

(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday 3rd July - Pastor Mark Warren - Eternity - 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - 5: 12



"Eternity" was emblazoned on the Sydney Harbour Bridge" during the fireworks that welcomed the year 2000. This remembered the one word message that Arthur Stace wrote on Sydney footpaths for around 37 years. Arthur was inspired to write the word Eternity after hearing a sermon on the subject by Rev. John G. Riley.

Without eternity everything becomes meaningless as there is no hope and only a very limited future. Why would we ponder a future that promises only death that we can do nothing about?

1 Thessalonians 4: 14 reminds us that Jesus died but rose again and we have the hope that those who trust in Him will share that life.

The world is convinced that dead people stay dead. Christians believe life is meant for something and God has declared life matters. Many 'leading thinkers' through the ages have dismissed the idea of life after death but Paul and others saw the risen, living Jesus after his crucifixion death.

We can trust Jesus in both life and death. Jesus will return and we will not miss it. When will this happen? We don't know.

We are told that those who die are sleeping. God will wake those who are sleeping in His time.

With the expectation of Christ's return we should live lives pleasing to God - good lives. Sin promises us something good but when we get there it proves a mirage.

We are children of the light. We know how to live and should be self controlled and deliberate. We should have faith and trust in Jesus and love. No one can take our hope of salvation away from us.

We have great hope and a great future which we will share with all those believers who have gone before us and those who will follow us.



Grandma Coral with Amarah enjoying a cuppa after church

Mark Warren mentioned Arthur Stace in his sermon on "Eternity". That prompted me to find out a little more about Arthur and the following is part of what I found. It is also possible to listen to Rev. John G. Ridley preaching his sermon "Echoes of Eternity" that inspired Arthur to write Eternity on footpaths all over Sydney.

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THE STORY OF ARTHUR STACE

He started early, usually before dawn ,and he wandered through all the streets of Sydney. Every morning he was somewhere else, Wynyard, Glebe, Paddington, Randwick, Central Station. As he said - where God directed him. Every night the message appeared in his head. He was a very little man, bent, grey-haired, only five feet three inches tall and just seven stone. He looked frail enough to blow away. Then with the formality of another generation he always wore a grey felt hat, tie and prim double-breasted navy blue suit. Sometimes in the dawn light he would be seen around Wynyard Station. He would nod to the drunks still left on the pavement and he would look at the debris of the affluent society stretched out on the park benches, trying to keep warm under newspapers. If he detected any movement there would be a pat on the head or a warm greeting. He had the air of a man who understood.

Arthur Stace

more than half a million times.

As he walked every so often he would stop, pull out a crayon, bend down and write on the pavement in large, elegant copperplate - **ETERNITY**. He would move on a hundred yards then write it again, **ETERNITY**, nothing more, just one simple word. For thirty-seven years he chalked this one-word sermon and he wrote to times



He did not like publicity. He regarded his unique style of Evangelism as a serious mission, something between Arthur Stace and his Maker, so for a decade these Eternity signs mystified Sydney. They were an enigma. Sydney columnists wrote about it, speculated on the author, and several people walked into newspaper offices and announced that they were the author. The real man kept quiet.

The mystery all came clear in 1956 and the man who cracked it was the Reverend Lisle M Thompson of the Burton Street Baptist Church. Arthur Stace was actually the church cleaner and one of their prayer leaders. One day Lisle Thompson saw Stace take out his crayon and write the famous Eternity on the pavement. He did it without realising that he had been spotted. Thompson said: "Are you Mr Eternity?" and Stace replied "Guilty Your Honour". Lisle Thompson wrote a tract telling the little man's extraordinary story and Tom Farrell, later had the first interview. He published it in the Sunday Telegraph on 21 June 1956.

Authur Stace was born in a Balmain slum in 1884. His father and mother were both drunkards. Two sisters and two brothers also were drunks and they lived much of their time in jail. The sisters ran brothels and one of them was ordered out of New South Wales three times. Stace used to sleep on bags under the house and when his parents were drunk he had to look after himself. He used to steal milk from the doorsteps, pick scraps of food out of garbage and shoplift cakes and sweets.

