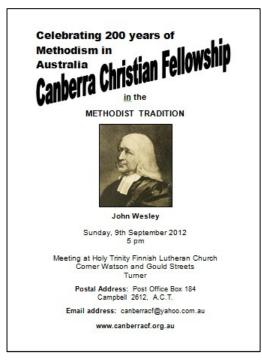


200 Years of Methodism in Australia

Sunday, 9th September – Rev. the Hon. Dr. Gordon Moyes, A.C. – John Wesley as a Man, his Message, his Methods and his Mega-trends



On 20-7-1812. Thos. Bowden writing to the Wesleyan Missionary Committee in England said:

"March 6th, 1812, we held our first Class Meeting, and it has continued ever since."

He indicated Methodists in Australia then numbered just under 20 people.

So 6th March, 2012 Australia.



has been celebrated as the 200th Anniversary of Methodism in

Gordon began his sermon with a history lesson. He told us about Edward Eagar who was transported to Australia after a conviction for forgery. Edward committed his life to Christ while awaiting his transportation.

In Australia he was assigned to teach children but he also began Bible classes in the Windsor district. Just a year ago documents were discovered that confirm services and class meetings in the Hawkesbury, organised by Edward Eagar, were the true beginning of Methodism in Australia. This was August 1811, not March 1812.

When the history of Australian Methodism was written, Edward Eagar's role was down played as the church was seeking respectibility and not wanting connections with Australia's convict past. Later in his life Edward entered into a bigamous marriage which conflicted with Christian standards and so gave the church more excuse to overlook his part in its establishment.

Edward Eagar was an important man in the early days of the colony and of the Methodist Church in Australia. He achieved a great deal but he also displayed a real humanness in his struggles with sin, struggles he sometimes lost.

From its early beginnings, Methodism attracted hundreds of thousands of converts and undertook much good work in spreading the gospel and meeting needs of society in God's name.

John Wesley was a VERY influential person in church history. What is it that Methodists and the wider church have gained from his work and influence?

John Wesley, the man

Samuel, John's father, was an Anglican clergyman and Susanna, his mother, a lady of strong faith and devotion. John was saved from the Wesley home when it burnt down while he was a boy. He believed he was saved for a reason. He became an Anglican priest, going to America as a missionary, but was unsure of his own conversion. On 24 May, 1738 he felt his heart "strangely warmed" while listening to Luther's introduction to Paul's letter to the Romans

being read. His heart warming marked the start of a great evangelical movement. John Wesley rode all over Britain preaching and he personally won 140,000 converts to Christ.

John Wesley's message

God's grace is available to us through Jesus' life, death on the cross for our sins and resurrection. We are saved through our acceptance of what God has done for us and our faith in Him.

The gifts and fruit of the Spirit help us grow in grace to Christian maturity. Transformed lives leads to transformed society.

Social care for everyone is very important. John Wesley worked to provide for people's social needs (education, shelter, health, food) as well as their spiritual needs.

Practical social care costs money. Earn money, save money and give money to help those in need.



John Wesley's methods

John Wesley aimed to live the principles and spiritual power that he saw in the early church.

He brought enthusiasm and method to church life, earning the mocking name "methodists" that stuck. Charles Wesley wrote hymns full of Christian doctrine which enabled people to learn about their faith as they sang the hymns.

Wesley organised classes, societies and travelling preachers to enable converts to learn about and grow in their faith.

Conversion was seen in the change in lives. That included love for your neighbour. This love was for all regardless of place in society. "Go not to those who

need you, but to those who need you most" Methodists set up institutions that benefitted the less well off and attacked conditions and activities that were oppressive or wrong. They had success evangelizing the urban poor. The social reform generated by Wesley and the Methodists had a massive impact on the life of the whole nation.

John Wesley was willing to adopt methods of doing things that were successful.

John Wesley's mega-trends

John Wesley wanted revival and renewal of spiritual life.

