

December 2009  
Issue 40

# The Next Step



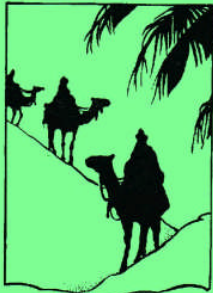
Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

**Sunday, 6 December 2009 – 6<sup>th</sup> Multicultural Carols**

*Canberra Christian Fellowship  
in the Methodist tradition*

*6<sup>th</sup> Multicultural  
Christmas Carol  
Service*

*6<sup>th</sup> December 2009  
at Campbell Primary School*



**6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Multicultural CAROLS**

Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009  
5-00 pm  
Campbell Primary School Hall  
Chauvel Street,  
Campbell

[www.canberracf.org.au](http://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)

Gifts were the subject of the message presented by Peter Nelson at the Carols.

The wise men who brought gifts to the baby Jesus gave Him good gifts and ones appropriate for who He was and what he would do.

One gift was gold. Gold is valuable and often given to kings. Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, so it was a very fitting gift to give Him.

A second gift was frankincense. This was often used in the temple during religious observances. Jesus was not just a man. He is God so again it was an appropriate gift.

Myrrh can be used as a deodorant and a perfume, and it is also a pain killing drug. Jesus was to suffer as He completed his life on earth. He was offered myrrh as he hung on the cross, but he didn't take it. The gift of myrrh perhaps foresaw his future role.

The gifts the wise men gave were good and thoughtful gifts, but they are insignificant when compared with the gift Jesus gives us. Jesus died so that we could become children of God. That is a wonderful gift. All we have to do is accept that gift.

ID

Although an accurate count of people attending the Carols is close to impossible to get, best estimates suggest around 300 people, or just over, came this year.



Top left and right: The calm before the storm

Middle above: The Band

Above: The Indonesians

Right: Rev. Kevin Kim leading the Prayer



**The Chinese Methodists**



**The Austral-Asian choir**



**The Reid Korean choir**



**Top:  
The Samoan Methodists**



**Centre:  
Greetings from the Finnish  
Lutherans (Rev. Matti and  
Mrs. Ritva Nuorala)**

**Bottom:  
The Papua New Guinea  
group**





Above left: The Bible Reading (Mrs. Lea Nelson)  
We missed Chris Sloane from the Aboriginal Church who was eager to attend and read the Bible for us, but unfortunately unable to be with us



Above right: The Message (Rev. Peter Nelson)

Right: The Tongan Methodists



Left: The Fijian Methodists and friends





Above:  
Thank you to the Band

The Blessing (Rev. Abraham Tang)



Above, Below and Right: Refreshments

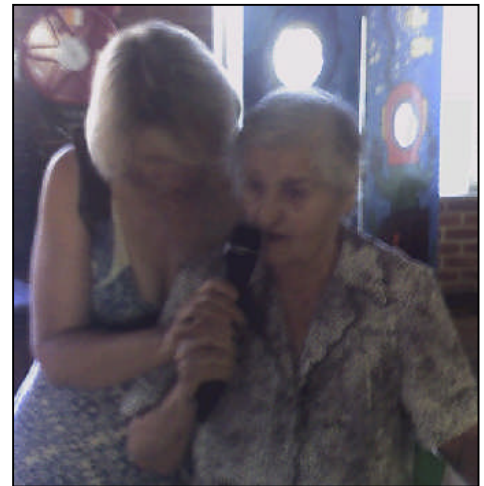


Our Multicultural Carols is regarded as quite a special time by many people who come along.

One lady who came with her daughter this year was originally from the Ukraine.

She suffers from some of the ailments that inflict too many older people, however the carols meant a great deal to her. As people moved out of the hall for refreshments, she kept listening to the band until they finished playing. She then asked if she could sing a Ukrainian song. She sang softly with help from her daughter.

God speaks to us in all sorts of different ways. It seems to me that God used the Carols to say something special to this lady. ID



### Shoe Boxes

Everyone who filled a shoe box or contributed in some way to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes this year will be interested to know that the ACT / Southern NSW region has received, processed and sent off **24,048** shoe boxes this year. Some of these boxes are already on their way to Vietnam and PNG. 1500 of the boxes are going to the Tsunami affected areas in Samoa along with some cartons of clothing and soft toys that were too large to fit in shoe boxes. ACT / Southern NSW boxes are also destined for Thailand and Cambodia.