His schooling was practically non-existent; ... like the rest of the family he became a perambulating drunk, living in a fog of alcohol. He went to jail for the first time when he was fifteen, then it became a regular affair.

He was in his twenties when he moved to the seedy inner suburb of Surry Hills .There his job was to carry liquor from the pubs to the brothels, and particularly his sisters's brothel. Then there were other jobs such as cockatoo at a two-up school, that is the character who gives warning of the approach of the police. He was mixed up with various housebreaking gangs and because of his size he was splendidly useful as a look out man.

During the first world war he enlisted in the 19th Battalion, went to France and returned home gassed and half blind in one eye. Back in Surry hills he took up his old habits, drink in particular. He slipped from beer, to whisky, to gin , to rum, to cheap wine until finally living on hand-outs. All he could afford was methylated spirits at sixpence a bottle. His alcoholism was so extreme his mind began to go and he was in danger of becoming a permanent inmate of Callan Park Mental Asylum.

He told Tom Farrell that in 1930 he was in Central Court for the umpteenth time. The magistrate said to him: "Don't you know that I have the POWER to put you in Long Bay jail or the POWER to set you free". "Yes Sir", he replied, but it was the word POWER that he remembered. What he needed was the power to give up drink. He signed the Pledge but he had done that many times before. He went to Regent Street Police Station and pleaded with the Sergeant to lock him up."Sergeant, put me away. I am no good and I haven't been sober for eight years.Give me a chance and put me away". The Sergeant said : "You stink of metho, get out!"

This was the depression time and a metho drinker, dirty, wretchedly dressed, had to be the least likely of any to get a job. Outside the Court House there was a group walking up Broadway. The word had got around that a cup of tea and something to eat was available at the Church Hall. In the nineteen thirties one would endure almost anything for free food.

The date was August 6th and it was a meeting for men conducted by Archdeacon R.B.S. Hammond of St Barnabas' Church on Broadway. There were about 300 men present, mostly down and outs, but they had to endure an hour and half of talking before they received their tea and rock cakes. Up front there were six people on a separate seat, all looking very clean, spruce and nicely turned out, a remarkable contrast to the 300 grubby-looking males in the audience. Stace said to the man sitting next to him, a well-known criminal: "Who are they?" "I'd reckon they'd be Christians", he replied. Stace said: "Well look at them and look at us. I'm having a go at what they have got," and after the meeting he went across to Victoria park and he slipped down on his knees and prayed, and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour.

After that, he did find it possible to give up drink and he said: "As I got back my self respect, people were more decent to me". So he won a job on the dole, working on the sandmills at Maroubra one week on, one week off at three pounds a week.

Later in the Burton Street Baptist Church at Darlinghurst he heard the evangelist, the Reverend John Ridley. Ridley was a Military Cross winner from the World War One and a noted "give-'em-Hell" preacher. He shouted: "I wish I could shout **ETERNITY** through the streets of Sydney". Stace, recalling the day, said: "He repeated himself and kept shouting '**ETERNITY**, **ETERNITY**' and his words were ringing through my brain as I left the church. Suddenly I began crying and I felt a powerful call from the Lord to write "**ETERNITY**". I had a piece of chalk in my pocket and I bent down there and wrote it. The funny thing is that before I wrote I could hardly have spelled my own name. I had no schooling and I couldn't have spelt "**ETERNITY**" for hundred quid. But it came out smoothly in beautiful copperplate script. I couldn't understand it and I still can't".

Stace claimed that normally his handwriting was appalling and his friends found it illegible. He demonstrated this to a Daily Telegraph reporter. He wrote **ETERNITY** which snaked across the pavemant gracefully with rich curves and flourishes, but when he wrote his own name "Arthur" it was almost unreadable. "I've tried and tried but **ETERNITY** is the only word that comes out in copperplate", he said. After eight or nine years he did try something else "OBEY GOD", and five years later, "GOD OR SIN" and "GOD 1st", but finally he stuck with **ETERNITY**. He had some problems. There was a fellow who followed

him round and every time he wrote **ETERNITY** this other character changed it to **MATERNITY**. so he altered his style to give **ETERNITY** a large, eloquent capital E and maternity took a dive. The City Council had a rule against defaceing the pavement and the police "very nearly arrested" him twenty-four times. "But I had permission from a higher source", he said.

