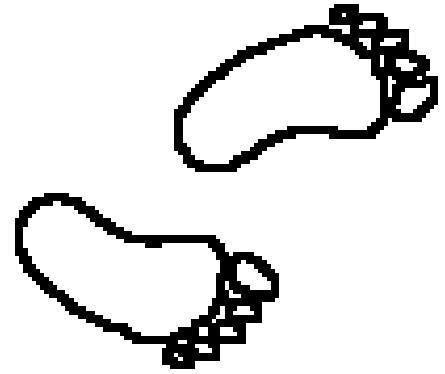


December 2011 –
January 2012
Issue 56

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Multi Cultural Carols 2011

Sunday 4th December – Rev. Abraham Tang – The Gift



To begin his talk at the carols, Abraham Tang mentioned how tiring the lead up to Christmas can be.

He told us of a pastor who mentioned his tiredness to his wife: 'I preached 2 sermons yesterday and another 3 today'.

The wife was unsympathetic and explained she was even more tired: 'I had to listen to them all'.

Christmas is a time of gift giving and many people 'measure' the gifts they give and get by their \$ value.

A poor man became upset when he saw his young daughter wrapping a large gift. The family could not afford expensive gifts. Nevertheless, the gift was wrapped and placed under the tree.

On Christmas Day the young daughter presented the gift to him. His misgivings left him and he was filled with joy at the kindness and thoughtfulness of his daughter.

He unwrapped the gift, but all he found was an empty box. He became upset again thinking it was just a bad joke. 'It isn't nice to pretend to give someone something but just give them an empty box!'

'But it isn't empty Daddy; I filled it with kisses'.

Gifts need not be valuable in \$ terms. They can be chosen and given with thought and love and be more appropriate than other gifts with bigger price tags.

God gave us a gift at Christmas, a gift given with love. His gift to us was His Son Jesus. God's gift provided two things which we cannot provide for ourselves. Jesus saves us from our sins and He takes away the fear of death.

Proverbs 27: 23-25 tells us "riches do not endure forever" The expensive gifts we give will lose their value but God's gift is everlasting and it is the very best we can ever receive. As John Wesley said "The best of all is, God is with us"

An old man and his son loved art and had a large and very valuable collection.

The son was called away from his home to fight for his country in a war. Unfortunately he was killed as he rescued a friend during heavy fighting. The old man was devastated.

Some weeks after the son's death, a visitor arrived. He explained he was the one rescued by the son, and knowing of the family's love of art, he brought a portrait he had painted of the son as a gift. The portrait was hung in pride of place in the art collection.

Sometime later the old man died too, and his will stipulated the art collection be auctioned. The auction attracted much interest and the portrait was the first item up for bids. The art connoisseurs were not at all interested and clamoured for the other paintings to be brought out. Eventually a poor friend of the family offered a small amount for the portrait of the young man he had known. The bid was accepted but then, to the dismay of everyone else, the auctioneer announced the auction was over. He explained the old man had had a secret stipulation that whoever bought the portrait of the much loved son, GOT EVERYTHING!

God has given us a similar opportunity. Whoever accepts God's Son Jesus, GETS EVERYTHING – forgiveness, joy, peace, hope and a place in God's Kingdom forever. ID

PS Abraham did suggest NOT giving your children an otherwise empty box full of love. For some reason children find it an unappealing gift.

ALL WELCOME !!!

Aboriginal
Australia
Austral-Asia
China
Fiji
Indonesia
Korea
Samoa
Tonga

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



Our musicians playing before the Carols began



Above: Welcome !



Right: In a Christmas mood



“O Come All Ye Faithful”



Above: Prayer – Rev. Peter Nelson

Left: Indonesians

Right: Chinese Methodists



Children's segment / "Away In A Manger"



Fijian Methodists



**Left: Bible Reading
Mrs. Chris Sloane
Aboriginal Church**



Introducing the Koreans



Koreans



“Silent Night”



Tongan Wesleyan Methodists



Congregation and Tongans

Right: The Message – Rev. Abraham Tang





Samoan Methodists



**Musicians playing
“Hark The Herald Angels Sing”**



Left: Solo – Kevin Kim

Right: Accompanied by Kay Kim



Below: Blessing – Rev. Kevin Kim





Left: Closing announcements

Below (4 pictures): Musicians playing while refreshments are brought out.



Refreshments

CCF Lunch

Unfortunately I was away for our CCF lunch to which we invited people who had preached for us during the year as an extra 'thank you' to them. I have heard it was a very enjoyable meal and time of fellowship together.

A minister dies and, resplendent in his clerical collar and colorful robes, waits in line at the Pearly Gates. Just ahead of him is a guy dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans.

Saint Peter addresses this guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The guy replies, "I'm Joe Green, taxi driver, of Noo Yawk City."

Saint Peter consults his list, smiles and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff, and enter into the Kingdom."

So the cab driver enters Heaven with his robe and staff, and the minister is next in line. He stands erect. Without being asked, he proclaims, "I am Joseph Snow, head pastor of Saint Mary's for the last forty-three years."

Saint Peter consults his list and says, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

The minister says, "Just a minute. That man was a taxi-driver, and you issued him a silken robe and golden staff. But I get wood and cotton. How can this be?"

Saint Peter says, "Up here, we go by results. While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."

Indonesian Carols

This year we were again invited to join the Indonesians for their Carols.

