

May - July 2010  
Issue 44

# The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

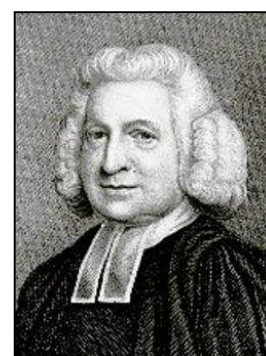
## Wesley Hymn Festival

The day before what would have been John Wesley's 307<sup>th</sup> birthday, (he was born on 28 June 1703 according to the Gregorian calendar – it was 11 June 1703 by the Julian calendar), our fellowship held a Wesley Hymn Festival to which we invited a number of other churches. Well over 100 people attended.

Together we sang seven of Charles Wesley's wonderful hymns with choirs from the different churches leading us.

Instead of using a Bible text as the basis of his address, on this occasion Peter Nelson used the hymn "O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise" as his text, noting that Charles Wesley's hymns were packed full of theology.

- Verse 1 is a declaration of enthusiasm for God and proclamation of His glory.
- Verse 2 is a recognition that the gospel of Christ is for everyone.
- Joy inspired by the gospel is expressed in verse 3.
- God's power is apparent in verse 4.
- Verse 5 tells us that God uses His power for our good.
- The last verse reminds us that the gospel applies to each of us personally.



Charles Wesley

ID

## Matti and Ritva Nuorala returning to Finland

Our fellowship has been meeting in Turner for around 1½ years now. In that time we have got to know the Finnish Lutheran pastor, Matti, and his wife, Ritva, quite well.

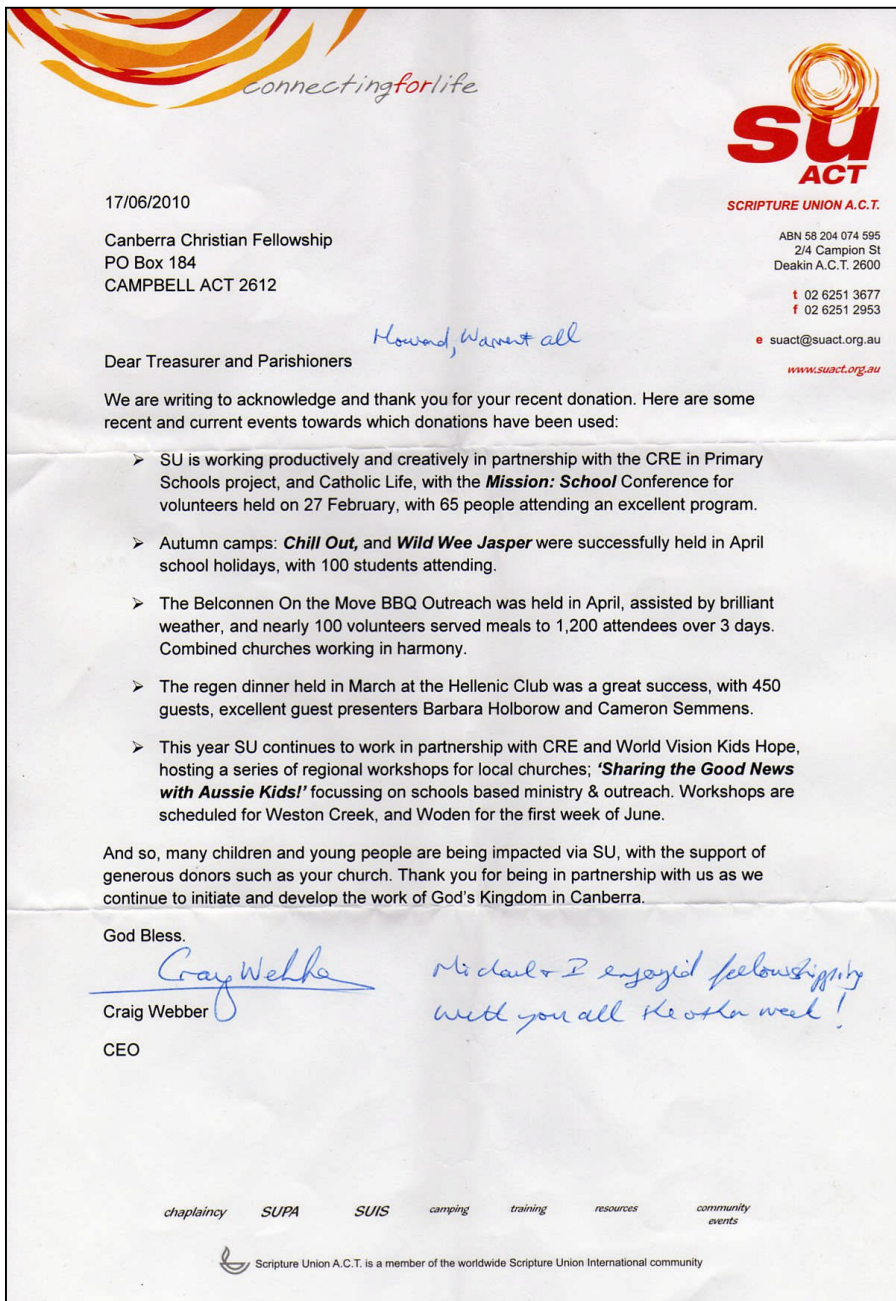
We recently heard that after 6½ years in Australia, they are about to return to Finland.

