

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

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

As she began our fellowship's first sermon for 2011, Joyce Hall prayed the Holy Spirit would use her words, as without Him the many words she could produce would ultimately be of little value.

Joyce briefly outlined the story of Henry Covington who she had read about in a book "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom.

Henry didn't have an ideal childhood with his mother gaoled and his father dying when Henry was 14. He did however have some contact with a Baptist church and was challenged to become a Christian when he was 10. He said 'yes' to God at the time but after his father's death went his own way into a life of crime. He was gaoled and on release began dealing in drugs and eventually taking them



Henry Covington with author Mitch Albom

himself. The fortune his dealing had accumulated wasted away and he became a 29 year old down and out addict. Desperate for drugs, he robbed his suppliers, a sure fire way to invite retribution. Realising what he'd done, Henry turned to God in his terror. Could Jesus save him?

God did work in his life and Henry eventually became the pastor of a dilapidated church in Detroit ministering to homeless and down and out people. Henry had become a new person, he had been born again.

The Bible reading Joyce used (John 3: 1-21) told the story of Nicodemus. He was a 'good' man in people's eyes yet it was to him that Jesus said "You must be born again". In God's eyes the criminal Henry and the 'good' community

leader Nicodemus were equal, both needing to be born again of the Spirit and with a belief and trust in God's son, Jesus. Henry's story shows that transformation and we know that Nicodemus later stood up for Jesus and helped with His body after the crucifixion.

Joyce recounted her experience on accepting Jesus as her Saviour and Lord:

1. She had to tell someone - her parents;
2. God's Word, the Bible, came alive to her;
3. She found she could pray in a new intimate way;
4. The inferiority complex she had had was dealt with;
5. She developed a love for others, particularly fellow believers;
6. She experienced a joy and peace;
7. She gained an absolute assurance that her future was secure in Jesus.

Since that time she has on occasions failed God, but He has at no time failed her. As Christians, we have received and are part of the Kingdom of God.

Anyone who wants to see or enter the Kingdom of God must be born again!

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PS As the result of an internet search, I discovered that Rev. Henry Covington died on Tuesday, 21st December 2010.

Tuesday Bible Study

Following a year of warm fellowship and interesting and excellent Bible Studies led by Joyce, we enjoyed afternoon tea at Joyce and Ian's home.

Joyce has based our studies on talks by Rev. David Pawson often giving us new insight into the books we have studied.

There have been some lively and humorous discussions building our relationship with each other and prayer time has been a special and important part of our Tuesdays.

We are so blessed to worship in the lovely atmosphere of the Holy Trinity Lutheran church and look forward to fellowship in 2011.

Seasons Greetings

Maurine

Sunday 9th January at 5pm – Rev. Kevin Kim – One Resolution, many Blessings



We were glad to welcome Kevin Kim to our pulpit this Sunday. We were particularly pleased he was able to bring his mother and brother with him to our service during their visit to Australia. Kevin sang for us accompanied on the piano by Hannah and his brother Fred on flute.

In Korea there are places that in English might be called 'prayer facilities' or 'prayer mountains' as they are often located on mountains. People go to them to fast and pray about specific issues of concern to them, sometimes for extended periods of weeks, even years.

In the reading (Daniel 1: 1-21) Daniel resolved to eat none of the choice foods supplied by the King as he believed accepting them from the King who had conquered Jerusalem and ransacked the temple there would make him impure in God's sight. Daniel restricted his diet to vegetables, a fast of sorts.

Daniel had made a choice similar to one that often faces us today - live the way of the world or follow the sometimes seemingly less inviting path God puts before us. Daniel's choice may have been made with Psalm 84: 10 (*Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere*) in mind. He resolved to do what he saw as pleasing to God. The name Daniel means 'God is my judge' and Daniel was pleased to submit to God's judgement rather than the world's. The path Daniel resolved to take resulted in him receiving many blessings from God.

We too, by following God's way, will receive spiritual blessings from God in this world and in the heavenly world to come.

