
- Many students come from homes that have suffered family breakups or other disruption to stable family life. This often means students have very difficult issues to deal with in their personal lives and little knowledge or experience to help them cope.
- Steve asked that we remember the School Principal, the Deputy Principal, and the Year Coordinators in our prayers.

ID

## Carols – Advance Notice



Our Carols service is still months away, however you can pencil the date in your diaries now.

Campbell Primary School Hall has been booked for Sunday, 6th December.



## Invitation from the Austral-Asian Church



Dear *Member of the Canberra Christian Fellowship*,

You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating 25 years of God's grace. All events are held at Canberra Austral-Asian Christian Church, 36 Ringrose Cres, Isaacs.

<u>19/8</u>	7:45pm	Thanksgiving Prayer and Asking for Guidance for the Future
<u>21/8</u>	7:30pm	"My Life as a World Christian" Speaker: Rev Warren Vun
<u>22/8</u>	7:00pm	25 <sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Dinner
<u>23/8</u>	10:00am	25 <sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Service Speaker: Rev David Tse Followed by Refreshments

Thanksgiving Dinner RSVP by 13 Aug 2009

## Some More Fun

First Member: Today's sermon reminded me of the peace of God. It passed all understanding.

Second Member: I thought it reminded me of the mercies of God. I thought it would endure forever.

The Sunday school teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and suddenly turned into a pillar of salt. "My mother looked back once while driving", contributed little Johnny, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

A student was asked to list the 10 Commandments in any order. His response was: 3, 6, 1, 8, 4, 5, 9, 2, 10, 7.

from <http://www.brisbanechristianchat.com/and/humour/jokes.htm>

## RACING NEWS

### **PRAISE GOD:**

- The Lord continues to bless and lead in the ministry. I have not only been able to meet new people but have been able to see God working in the lives of people on the tracks.
- My time spent at one particular course has been richly blessed. On Saturday morning last week, I had a phone call from a jockey who told me that he had prayed the night before to ask Jesus to forgive his sin and come in to his life to help him live a better life.
- A family in ARCC (Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy) had loaned me a car. During this month they have given me ownership of the car free of cost. This allows me to continue to travel to the different courses.
- A trainer and a strapper at one of the courses have talked to me about their desire to go to church, and they're no choir boys, and have suggested that they will try and go this coming Sunday.
- A track rider on a track met with me last week. She shared how she has come off a \$600 dollar a day drug habit and needs help to stay off. She has taken a copy of the Cross and the Switchblade to read and a copy of the Aussie Bible.



### **PRAY:**

- Pray that some of my contacts will show an interest in Bible study.
- For the jockey who asked Jesus into his life to read his Bible, to go to church and to be able to stay away from alcohol.
- For the track rider who has come off the drugs that she will read the Cross and the Switchblade and that the Holy Spirit will show her that He can do for her what He did for those in the book. That she will read the Bible and that she will start to go to church.
- This is a PRAISE and PRAYER point again. Things are moving forward with RacingCare AUS and we have people interested in going forward with us in this ministry. Pray for the name, RacingCare AUS to be able to be registered as a trading name of SportzCare ACT, this would allow us to shortcut a lot of red tape.
- Another PRAISE and PRAYER point. A jockey had a fall at a meeting a few weeks ago. I praise God that I was there and had built a relationship with him. I was able to visit him in the hospital and pray with Him before he was air lifted to Sydney that night. As a result of the accident he will be faced with considerable changes in his life. PRAY that he will cope with all the adjustments. PRAISE God that the jockey rang me yesterday to thank me for my visits and to tell me that he is feeling so much better and positive about the future.

Thanks for reading this and thanks for praying for our ministry. God is very, very good!

Bob Prior

## Even More Fun

A new pastor moved into a town, and he went out one day to visit his parishioners. All went well until he came upon this one house. It was obvious that someone was home, but no one came to the door even after he had knocked several times. Finally he took out his card, wrote on the back "Revelation 3:20" and stuck it on the back of the door. (Revelation 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me.")

Later in the week, as he was counting the offering, he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was the notation "Genesis 3:10."

(Genesis 3:10: "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked: so I hid myself.")

The two assistants were discussing their pastor's thrifty ways. And they agreed that if the pastor, when he dies, sees a light at the end of the tunnel, he'll turn it off.

from <http://www.brisbanechristianchat.com/and/humour/jokes.htm>

## Your choice – Come to the one you prefer

# Meeting

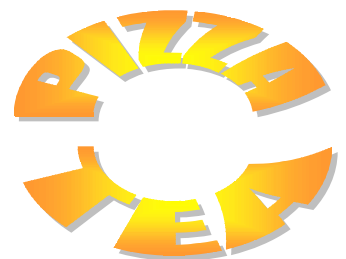
**6-30 pm**  
**Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> August**  
**At Bradbury's**

**Planning, Discussion, Decision making, Reporting, Finances**  
**Come and be part of the excitement that is a Church Meeting !**

*We will also have a meal together.*

# Come and join us

*for food*  
*and*  
*fellowship*



**BRADBURY'S PLACE**  
**6-30PM, MONDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

**THE MEAL WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A SHORT MEETING**

## Coming Up

### Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Turner.  
Currently studying 2 Kings  
All welcome - contact Joyce (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 (62593487) for more information

### Prayer Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.  
Next meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> August at 2-00 pm at Marie's

### Services

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

Sunday 9th August at 5pm – Rev. Bob Prior  
Sunday 16th August at 5pm – Mr. Allan Windley (Christian Blind Mission)  
Sunday 23rd August at 5pm – Rev. Ray Hughes  
Sunday 30th August at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson  
Sunday 6th September at 5pm – Dr. Howard Bradbury  
Sunday 13th September at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan  
Sunday 20th September at 5pm – Mr. Zane Edwards  
Sunday 27th September at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Murray Earl  
Sunday 4th October at 5pm – Mr. Ron Dawes (Leprosy Mission)  
Sunday 11th October at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan  
Sunday 18th October at 5pm – Rev. David McDonald  
Sunday 25th October at 5pm – To be advised  
Sunday 1st November at 5pm – Rev. Abraham Tang  
Sunday 8th November at 5pm – Rev. Kevin Kim



Rev. Bob  
Prior



Mr. Allan  
Windley



Rev. Ray  
Hughes



Rev. Peter  
Nelson



Dr. Howard  
Bradbury



Rev. Dr.  
Campbell  
Egan



Mr. Zane  
Edwards



Rev. Dr.  
Murray Earl



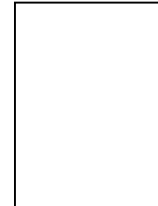
Mr. Ron  
Dawes



Rev. Dr.  
Campbell  
Egan



Rev. David  
McDonald



To be advised



Rev. Abraham  
Tang



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

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