Gordon was once told of a visit to the Epworth rectory in 1940. At the end of the visit a missing student was found kneeling in the knee marks that were formed when John Wesley had kneeled there many years before for hours at a time praying for England's social and spiritual renewal. The student prayed "O Lord, do it again!". That student was Billy Graham.

John Wesley concluded most sermons with a call to repentance and for people to seek salvation.

Gordon followed that example and "offered Christ" to us and commended Him to us.

ID

This was written using notes I took during the sermon and Gordon Moyes' own sermon notes

As this was a special celebration for Methodists, we invited other Methodist congregations to join us. We were glad to have both Chinese and Fijians with us and participating in the service.



Our musicians Antoinette and Natasha playing a duet for us



Chinese Methodists



Fijian Methodists

Sunday 12th August – Rev. Bob Prior – The Ministry of all Members

1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 both talk about the Body of Christ, the Church and it's composition. God gives the Body all the gifts it needs. The gifts are spread between all His people rather than lavished on just one person or a select few. The gifts we have received from God are not for us individually but exercised by us for the good of the Body as a whole and to achieve God's purposes.



We are to give ourselves to God, allowing God to guide our thinking and always living for Him. There is no retirement for a Christian. Our rewards come through our relationship to God, our service and when finally God "takes us home".

Can God use us?. Not individually on our own, but as part of a team. All of us have gifts which used together can do great things for God but anyone on their own would lack many skills necessary to do what God requires. The Body of Christ consists of every believer everywhere. The gifts God has given out and uses are distributed between every one of those believers. Every believer has a role to play on God's team.

Bob illustrated the message with some simple examples. His racecourse chaplaincy work would be impossible without the financial backing and support of our Fellowship and other groups of God's people. In turn we would find it very difficult to continue if it wasn't for the many people who use their gifts and come and preach for us.

Bob talked briefly about some of his chaplaincy work so that we can be encouraged by what God has achieved through that work and our support for the work.

Bob has been visiting a girl in one institution. She has been reducing the amount of methadone she uses and is now almost off it. She has asked for continued prayer that she will not experience withdrawal symptoms.

One bloke Bob has helped was a drug user that even other users worried about. He would use whatever he could get. He had to move to new accommodation and the only place he could find was a share place with another user, a seeming recipe for disaster. Contrary to the expectations of many, he has stayed off hard drugs with the assistance and encouragement of his housemate and not experienced withdrawals. Bob has given him a copy of "The Cross and the Switchblade" which often helps people with addictions.

A Japanese girl Bob met at the racecourse has shown some interest in Christianity and has attended a question and answer session plus a service at the church Bob attends.

Sunday, 19th August - Pastor Stephen Smith - His Name is Mercy



Rev. David Moyes was down to preach but discovered he was double booked. He arranged for Pastor Stephen Smith to come to us in his place.

We were very glad to welcome Stephen, his wife Jayne and their three boys to our service.

Stephen gave us a brief outline of his life. He grew up in Folkestone, Kent, England in what he considered a 'normal' home. While young he was sent along to Sunday School to get him out of the house on Sundays. As he grew older, he found judo more attractive so went to judo rather than the church. He was good at judo and became a European Judo Champion on several occasions.

One day when he and his friends were out on the town they came across people from a local church handing out tracts. Nine of them decided to go along to the church just to meet some girls. The sermon had a simple message and was based on John 3: 16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." The message spoke to Stephen personally. The Bible verse applied to him! Stephen joined a Bible Study group and did odd jobs around the church while still retaining much of his old lifestyle. The church people didn't look down on him but believed in him.

At 18 Stephen had spent time in prison and taken on an undisciplined lifestyle. He began to realise that his 'normal' family life was in some ways quite disfunctional. On the day his father died, Stephen found himself kicked out of home. The message 'Jesus died for YOU', however, stuck in his mind. Eventually Stephen moved in with the church youth pastors.

