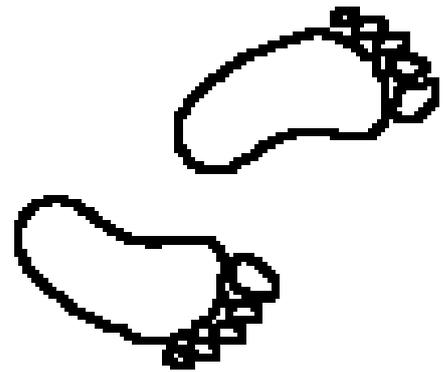


November 2010
Issue 47

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

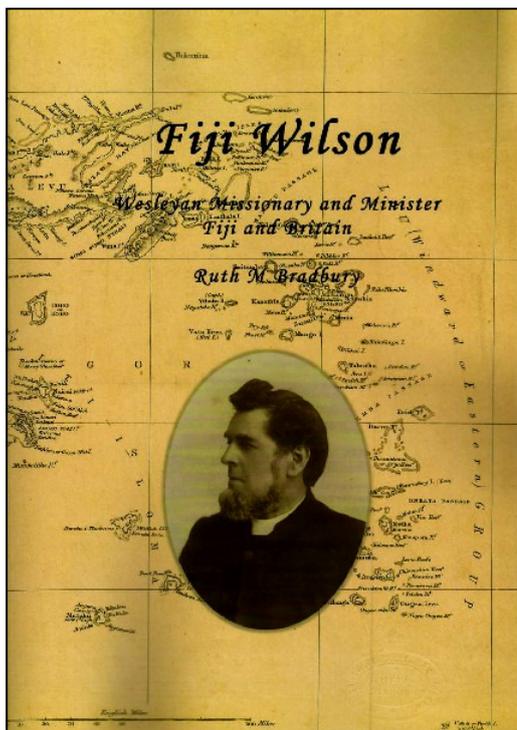
Fiji Wilson book

What a welcome to a new appointment - a new colleague describing how he had narrowly escaped being clubbed to death the previous week and wars raging, murders being committed and death drums sounding. A far cry from the island paradise packed full of friendly welcoming people promoted these days.

The Rev. William Wilson, supported by his new wife Jeanie, served his Lord for almost 6 years in mid-1800s Fiji, facing dangers from hostile, pagan cannibals, storms, the perils of travel and sickness. Jeanie actually died in Fiji from a sickness she picked up nursing someone else. It was difficult work but William tackled it with vigour. Reading his story I was struck with the amount he did. He often preached several times in a day, conducted baptisms and weddings plus travelled between villages over land or sea. The challenge was great but so were the rewards. Many Fijians came to know Christ through his work.

On his return to England, he continued to minister to God's people, but facing slightly different challenges.

The story of Fiji Wilson as told by Ruth Bradbury is a fascinating and inspiring tale of service to God.



The national launch for Ruth's book, by Rev. Prof. James Haire, is on Tuesday, 30 November, 6-00pm.

Top: Mary Hawkes launching Ruth's book in Adelaide. Bottom: Ruth responding.

7th Annual

Multicultural Carols

Sunday, 5 December 2010
5-00 pm
Campbell Primary School Hall
Chauvel Street,
Campbell

ALL WELCOME

*Our guests include Austral-Asian,
Chinese, Fijian, Finnish,
Indonesian, Korean,
Samoan & Tongan people.*

**Refreshments
after
the service**

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A Meal and a Meeting



standard with several different pies / cheesecakes to choose from plus cream and icecream. As food lovers we were delighted but I suspect dieticians may have been less enthusiastic.

Lunch over, it was obviously time for a nap, but instead we launched into our Annual Meeting. Noone snored to my knowledge so we seem to have got away with it.

The big item of discussion was the rapidly approaching Multicultural Carols.

Food last year proved to be something of an effort to organise so we are hoping this year the organisation will be less stressful but the end result just as successful.

We are very grateful to Vince, Dominica and Antoinette for their hospitality and to all others who helped make the day the success it was.

Top left: Maurine, Denis, Coral, Ailsa & Joyce contemplating the next course.

The last Saturday in October was the occasion for a whole bunch of city folk to venture out into the wilds of Wamboin to visit Vince, Dominica and Antoinette in their new home. The property may not fit the area of all of the UK within its boundaries, but for us city slickers it seemed big enough.