Our own lunch was scheduled earlier the same day so it was a bit of a rush for our people to move from the lunch to the Carols. Despite this just over half a dozen of our fellowship managed to get there.

I'm told that this year their carols were a bit different to the carols the previous year. It was a fairly informal time and my informants say it was good fun and a very happy time.

Thank you to our Indonesian friends for their invitation

Sunday, 11 December – Pastor Paul Tabulutu – The Suffering Christ

On December 11th, Pastor Paul Tabulutu preached on "The Suffering Christ." The true message of Christmas is not the exchange of gifts and its worldly commercialisation, but the suffering of Christ prophesied in Isaiah 53: 6; "and God laid on him the sins of us all."

Only God could take away our sins and this is how he did it. Christ is made the sinner and we who believe and follow him are set free. The real present is Jesus dying on the cross for us.

HB



Finnish Carols

As the Finns had an evening Carols service, we were unable to hold our own service on 18 December. As a result, we joined them for their service.

Yanne preached a short sermon and a number of carols were sung. English words were provided for the carols but unsurprisingly the singing and sermon were all in Finnish.

It was good to see a lot of younger people there.

As we have become used to at Finnish events, the evening ended with coffee and pastries / pudding.

Bible Study Breakup

After a year of diligent Bible Study, the Bible students met before Christmas for a gathering prior to the study going into recess until February.

The venue was Adore Tea at Gold Creek.

Around twelve members of the Bible Study group were able to enjoy afternoon tea together.

Sunday, 1 January 2012 – Mrs. Joyce Hall – Have Courage and Believe



Revelation 21: 6-8 has the cowardly and unbelievers at the start of a list of those who won't benefit from all the good things God offers for the life to come. It is easy to keep our faith under wraps to avoid the attention of people around us. Instead it is better to have faith, live our faith and let the world see us living life based on what we believe.

Life presents us with challenges. We can be confident that God will be with us as we face those challenges and supply the strength and support we need.

From our perspective, problems we face can seem as large as mountains and we spend much time talking to God about how big our mountains are. A better approach may be to tell the mountains how BIG our God is.

Those who will receive the water of life and be God's children are those who seek after God and are victorious in their faith.

ID

David McDonald



Fiona and David

On 27 November we farewelled David, wishing him God's blessings as he moved to Darwin to plant a new church.

Less than a week later, he had collapsed and was in hospital. We prayed for him at our Carols.

The following is excerpts from a letter he and Fiona sent to friends.

Dear friends.

... As many of you are aware, David was admitted to hospital last Friday with chest pain ... Monday afternoon he had a VATS, where a camera was inserted into his left chest cavity and biopsy samples taken. Visually it was seen that David has cancer ... it is surgically inoperable and we will now be referred to oncology to receive chemo &/or radiotherapy treatment, appropriate to the type of cancer it is ...

This is a great shock to us all, given the lack of symptoms and our plans to move to Darwin. However, we can praise God for His timing, that we are still in Canberra, amongst friends and within our church family. ...

Whilst it looks like we might not make it to Darwin, please pray that our vision and David's opportunity to communicate at various conferences will have spurred on others to take up the challenge of church planting in Darwin. Much groundwork has been done that people could build on.

In the meantime, please pray for us as a family as we adjust to this new path.

Pray especially for our children, as that is what concerns David and I most.

Pray that we will be able to love and care for each other, and continue to trust in the God who cares for us, who has our best interests at heart, Rom 8:28, and who has things under control, even when it seems to be out of control Heb 11:1.

Pray that we will continue to honour His name and bring glory to Him.

Pray for the miracle of healing. That's what we want, so ask God.

Pray for contentment with the answer.

Entrust David to His will, care and mercy. Nahum 1: 7

Thank him for the hope of heaven: Rev 21: 3---4, the joy and assurance of our salvation: Heb 10: 19---25, and the comfort of

his presence: 2 Tim 4: 17---18

Thank God for efficient, wise, caring medical staff thus far and pray we will continue to receive prompt, efficient, wise, caring treatment as we proceed with oncology. Pray that we will be able to continue to witness to God's love with all the new people we encounter.

We thank God for all of you; ... Thank you for your ongoing love and support: Psalm 23:4

Love and prayers

Fiona and David

Think about it

The verse 1 Corinthians 15: 51 which reads, "*Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.*" was printed on a sign hung outside a room in a church building.

Which room? – The nursery.

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.

Inscribed in stone over the great front doors of an old church being restored was:
"This is the Gate of Heaven."
Just below it someone had placed a small cardboard sign that read:
"Use Other Entrance."

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm.

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information
In recess until February
Studying Luke

Friday Study Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm at Alec's.

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

Weekend Monthly Study Group

Commencing January. Meeting at Vince and Dominica's, Wamboin.

All welcome - contact Vince or Dominica for more information
Studying "The Bible in 10"

Prayer Meeting

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

Next meeting – 2pm, 16th January.
All welcome - contact Alec for more information

Services

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

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 – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**
Sunday **12th February** at 5pm - **Mr. Peter Bentley**
Sunday **19th February** at 5pm – **Pastor Steve Prior**
Sunday **26th February** at 5pm – to be advised
Sunday **4th March** at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** (Harvest Festival)



**Rev. Kevin
Kim**



**Rev. Dr.
Murray Earl**



**Rev. Ray
Hughes**



**Rev. Peter
Nelson**



**Rev. Dr.
Campbell
Egan**



**Mr. Peter
Bentley**



**Pastor Steve
Prior**



**Mrs. Joyce
Hall**

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