He continued to grow in faith and the christian life. He wanted to find a woman who loved God and would help him grow in his faith. He found and married her, the minister's daughter.

Stephen is now a children's pastor at Belconnen Baptist Church.

As part of his duties, Stephen visits and holds services regularly at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. He finds that what many of the young people there want, is for someone to believe in them, not just put them down. He also runs a group at McGregor Primary School. He asked us to pray for these activities. God is at work.

Fanny

We have known Fanny now, for around 2 years. In that time she has become a valued friend to us all and is greatly missed when she is unable to attend our services.



She grew up in the city of Tainan, Taiwan, the youngest of four children (one brother, the eldest, and two sisters). Her father worked in the Post Office for many years and her mother, while Fanny was young, assembled watch faces at home. The children helped. Later her mother worked in a factory folding cloths.

Tainan was once a provincial capital and is now known as an historical city, famous for many things including traditional food that is readily available at street stalls. The family has Taiwanese ancestry and they are Mandarin speakers. Their present home is next to a park and they have lived there for over 20 years.

These days Fanny's parents are retired, her brother works for a large corporation, her elder sister is a Junior High School teacher, teaching intellectually disabled children and her other sister has a government job that

deals with agriculture, in particular water resources.

Fanny's father was quite protective, encouraging his children not to venture out and about to any great extent. The daily routine was to get up, go to school, return home, help about the house, sleep and then repeat the next day. Fanny didn't participate in school trips due to her father's caution.

Family holidays were taken in summer or winter. They bussed around Taiwan as they didn't own a family car, and often stayed in school buildings to save money. Other cheap accommodation was at local temples.

Fanny claims no great sporting ability, but she did enjoy athletics while at school. She was best at distance running, although tended to just make up the numbers if competitions were organised.

Volleyball was another High School sporting activity. Competition for sporting space was keen so students tried to get out from class a few minutes early so they could race out and claim a spot for themselves and their friends.

Fanny progressed through junior school, junior high school, senior high school and at eighteen found herself at university in Taipei. She gained her bachelor degree in social work in four years, took another three years to get a master's degree in criminology and then entered the workforce. For three years she worked among women as a social worker. Many of her clients were from overseas and had come to Taiwan to be married. Dowries had often been paid and the husbands' expectations led to many women acting more as servants than wives. There were many divorced ladies or ladies wanting divorces.



On completing her master's degree, it was suggested to Fanny she go overseas to do a PhD. A slight lack of confidence, lack of money, poor English language skills and discouragement from some people about her persuaded her to start work instead. A feeling of dissatisfaction and

inability to achieve all she felt she could, led her to revisit the PhD option. Fanny came to Canberra and is working on her PhD here, in the field of Criminology (Domestic Violence), supported by a scholarship. She has been here close to three years and expects to return to Taiwan in the middle of next year. Many university students have the reputation of being skillful at making ends meet, out of necessity. Fanny works at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office every Friday to supplement her scholarship funds.

Life after her PhD is unknown at present. She expects to return to Taiwan and find a job. She enjoys research and the interviews that that involves. Her current aim is to acquire skills and then see where those skills take her.

Fanny mentioned that over the last ten or so years her activities and interests have tended to have a Christian focus. Having come from a family that was Buddhist and ancestor worship influenced, how did she gain her Christian faith?

University study meant Fanny moved to Taipei and was living in a share house. She identified a dissatisfaction with life. People about her were more interested in material success and showing off than in establishing successful relationships. She felt it was difficult to fit in and hard to find real happiness. Some university classmates invited her along to a Bible Study. Fanny joined in more of the church's activities and was put into a study class. The church had some quite strict rules and she was given homework to complete from her study class. Another requirement was to confess sins to others. Fanny grew in faith and was baptised into the Church when she was 20. She has made some very good friends through the church, including finding a boyfriend there. Her family was cautious concerning her growing interest in the church but has come to accept her connection with the Church.

