

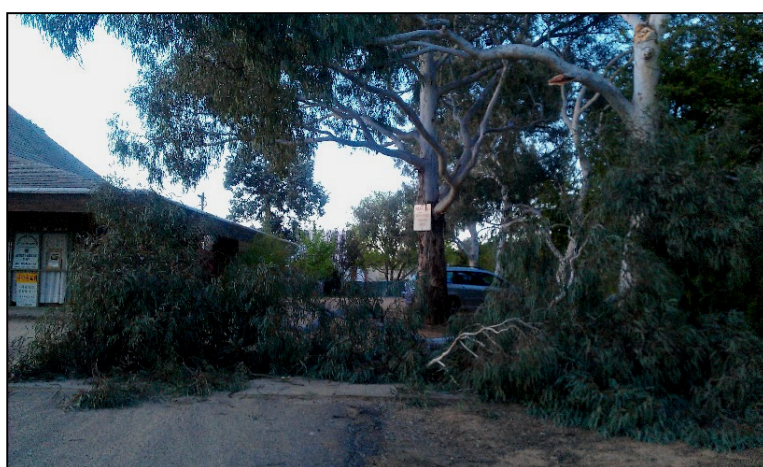
November 2011
Issue 55

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Widow Maker Tree



Gum trees are very Australian however they do have their dangers. Several varieties of Gum are often known as Widow Makers due to their tendency to drop sizeable limbs on the odd occasion. Many deaths have occurred when a gum has without warning suddenly dropped a limb upon people below. This can happen on calm, hot days, not just stormy days when the tree is buffeted by wind. My brief research suggested that River Red Gums, Lemon Scented Gums, Ghost Gums and Brittle Gums among others are known for this.

Last Sunday as I was preparing to head home after church I heard a loud noise outside the church. My best guess was that a car had ploughed into a couple of other cars. Outside I discovered a large limb had just dropped from a Gum, missing a car leaving the church by a whisker. God was certainly looking after Marie and Alec very well.

It was interesting to experience a dropped limb on an evening with only the lightest of breezes but it was also a reminder that dangers do surround us and can appear unexpectedly. Thank God that the limb didn't fall seconds earlier.

ID

ALL WELCOME !!!

Aboriginal
Australia
Austral-Asia
China
Eti
Indonesia
Korea
Spain
Tanzania

**8th
annual
Multicultural Carols**
Refreshments after the service

Sunday
4th December 2011
5-00 pm,
Campbell Primary School Hall
Chauvel Street, Campbell

Organised by the
Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the METHODIST tradition)
www.canberracf.org.au

Sunday 16th October – Mr. Michael Nott – Listening and Doing



We are saved through Faith, but that doesn't mean there is no need for a response from us.

We are saved by faith alone, but a faith that saves is never alone. A saving faith stimulates us to move closer to God and act in a more Godly fashion.

The James 1: 19-27 bible reading tells us to be slow to speak and become angry, which is too often not what we do. We need to listen first.

We should replace the evilness of the world with a love of God's Word. There is a connection between thoughts and actions. We cannot really know and love God's Word unless we act on it. Our response to God's Word shows how much we appreciate it. The Christian life involves change in us. We need to keep learning more of God and in applying that knowledge we will be transformed.

Listen. Learn, Do.

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Greetings

Rev. Jim Midgely and his wife Miriam were with us on Sunday 16th October.

Jim preached for us once or twice while we were still meeting at the Campbell Gospel Chapel. They were visiting Canberra and saw our church notice while taking a walk.

Jim is Claudia Moulang's cousin and she asked him to pass on greetings from Keith and herself.

Fanny



We seem to be a fairly mobile fellowship with rarely a week when there isn't someone travelling or holidaying away from Canberra.

Fanny has been back in Taiwan for some weeks now. A card was received from her with a Taipei city scene showing motor cycles that zip around the streets. She admits that she has done her share of zipping on the Taipei streets.

We look forward to her return in December.

Campbell High School chaplaincy – Rev. Steve Lindner

Racing Industry chaplaincy - Rev. Bob Prior

Institute of Sport chaplaincy – Rev. Peter Nelson

Airforce chaplaincy – Rev. Dr. Murray Earl



Please remember Steve, Bob, Peter and Murray and their chaplaincy work in your prayers.