He lived with his wife Pearl in Bulwarra Road, Pyrmont and this was his routine. He rose at 4am, prayed for an hour, had breakfast, then he set out. He claimed that God gave him his directions the night before, the name of the suburb into his head and he arrived there before dawn. He took his message every 100 yards or so where it could be seen best then he was back home around 10am. First he wrote in yellow chalk, then he switched to marking crayon because it stayed on better in the wet. He did other things. On Saturday nights he led gospel meetings at the corner of Bathurst and George Streets. At first he did it from the gutter but in later years he had a fine van with electric lighting and an amplifier.

Arthur Stace died of a stroke in a nursing home on July 30, 1967. He was 83 .He left his body to Sydney University so that the proceeds could go to charity. The remains were finally buried at Botany Cemetery more than two years later.

There were suggestions that the city should put down a plaque to his memory. Leslie Jillet of Mosman said that there should be a statue in Railway Square depicting Stace kneeling chalk in hand.



Rev. John G Riley

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In 1968 the Sydney City Council decided to perpetuate Stace's one-word sermon by putting down permanent plaques in "numerous" locations throughout the city. Sir David Griffin, a former Lord Mayor, tried to perpetuate what he called "a delicious piece of eccentricity", but a team of City Commissioners killed the idea. They thought it was too trivial.

... But finally Arthur Stace did get his plaque. It happened ten years after his death and was all due to Ridley Smith, architect of Sydney Square. He set the message **ETERNITY** in cast aluminium, set in aggregate, near the Sydney Square waterfall. The *Sydney Morning Herald* Column 8 said: "In letters almost 21cm (8in) high is the famous copperplate message **ETERNITY**. The one word sermon gleams in wrought aluminium. There's no undue prominence. No garish presentation. Merely the simple **ETERNITY** on pebbles as Arthur Stace would have wanted it.

Ridley Smith did have an interest in Arthur Stace, according to the *Sydney Morning Herald*. As a boy he used to hear him preach on the corner of Bathurst Street. Even more interesting, Ridley Smith was named after the fire-breathing Reverend John Ridley, the very man who preached the message that sent Arthur Stace onto the streets to write **ETERNITY**.

(The above is from a transcript of a Book By Keith Dunstan)

taken from the internet webpage http://www.mreternity.info/index.htm and used with permission.

Sunday 10th July – Rev. Rachel Tonga – A Faithful Servant

We were again very glad to have our Tongan friends from the Wesleyan Methodist Church join us for our service and sing for us both during the service and afterwards.

Rachel spoke to us about the parable of the sower (Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23) and encouraged us to listen to and understand the parable's message using Jesus' words "Whoever has ears, let them hear." (Matthew 13: 9)

Jesus explained the seeds in the parable are the Word of God. We know from John 1: 1 that Jesus is the Word.

People came to see and listen to Jesus. The seed sown in the four different locations would have represented most of those who came.

- Some people just don't understand when they hear the message of the Bible and so don't seek God. We have been given the task to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19,20). Our teaching might help more people understand and grow in faith.
- Some people are happy to hear God's message but are distracted by other things in their lives. They lack commitment and don't pray or read the Bible. Their faith after its initial spurt, fades away.
- Some people accept the message and start to grow in faith but remain immature. They keep control of their lives
 instead of giving it to the Holy Spirit. These people only go so far in their faith and then find themselves unable to
 progress further.
- Some people hear and understand, are committed and they mature in faith. They will be fruitful in their lives for God.

We need to listen for God, spend time with Him and faithfully do what He asks of us. We should live life as Jesus did.