Fanny participated in a church missionary team that visited mainland China, going to Wuhan in Hubei province. The team of about ten people was there to 'travel' for six weeks. They met and talked with university students, eventually discussing beliefs and inviting them to learn more. Two or three were convinced. A local group and other visiting missionary teams were able to support and nurture these students with their new faith.

Fanny liked central China, but was less enthusiastic about coastal China and the big cities found there. China was cheap, the food was good, the country was beautiful, but it was not clean. The mainland Chinese people were interested in Taiwan and their Taiwanese visitors. That did not stop them from boosting their prices for goods to take advantage of their visitors' spending power.

What does Fanny do to relax?

She reads, often Bible related material. She enjoys movies, horror movies and comedies being her favourites, and listens to music. She likes classical music as it doesn't make too much noise and there are no distracting voices.

She also likes to do some bushwalking and has climbed Black Mountain and Mount Ainslie.

It has been wonderful to have Fanny as part of our Fellowship and I am certain she will be missed when she completes her PhD and returns to Taiwan.



Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Rev. Rachel Tonga



Rev. Bob Prior



Pastor Stephen Smith



Pastor Steve Prior



Mr. Ben Lattimore



Rev. the Hon. Dr. Gordon Moves A.C.



Rev. Mark Willis



Rev. Janne Pekkarinen



Rev. Peter Nelson



Pastor Paul Tabulutu



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan



Dr. Howard Bradbury

Sunday 5th August at 5pm - Rev. Rachel Tonga – Jesus is the Absolute Truth
Sunday 12th August at 5pm - Rev. Bob Prior – The Ministry of all Members (see p3)
Sunday 19th August at 5pm – Pastor Stephen Smith – His Name is Mercy (see p3)
Sunday 26th August at 5pm - Pastor Steve Prior - Confidence in the presence of the Lord?
Sunday 2nd September at 5pm – Mr. Ben Lattimore – Pride and the pattern of the Kingdom
Sunday 9th September at 5pm - Rev. the Hon. Dr. Gordon Moyes A.C. – John Wesley as a Man, his Message, his Methods and his Mega-trends (see p1)

Sunday 16th September at 5pm - Rev. Mark Willis – Jesus First
Sunday 23rd September at 5pm - Rev. Janne Pekkarinen – Rest for the weary
Sunday 30th September at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson – Meet the Hope family: Mr. No Hope, Mrs. Vague Hope,
brother and sister Sure and Certain Hope (see p7)

Sunday 7th October at 5pm – Pastor Paul Tabulutu – We must hold on to our faith (see p7) Sunday 14th October at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan – Snakes and Ladders (see p8) Sunday 21st October at 5pm - Dr. Howard Bradbury – The Essentials of Christianity (see p9)



We were very pleased Dinah was able to bring her granddaughter, Chloe, along to our 26th August service.



Our Operation Christmas Child boxes were dedicated at our 30th September service.

80 boxes were dedicated and we understand our boxes will go to Vietnam.

Unconditional Love Comes in a Shoe Box!

This year, somewhere in the world, an unsuspecting boy or girl will receive the 100 millionth Operation Christmas Child shoe box that Samaritan's Purse has delivered to remote and underprivileged children in more than 130 countries worldwide. The first boxes were delivered in 1993 to children, now adults, who will always remember that moment in their lives.

We are very grateful for the support of friends in Australia and New Zealand who participate in Operation Christmas Child and make it possible for us to show unconditional love to those in greatest need through the power of a simple gift.

from The Samaritan, Spring 2012, p2.

Possible Chaplaincy at Unilodge University Student Accommodation

Just a few blocks from where we meet for worship, several student accommodation buildings have been erected relatively recently. They house approximately 2000 students, mostly from overseas.

Unlike older halls of residence, the mechanisms for student services and care are not so well established. It seemed there might be a good case for having a chaplain available for students to see if they wished.

