

June, July 2011  
Issue 52

# The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

## Sunday 29th May (Anniversary service) – Rev. Peter Nelson – Body Image

On our seventh anniversary, Rev. Peter Nelson preached on the subject of “Body Image”. Wendy read for us 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, in which Paul speaks about the human body, where the various parts all work together for the good of the body as a whole. In the church we each have different roles to play depending on the gifts that God has given us.

We are joined to the body of Jesus. Our salvation depends on His body broken for us. Paul says to “present your bodies as a living sacrifice to God.” (Romans 12:1).



Above: We were glad to have our Fijian friends with us for our anniversary service. Preacher Rev. Peter Nelson is at the right of the picture on the right.

Below: Fanny and Chris enjoying a cuppa .

The church is the most privileged body on earth because we have Jesus as the head. The church is a piece of heaven on earth. So in the church we are each given gifts, to serve. Barriers are broken down. Does the church present a warm body image to the world? The body language of Jesus was so good that even a leper, who was not allowed to come near another person, could approach him. We should be always ready to “rescue the perishing.” There is a danger in serving – we will suffer. 75% of all religious persecution is against Christians. In the church we are each given gifts to serve in different ways, and as expressed in the chapter that follows (1 Corinthians 13) the most excellent way is love. HB



## Sunday 5th June – Rev. John Turton – Discerning the Spirit

Rev. John Turton from Wellington, New Zealand, preached on June 5th on the subject of Discerning the Spirit. You and I were created as human beings to discern the Spirit of God. No scientific instrument can measure what you and I can measure within our soul.



The Lord is the shepherd (John 10:11) and we should learn to recognise the voice of Jesus. Unless we are serious about our personal discipleship to Jesus, we run the risk of following a false Christ. We need to be transformed by the Spirit (John 3:7-8), so that we enjoy the true shepherd and know and follow his voice (John 10:4).

John Turton shared a “discernment principle” from John 10:10 where we read that “*A thief only comes to steal, kill and destroy. I came so that they may have life and may have it to the full.*”

Here are two clear opposites. On one hand the leading that gives abundant spiritual, emotional and physical life and on the other the leading that steals, kills and destroys such life. In the church if a leading destroys or breaks down relationships, the unity of the people and gives a lessening of community, then it is not His voice. On the other hand a decision that enhances the spirit, soul and body of the church and in particular increases the giving and receiving of love, then it is the voice of Jesus the Shepherd.

HB

## Sunday 12th June – Rev. Ray Hughes – The Coming of The Holy Spirit



On the day of Pentecost (12th June) Rev. Ray Hughes administered Holy Communion and preached on the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-21). Jesus came to comfort the disturbed and to disturb the comfortable. Ray told us about a young woman that he visited in the hospice who had terminal cancer. He did not know what to say to her and to her parents. The prophet Ezekiel was called to speak to a defeated people exiled in Babylon. How could he preach to them? He had nothing to say. But the Lord showed him that through His Spirit the dry bones could be given life and that one day the people would return to the land of Israel. (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

Let Jesus take over. Set the table and let Jesus be the host.

“We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Jesus takes over in the sacrament and He is there. He is present in the word and in the sacrament. Jesus challenges us to live sacrificially so that the Holy Spirit will work mightily through us.

HB

## Synagogue visit

Following a very interesting and informative visit to the National Jewish Centre / Synagogue here in Canberra last year, Dominica arranged a return visit for us this year. Around twenty of our people gathered at the centre on a Thursday in June.

Harry, assisted by John, told us something of Jewish history, practices, thought and beliefs.

Among other things, we learned that this is the year 5771 in the Jewish calendar, there are 613 commandments that Jews should keep, Israel would fit in Tasmania six times and that Jews make up only 0.2% of the world's population.



**Left:**  
Some of our group leaving the Jewish Centre at the conclusion of our visit

After our visit most of us travelled to the CIT restaurant in Reid for an enjoyable meal.

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## Sunday 19th June – Mr. Zane Edwards (Bible Society) – Dream Big

Australians tend not to accommodate big dreams. In the film 'The Castle' the saying "Tell them they're dreaming" dismisses advertisements as unrealistic.

Zane provided four reasons for us to think big.

