

November 2009
Issue 38

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday, 11 October 2009 – Dr. Howard Bradbury

Early on Sunday morning we learned Campbell Egan was ill and would be unable to preach for us. The order of service was quickly modified with a hymn singing time added and a few words from Howard Bradbury to take the place of the sermon. It was already arranged that we would dedicate the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes from our congregation during the service.

After the main prayer, Norma thanked all who had contributed to this year's boxes, told us something of the wider work of Samaritan's Purse, the organisation that conducts Operation Christmas Child and gave us an example of how one box can change the life of not just the recipient, but his or her family and in the case mentioned, the village.

Our hymn singing time saw a number of favourites requested and sung.

Howard spoke on money, how we use it and our attitude to it using Luke 12: 13-21 and 1 Timothy 6: 3-10 as the Bible readings.

From an Australian perspective, we are not rich, just ordinary middle class people who have enough to live comfortably. However when compared to around 1,000,000,000 people who have less than \$2-00 a day to live on in poorer countries, we are incredibly rich.

In the 1 Timothy reading we are reminded that Godliness is not linked with earthly wealth [1 Timothy 6: 5]. We could be rich or poor, worship in a great cathedral or a small, remote, church hut but it is the presence of God's Spirit that is significant, not our worldly circumstances. As Jesus said "*a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*" [Luke 12: 15]

John Wesley made clear his attitude to money when he said "*Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can.*"

Instead of pursuing earthly riches, we should remember what Paul considered important – "*godliness with contentment is great gain.*" [1 Timothy 6: 6]



Norma with our dedicated
Operation Christmas Child boxes

Fellowship Annual Meeting

On Monday, 12th October, at 6-00pm we met once again for our Annual Meeting as required by our incorporation.

As we have done in the past, we first enjoyed a meal together before launching into the meeting itself. Having recently inspected Warren's garden, we now had the opportunity to benefit from the fruits of his labours. He supplied a delicious soup which most likely included at least some home grown goodies. Our Subway sandwiches and a cuppa rounded off the meal.

The meeting received the treasurer's report, elected the Fellowship's officers for the next year and dealt with what business there was before we closed with a time of prayer.



Campbell High News – from Chaplain Steve Lindner

I'm slowly getting back into gear for this final term of school.

The Central Australia trip [with some of the school students] was fantastic. It was amazing to visit so many incredible places. ... I was able to have some great conversations along the way which I pray will bring forth fruit in due season. Thanks for the prayers and support with my trip. It made a huge difference.

Cats, Books and Wendy



Wendy.
Note the 'Friendly Felines' top

When someone mentions Wendy, what do you think about? For many people the answer is cats and books. Others may think to themselves 'she goes away a lot'. Correct all round, but there is so much more to know!

Wendy's ancestors were devout Methodists who left Cornwall and Yorkshire for South Australia in the 1800s. A generation or so on, Wendy was born in Murray Bridge, South Australia but 18 months later her family moved to Canberra. They lived in Ainslie and beyond Ainslie was bush. The big highlight each week was a drive into Civic for a milkshake at the Blue Moon café. Primary schooling was at Ainslie then Turner schools. Canberra High (at its original location) was where her secondary schooling commenced. At 14 ½ Wendy headed off to London with her family, her Dad having been given a British job posting. To avoid an extra year's study required if swapping to the British education system, Wendy commenced correspondence schooling through Blackfriars' School, Sydney. She enjoyed this time as she received more individual attention and gained better feedback through the correspondence system. Australia House was the venue for her Leaving Certificate exam and the examinees consisted of her and a complete team of visiting Rugby Union players.

School over, Wendy commenced employment as a Library Assistant at The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies which was associated with The University of London. 1967 saw a return to Canberra and a job at the Parliamentary Library. Initially she was sent to the National Library for some training before taking up

her Parliamentary Library duties. This didn't complete her studies as she then undertook a 5 year part time Bachelor of Arts course at the ANU which included politics, history and archaeology. The Parliamentary Library was a fascinating place to work, especially for someone with an interest in politics. Wendy stayed there her whole working life, just moving between different positions. She remembers many historic moments from Australia's political past because she was there or close by when they happened. Of the leaders she knew, she found Bob Hawke the friendliest.