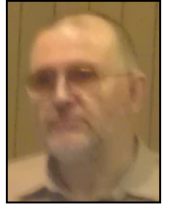


Sunday 23rd October – Mr. Allan Windley – True Fasting

Early in the service, Allan talked to us about 'The ABCD of Disability'.

Approximately 10% of the world's population has some form of disability. Of those people, Christian Blind Mission has dealings with around 2%.

- **Awareness.** Many people do not know how to access assistance available for people with disabilities even if they know that such assistance exists in the first place.
- **Bad service.** In many places when assistance is sought, 'aid givers' are good at accepting payment but do little or nothing to actually help.
- **Cost.** The cost of treatment can be prohibitive for many people especially in poorer communities.
- **Distance.** Health services are, for most people, not available close to home. Travelling from their homes to seek treatment is a major impediment to many when seeking the help they need.



Two men were talking at a club. The first said that he believed everyone was selfish. The second said that was untrue and told a story to back his opinion. He told of a shop keeper who noticed an old lady waiting every day at the bus stop. He discovered the lady had a son quite some distance away and she waited hoping and praying the son would visit. He didn't come as the family was poor and he didn't have enough for the fare from his home town. One day the shop keeper was glad to witness the old lady's joy when her son did arrive. When asked, the shop keeper admitted he had sent the son the money for the trip.

Allan suggested that figuratively speaking, the first man who saw only selfishness existed in a 2 dimensional world with no colour. The story teller saw colour but was a cartoon like onlooker. The shop keeper was a participant, experiencing joy and colour. Allan posed the question 'what difference have you made in someone else's life?'

It can be spiritually dangerous to be 'religious'. It is easy to forget the reality of humanity. We should get interested in what interests God and He is interested in the real, everyday world.

William Booth said 'It is impossible to comfort men's hearts with the love of God when their feet are perishing with cold'. To communicate God's love, we also need to address material needs.

Faith lacks in sincerity if it doesn't reach out to others.

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Sunday 30th October – Rev. Peter Nelson – Running To Obey

In the mid 1800s, a young Scottish man named William Mackay moved to Edinburgh to study medicine. His mother gave him a Bible as a parting gift. William showed little interest in God, instead professing atheism. He drank heavily and on one occasion sold the Bible in order to buy whisky. Despite his lifestyle William Mackay became a prominent surgeon.



One day he was called on to operate on a badly injured man. The man was unusually calm and explained he was unafraid because he trusted in Jesus. He just wanted to know whether he was likely to live or die. He asked that someone take his money and pay his rent to his landlady and get 'the book'.

The man did die and William asked if he had got the book in time. He had and when William saw it, he discovered it was the very Bible his mother had once given him.

William Mackay returned to his office, fell on his knees and asked forgiveness of the God he had abandoned.

We run when we are excited, or if we have a special purpose to fulfil or if we are joyfully running to greet someone. Psalm 119: 32 talks of running in the path of God's commands because God has broadened understanding.

We can discover that obedience to God is a joy and delight. We experience joy and communion with God when our will lines up with God's will as William Mackay found.

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PS William Mackay left his medical career and became a preacher. More information about him can be found on the internet at <http://www.zionbaptists.org.uk/pdf/spvwinter2011wr.pdf>

Sunday 6th November – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan – A Wake Up Call



The parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25: 1-13) formed the basis of Campbell's sermon.

- Here He comes.

The virgins were expecting the groom's arrival but they didn't know when he would arrive. We are expecting Jesus' return but we don't know when that will be.

- Be ready.

Five virgins were properly prepared and ready when the bridegroom came. The other five needed oil for their lamps so had to go and get some as the bridegroom approached. We need to be ready for Jesus' return.

- Shut out.

The unprepared virgins returned after getting the oil they needed but they were too late. The doors were shut and they were locked out. The Kingdom of God is open to us, but there is a shutdown time. We need to be ready to come before God while the opportunity remains. ID

Sunday 13th November – Rev. Bob Prior – Keeping on Track - Running the race the way God told us to

Bob reported on his chaplaincy work. Some prayer points he mentioned are:

- The rules for tax deductibility for non-profitable organisations are going to be tightened. Pray that his work will receive tax deductible status soon to save the extra work that will be required to achieve that later.
- More race course chaplains are needed.
- A 'Christmas on the Course' event has been organised. A speaker is needed.
- A Question and Answer Café has started for people who want answers but don't want to go to church.



