

February 2012
Issue 57

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

The patter of little feet

There aren't any little feet pattering around just yet – but it is only a matter of time.

In mid-January Carolyn passed on the news that she and Derek are expecting an addition to their family in a few months' time.

This announcement was greeted with joy and excitement and a steady stream of well-wishers queued up to pass on their congratulations.

A hug and handshake for parents-to-be, Carolyn and Derek



Operation Christmas Child - Fiji

Visiting an Operation Christmas Child shoe box distribution in Fiji last Christmas, Judy, a Samaritan's Purse Australia volunteer, found herself in the middle of a church filled with hundreds of young children – all eagerly awaiting their own shoe box.

It was quite a scene as each child ripped open their box to discover the treasures inside. That is, each child except a little boy named Ajay, who sat at the end of one pew with his head down and his hands in his lap. Judy soon learned that Ajay was almost blind, and not only that, his mum had recently died. Ajay had a lot to be sad about.

When Judy sat down beside Ajay and helped him open his shoe box, tears filled her eyes. Right on the top was a perspex magnifying glass. Judy knew that God had guided the gift-giver when they packed their box months before.

Judy took the magnifying glass out of the box and held it up in front of *The Greatest Gift* booklet that was under the shoe box.

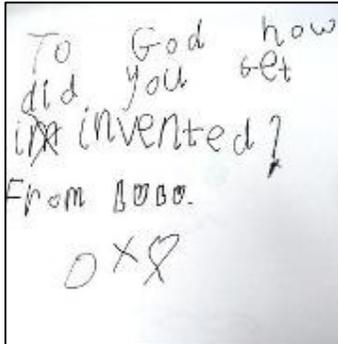
Thank you for supporting Operation Christmas Child. Each shoe box is a unique opportunity to transform the world of a young child like Ajay.

A total of 51,906 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes were donated to children in need in Fiji in 2011.

Thanks to Norma for passing this story on to us



Who invented God?



Last year, a letter to God from 6 year old Lulu, and the Archbishop of Canterbury's reply on God's behalf attracted some media attention.



Source of Lulu's letter: <http://alexrenton.com/2011/04/21/a-letter-to-god/>
Source for the Archbishop's reply: <http://christchurchcathedral.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/archbishop-of-canterbury-letter.jpg>
Thanks to Maurine for bringing this to our attention

Sunday, 8 January – Rev. Kevin Kim – Whose neighbour am I?

There is a Korean saying, "Close neighbours are better than distant relatives".

This week Kevin preached on Luke 10: 25-37 – the good Samaritan.

The good Samaritan showed himself to be a good person with a good heart who used his own resources to help a man in need, but why did Jesus tell this story?

It was in response to a question from an expert in the law. He knew that to inherit eternal life he must 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself', but he asked who his neighbour was. His focus was more on who was his neighbour than whose neighbour could he be.

Being a good neighbour can involve hard work, lots of care and self denial. Many people can and do do good things, but their reasons vary. God's people act because they share God's heart.

The good Samaritan in Jesus' parable had compassion and he took action. What kind of neighbours are we and who are we neighbourly to?



ID

Sunday, 15 January – Rev. Dr. Murray Earl – The Calling



Following Methodist practise, Murray led us through a Covenant service which is an opportunity to upgrade our relationship with God at the beginning of a year.

John 1: 35-51 describes a transition. John the Baptist had been prominent in religious life, but when he saw Jesus, John recognised Him as the Messiah and his disciples went to Jesus. The passage also documents the start and growth of the church. Andrew and Philip became the first 2 followers of Jesus. Andrew brought his brother Simon (Peter) to Jesus and Philip brought Nathanael. The call to follow Jesus comes to people who are all different and who are imperfect, but the call is the same, "Come follow me."

In 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 Paul reminds the christians in Corinth of how they should behave. Greeks considered their bodies as merely shells which housed their souls. As a result they tended to use their bodies immorally. Paul argues that a christian's body belongs to Christ and is a temple of the Holy Spirit. The Corinthians were called to live in the world but not to follow the ways of the world. They were followers of Christ first. ID

Sunday, 22 January – Mrs. Joyce Hall – Special and Favourite Hymns

Rev. Ray Hughes was down to preach but rang to say he was unwell and unable to come. At fairly short notice Joyce agreed to lead a service of hymn singing and to bring us a few stories associated with some of the hymns we know so well.