### Sunday, 29 November 2009 – Rev. Peter Nelson – God's Amazing Grace



Grace is 'God's unmerited and undeserved favour' and it is the heart and at the centre of the Church. The hymn "And can it be ..." examines God's grace in the words

*He left His Father's throne above-  
So free, so infinite His grace-  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race. ...*

Ephesians 5: 1,4-5 tells us

*"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ...<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,<sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions— it is by grace you have been saved."*

God has provided for our salvation through His grace. It has nothing to do with anything we have done. All we do is accept it.

The parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20: 1-16) is not about industrial relations or what men might see as fair, but its point focuses on the master's generosity particularly to the men he hired late in the day, giving them much more than they earned. We deserve nothing from God, but in His love and through His grace He wants us to receive salvation and so much more. ID

### "THE 700 CLUB"<sup>1</sup>

What, you may ask, is "The 700 Club"?

First let me tell you a good news story we heard on our last visit to see Steve Lindner, Chaplain at the Campbell High School.

He told us about a year 10 lad who was a student in the Special learning unit who suffers from Autism and depression and did not take part in daily class activities. Each day at school he would just sit in a corner, lay his head on the desk or play on the computer and not take part in class activities.

One night, while suffering from a bout of depression, he turned on cable TV and watched a program hosted by CBN<sup>2</sup>.

That program happened to be "The 700 Club". It is a live television program that airs weekdays before a studio audience from the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) broadcast facilities in Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA. The 700 Club is a mix of news and commentary, interviews, feature stories and Christian Ministry.

As Ian reported in The Next Step No. 39 (Page 6), this year 10 student became a Christian after watching "The 700 Club". The change in this student was remarkable according to school staff. He regularly visits Steve asking all types of questions about the Bible and other issues such as investing ethically.

I have now watched this program a few times and it certainly has a powerful message. I can understand how the Lord is working in many different ways especially through the medium of television. Warren Clendenning

<sup>1</sup> *The 700 Club* is a program aired by the Christian Broadcasting Network, USA that can be seen on Foxtel on the Australian Christian Channel.

<sup>2</sup> CBN.com

## Found on the internet

John Wesley's singing rules for Methodists (he had a Method for everything!):

1. Learn the tune.
2. Sing them as they are printed.
3. Sing all. "If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing."
4. Sing lustily and with a good courage.
5. Sing modestly. Do not bawl.
6. Sing in time. Do not run before or stay behind.
7. Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this, attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually.

<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/misc/trivia.htm>

## A bit of fun

### The Fishing Spot

Ole and Svend were out fishing one day in a rented boat. They simply couldn't find any fish at the first and second spots that they fished at, and it was getting late. So they thought that they would try one more spot to fish at, and sure enough they got lots of fish.

They were so happy, that Ole told Svend to jump over the boat and mark the spot. that way they could remember where they fished next time..

So Svend dived over board and put a big X on the "bottom" of the boat. Afterwards Svend climbed back into the boat and told Ole what he had done. Ole said, "That is the dumbest thing I have every heard of, marking the bottom of a "rented boat" with an X. What if we don't get the same boat, next time?"



### Big Changes.

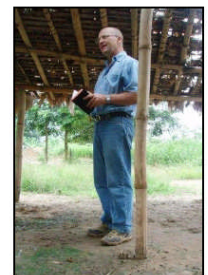
We find it amazing to see what a difference one term of Bible School makes for 1st years. Our aim for them in first term is that they learn what the gospel is and start to be slightly competent in understanding what they read in the Bible. Almost no-one starts with an understanding of entry into God's Kingdom by way of a free gift through faith in Jesus. It is good to see they have all got it now! Also satisfying is to see 3rd

years excited about Romans having studied the letter all term.

**Bricks and Pig pens.** Each student was asked to make 500 mud bricks during term as their contribution to our project to build new houses for family accommodation. Some have made it but the very heavy rain has slowed down production.

In the break between terms we are having a pig pen built. This is part of an effort to make the School self sufficient.