In order to farewell them and thank them for their friendship and assistance, we took them out to lunch at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra. On a wet day it was good to enjoy a good meal and good conversation.



Above L to R: Howard, Ritva, Matti, Ruth.

Right L to R: Coral (front), Ian, June, Ken, Denis, Matti (front), Arnold, Marie (front), Ann, Ritva (front), Howard, Ailsa, Maurine, Warren, Ruth (front), Heather, Dominica. Wendy had to leave before the photo was taken.



## Korean Trainee Prayer Intercessors

The other night Howard received a call from Kevin Kim asking if any members of our fellowship would like to meet with a group visiting from Korea. Unfortunately with just 1 day's notice most of those Howard had a chance to ask were unavailable. Not really knowing what was expected of us, Howard and myself headed to Reid Church for the meeting the next night.

The group consisted of about a dozen trainee prayer intercessors from Korea who were spending 2 weeks in Australia as part of a six month course. Other groups were visiting 40 other countries.

With Kevin translating, Howard began by giving a very brief outline of Australia's history, his own life and faith story and observations about the church in Australia from settlement to now. We mentioned the formation of our fellowship resulting from our unhappiness with the liberal leanings of some of the church leadership and the directions they were taking the church. We explained that Australia is a lucky country and fairly rich. As Australians have become better off, many people have forgotten God, become materialistic and are now only nominally Christian. It is often hard to share the message of Jesus with such people. Many Australian Christians are willing to talk about their faith if and when opportunities arise. There are some programs used which help introduce Jesus to people such as 'Jesus all about Life' (Bible Society) and 'Alpha'.

One lady asked about our fellowship and the number of young people who attend. I admitted the number of our young people is low, however we have a good number of 80 year olds plus a few 90 year olds to compensate. The lady was sad at the decline of the Australian church, however we explained we are doing what we believe God wants us to do, particularly in our case building up links with ethnic churches, and it is not all bad news – there are large churches with lots of young people.

The evening closed with prayer Korean style. Each Korean prayed out loud, some very loud, all at the same time for some minutes. It was noisy but at the same time it was uplifting.

As prayer intercessors, they assured us they would continue to pray for us, for Australia and about the issues we mentioned. ID

---

**Sunday 2nd May at 5pm – Rev. Abraham Tang – A Mother’s Heart**



Abraham Tang was our preacher on Mothers’ Day and he used as text the passage (Matthew 20: 20-28) in which Mrs. Zebedee (Salome) asked Jesus whether her sons James and John could sit at the right and left side of Jesus in His Kingdom. This was a bold request for her to make for her children and showed that she had faith that the Kingdom of God would come about and that she wanted her sons to have a big part in it.

These days sometimes children may be given everything that they ask for but don’t know Christ. What a tragedy that is.