Howard approached the Unilodge people with the suggestion. Owen Chadwick from Crossroads Church was the suggested chaplain. At Crossroads he already works with international students and has had a good deal of experience in such work.

While nothing is certain just yet, the possibility of a chaplaincy at the Unilodge residences exists.

<u>Sunday 30th September – Rev. Peter Nelson – Meet the Hope family: Mr. No Hope, Mrs.</u> Vague Hope, brother and sister Sure and Certain Hope

On 30th September Rev. Peter Nelson spoke about the Hope family. Mr. No Hope hopes that poverty will be done away with. Mrs. Vague Hope lives off what she has remembered and hopes that heaven is up there. Brother and sister, Sure and Certain Hope, base their living hope on the resurrection (1 Peter 1:3), the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 and the promises of Jesus in John 14:1-6.

In 1864, at the height of the carnage of the American Civil War, a Baptist Pastor, Rev. R. Lowry wrote the hymn "Shall we gather at the river", which is based on Revelation 22, to inspire hope at a terrible time. Do our hopes sustain us through times of stress?

Business Cards

From time to time the desirability of having something to give to people with details of our Fellowship, has been mentioned. As a result we now have a box of business cards. Please take a few and if someone you meet expresses an interest in our Fellowship or you want to give them a reminder of something we have on, give them a card. "Carols on 2/12 at Campbell Primary School, 5pm" (for example) can be written on the back.



Sunday 7th October - Pastor Paul Tabulutu - We must hold on to our faith



The reading for Rev. Paul Tabulutu's talk on October 7 was Galatians 2, in which Paul told how he had opposed Peter and those Jewish Christians who wanted to impose on all Christians other Jewish rules, such as circumcision, to follow. If Paul had lost out on his strong stand for justification by faith alone, the Christian Church today would be no more than a sect. The church is being attacked today, both from outside and inside the church, over same sex marriage, its attitude to homosexuality

and many other matters. We must stand up for our beliefs and at the same time we should be contented and at peace. We should let the grace of Jesus inspire us to do good things for His glory.

Sunday, 14th October - Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan - Snakes and Ladders

People play games. Children play games, adults play games. There are games played just for amusement, there are competitive games for individuals and there are team games.

Snakes and Ladders is a board game which reflects some truths of life. The game has a start point and an end point. In life, we are born and we die. Between those points there are ups and downs. We progress rapidly in the game by landing on a ladder but slip back on encountering a snake.



Life ladders might be career achievements or advancements, friendships or good health. Snakes could be accidents, financial problems, business setbacks, relationship breakdowns or ill health.

We sang "O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:" When things go well for us and we are on a ladder, we should remember God and His goodness to us. On those occasions we are going backwards down a snake, God is still with us and we can look to Him and put our trust, faith and hope in Him.

Paul, in writing to the Phillipians (cht.4: 12,13) explains he has learnt to be content in whatever circumstances he finds himself, good or bad. He can do that "through Him who gives me strength."



Visiting us on this Sunday were Rev. Perry and Doreen Smith.



Supper

Rev. Peter Nduati - Immanuel Afrika

Four years ago in April 2008, Peter Nduati from Kenya preached for us and told us something of the work he is involved with with boys living on the streets in Nairobi (see *The Next Step* no. 27). This Sunday he visited again and updated us on his work.

There are an estimated 125,000 street children in Kenya, 65,000 in Nairobi alone. They have little choice but to fend for themselves and most quickly become drug addicted or recruited to violent crime gangs. Life for these children is desperate and with little hope. Immanuel Afrika (i-afrika) works amongst the street boys, helping them as best they can, building relationships and trust. i-afrika has a home that houses 50 boys, from 5 to 20 years old. There the boys are safe, are able to rebuild self esteem, can learn and grow into a productive life. All this, i-afrika acknowledges, is done through God's power.

One goal for the future is to start their own school for the boys.

It was encouraging to learn more of this very worthwhile work from Peter.