Retirement hasn't stopped her from working. One day a week she can now be found at the Gaslight Bookshop in Fyshwick, doing data entry for the shop's website.

Wendy has kept up friendships from her library days. Each week, she and five friends, who were all once at the library, meet for dinner together as they have done for the last 12 years. Others that she sees a lot of include Joyce, who she regards as almost another sister, her actual sister Judith and brother in law Bruce, their 4 children and 8 great nephews and nieces.

One precious memory is of her niece's wedding in Vienna. It was held in the only Protestant church there and the bride's transport was a white carriage drawn by white horses.

Of course when discussing companionship, it is important to remember the cats. Wendy has had cats in her life for 30 years however she is not intending to get any more cats once Madam, her current cat, is gone.

Sporting interests include following Rugby League (the Canberra Raiders are her team) and supporting Collingwood in the AFL competition. When she returned to Australia from England, Collingwood were the bottom side in the Australian Rules Football VFL competition and she chose to support them as they were the underdogs.

Reading (science fiction, murder mysteries plus to a lesser extent science, astronomy, cosmology and political history) and listening to music are other interests. She also enjoys completing jigsaws however that is often more difficult than it sounds as Madam likes to lend a paw.

Having lived on packaged foods and dining out during her working life, Wendy took up cooking when she retired and had more free time. She claims she must have picked up the skill reasonably well as Marie and Ann have said her cooking is good.

Every year Wendy and her sister Judith, travel overseas for a holiday. This has taken them to many interesting and often out of the way places. When visiting Damascus in Syria around 15-18 years ago they were able to visit some old Crusader castles and have tea with some Bedouins. Turkey was fascinating and somewhere Wendy would happily visit again. Other favourite places include Vienna and Venice. China provided a special experience. Their visit to Sichuan province was as part of a local Chinese tour group and they, and an interpreter, were the only English speakers. They went to places that interested the Chinese holiday makers and stayed in Chinese accommodation rather than places catering for international visitors. The major downside to that trip was the breakfasts. Wendy and Judith survived one morning of hot, sour soup and pickled buns for breakfast but after that made whatever alternate arrangements they could.

The best trips are the ones that enable you to see places and find out how other people live – when you can talk to locals and get a feel for an area.

Wendy has acquired a collection of chess sets purchased from many of the places she has visited. A chess playing relative has summarised Wendy's game as good in defence but weak in attack. Wendy herself says she will probably lose a chess game but take a long time to do so.

Just as her forebears were strong Methodists, so has Wendy been. She does not remember a time when she was not regularly attending Sunday school or church. While in London, her family went to a High Church Anglican church as it was the most conveniently located, however that just helped her appreciate Methodism even more.

Most of her church life has been associated with the Reid Methodist Church where her father was a lay preacher. She remembers the Sunday school as having huge classes when she was a student.

Our Fellowship has many similarities to the early Reid Church Wendy remembers. Reid was friendly and there were many special occasions and celebrations plus extensive morning teas following services. The social, food related times are for Wendy a part of Methodist tradition. That is something our Fellowship shares. ID



Racing News – Bob Prior

Please pray for me as I keep getting busier. I thank God for the opportunity to serve Him, but I need wisdom in use of my time.

Sunday, 18 October 2009 – Rev. David McDonald – Amazing Grace

David posed the question 'Why do we do what we do?' He suggested that if we are asked to do something difficult or strange, most people would want a very good reason presented to them for the action before taking it.

In Titus 2: 1-10, instructions are given on ways Christians should act. The standards of behaviour would have been challenging, as they still are today. Titus 2: 11-14, which David used for his text, follows the instructions and gives reasons why we should act as Paul has indicated.

We are told God's grace has been revealed to everyone and our response should be to live in a godly manner while we wait for Jesus' return.

It is easy to take God's grace for granted, but verse 14 reminds us how that grace was given. GRACE used as an acronym also reveals this: **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.