The bold request by Salome was not granted because Jesus said that His Father would decide this. The other disciples were furious when they heard about it. Jesus said that “whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant – just as the Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Abraham said that the sacrificial love of a mother shows us Jesus and urged us to believe in the love of God. HB

---

**CIT dinner**

Back a month or so ago, a group of CCFers decided on an encore visit to the CIT restaurant in Reid for a meal. The previous visit was a resounding success. Although rumour suggests our latest visit was just as appreciated, I cannot provide any further details.

Why is it that reports on the event are so hard to come by?

Is it that the occasion was so disappointing that noone wants to admit being present? or

Is it that everyone was sworn to secrecy about this little known culinary showplace on leaving? or

Was it so good that everyone has already bored all their friends with their eating out stories and assume everyone already knows all there is to know? ID

---

**Sunday 9th May at 5pm – Rev. David McDonald – Psalm 91**

On May 9th we had the first of two Sundays with David McDonald preaching on the psalms. Psalm 91 is a very interesting psalm, because in the second temptation of Jesus (Matt 4:6) the devil quoted v 11 and 12, but it was a selective quote of 2 verses taken out of context. We must be very careful not to take any short section of the bible and quote it out of context. The devil deliberately did not continue the quote to v 13 in which the devil, symbolically the lion and the cobra in scripture, was trampled on by Jesus at the cross. Jesus is delivered and honoured by God (v 15).



Just as God did not deliver Jesus from the cross after his prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, neither will he deliver us from trouble but he promises to be with us. He rescued Jesus not from death but through death by his resurrection. It is a psalm of genuine hope, not on our terms but on his terms. Trust him. HB

---

**Sunday 16th May at 5pm – Rev. David McDonald – Psalm 92**

On May 16 David McDonald preached for us again on the psalms; this time Psalm 92 – ‘A song. For the Sabbath Day’. This psalm has a particular structure which David showed us by means of a sheet inserted into our order of service. The psalm is broken up into seven parts as follows:



A1 (v 1-3), B1 (v 4-5), C1 (v 6-7), D (v 8), C2 (v 9), B2 (v 10-11), A2 (v 12-15).

A1 and A2 are verses of praise and worship to God. It is so good for us to praise and worship God; for us to remember that we are not the centre, God is and we need to celebrate God.

In B1 and B2 we are reminded why we praise God, because he is the creator and he gives us insight and speaks to us. C1 and C2 tells us that the foolish perish. D (v 8) at the centre is the climax, “But you, O Lord, are exalted forever.” HB

---

## Sunday 23rd May at 5pm – Rev. Kevin Kim – How to Bear the Fruit of the Spirit

Kevin Kim preached at our 6th anniversary service on Pentecost Sunday. He said that there was a close fellowship between our Canberra Christian Fellowship and the Reid Korean Church. He was pleased to preach here, because this was the only service where he could preach in English.



Kevin said that Peter, the ignorant fisherman, gave a great address on that day when the Holy Spirit fell on the 120 believers and that as a result of the action of the Holy Spirit 3000 people were added to their number. He hopes that this may happen to our churches.

We must seek the Holy Spirit and be filled with the Holy Spirit. We can tell whether people are filled with the Holy Spirit by their fruit. The fruit is singular; there are nine different flavours but only one fruit (Gal 5:13-26). For example if we have love but no joy we are not bearing fruit, or if we are faithful and gentle but have no self control we are not bearing fruit. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is rare. A church that is filled with the Holy Spirit is like a rare diamond.

HB

---

## Sunday 30th May at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Murray Earl



On Sunday May 30 (Trinity Sunday), a rainy cold night, Murray Earl preached first on The Trinity and then on the Gospel of Mark.

The Christian year commences at Advent before Christmas and the first six months include Easter and Pentecost and end on Trinity Sunday, and the second half is from June to November. We learned that the mystery of the Holy Trinity is described well in the Athanasian Creed as “One person of the Father, another of the Son and another of the Holy Spirit, but the Godhead of the Father of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is all one. Neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the essence.”

Murray then preached on St. Mark’s gospel. He told us that the Bible had 40 authors (ordinary people under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit). There were originally no chapters or verses, very diverse literature (history, prophecy, poetry, etc.), written in Hebrew, Greek and a little in Aramaic. The Gospels are biographies of the life of Jesus and the first and shortest one was written by John Mark and is full of action. The major part of the ministry of Jesus is described in the first nine chapters of Mark and then there is a turning point in chapter 10, when Jesus sets his face towards Jerusalem and the last one third of the Gospel covers the short period of months surrounding his death and resurrection.