- There is no obstacle too big for God. In Joshua 3: 5 we read "*Joshua told the people, Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.*" and God did. He stopped the flow of the Jordan River so the Israelites could cross over it on dry ground.
- God specialises in doing the impossible. Judges 6 & 7 tells the story of Gideon. The Israelites were suffering from the raids and oppression of neighbouring people. God told Gideon He would use him to drive out their enemies. Gideon gathered a substantial army but God wanted only 300 men. Gideon and the 300 caused their enemies to flee. God sometimes does things the hard way to show us that He doesn't need human resources.
- God created us to dream big. 1 Samuel 17 tells the story of David and Goliath. Goliath was defying and challenging the Israelites. David was not daunted by the giant Philistine warrior, trusting instead in God. David's trust was well founded as he defeated Goliath. Sometimes we limit God by limiting our dreams.
- That's how God grows our faith and uses us. When Peter saw Jesus walking on water he responded to Jesus' invitation to come and began to walk on the water too.

God can perform miracles. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew that but didn't assume He would produce miracles just to suit them. They stated "*If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.*" (Daniel 3: 17.18). ID



## Campbell High School Chaplaincy – Rev. Steve Lindner

We were glad to welcome Steve to our 26th June service when he spoke briefly about his chaplaincy work at Campbell High and thanked us for our prayer support.

Steve mentioned that it is sometimes hard to know what impact he is making through his work. In his first year as a chaplain, he was able to assist a year 10 student who was away from home and needing to find new accommodation but had little idea of what to do. Steve helped him find a suitable place to stay with a christian lady. This year while visiting ADFA with some students, Steve found himself in a line at the canteen next to a first year cadet. It was the student from several years before who thanked him for all he had done. It was good encouragement.

Steve shared with us a verse he finds spurs him on. Galatians 6: 9 "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*"



Steve with Chris after the service

## Sunday 26th June – Pastor Mark Warren – What is God's will for your life? - 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-12



Christians should desire to know God's will and live it out.

Paul urges the Thessalonians to live lives pleasing to God. Sin fractures our relationship with God, God wants us to be holy. We are made holy by Christ and we are also called to be holy.

Paul talks about three aspects of life.

- We should avoid sexual immorality, not follow our lusts like those who don't know God.
- We should love our fellow Christians. Love starts with a desire for good then loving actions flow.
- In our daily lives we should win the respect of others. In arguments we should focus on making our own actions right, not those of the other person.

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## Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Each year about this time, it seems Joyce and Ian migrate north for a few weeks to enjoy a holiday in slightly warmer surroundings. The Tuesday Bible Study normally takes a breaks as Joyce leads the studies.

This year the group will continue, even if in slightly different form. It will meet at Maurine's fortnightly at the earlier time of 2pm. Contact Maurine for more information.

The normal study group will no doubt resume when Joyce returns.

## Racing Industry chaplaincy - Rev. Bob Prior

When I see or hear reports of Bob's chaplaincy work, I am always impressed by what he achieves, but I also think to myself that it must be very tiring work. Travelling, meeting people, lending a listening ear, talking through problems of life and responding to people in ways that might help meet their needs can be very wearing. It is wearing just thinking about it.

Bob's eldest son was planning to visit the USA with a friend, but the friend for some reason withdrew from the trip. It was suggested Bob might take his place. Someone else offered to meet additional costs associated with the trip. The result is that Bob will shortly head off for a break although I understand he might fit in a work related visit while away.



God might give us plenty to do, but He also gives us the breaks we need to keep working effectively for Him.

## Coming Up

### Tuesday Bible Study

**Tuesdays at 2-00 pm at Maurine's every second week.**

All welcome - contact Maurine for more information

The regular study group will resume after Joyce's holidays.

### 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

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

Next meeting – 2pm, 18th July.

All welcome - contact Alec for more information

## Services

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

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 – **Pastor Steve Prior**

Sunday **14th August** at 5pm – **Dr. Ray Spear**

Sunday **21st August** at 5pm – **Mr. Craig Webber (Scripture Union)**

Sunday **28th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Bob Prior**

Sunday **4th September** at 5pm – **Rev. Ray Hughes**

Sunday **11th September** at 5pm – **Mr. Paul Avis**



**Pastor Mark  
Warren**



**Rev. Rachel  
Tonga**



**Rev. Dr.  
Murray Earl**



**Rev. Kevin  
Kim**



**Rev. Peter  
Nelson**



**Pastor Steve  
Prior**



**Dr. Ray  
Spear**



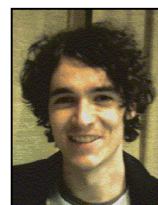
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Webber**



**Rev. Bob  
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