

May 2011
Issue 51

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday 8th May – Mrs. Joyce Hall – He is Risen

Death couldn't hold Jesus. The tomb couldn't hold Jesus. The authorities couldn't hold Jesus. Satan couldn't hold Jesus. Jesus rose from the dead!

For six weeks following His resurrection Jesus was seen to be alive. He was touched, He ate and drank. He was no ghost. He was flesh and blood.

Jesus was the same as He had been before, but at the same time He was different. He was no longer bound by the physical world that we know. He appeared and disappeared and was not always immediately recognised.

Jesus still had much to teach His disciples. He didn't stay around just to prove He had risen.

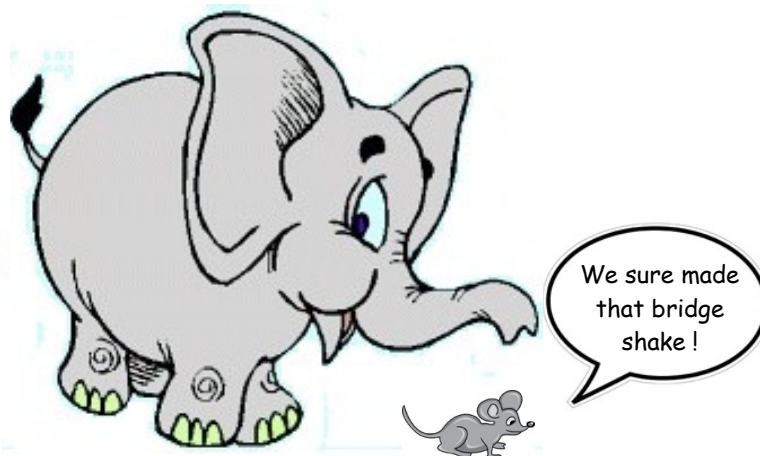
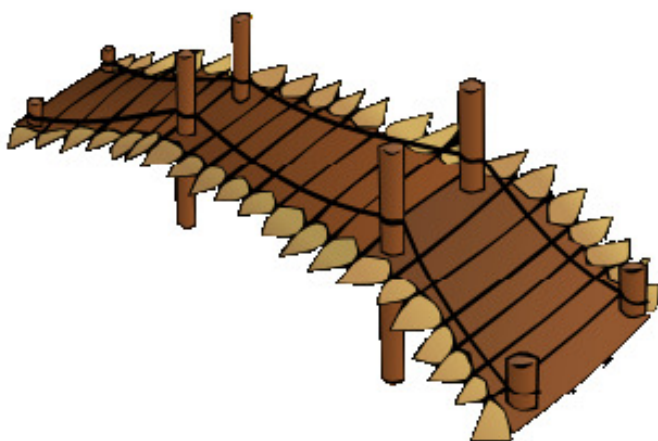
Many people had thought of Jesus as the expected Messiah, but Isaiah's prophecies seemed wrong. The Messiah was to bring freedom, but Jesus had been crucified. People had expected a political saviour however Jesus came to provide spiritual salvation; to deliver us from the bondage of sin and to restore our relationship with God. Jesus helped his followers understand the true nature of His Kingdom.

Jesus' followers needed understanding and they needed power. Jesus didn't leave them without support. The Holy Spirit came and empowered them and they took the story of Jesus and His Kingdom to people everywhere.

Joyce finished with the story of an elephant and a mouse. She likened us (the Church) to the mouse and God to the elephant. After crossing a bridge together, the mouse commented to the elephant 'We sure made that bridge shake'. We can really shake the community we are in if we act together with God.



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Sunday 15th May – Pastor Steve Prior – Who will crush that snake?

Delving into Genesis 3: 1-24, Steve spoke about the first prophesy found in the Bible (verses 14 & 15)

"So the LORD God said to the serpent,
'Because you have done this,
Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.
And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'"



'Crawling on your belly' predicts submission and 'eating dust' speaks of humiliation.

The prophesy says the serpent will strike at the heel of the woman's offspring and that the serpent's head will be crushed.

Revelation 12: 9 reveals "*The great dragon was hurled down— that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*"

Satan is the serpent and we know he did strike at Jesus through Jesus' crucifixion. We also know that Jesus' death was the crushing blow to Satan. Romans 16: 20 says "*The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*" We share in defeating Satan.

We should be bold and confident. "*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" (James 4: 7)

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Tuesday Bible Study Lunch

The Tuesday Bible Study participants normally meet at the church for their study, but on Tuesday 17/5 the venue was Bradbury's for lunch followed by the study for the week.