HB

Sunday 30th May at 5pm – Mr. Zane Edwards



<- After the service  
L to R: Derek, Carolyn  
Dominica, Antoinette, Marie.



->  
L to R: Warren, Rosalie,  
Zane, Marie.

Campbell High School Chaplaincy – Rev. Steve Lindner

At our monthly visit to Steve Lindner, Chaplain, Campbell High School, our small team consisting of Marie, Ian and Warren discussed and prayed with Steve about the following things that were in Steve's mind and prayers.



- The former principal of Campbell High who has been promoted to the new college in Gungahlin;
- The acting principal (presently the Deputy Principal) who is filling in while the education department finds a replacement which may take a number of months;
- The teachers and support staff;
- The lunchtime group's leader who is overseas at present. The group attracts about 12 students who participates in discussions and games;
- Focus on the Family is due to visit the school in September but this may depend on the attitude of the new principal;
- The Seasons for Change discussion group is still meeting but with reduced numbers;
- Bob Prior and his racecourse chaplaincy;
- Scripture Union and it's leaders; and
- Our fellowship.

WC

## Racecourse Chaplaincy Update – Rev. Bob Prior

I was privileged to attend Bob Prior's Accountability Group meeting held last Monday evening. Bob opened in prayer and explained how he was ministering to the Racing Industry. Some of the issues that were discussed were:

- Bob will be presented with a new car at a fund raising race meeting on 6th August
- He has sent out text messages to people of the racing fraternity with positive results
- He continues to help people from the Queanbeyan racecourse
- He visits Goulburn races and was invited to attend a picnic race meeting at Cowra
- He is looking for help with chaplaincy at Moruya and Sapphire Coast courses
- He has been offered help at Canberra course looking at ways and ideas to raise the profile and sponsorship of RacingCare
- He continues to be very busy generally with his own ministry and helping young people.

Please continue to hold Bob in your prayers with his ongoing ministry to the racing Industry here and in the local surroundings.



Warren

## Bible Study – the end of an era

Our evening Bible Study has only been going for a relatively short time, however it has settled into a comfortable pattern. We have been meeting at Vince and Dominica's place for the study and then enjoying a light meal together before heading home.

The Bible Study is continuing, however Vince and Dominica's place is no longer available.

After receiving an offer for their home, they have decided to a move just out of the city, across the border and into a rural setting. They will still be close enough to participate in the Bible Study but too far away for everyone to trek to their place each week. We have started to meet at Bradbury's for now.

Bible Study at Vince and Dominica's home, and in fact the house itself, will soon be just memories and a pile of rubble as the new owner is more interested in the address than the house itself.

ID

## Sunday 4th July at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan – Coping with Grief



This was for Campbell a personal sermon as his daughter recently lost her battle with cancer at age 44.

Campbell offered five themes.

- In the tapestry of life, suffering results from many causes – natural disasters, social disturbances, war, assault, etc.. Campbell mentioned the "Master Weaver's Plan" poem that talks about both bright and dark threads being needed to create the pattern the master weaver has planned.
- When it comes to a faith for life, Campbell suggested we could choose a secular humanist view or a faithful Christian life. The secular view depends on chance and survival of the fittest, however the Christian life provides another dimension beyond the human level – the spiritual. Virtue and purpose come from the divine and life is then lived in the context of God and His creation.
- Kindness and Support is part of God's natural grace. Campbell's daughter and her family received many good wishes, much generosity and prayer support during her illness and at her death.
- Cancer was the killer. We need to support efforts to conquer diseases and find remedies or means of relief. Christians should be at the forefront of these efforts.
- For Christians death is just a further step in life. Campbell thanked God on the birth of his daughter. On her death he still wanted to thank God for her. "The Lord gives. The Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." It is not our faltering grasp on God that is important, but His sure hold on us. As Christians we should hold on to the promises of God. "*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*" (Matthew 5:4 NIV). God comes, sustains us and carries us through.

