

September - October
2011
Issue 54

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday 7th August – Pastor Steve Prior – Turning the World on its Head



The film 'The King's Speech' has recently been on movie screens telling us about King George VI, his important wartime speeches and the speech difficulties he faced. A speech by an earlier King in Israel appears in 1 Kings 8 - a speech by King Solomon on the occasion of the dedication of the temple. Tonight, August 17, Pastor Steve Prior looked at the most important speech of all by the long awaited King of the Jews – anointed at His baptism by John the Baptist and with God's approving word.

The account of His speech in Matthew 5-7 is famous! He had the authority of a king (Matt 8: 27-29). Speaking to His disciples (Matt 5), everything is turned on its head – blessed are the poor in spirit (those who recognise their spiritual bankruptcy), blessed are they that mourn (mourning over our sin and wretchedness before God), blessed are the meek (Jesus was humble before God) – but we all know that success goes to the powerful, the shrewd and the ruthless.

Blessed are the merciful – priority for righteousness rather than selfishness.

Blessed are the pure in heart – it is a picture of total dependence on God.

You will need to submit to God. He is in charge and what an absolutely astounding list of blessings!

Two kingdoms collide here. The last two show that we can expect persecution and must persevere through persecution.

No matter what – persevere. This is the only hope in a world that is cruel and terrible.

Our hearts and minds should be set for the next world. If we submit ourselves to His kingdom, we are living in eternity now.

HB

Sunday 21st August – Mr. Craig Webber – Psalm 23

On August 21st Mr. Craig Webber of Scripture Union preached on the very well known and loved Psalm 23, written by David the king.

The four themes in the psalm may be considered under 4 Ps – **pastoral**, **provider**, **protector** and **presence**.

Pastoral. The Lord is the shepherd, we are the sheep (pretty handy animals, also dumb and follow a leader). We are all God's sheep and all need a shepherd.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10). Jesus knows His sheep and sacrificed His life for His sheep.

Provider. God provides all our needs and gives us a restful place. He is our provider (v 5). Do we recognise and thank Him for His great gifts to us?

Protector. The Lord is our strong active protector with His rod and staff (v 4). God is strong and we are the weak ones.

Presence. (v 6 and Romans 8: 38,39). His presence and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

HB



Operation Christmas Child Trivia evening

Warren reports that 7 of our fellowship attended the Operation Christmas Child fund raising Trivia night in Spence recently. There were a number of prizes (all donated) awarded during the evening and around \$400-00 was raised. Apparently our table of participants was not the most trivially minded as it came in 3rd of the 5 tables. Time to start studying up for the next one.

Sunday 28th August – Mr. Shane Weston – Body Building

Bob Prior has recently returned from a US holiday and was down to preach for us. Sunday morning came, Bob got up and discovered his back was causing him grief. Not feeling able to preach, Bob arranged for a friend, Shane Weston to take his place for our service.

Shane explained that he is a Methodist minister's son, although he attends a Baptist Church. He has 3 children under 5 years old and is studying part time at theological college in Sydney.

Shane mentioned the fact that many of us sometimes get tired or lack motivation for Christian things. He asked whether it would be a good idea for churches to introduce annual or long service leave for Christians, similar to holidays from work provided to employees, to combat this problem.

To help answer the question, Shane suggested we should consider the purpose of the Church: Giving Glory to God; Witnessing to the hope we have in Christ; and Building up the body of Christ.

The Church is an extended family, not a collection of individuals but a community. Without participation there is little body building. Participation is vital for ourselves and the Church. The Church consists of sinners undergoing transformation that leads them to maturity.

Church leave will not work. We are build up spiritually by our participation in the Church and the Church benefits as we use the gifts God has given us.

When we become sick, we may visit a doctor or hospital. There we are treated by people with the necessary medical skills. If we become spiritually sick or weary, the best place for us is the Church where people with spiritual gifts and skills can attend to us.

Leave does eventually come to us in the eternal world.



ID

Sunday 4th September – Rev. Ray Hughes – Living Wisely

On September 4th Rev. Ray Hughes preached on the subject of "Living Wisely". He reminded us that God is the source of all wisdom and that the "fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

We are made in the image of God and He made us to be in fellowship with Him. But so often we go our own way and don't read the instructions from God.

God gave King Solomon a discerning mind so that he could distinguish good from evil. We must not centre our life on happiness for us, but praising God and serving Him should be the centre of living for us. We are not to live carelessly.

We are to feed on Jesus (John 6: 51). As Paul said "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Jesus is the only one who has dealt with sin and He is the only one to help us resist temptation.



HB

Sunday 11th September – Mr. Paul Avis – The New Way to be Human



What does being human mean? Being at the top of the food chain? To be able to be loved?

On September 11th Mr. Paul Avis spoke on "The new way to be human".

Humans were made in the image of God and He put everything under our control (Gen 1: 26-27), but we became corrupt.

In Hebrews 2: 5-18 we read about God's plan. Jesus was fully God and fully man. He could not have borne our sins unless He was human. Jesus had to suffer and die, in order to know what it is to be human. In v 10 we read that Jesus was made perfect through suffering.

Jesus stared down death and disarmed the devil. We don't need to be afraid of death because Jesus has won an amazing victory.

Jesus has renewed humanity and we who believe and follow Him will live together eternally with God.

HB

Paul is production manager for Canberra christian radio station 1WAY-FM (FM 91.9). We were glad to provide a donation to support the station's work.