The Christian life is like a race. If we are going to do well in a race we must keep on our toes and concentrate on our goal and the means of achieving it. Hebrews 12: 1-3 tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus to see the goal God sets us and to help us not lose heart.

We are to live as people in the Kingdom of Light. Day by day we should live with Jesus and focus on Him. Our lives should illustrate an appreciation of what God has done for us. A useful question might be to ask ourselves, 'If people follow our example, will they come closer to or move further away from Jesus?'

In Philippians 3: 8-17 Paul tells us he considers knowing Jesus to be of greatest value. Everything else is equivalent to rubbish in comparison. God comes first, and we can trust God for everything else.

The 'world' sees things as most important but as Christians we are not in the darkness that blinds the 'world' from seeing God.

We are an example. Others watch the life we lead. The Church helps us focus on what is really important and to get to the end of our life race safely. ID

Late for Bible Class

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "*Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!*"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "*Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!*"

Sunday 20th November – Pastor Mark Warren – Top Tips for Passionate Christians



Quite some time ago, Mark Warren began a series of sermons on 1 Thessalonians for us. This is the last of that series.

We should live life to the full and we can best do that by living God's life to the full.

Mark identified four top tips for passionate Christians in the 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28 passage.

- Give respect to those over you in the Lord.

Elder, pastor, minister - the title doesn't matter. What matters is their role in encouraging us, correcting us and helping us develop and mature in the Christian life. That is not easy. We should give them respect and love for the work they do.

- Lift up brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Be ready to lend a hand. Be patient. Be kind. People need positive assistance. Anything we do should be done with kindness, not harshness.

- Be joyful in the Spirit.

Joy is at the heart of Christian life. God wants us to be joyful.

Don't disregard prophecy but test it. Hold on to what is good but avoid evil.

- Rely on Jesus.

God is a God of peace and He makes us holy.

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Sunday 27th November – Rev. David McDonald – Finishing Well

Several weeks ago David preached for us and at the time we believed it would be the last time he would fill our pulpit. We did hope he might be able to join us after church so we could farewell him properly. David was keen to come and offered to preach once more if a suitable date was available. About the same time we heard from Murray Earl that the Air Force wanted him interstate on a date he was down to preach. It was arranged, David would preach for us one last time before his move to Darwin to plant a new church.

At this service we were also glad to welcome Rev. Don Purdey, stopping over on his way to Sydney for a Motor Neurone Disease conference. Don led us in prayer.

David used 2 Timothy 4 for his text. Paul was approaching the end of his life at the time he wrote this letter but his focus remained on the gospel of Christ and sharing it with those yet to hear it. He was keen that his work



Fiona and David

continue and be passed on from person to person. The Word of God is God speaking to us and it is that that must be preached, not what is popular or what people want to hear.

Paul was deserted by some, attacked by others and abandoned when he could have used support however he still experienced God's presence and strength. Paul's confidence and trust in God was very evident.

After his sermon, David led us in prayer. He prayed that as Paul wanted, we would stay true to God's Word and share the Word with others as God provides opportunity.

We were keen to ask God's blessing on David and his wife Fiona as they prepare to move to Darwin and many of the congregation came forward to lay hands on



Ruth, Howard, Fiona, David, Annette and Don

them as Don Purdey led us all in prayer.

It was a special service, with God's Word proclaimed and evidence that that Word is being taken seriously both in understanding and action.

A sumptuous meal followed during which we took the opportunity to thank David for the support he has given us and also to make a contribution towards the establishment of the new church.

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Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm.

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information
Studying Luke

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, 19th December.

All welcome - contact Alec for more information

Services

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

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**

Sunday 25th December - No service of our own as most of our people will be away for Christmas

2012

Sunday 1st January at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall**

Sunday 8th January at 5pm - **Rev. Kevin Kim**

Sunday 15th January at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Murray Earl**

Sunday 22nd January at 5pm - **Rev. Ray Hughes**

Sunday 29th January at 5pm - **Rev. Peter Nelson**

Sunday 5th February at 5pm – to be advised

Sunday 12th February at 5pm - **Mr. Peter Bentley**



Multicultural
Carols



Pastor Paul
Tabulutu



Finnish
Carols



No CCF service.
Most people away.



Mrs. Joyce
Hall



Rev. Kevin
Kim



Rev. Dr.
Murray Earl



Rev. Ray
Hughes



Rev. Peter
Nelson



Mr. Peter
Bentley

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