Joseph Medicott
Scriven

Joseph Scriven was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1819. He studied at Trinity College and spent some time preparing for a military career. He became engaged to be married but his fiancée drowned in 1845, the night before they were to be married. Joseph moved to Canada. A committed member of the Plymouth Brethren, he worked as a teacher / tutor. After some years he became engaged again. Before the couple could be married she had to be baptised with full immersion. This was done in a lake with ice barely gone. Already ill, she developed pneumonia and died 4 months later.

Joseph Scriven was well known in the Port Hope, Ontario area. He was generous with what he had and was also known for preaching on the streets. Aged 66, he died, drowned in a mill dam.

It was apparently when his mother was very sick back in Ireland and he was unable to go to her, that Joseph wrote the words for "What a friend I have in Jesus".

Joyce had several other equally interesting hymn related stories she shared with us. ID

Sunday, 29 January – Rev. Peter Nelson – Integrity, Credibility and Civility

Peter used 1 Peter 3: 8-18 for his text.

Christians today face many challenges including radical Islam, aggressive atheism, intolerance towards christianity and a strong homosexual lobby. The early church faced opposition and persecution prompting Peter to write this letter. It tells christians how to be 'fair dinkum' about their faith.

Integrity 1 Peter 3: 15 talks about knowing Christ and standing up for Him in a Christ-like manner. Peter told us of a christian Japanese teacher. He was forbidden from mentioning his faith in class. The teacher went out of his way to help his students learn. They recognised his efforts and many asked him his motivation. Away from the classroom he was able to discuss his faith. In a year about half the class became christian.

Credibility We need to know who we believe, what we believe and why we believe. John 3: 16 sums up the Bible. Frank Morison was an agnostic who set out to prove Jesus' resurrection didn't happen. He became a believer and wrote the well known book "Who moved the stone?".

Civility We must speak to others about our faith with gentleness and respect, not ram our beliefs down their throats. While we love others we must remain firm in our convictions. Only the Holy Spirit can change a person. William Wilberforce in opposing slavery and seeking to ban it was very persistent but always remained humble, gracious and loving. ID



Sunday, 5 February – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan – Jesus the Healer



Mark tells us that Jesus taught with authority. In Mark 1: 29-39 we find that he also healed people and drove out demons. Later he went off to pray.

In today's world, a minority of christians when they are sick make the claim 'God will heal me' while ignoring medical help. This is God's world. He has provided the means for healing and the knowledge and skills that medical people require to assist those who are sick. Christians should seek medical assistance when they are unwell, understanding that God uses doctors, nurses and medical knowledge to provide healing. Christians have the additional reassurance of God's presence with them in times of need.

God is in control. Paul had a 'thorn in the flesh'. "Three times I prayed to the Lord about this and asked him to take it away. But his answer was: 'My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak.' I am most happy, then, to be proud of my weaknesses, in order to feel the protection of Christ's power over me. I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." [2 Corinthians 12: 8-10] ID

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.

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
Resuming 17th February.
Studying "The Church on the Mezzanine Floor"

Weekend Monthly Study Group

2nd Saturday of each month, 11-00 am at Vince and Dominica's, Wamboin.

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

Prayer Meeting

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

Next meeting – 2pm, 20th February.
All welcome - contact Alec for more information

Services

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

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

Sunday 19th February at 5pm – **Rev. Bob Prior**

Sunday 26th February at 5pm – **Pastor Steve Prior**

Sunday 4th March at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** (Harvest Thanksgiving)

Sunday 11th March at 5pm – **Pastor Mark Warren**

Sunday 18th March at 5pm – **Pastor Paul Tabulutu**

Sunday 25th March at 5pm – details later

Sunday 1st April at 5pm - **Rev. David Moyes**



Mr. Peter Bentley



Rev. Bob Prior



Pastor Steve Prior



Mrs. Joyce Hall



Pastor Mark Warren



Pastor Paul Tabulutu



Rev. David Moyes

Contacts

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