Jesus gave Himself as a sacrifice to restore our relationship with God after we had disobeyed God's laws. Just as a goldfish may think freedom lies outside its fish tank walls, we people often think freedom lies in doing as we please beyond the boundaries of God's law. An escaped fish would discover death, and we find the bondage and penalty of sin. The righteous and Holy God cannot be in contact with sinful, unholy people. Jesus has accepted that penalty of sin on our behalf and only He can cleanse us so that we can be God's special people.

We have put our trust in what Jesus has done for us (faith), we have a wonderful hope for the future thanks to Him and our best response is love, an eagerness to live in a Godly manner and to do what is good. ID



Theology

Do you really know your theology?

Who was the 3rd man in history to walk on water?

The 1st one was Jesus.

The 2nd was the apostle Peter.

Then there was this guy, Jose ...



Sunday, 25 October 2009 – Mrs. Joyce Hall – God's Most Important Instruction



Most appliances or gadgets come with an instruction sheet or manual which usually includes safety information. God has supplied us with a 'manual' which includes information that, if followed, will help us avoid pitfalls in our lives.

The Jews were instructed to "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." [Deuteronomy 6: 5 NIV]. The Old Testament records too many occasions when they neglected this commandment to their detriment. Jesus, when asked about the most important commandment, said "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." [Mark 12: 30 NIV]. The scribes and pharisees of His day were scrupulous in keeping the law to the smallest detail but theirs was an external obedience. Inwardly they still neglected that first commandment.

The rich, young ruler who came to Jesus was able to confidently answer that he had kept the eight commandments Jesus asked about. It was the remaining two commandments – to love God and to have no other Gods – that caused him problems. He was wealthy and that wealth was taking the place of God in his priorities. ID

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out."

John Wesley

DON'T FORGET: Our MultiCultural Carol Service is on Sunday, 6th December, 5-00pm at Campbell Primary School.

Coming Up

Bible Study

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

Discussion Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm at Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Turner.
Currently studying Prayer
All welcome - contact Ted for more information

Thursday Evening Group

Thursdays at 6-00 pm at Vince and Dominica's, Campbell.
Currently studying John
All welcome - contact Vince / Dominica for more information

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month at Marie's. (November's meeting will be at Alec's)
Next meeting - 16th November at 2-00 pm
All welcome - contact Alec for more information

Services

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

Sunday 1st November at 5pm - Rev. Kevin Kim
Sunday 8th November at 5pm - Rev. Abraham Tang
Sunday 15th November at 5pm - Rev. Bob Prior
Sunday 22nd November at 5pm - Rev. Steve Prior
Sunday 29th November at 5pm - Rev. Peter Nelson

Sunday 6th December at 5pm **at Campbell Primary School Hall** - Multicultural Carols Service

Sunday 13th December at 5pm - Rev. Mark Warren

Sunday 20th December at 5pm - Finnish Carols Service (in place of our own service)

Christmas Day - We have no service of our own, however our friends at the Austral-Asian Church at 36 Ringrose Crescent, Issacs have advised us their service is at 10am and is followed by a Christmas lunch

Sunday 27th December at 5pm - Dr. E. Dennis
Sunday 3rd January at 5pm - Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan
Sunday 10th January at 5pm - details later
Sunday 17th January at 5pm - Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan
Sunday 24th January at 5pm - Mr. Laurie Hockridge
Sunday 31st January at 5pm - Rev. Peter Nelson
Sunday 7th February at 5pm - Rev. Ray Hughes

6th Annual Multicultural CAROL SERVICE
Sunday, 6th December 2009
5-00 pm
Campbell Primary School Hall
Chauvel Street,
Campbell
www.canberracf.org.au

ALL WELCOME !!!
Refreshments after the service

with contributions from Aboriginal, Austral-Asian, Chinese, Fijian, Finnish, Indonesian, Korean, Papua New Guinea, Samoan and Tongan people

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



Rev. Kevin Kim Rev. Abraham Tang Rev. Bob Prior Rev. Steve Prior Rev. Peter Nelson Multicultural Carols Rev. Mark Warren



Finnish Carols Dr. E. Dennis Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan Mr. Laurie Hockridge Rev. Peter Nelson Rev. Ray Hughes

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