David McDonald



Recently David McDonald announced at Crossroads Church that he and his family will be moving to Darwin at the end of this year. David intends to plant a new church in the Palmerston area. He and his family made their decision believing that God was prompting them to move.

David is currently the founding and lead pastor at Crossroads with primary responsibility for Bible teaching and overseeing the pastoral team.

David and Crossroads have been very supportive of our fellowship. He and other Pastors and Crossroads people have preached for us quite often.

We wish David and his family God's blessings in Darwin and pray that Crossroads, us and other Canberra churches will continue God's work that David has been part of for so long in this city.

Sunday 17th July - Rev. Dr. Murray Earl - Finding Your Voice

Rev. Dr. Murray Earl preached on July 17 and his text was 2 Corinthians 5: 19 which summarises the Gospel. We are called to be ambassadors for Christ.



In the award winning movie "The Kings Speech" we see a compelling account of King George VI who was reluctant to become king, was shy and introverted and stammered. He called the nation into war against Hitler.

Christ makes His appeal through us as ambassadors of the Kingdom of Heaven. Ambassadors have a dual role to represent their own country in the new country and to look after their own people

there. We are all called. You may say "Why me?" God takes our ambassadorial role and multiplies its effectiveness through the Holy Spirit.

God uses strange ambassadors – he chooses weak people. The British people understood the weakness of King George VI. Somehow in his weakness he was greatly appreciated and loved by his people.

God used Abraham, David, Peter and John. Abraham was scared, so he pretended that his wife Sarah was his sister. David was a murderer and adulterer. Peter was very impulsive and denied his Lord. John was arrogant – a "son of thunder."

What is your voice?

ΗB

Sunday 24th July - Rev. Kevin Kim - Manage Your Anger - Ephesians 4: 22-32

All of us get angry from time to time. Our anger can hurt others and hurt us. It is an emotion that provokes a reaction in us, but some reactions are unacceptable.

We must learn to manage our anger. Just as we would be foolish to drive without the speed control brakes give, we would be foolish to try to live and love with no control over our anger.

The Word of God changes and renews us. The Bible doesn't say 'you are OK, stay as you are', but rather tells us to acknowledge our inabilities and to rely on God. The Bible doesn't say 'don't get angry' but it does say 'don't let your anger lead to sin'. One of the fruits of the Spirit is self control.

We have all sinned and our sins have been forgiven. As forgiven people we don't have a right to be angry. We do have a right to forgive and love. We all need God's wisdom that we can find in His Word.

Sunday 31st July - Mid-winter Hymn Festival - Rev. Peter Nelson



Tables and pews were moved, extra seating put out, refreshments prepared and our hymn rehearsed in preparation for the hymn festival.

Guests began to arrive: Chinese; Indonesians; Fijians; and Tongans. The Aboriginal Church was represented and we were very pleased that the new pastor of the Finnish Lutheran Church and his family also came after only arriving in Canberra in the morning.

Together we sang several hymns with each group leading the singing at some point during the service. We didn't quite number a thousand people, a little less than 10% of that perhaps, but in our last did surgests the wigh that our numbers would group. "O for a thousand tengues to sing my groat Badaamar's

hymn we did express the wish that our numbers would grow - "O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise".

Peter Nelson spoke on "A World of Love". 1 Corinthians 13: 8 tells us "Love never fails."

John Wesley is reported to have said he wanted to know one thing - how to get to heaven. Heaven is our inheritance, it is a world of love. God is in heaven and He is a fountain of love. Everyone in heaven is loved by all there and that love is eternal.

We are destined for heaven because of Jesus' actions on our behalf and our trust in Him. While we are still citizens of this world we are also citizens of heaven. We can prepare for heavenly life.

We should not regard this world and the things it offers as our permanent home. Peter told the story of a boy who
regularly played monopoly with his grandmother. She always won and would say 'you need to know how to play
the game'. He wanted to win so played often and learned the skills to help him win. He challenged his

grandmother again and did win but as he was about to celebrate the win, she said 'remember that it all goes back in the box'. All our goods, possessions and accomplishments 'go back in the box' when we die.