After a tour to familiarise us with the layout of the place, Vince got to work on the first item on the agenda for the day - lunch.

I don't know how many people watch the cooking show "Iron Chef", but it occurred to me that we should nominate Vince to become the Iron Chef Barbecues. The sausages were sizzled to perfection and the beef was done as beef should be done. The special ingredient was of course meat.

Vince's masterpieces of culinary excellence, combined with several salads, corn cobs and jacket potatoes made for a delicious and filling first course. Sweets were equally up to



Above: Considering weighty matters.

ID

The McDonalds

David McDonald of Crossroads Church, who preaches for us from time to time, was recently on long service leave with part of his family. The following is from a letter sent to family and friends.

For those of you who aren't aware of all the details, our long service leave came to an abrupt end, when I, Fiona, rolled our 4wd and camper on a remote dirt road in the Pilbara, WA.

... I lost control of the car, over-corrected, and we rolled over and over, writing-off our Prado and camper trailer. We landed on our wheels and were horrified to discover that Marcus had been ejected from the vehicle during the accident. ... miraculously, God had saved Marcus who ... seemed to have been placed gently out his open window as we rolled, with the 4wd rolling away from him ... Marcus had been wondering why we didn't see ... miracles in our lives. ... Grace and I pointed out the next day that Marcus had now experienced his own personal miracle. ...



At Mossman Gorge

David sustained a couple of cracked ribs, and Grace had bruising to her

hand. ...

Unfortunately my humerus ... [was] smashed against the car door, causing my shoulder to shatter. ... [I also suffered] extensive tendon damage to hand and wrist. ...

We were wonderfully cared for at the accident scene by 2 drivers who stopped to help, and the local cattle station manager ... We received great care by the paramedics, and the staff at Karratha hospital. ...

I was flown to Royal Perth Hospital the next day by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. ... David and the kids were cared for by the people of Karratha Anglican Church, ... It was so wonderful to see the biblical principles of caring for the family of believers, strangers and those in distress, being put into practice. Praise God for his people in that place!

Meanwhile, in Perth, I was being wonderfully cared for by Christian friends. ...

Our church family and friends here in Canberra have kindly been caring for us. ... It's been wonderful and humbling to be so well cared for and loved. Praise God for his saints!

... David has returned to work this week...

We are so thankful to God for His amazing love, care and provision for us in the past 6 weeks, on top of giving us a wonderful holiday prior to that, just relaxing and relishing in the beauty of His creation. ...

Love from Fiona (Dave, Grace & Marcus)

The Richards'

From Malcolm and Elizabeth Richards' November 2010 newsletter



Coming home from a days teaching at Bible School

Dear Friends,

A lot has happened since our last newsletter in September. In particular Malcolm has been offered and has accepted the position of General Secretary of the NSW Branch of CMS Australia.

The job is based in Sydney and will start around May of 2011 after we have completed some visiting of link churches and made some readjustments to living in Australia.

The decision to finish here in Kindu [D.R. Congo] earlier than we had planned was very difficult but we, the committee in Sydney and our Bishop have been convinced it is the right decision for us at this time. We would value your prayers for us and for the church here in Kindu as we all adjust to the change of plans.

While we had thought to come back to Kindu mid 2011 after Home Assignment and spend another year or so here we have come close now to completing what we came to do. We thank God that we will be leaving a functioning Bible School with adequate buildings, good staff and a syllabus that has been tried and refined over 4 years of teaching.

Over the next 6 weeks before we leave we are busy finishing writing books and teaching materials, printing all that

will be needed for the next term of Bible School and getting everything ready for a hand over.

... One of Malcolm's major tasks to do is to install solar panels and battery at the Bible School offices so that staff there can use a computer and a small printer.

Challenges ahead for the Bible School

Long distance challenge. We have a good team at Berea Bible School who are quite capable of continuing the vision of training men and women to be effective gospel ministers in the local situation.

One fear they have is that perhaps without our presence here people might forget them quickly. The financial and prayer support that they get from outside is important and whether we like it or not our presence here makes them a lot more visible to outside help.

The challenge for the Director and staff will be to maintain contact with outside partners even if we are absent.