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Sunday 16th January at 5pm – Pastor Mark Warren – Why does the world feel like it is against you?

Often it seems that the world is working against us. Why is that? The simple answer is that the world IS against us. This is not God's ideal world. It is a world where Satan is doing his work which is to draw us away from God.



Mark used 1 Thessalonians 2: 17 - 3: 13 as the basis of his sermon.

He suggested that we should follow Jesus' example when responding to Satan and dealing with spiritual warfare, by focusing on God.

We need to stay focused, be active, be prepared for hard times, be deep rooted in our faith and pray.

- Our focus should be on knowing God and glorifying him.
- Paul was active as we should be. When his plan A was not possible (returning to Thessalonica himself) he changed to plan B (sending Timothy). Timothy encouraged the people in their faith. He was acting as a servant of God. It was not a DIY (Do It Yourself) task.
- Paul knew very well that trials and persecution would come. He warned the Thessalonians of it. Christian people are chosen out of the world and their discipleship comes with a cost.
- Paul was greatly encouraged when he heard the Thessalonians were standing firm in their faith. Their faith helped him in his troubles.
- Paul thanked God for the Thessalonians. We too should thank God for all He has done for us and the encouragement He has provided us. Like Paul we should also pray for opportunities to encourage others and serve God. We should pray that we will be loving, passionate for God, blameless and Holy in Christ.

ID

New Aussies



Ritva and Matti were back in Australia recently for a few days. While here they became Australian citizens.

Sunday 30th January at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson – The greatest gift of all

On 30th January, Peter Nelson preached on one of the best known chapters in the Bible – Paul's wonderful chapter on love (1 Corinthians:13). The church at Corinth was a gifted church and individuals were promoting themselves. They had many gifts but Paul said that what they did must be done in love. He speaks in the first person.

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love I am a resonating gong or a clanging cymbal."

Paul probably faced those same temptations and they are temptations facing all ministers in churches today. Religious ecstasy was a big thing in Corinth and noisy gongs and clanging cymbals were used to wake up pagan gods. If there is no love everything is useless. Even mountain moving faith shown in miracles must be accompanied by love.

We can display many Christian gifts but if there is no love it is nothing. The spiritual life of a congregation is love: love for God; love for others; love for neighbours. May God give love at the heart of this church. HB



A Bit of Fun

A Polish man moved to the USA and married an American girl.

Although his English was far from perfect, they got along very well until one day he rushed into a lawyer's office and asked him if he could arrange a divorce for him.

The lawyer said that getting a divorce could depend on the circumstances, and asked him the following questions:

"Have you any grounds? "

"Yes, an acre and half and nice little home. "

"No, I meant what is the foundation of this case? "

"It's made of concrete."

"I don't think you understand. Does either of you have a real grudge? "

"No, we have carport, and not need one. "

"I mean, what are your relations like? "

"All my relations still in Poland. "

"Is there any infidelity in your marriage? "

"We have hi-fidelity stereo and good DVD player. "

"Does your wife beat you up? "

"No, I always up before her. "

"Is your wife a nagger? "

"No, she white. "

"Why do you want this divorce? "

"She going to kill me. "

"What makes you think that? "

"I got proof. "

"What kind of proof? "

"She going to poison me. She buy a bottle at drugstore and put on shelf in bathroom. I can read, and it say: 'Polish Remover'."

Natasha and Paul

A large contingent from our fellowship gathered at YWAM on Saturday, 12th February to witness the marriage of Natasha and Paul. I know there were even more who would like to have been there but were prevented by previous engagements.

It was a very happy occasion and a real joy to see this young couple come together in christian marriage.



Natasha's Mum, Natasha, Paul, Paul's Dad, Paul's Aunt
Natasha's Mum, Paul's Dad and Paul's Aunt all travelled from Korea for the wedding



Paul and Natasha singing together at their reception.

Campbell High School Chaplaincy – Rev. Steve Lindner

A new school year has just started so we should particularly keep Steve, Campbell High students, staff and families in our thoughts and prayers.