Sunday 18th September – Rev. Abraham Tang – Report on mission to China

This Sunday we heard from Abraham Tang and a couple of others from a group that visited China recently on an evangelical mission.



Above: Many of our congregation and guests at supper after the service.



Left: Ken with two of our guests who travelled to China

Sunday 25th September – Rev. David McDonald - The Bible in 10, Number 7

We were glad to welcome David McDonald to our pulpit one last time before his move to Darwin. He has given much support to our fellowship over the years. We wish him, and his family, God's blessings as they follow His leading north.

The Bible in 10 is a brief overview of the Bible in ten sessions. Session 7 is the first dealing with the New Testament. All talks are available to listen to on the Crossroads Church website <http://www.crossroads.asn.au/catalogue.php?topic=38> so you can hear David giving this talk again whenever you want.



Also at this service our Operation Christmas Child boxes were dedicated by Pat Woods. This year our fellowship has filled 78 boxes.

Sunday 9th October – Pastor Paul Tabulutu – The Good Shepherd



On October 9th Paul Tabulutu, the Pastor of the Fijian Methodist Church in Canberra, preached his first ever sermon in the English language. By way of introduction Paul told us that until 1964 the Fijian Methodist Church was part of the NSW Methodist Conference, but since then has been independent of Australia. There has been no annual Conference in Suva since 2008 and the recently organised Methodist conference was stopped at the last minute by the dictatorial government.

Jesus said (John 10) "I am the good shepherd." In biblical times the work of a shepherd was very hard and the sheep grown for their wool lived for 10 years and had names. The shepherd called them by name, he saved them from getting lost in the rocky hillsides of Israel and protected them from wild animals and thieves. He slept across the entrance to the sheep fold.

We all need a shepherd because we are all sinners. Only Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

The founder of the Apple empire (Steve Jobs) will be asked by the Lord "Have you responded to my call?"

The Gospel is that Jesus Christ died on the cross for us.

If you don't know Him, now is the time to come to Him.

Jesus will secure us from evil if we let Him rule in our lives.

Jesus will bring you peace – there is no need for psychiatrists or counsellors.

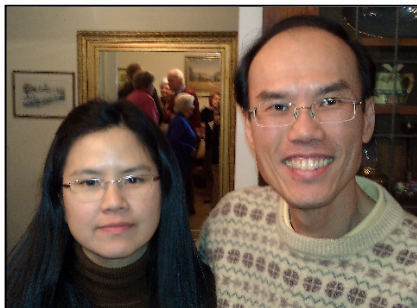
HB

Annual General Meeting

This was held on 10th October and a good number of our fellowship attended considering the large number of people out of town for a variety of reasons.

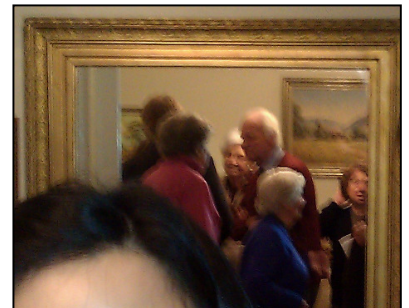
As meetings go, this meeting was unremarkable apart from two minor matters.

The minutes of the previous meeting had to be resurrected from memory due to a computer malfunction that made the prepared minutes inaccessible. Having just joked that we needed a good secretary with a reliable computer and reelected our very capable secretary with her brand new replacement computer, the new machine discarded all the notes she had taken to that point in the meeting. Technology, don't you love it!



As we reconstructed the attendance of the previous meeting, husband and wife, Ken and June, had different recollections concerning their presence. Ken believed they had been there whereas June was not quite so sure about that. I can now report that *The Next Step* has an answer. Chris and Sue were accepted as new members and a photo of them for *The Next Step* was taken. Behind them in the photo was a mirror which appears to show June in a pink jacket chatting with Howard and Ailsa.

ID



Campbell High School Chaplaincy – Rev. Steve Lindner Racing Industry chaplaincy - Rev. Bob Prior



Please remember both Steve and Bob and their chaplaincy work in your prayers.



At our first service for October on Sunday 2nd, Mr. Laurie Hockridge was the preacher and his sermon was titled "The Wedding Banquet" (Matthew 22: 1-14).

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm.

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information
Studying Revelation

Friday Study Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm at Alec's.

All welcome - contact Alec or Howard for more information
Studying "The Church on the Mezzanine Floor"

Prayer Meeting

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

Next meeting – 2pm, 17th October.

All welcome - contact Alec for more information

Services

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

Sunday 16th October at 5pm – Mr. Michael Nott

Sunday 23rd October at 5pm - Mr. Allan Windley

Sunday 30th October at 5pm - Rev. Peter Nelson

Sunday 6th November at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan

Sunday 13th November at 5pm - Rev. Bob Prior

Sunday 20th November at 5pm - Pastor Mark Warren

Sunday 27th November at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Murray Earl

Sunday 4th December at 5pm - **Multicultural Carols (at Campbell Primary School)**

Sunday 11th December at 5pm - Pastor Paul Tabulutu

Sunday 18th December at 5pm - with the Finnish people for their Carols



Mr. Michael
Nott



Mr. Allan
Windley



Rev. Peter
Nelson



Rev. Dr.
Campbell
Egan



Rev. Bob
Prior



Pastor Mark
Warren



Rev. Dr.
Murray Earl



Multicultural
Carols



Pastor Paul
Tabulutu



Finnish
Carols

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