- Malcolm being asked to preach after we arrived at church one Sunday morning. (Yes he did preach since no-one else had prepared anything)
- Giving a bakery an order for a loaf of bread, paying up front and after numerous visits to the bakery after one week still not having the bread
- We just received a parcel posted over 12 months ago from Australia
- Trying to get a two page document printed in colour using printers set up on desks on the street attached to a generator that was too small to run them .



Malcolm preaching without notice - or notes. At least he had his Swahili Bible.



### Turning One

Birthday parties are usually great fun as a group of friends get together to celebrate the passing of another year in the life of the birthday celebrant. It was a pleasure to be part of a special birthday party just recently.

In Korea first birthdays are given special attention and so when Korean minister Kevin Kim's daughter Evangeline turned one, it was a day to celebrate. The party was held at the Royal Secret Garden Korean restaurant in City Walk, Civic and a good number were there including 11 from our Fellowship. There were speeches, prayers, photos and plenty of delicious Korean food. One custom is to lay out a number of toys representing different occupations and the selected toy supposedly gives some indication of a future career. After much indecision Evangeline selected a stethoscope to play with, so perhaps in 20-25 years time she may be performing a vital service for people with medical needs.

I hope Evangeline enjoyed her special day as much as those of us who helped her celebrate.

ID



Mum Kay, Evangeline and Ruth

### CIT Dinner

A few weeks ago, Dominica enquired whether anyone would be interested in a visit to the CIT for dinner sometime. The suggestion met with approval. As a result last night 15 of us turned up at the CIT café for a meal. Although people unfamiliar with the CIT restaurant sometimes hint that placing yourself in the hands of hospitality students is taking your life in your hands, people with experience of eating there know you can expect a good meal for a reasonable price. Last night was no different. For a very low price we enjoyed a 3 course meal with a choice of 2 menu items for each course.

I chose French Onion soup to begin with and it was delicious, the best I've had. Those who had the risotto entrée option also said how good that tasted. I'm told the duck with potato and beans main course was particularly nice and the brochette (skewered chicken and vegetables) with pasta was by no means an inferior choice. The desserts were a yoghurt, mousse type of thing with raspberries or ice-cream on a cherry, coconut, biscuity base. Both received a high approval rating from those who chose them.

Thanks to Dominica for organising such an enjoyable evening. After dinner chatter suggests a return visit might be very well supported.

ID



Above: Alec Maurine, Marie, Ann, Isobel.



Above: Carolyn, Antoinette, Derek.



At Left:  
Left side of table, closest to farthest:  
Derek, Malcolm, Howard, Alec, Maurine (hidden), Marie (mostly hidden).  
Right side of table, farthest to closest:  
Ann, Isobel, Ian, Warren, Dominica, Vince, Carolyn.  
Out of picture: Antoinette and photographer Ruth

Coming Up

Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Turner.  
Currently studying Daniel In recess until 2010  
All welcome - contact Joyce for more information

Discussion Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm at Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Turner.  
The next study will use Tom Wright's book, "The Scriptures, the Cross and the Power of God" In recess until 29-1-2010  
All welcome - contact Ted for more information

Thursday Evening Group

Thursdays at 6-00 pm at Vince and Dominica's, Campbell.  
Currently studying John. In recess until 2010  
All welcome - contact Vince / Dominica for more information

Prayer Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at Marie's.  
Next meeting – 2010  
All welcome - contact Alec for more information

Services

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

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, Isaacs have advised us their service is at 10am and is followed by a Christmas lunch

Sunday 27th December at 5pm – Dr. E. Dennis

2010

Sunday 3rd January at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan

Sunday 10th January at 5pm – Dr. Howard Bradbury

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

Sunday 14th February at 5pm – details later

Sunday 21st February at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Murray Earl

Sunday 28th February at 5pm – details later



Rev. Mark Warren



Finnish Carols



Dr. E. Dennis



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan



Dr. Howard Bradbury



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan



Mr. Laurie Hockridge



Rev. Peter Nelson



Rev. Ray Hughes



Rev. Dr. Murray Earl



Contacts

Canberra Christian Fellowship  
P.O. Box 184  
Campbell 2612  
A.C.T.

E-mail: [canberracf@yahoo.com.au](mailto:canberracf@yahoo.com.au)  
Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

TNS editor : Ian Denton – e-mail : [iancd@yahoo.com](mailto:iancd@yahoo.com)  
Principal photographer : Antoinette