- As we move closer to heaven we should converse with heavenly people; God the Father who is in heaven; Jesus who ascended into heaven and is at God the Father's right hand and the Holy Spirit who comes to us from heaven.
- We should be prepared for difficulties. Obstacles, temptation, sickness, trials, opposition and hardship will confront us. Keep your eyes on heaven which is like a city on a hill. In Romans 8: 18 we discover that Paul considered "that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."
- We should fix our eyes on Jesus. He has gone to heaven before us, intercedes for us and has prepared a place for us.
- We can live lives of love now love for God and love for each other.
 There is a new day and a new world coming. Our lives and our churches are signs to this world of heaven.



Preparing for supper



Rehearsing



Our musicians



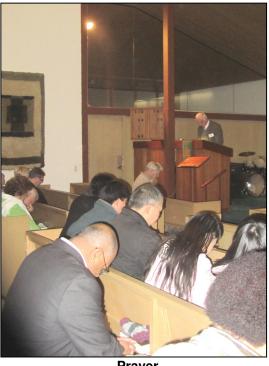
Waiting for people to arrive and the service to start



"To God be the glory! great things He hath done! ..."



"This, this is the God we adore, Our faithful, unchangeable Friend; ..." Canberra Christian Fellowship



Prayer





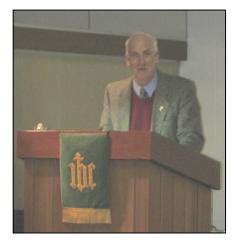
"The Lily of the valley" Chinese Methodist Church

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation; ... Indonesian Christian Church

Bible reading (1 Corinthians 13) Canberra Aboriginal Church



Sermon Rev. Peter Nelson





"Tell me the old, old story Of unseen things above, ..." Fijian Methodist Church

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!" Tongan Wesleyan Methodist Church



Hello from Finland



regards from hot Finland. This is second heat wave in this month. We have been at the cottage. There has been lots of garden work. Potatoes, carrots, peas etc. are growing. I planted new roses etc.. Here have been very many mosquitos. Now I hope that heat kill them and make easier to be outside in garden. I really enjoy gardening. We met Elisabet here in Finland two weeks ago. She was with her grandson visiting relatives. We are good friends with her sister-in-law. So we got possibility to meet Elisabet when we was visiting her sister-in-law. Today we heard that new pastor has got his visa and finally can plan his travel with his family to Australia. I know there has to be somebody to look after everything. In August I start work in other school. My work trip be 30 km longer. Matti is satisfied with his own work. Our trip to Namibia was great even there was some problems when we were traveling back to Finland. In South Africa, Johannesburg, we had to change plane. Matti got seat but I didn't. I had to stay extra night and day in Johannesburg. I lost one working day. Matti kept the lessons for me. I lost my trust to South African airline when I saw how the field officials did manage their work. I tried to translate into English our Namibian trip story which was in local newspaper. I attach it with this email. Now we have no plans for any trip. I tried to take photo of midnight moon. Light summer nights begin to darken soon. What is a relief, to me. I cannot sleep any more with it in a light one. Other photo was taken when Matti started to work for kitchen garden. It was surprisingly green already in end of May. We had lovely springtime. God bless you all.

Love Ritva and Matti

Under Southern Cross in Africa

In April we participated in Namibia on the study trip arranged by the diocese of Kuopio. There were altogether 16 from different parts of Finland which wanted to become acquainted with the history and present of the Finnish missionary work.

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there

is

Finnish



construction architect who works in Lutheran hospital. As the worker of The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, he designs and controls the renovation and new construction of the hospital. We were able to admire departments which have been just completed and in which attention has been paid to the use of premises and to the different needs. Still only the furniture and users (patients) were missing from them. All these will come to a big

church.