The nearer challenge. A lot of jealousy of our graduates from existing pastors and church workers still exists. Because our graduates are better trained it makes the older ones look incompetent. The challenge is to keep producing good people – but also ones that will stick to the task despite opposition.

Sunday 31st October at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson – A Christian We Would All Like To Meet



For Peter, the most exciting book of the Bible is Acts. The story of Acts in a nutshell is that the Holy Spirit comes down, the disciples go out and the Church goes up in numbers. It tells the story of Godly people who are very human and ordinary people who love an extraordinary Saviour. Acts provides a pattern for church life - care for each other and proclaim Christ.

In the early church a problem of food distribution arose. Some people felt they were being treated less favourably than others. Seven men full of The Holy Spirit and wisdom were appointed to attend to food distribution. Stephen was one of these men.

Stephen was filled with God's grace and power. The early church was a powerful and prayerful church (prayer and power being the two sides of the same coin). Stephen was also wise. When questioned or challenged he was able to provide good answers with a gentle and reverent spirit. Despite this he encountered opposition which eventually led to his death by stoning.

When we 'sign up' as followers of Christ, we also 'sign up' for persecution.

Here in Australia we suffer relatively little persecution, however there are many places around this world where people are subjected to significant suffering or death as a result of their Christian faith. Peter gave a number of examples.

He asked us to pray for persecuted Christians. They, like Stephen was, are full of The Spirit, full of wisdom, full of God's grace and full of courage. We too should seek to possess those qualities.

ID

Campbell High School Chaplaincy – Rev. Steve Lindner

It has proven difficult to visit Steve at the school for a prayer time this term due to absences from Canberra and unavailability.

His chaplaincy work, however, is still in our minds and prayers.

In a recent e-mail he wrote *"I've appreciated our prayer times over the past year. ...*

*God bless,
Steve"*



Sunday 7th November at 5pm – Rev. Bob Prior – Enjoy the Winning Feeling

November 7 was a very special service with the Indonesian choir and their band (piano, saxophone, guitars and boys with ukuleles). They sang several hymns for us, which were very greatly appreciated. Then Bob Prior preached on the subject “Enjoy the winning feeling”, which was an apt title for a racecourse chaplain so soon after the Melbourne Cup. Bob pointed out that Australia is no longer a Christian country, but we live in a post-Christian era and must fight daily battles. In Ephesians 6: 10-20 we read that we struggle not against flesh and blood but against rulers, authorities and forces of evil. The real enemy is Satan and we cannot fight him in our own strength but only in the power of the Holy Spirit.



We must fight with the right power to win and put on the full armour every day. Satan uses pride to make us think that we do not need to put on the full armour every day. We need this just as much when we are up as when we are down. We should be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power which outsmarts Satan.

We must use the right weapons. Truth, we must be truthful at all times, righteousness and obedience to God. We can all be witnesses for God and with Him anything is possible. We have peace with God, we are a saved people and we must have faith. We should keep close to the Word of God, the Bible, read it every day and pray. Keep on praying for the Lord’s people and for Bob who needs our prayers daily in his work.

A communion service followed and we concluded this excellent service by singing the hymn “Onward Christian Soldiers.”

HB

Sunday 14th November at 5pm – Mr. Zane Edwards – Safe in the Sanctuary



On November 14, Zane and Rosalie Edwards and Julie led our singing and we learned two new hymns. Zane preached on the subject of “Safe in the Sanctuary.” In today’s world we all need a place where we can feel safe. God’s love is a place of sanctuary. In Hebrews 4: 14-16 we read that since we have a great high priest, Jesus, we can hold firmly to the faith we profess and approach God with confidence. In 1 John 5: 13 we read that “you who believe in the name of the Son of God may know that you have eternal life.” Do you have that assurance of eternal life? If you do the load has been taken from you.

HB

Sunday 21st November at 5pm – Hymn Singing

On 21st November the congregation enjoyed a hymn singing evening led by Laurie, who introduced 13 favourite hymns chosen by various members.

John Mann shared a favourite hymn of his mother - 'All hail the power of Jesu's name' which was very touching.

Laurie also told of the background of a number of the hymns chosen. The Bible reading was John 3 and this tied in with the final hymn 'And can it be'. This reading and hymn gives the answer to the question raised in the song 'Amazing Grace' as being amazing love as found in John 3:16.