I've had a fairly smooth re-entry into the school year although time seems to fly during the day. I'm currently at the school on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. I have highly valued your prayers and support. It is a great encouragement and has been a partner in the opening up of opportunities here at the school.
God Bless
Steve



Racecourse Chaplaincy – RacingCare January 2011, Ministry Report – Rev. Bob Prior



Greetings, I hope that you have all enjoyed a great Holiday season and are now back into routine. That is my story for this month. With the school holidays on Evelyn and I were able to find some time to enjoy our family and even some time to enjoy each other.

We were able to spend time in a lovely spot in Moruya. There were lots of rainy days and we enjoyed each and every one of them as we had taken books and DVDs and were well entertained and well rested by the time we returned to Canberra. It has only been over the last couple of weeks that I have been able to ease back into things on the courses.

A trip to a country race meeting was well worth the effort as I had great opportunities to share with a staff member down at the track, a trainer, one of the Jockeys and a jockey's wife whom I had a chance to follow up on in Canberra recently. They were having relationship problems which are now getting sorted out.

Last Friday I was at a Goulburn race day and was asked why I haven't been there as much lately. When he realised that I had lost my accommodation there and so it was harder to get there, he told me I had a bed at his place anytime. What was encouraging was that when I said thanks but I think that you had better ask your wife first he said, "Oh don't worry, she knows all about you already and the help you have given me. She will be very glad to meet you and have you stay over."

The track rider (X) who had problems with "ice" and alcohol addiction and made a commitment to the Lord while doing detox, busted after over 4 months clean and sober. I was devastated, but praise the Lord it only lasted a few days. After a short stint in detox, X is now back in a "safe house". X sent me a text message talking about the confusion and anger experienced and the realisation that it was the 'bust that had to happen' due to growing **self** reliance. X is now back in a place of dependence and not on substances. God is so good.

I am now so busy with almost daily counselling situations that I really do need prayer for wisdom to know what God wants me to do and what He does not want me to do. Then I need His strength and His wisdom as I talk to people, especially those whose lives and in some cases families are falling apart.

Thanks for your continuing prayer,

Bob

Sunday 13th February at 5pm – Rev. Bob Prior - Our proper response to God

Bob asked us 'How do we know God's will? How do we know what God wants of us?'

The Deuteronomy 10: 12-17 passage suggests we should fear God; be obedient to Him; love Him; serve Him; and observe His commands.

- The fear spoken of is not being scared but rather giving God the proper reverence and highest respect which is due to Him.
- We can be obedient through God's grace. All our abilities and gifts result from God's grace.
- If we love God, we will obey Him. We can love Him because He first loved us.
- When we serve God others can see what is most important in our lives. If our love for God comes first, we will act as God wants and our love for our families and our work commitment etc. will be enhanced.
- God's commandments are important. The first four of the ten commandments deal with our relationship with God. The remaining six address issues that arise from living together. If everyone kept the commandments there would be peace, harmony and shared responsibility. God's commandments are for our own good.

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Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

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

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information

Tuesday Evening Group

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.

Study using the book "The Scriptures, the Cross and the Power of God" by Tom Wright

All welcome - contact Howard for more information

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month, usually at Marie's.

Next meeting – 2pm, 21st February at Laurie and Norma's.

All welcome - contact Alec for more information

Services

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

Sunday 20th February at 5pm – Mr. Paul Avis

Sunday 27th February at 5pm – Pastor Steve Prior

Sunday 6th March at 5pm – Mrs. Joyce Hall

Sunday 13th March at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan

Sunday 20th March at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Murray Earl

Sunday 27th March at 5pm – Mr. Michael Nott

Sunday 3rd April at 5pm – Rev. Ray Hughes

Sunday 10th April at 5pm – to be confirmed

Sunday 17th April at 5pm – Rev. Kevin Kim



Mr. Paul Avis



Pastor Steve
Prior



Mrs. Joyce
Hall



Rev. Dr.
Campbell
Egan



Rev. Dr.
Murray Earl



Mr. Michael
Nott



Rev. Ray
Hughes



Rev. Kevin
Kim

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