Peter with John

ID

Annual General Meeting

Meetings are meetings and AGMs are meetings too. We at the Canberra Christian Fellowship are not immune to meetings and on Monday, 22nd October we held our 2012 AGM. I don't think any of us would say we can't get enough of meetings and propose we hold them much more often, however we have tried to make them relatively painless. A meal is a good way to start, so we ate. Wading through business is a bit of a drag but we attacked the agenda and got through it with no casulties.

We thanked our retiring secretary for her good work, and welcomed her replacement. We reelected our president, vice president and treasurer and tinkered with the membership of the committee. We have ended up with a good team of office bearers / leaders to take us through the next year.

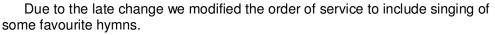
We finished with prayer.

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Sunday, 21st October -Dr. Howard Bradbury - The Essentials of Christianity



Howard delivered tonight's message based on 1 John 1: 1-10 after Zane withdrew due to his wife Rosalie's impending surgery.





M. requested MHB 283 and told us a story about it.

The authoress Harriet Auber was sitting in her bedroom one day, looking out the window, meditating on a sermon she had heard that morning, when an idea for a hymn poem came to her. Not having pen or paper nearby, she took off her diamond ring and etched the verses on the window. The hymn was there for many years afterward, but unfortunately, the pane was cut out and stolen after her death.

Our blest Redeemer, ere He breathed His tender last farewell, A Guide, a Comforter, bequeathed With us to dwell.

R. requested MHB 822.

R's mother was Jewish. One day she was walking through London and she heard the people of the Church of St. Martin in the Fields singing "Onward Christian Soldiers". The singing attracted her into the church, the first Christian church she had entered. It became and remained her favourite hymn.

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before. Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe; Forward into battle see His banners go!

I. requested MHB 745.

When planning her husband's memorial service, she wanted to include a rousing hymn. After the service, friends from other churches commented to her about that hymn and the singing "Your lot certainly sing better than our lot".

All praise to our redeeming Lord, Who joins us by His grace; And bids us, each to each restored, Together seek His face.

A priest and a rabbi are in a car crash and it's a bad one. Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither one of them is hurt. After they crawl out of their cars, the rabbi says, "So you're a priest. That's interesting; I'm a rabbi. Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but we're unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace."

The priest replies, "Oh, yes, I agree. It's a miracle that we survived and are here together."

"And here's another miracle," says the rabbi. "My car is destroyed but this bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink the wine and celebrate our good fortune," he says, handing the bottle to the priest.

The priest nods in agreement, opens the wine, drinks half of it, and hands it back to the rabbi.

The rabbi takes it and puts the cap back on.

"Aren't you going to have any? asks the priest.

Not right now," says the rabbi. "I think I'll wait until after the police make their report."

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"





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.

All welcome - contact Howard for more information Studying Romans

Contacts

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Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month, usually at Marie's. Next meeting - 2pm, 19th November. All welcome

Services

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

Sunday 28th October at 5pm - Mr. Jeff Mason (Scripture Union) Sunday 4th November at 5pm – Rev. Bob Prior Sunday 11th November at 5pm - Pastor Mark Warren

Sunday 18th November at 5pm - Pastor Owen Chadwick Sunday 25th November at 5pm - Mr.Paul Ahn

Sunday 2nd December at 5pm - Multi-Cultural Carols (at Campbell Primary School Hall)

Sunday 9th December at 5pm - Rev. Ray Hughes Sunday 16th December at 5pm - Rev. Dr. Murray Earl Sunday 23rd December at 5pm - Finnish Carols Sunday 30th December at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson



Mr. Jeff Mason



Rev. Bob **Prior**



Pastor Mark Warren



Rev. Owen Chadwick



Mr. Paul Ahn



Carols



Rev. Ray Hughes



Rev. Dr. **Murray Earl**



Finnish Carols



Rev. Peter Nelson