A big thank you to June and Antoinette for their musicianship.

Norma

CIT for Tea

Reporting on meals at the CIT is almost becoming a (most welcome) habit.

On this latest occasion we invited those people who have preached for us recently with their spouses. We were very pleased Zane and Rosalie Edwards, David and Fiona McDonald, Bob and Evelyn Prior, Steve and Cathy Prior and Peter and Lea Nelson were able to join us. Others offered their apologies.

As always the meal itself was something to delight the tastebuds.

It was a very enjoyable evening, but unfortunately we forgot to get out the camera until many people had wandered off or were too busy chatting to be photographed.

ID



Top Left: Heather, Dominica (front), Warren, Ann.

Top Right: Fiona, Bob, David, Howard.

Left: Maurine, Joyce, Laurie, Fanny, Ian, Derek.

Bottom Left: Chatting - Derek, Denis, Marie, Ann, Coral, Ailsa, June, Vince (behind).

Bottom Right: Bob, Evelyn, Howard, Fiona, David, Cathy, Fanny, Steve, Ruth, Ian (behind).



Racecourse Chaplaincy – RacingCare Report Oct/Nov. 2010 – Rev. Bob Prior



This is a brief report for the information of my praying supporters. Over these last two months, I have found the going pretty tough at times and Evelyn especially has been concerned that we have not been able to have enough “family time”. As a result I have started to limit the time I spend away from Canberra.

However there has still been plenty to do. Previously I had started a Bible discussion group with three men in Goulburn. None of them were church attendees and all had some degree of drug and alcohol abuse. Since then one of them has made commitment of his life to Jesus and moved up to Darwin where he is now riding and working in a produce store. He has told me that he is off all drugs and alcohol.

The second man has a new partner who does not touch drugs or alcohol. They have, in the past, asked me to come and visit them where I have been able to share with them about faith issues. On Friday last week I had a call from him to say that they are moving to Canberra and they are looking forward to catching up a lot more regularly.

And now last week I was contacted by the third man who told me that he has just finished detox and asked me if I would be his sponsor (mentor). He also told me that he was now boarding with a fellow he went through detox with and could I come and talk to them both about faith and how it could help them. When I visited I found that the other guy had been brought up with a Jehovah Witness background and has a strong sense of the Bible having the answers to their problems. We spent an hour or two sharing from the Bible and they are enthusiastic about doing this regularly.

I have also continued to go to the stables in Canberra and Queanbeyan and to race meetings at Goulburn, Canberra, Queanbeyan and Moruya.

RacingCare continues to dialogue with Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy in Sydney to enable us to continue to minister together on Australian Racetracks.

Thanks for your continued prayers,
Bob.

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

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

Will be in recess until next year

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information

Tuesday Evening Group

The study of Acts has finished and plans for the next study or activity are still being formulated.

All welcome - contact Vince / Dominica for more information

Thursday English Conversation Group

Thursdays at 3-30pm at Canberra Korean Uniting Church, Reid.

All welcome for conversation with Koreans trying to improve their English - contact June for more information

Friday Study Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm at Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Turner.

"Witnessing: How to Give Away Your Faith" by Paul Little

All welcome - contact Howard for more information

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month at Marie's.

Next meeting – watch the newsheet for details

All welcome - contact Alec for more information

Services

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

Sunday 28th November at 5pm – Mr. Peter Bentley

Sunday 5th December at 5pm – 7th Annual Multicultural Carols

Sunday 5th December at 5pm **at Campbell Primary School Hall** – 7th Annual Multicultural Carols

Sunday 12th December at 5pm – Dr. Howard Bradbury

Sunday 19th December at 5pm – with the Finnish people for their Carols

Sunday 26th December at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan
2011

Sunday 2nd January at 5pm – Mrs. Joyce Hall

Sunday 9th January at 5pm – Rev. Kevin Kim

Sunday 16th January at 5pm – Pastor Mark Warren

Sunday 23rd January at 5pm – Mr. Laurie Hockridge

Sunday 30th January at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson



Mr. Peter Bentley



Multicultural Carols



Dr. Howard Bradbury



Finnish Carols



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan



Mrs. Joyce Hall



Rev. Kevin Kim



Pastor Mark Warren



Mr. Laurie Hockridge



Rev. Peter Nelson

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