ID

### THE MASTER WEAVER'S PLAN

My life is but a weaving  
Between the Lord and me;  
I may not choose the colours--  
He knows what they should be.

For He can view the pattern  
Upon the upper side  
While I can see it only  
On this, the under side.

Sometimes He weaves in sorrow,  
Which seems so strange to me;  
But I will trust His judgment  
And work on faithfully.

'Tis He who fills the shuttle,  
And He knows what is best;  
So I shall weave in earnest,  
And leave to Him the rest.

Not 'til the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Shall God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needed  
In the Weaver's skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned.

-- Author Unknown --

## Music, Music, Music



As we sang one of the hymns last Sunday, my mind wandered just a little and I pondered on the value of musicians to our services.

Since our fellowship began, we have been served well by pianists, particularly June, Maurine and more recently Natasha. Others have helped out on occasions including Pam and Rodney.

From time to time Matthew has augmented the piano with his violin and for the last few weeks Antoinette has brought her violin along.

All have contributed significantly to our singing and to our worship.

Thank you.

ID



## Sunday 11th July at 5pm – Pastor Mark Warren – Changed by God

Acts 17: 1-15, 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Thessalonica recently celebrated the anniversary of its founding 2,300 years ago. It is currently the second biggest city in Greece and is regarded as the financial hub of Greece.

As you would expect, it has many historical sites and places where memorable events from the past took place. Not so long ago, a former bus depot was being demolished when ancient ruins from the 1<sup>st</sup> century were found. One block of stone had an inscription that included the word “politarches” – a word little known in ancient greek writing, but used by Luke when he wrote about events in Thessalonica. Paul visited Thessalonica as described in the New Testament, Luke documented his visit, using the correct title for local officials as archaeology confirms.

The biblical Thessalonians were real people living real lives and experiencing real pressures, but with a real faith. They endured physical opposition whereas the opposition we face today is more a passive resentment.

The Thessalonians were then and still are today a model for other Christians. Despite the opposition they encountered, they persevered in their faith.

Paul thanked God for their faith which was an active faith; their love which prompted their labours; and their hope in Jesus which gave them endurance.

There is a lot we can learn from the example of the early Thessalonian Christians.

ID

## Sunday 18th July at 5pm – Rev. Ray Hughes – The Longing of the Heart



From Luke 10: 38-42 we see that both Martha and Mary were good women and friends of Jesus, but they were different. Mary preferred to spend time with Jesus before she attended to chores whereas Martha wanted to get the work done first.

We need to spend time with God. Some say we need at least ½ an hour of prayer each day, EXCEPT when we are busy – then we need 1 hour.

Martha was a doer and Mary more contemplative. There is a bit of each in all of us which is a good thing. It becomes not so good when doing things starts to dominate. If we become too busy to pray, we are too busy.

The more time we spend in God's presence and expose ourselves to Him, the more of His light will be reflected through us.

ID

---

**Coming Up**

**Bible Study**

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

Currently studying Ezra. In recess until August

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information

**Tuesday Evening Group**

**Tuesdays at 6-30 pm at Howard and Ruth's, Campbell.**

Currently studying Acts.

All welcome - contact Vince / Dominica for more information

**Prayer Meeting**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at Marie's.**

Next meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> August at 2-00pm

All welcome - contact Alec for more information

**Services**

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

Sunday **25th July** at 5pm – **Rev. Steve Prior**

Sunday **1st August** at 5pm – **Mr. Laurie Hockridge**

Sunday **8th August** at 5pm – **Dr. Howard Bradbury**

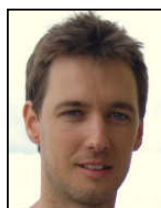
Sunday **15th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Bob Prior**

Sunday **22rd August** at 5pm – **Mr. Michael Nott**

Sunday **29th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**

Sunday **5th September** at 5pm – **Rev. Kevin Kim**

Sunday **12th September** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Murray Earl**



**Pastor Steve  
Prior**



**Mr. Laurie  
Hockridge**



**Dr. Howard  
Bradbury**



**Rev. Bob  
Prior**



**Mr. Michael  
Nott**



**Rev. Peter  
Nelson**



**Rev. Kevin  
Kim**



**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)