Today





need. There is 200,000 inhabitants who need that hospital. Every day 500 - 700 patients visit and 21 doctors serve them. Every year more than 5000 babies are born. The old departments are narrow, partly mouldy and defective from their hygiene. The hospital was established by Finnish missionary doctor Mrs. Selma Rainio, 1912

The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission was founded, 1859 and the work began from Amboland where the first Finnish missioners arrived 1870. Mr. Martti Rautanen was one of those first missioners. The work which he did in Namibia for 56 years is strongly reflected in the present days. The highlight of the trip was to see missionary Martti Rautanen's house, church and grave in Olukonda. In the

The Finnish missionaries also have acted in the Kavango area in Northeast-Namibia. The Kavango River flows on Namibia's and Angola's border. There we visited the church in which the service was immemorial. The familiar Finnish hymn notes were heard immediately at the beginning. There was the Finnish missionaries' effect in them. Service lasted two hours. Even the small children sat patiently in their places during that service.

The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission has supported the Nkurenkuru Christian School for 20 years, but now is the time that the school will move totally to the hands of the locals. The Nkurenkuru School is a top at the level of Namibia. It was placed 11th in the school comparisons. 78% of the pupils of the school move to the postgraduate studies. Only 2% of the state schools' pupils of that area move to the postgraduate studies. Many of the former pupils of the Nkurenkuru Christian School indeed are lawyers or doctors. Some of the trained young people return to their home villages. However, the ones which had stayed elsewhere make sure that the family gets economic support from them. In the communal

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culture is thought: "my salary is not only my salary but everybody's salary," The family can put younger brothers and sisters to the school. Even 40% of the salary is given to family.



We visited at home of Rosa who works in the school. She showed her tidy home proudly. The members of the family had its own mud huts. The food is prepared either with a campfire or kitchen hut. Rosa showed with her sister how the millet grains are ground as flour. The ordinary workday food was millet porridge with wild spinach.

Then we spend two days in Ethosa Nature Park. We were able to see the cheetah's catching when it ran behind impala. The elephant herd appeared from the forest on the road. We spent for a couple of nights in the "tent



accommodation". The Southern Cross was distinctly seen in the sky in the darkness of the evening.

Back again capital city Windhoek and we visited Lutheran church there. At the beginning of the service 25 children were baptized. The babies' weep choir also was an immemorial experience. There was wall of

babies, parents and godparents around the altar. In church were approximately 1400 people and all the places were full.

> The general impression was that Namibia is a developing country. We saw new shopping centers and residential areas under construction during our trip. The familiar chains of stores and petrol stations are found there. We stopped to the breaks to cosy cafés. The people were very kind in every place.



Campbell High School Chaplaincy – Rev. Steve Lindner

The new school term has just commenced. Please remember Steve, his chaplaincy work and the school community he works with in your prayers.



Racing Industry chaplaincy - Rev. Bob Prior

Bob is holidaying in the USA about now.

Pray that he will return refreshed and ready for the challenges God places before him as he continues his racing industry chaplaincy work.



Operation Christmas Child 2011 launch



Many of our fellowship attended the Operation Christmas Child 2011 launch at Belconnen Baptist Church.

Despite technical problems that prevented the showing of videos of the 2010 distribution, we learned quite a bit from Anne Burt who was part of the distribution team in Fiji. She told a number of anecdotes from her experience and inspired us with stories of the effects boxes have and are making to lives.

This year's processing will take place in part of the old Downer Primary School.

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-00 pm at Maurine's.

All welcome - contact Maurine for more information

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

Friday Study Group

In recess until early September. Normally 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, 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 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 Sunday 18th September at 5pm - Rev. Abraham Tang (report on mission to China) Sunday 25th September at 5pm - Rev. David McDonald Sunday 2nd October at 5pm - details later Sunday 9th October at 5pm - Mr. Paul Tabulutu Sunday 16th October at 5pm - Mr. Michael Nott Sunday 23rd October at 5pm - Mr. Allan Windley Sunday 30th October at 5pm - Rev. Peter Nelson



Pastor Steve Prior



Rev. David McDonald



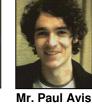
Mr. Craig Webber



Rev. Bob Prior



Rev. Ray Hughes





Tang





Mr. Paul Tabulutu



Mr. Michael Nott



Windley



Rev. Peter Nelson

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