I understand Joyce, who leads the group, had a birthday the following day and it was thought desirable to celebrate the occasion by lunching together.



Campbell High School Chaplaincy – Rev. Steve Lindner

It was good to meet with Steve recently for an update on his work and a time of prayer for the Campbell High community and his chaplaincy.

Steve apologised for not catching up with any of us at the Scripture Union dinner earlier this year. He had a busy night and didn't succeed in fitting in all he wanted to do.

Steve is now at Campbell High five days a week, two days as chaplain and three as a Defence Transition and Mentor staff member. Campbell High has a large number of students from Defence Force families. As they move from place to place and school to school a lot, the school has a staff member available to help them fit in to the school and assist with particular needs they might have. Steve was invited to fill the position when the previous person left. He will continue in that position at least until the end of the current term.

He is on leave from the church where he has been pastor.

Steve asked that we pray he has wisdom and discernment when meeting with the various people that he assists and works with each day.

He recently had some encouragement when a staff member he had spoken with some time before, not about faith particularly, contacted him and expressed the intention to start and continue attending church.

I invited Steve to visit us and update us all on his work at one of our services and he is keen to do so. We will arrange a suitable time in the near future.



Scripture Union Dinner

Back on 23rd March, a number of our fellowship attended a Scripture Union dinner held at the Hellenic Club in Woden. Warren, who coordinated our table, reports that around 500 people attended all together and \$85,000-00 was raised.

Sunday 22nd May – Mr. Ron Dawes – Be Filled with Joy in all You Do



Life tends to throw challenges at us from time to time. This shouldn't be a cause of dismay because challenges test our faith and so help us grow. God is always with us. If we lose sight of Him, it is us that have moved away from Him. God is constant.

Galations 6: 2 tells us "*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.*"

We don't exist in isolation and God wants us to support each other as He show us how. Ron told of a lady he met in the course of his work at The Leprosy Mission. She explained she had learnt how to knit and now knitted woollen squares for quilts that would keep handicapped people warm. She told him 'God loves me and I love God'. She didn't recognise disability in herself but wanted to help others using the ability she had.

The Leprosy Mission began in the 19th century after Irishman Wellesley Bailey noticed a group of lepers while he was in India. He felt God was telling him to help them. He committed himself to that work and The Leprosy Mission has grown from that beginning. The Leprosy Mission is unashamedly a Christian organisation and as Ron said, brings hope to people, one person at a time.



After the service we were able to chat to Ron as we enjoyed some warming soup.

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Meeting - 23rd May

A pizza tea preceded this meeting of our fellowship.

Minutes were read and accepted, discussions had and decisions made, however the happiest item on the agenda was the welcoming of five new members to the fellowship.



New members: Sue, Chris, John, Janelle and Fanny.

STOP PRESS

Dominica has arranged a return visit to the Jewish Centre in Forrest on Wednesday, 8th June at 10-30am.

Our last visit was very informative and enjoyed by all who were able to go. Speak to Dominica for more information.

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

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

Friday Study Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm at Alec's.
All welcome - contact Howard for more information

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month, usually at Marie's.
Next meeting – 2pm, 20th June.
All welcome - contact Alec for more information

Services

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

Sunday **29th May** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson (7th Anniversary service with Fijian choir)**

Sunday **5th June** at 5pm – **Rev. John Turton**

Sunday **12th June** at 5pm – **Rev. Ray Hughes**

Sunday **19th June** at 5pm – **Mr. Zane Edwards (Bible Society)**

Sunday **26th June** at 5pm – **Pastor Mark Warren**

Sunday **3rd July** at 5pm – **Pastor Mark Warren**

Sunday **10th July** at 5pm – **Rev. Rachel Tonga (and Tongan choir)**

Sunday **17th July** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Murray Earl**

Sunday **24th July** at 5pm – **Rev. Kevin Kim**

Sunday **31st July** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson (Mid-winter Hymn Festival)**

Sunday **7th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Bob Prior**



**Rev. Peter
Nelson**



**Rev. John
Turton**



**Rev. Ray
Hughes**



**Mr. Zane
Edwards**



**Pastor Mark
Warren**



**Pastor Mark
Warren**



**Rev. Rachel
Tonga**



**Rev. Dr.
Murray Earl**



**Rev. Kevin
Kim**



**Rev. Peter
Nelson**



**Rev. Bob
Prior**

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