

November 2012
Issue 62

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday 4th November – Rev. Bob Prior – Our Need of Friends

Bob updated us on his chaplaincy work. A lady he has been visiting has been showing much interest although she hasn't committed herself to Christ yet.

About two weeks ago, Bob saw two people on the one day who were about to commit suicide. He was able to help them both access help they needed. He has also dealt with many people with drug problems.

He has had several little operations recently and is to undergo more including eye surgery for cataracts.

Bob asked us to pray for his health and for wisdom as he mixes with and witnesses to people with so many and varied problems.



We need friends, true friends. We need them, not just want them.

God made us relational beings. He wanted us to have a relationship with Him and with those about us. We are intended to live interdependently with each other. This involves trust and faith.

What makes a true friend? Someone who is prominent when times are good but melts away when there is a downturn is a fairweather friend, not a true friend. A true friend wants the best for you and your life and is prepared to give of themselves to help you achieve that. He or she is not an automatic 'yes' man but is willing to speak the truth to you when necessary. He or she will stick by you in good or bad.

God wants to be a true friend to each of us and we can be true friends with those around us. God IS love and created us in His own image. With God's help we can offer true friendship, caring, encouraging and supporting, even to people we might not particularly like.

ID

Sunday 11th November – Pastor Mark Warren – How do we know the true Gospel?



Paul wrote to the Galatians questioning why they had strayed from the Gospel they had accepted. He argued that any gospel other than what they had originally accepted was in reality, no gospel at all.

If anyone changes the Gospel message, they destroy it.

How can we know what the true Gospel message is?

Paul explained that the Gospel he preached to the Galatians did not originate from men but was given to him by Jesus directly by revelation.

Paul reminded them of his past persecution of Christians but then spoke of God's revelation to him of Jesus, His son. Paul's God given task was to preach the Gospel to the gentiles.

The Gospel Paul preached was not learned from others, it was revealed to him by God. Jesus' death and resurrection were central to the Gospel. His death on the cross indicated God's turning from Him and our sins that He bore, BUT He rose from the dead, vindicated by God. We are able to know God through Jesus.

The true Gospel is not of human origin but comes to us from God. If men try to change the Gospel message, they destroy it.

ID

Jack

Jack and Shirley have been part of our Fellowship from nearly the beginning. Over recent months they have been unable to be with us as age, health and associated changes in what they could do restricted their activities.

We learned early last week that Jack has passed on to be with his maker.

Jack was born in 1919 in Fairfield, Sydney. He claimed a noble lineage which descendants say may have a little truth in it, however they have also discovered five convicts among his ancestors, including one who arrived in Australia as part of the 2nd fleet. Jack is a 5th generation Australian.

Jack's father was a butcher, but Jack began his working life as a handyman at a pub. That role gave him experience doing many things such as running repairs to fixtures, fittings and equipment and acting as bouncer ejecting unruly patrons.

Subsequent jobs included factory work and working a vineyard. Along the way he picked up considerable carpentry skills.

World War 2 came along and Jack served time as a 'light horseman', presumably working with tanks, then as a signaller in PNG before being sent to Borneo.



The war over, Jack opened a nursery, becoming known for his expertise with Australian plants.

1951 saw Jack marry Mavis. They brought up a young family together until Mavis died in the mid-1960s. During this time, the family moved house several times and each time Jack built their new home himself.

After Mavis's death Jack and his family moved to Moruya. At university his children became quite friendly with the children of a lady named Shirley. Jack and Shirley met and were married in 1976.

The couple moved to Hall and some years later to their home in Spence.

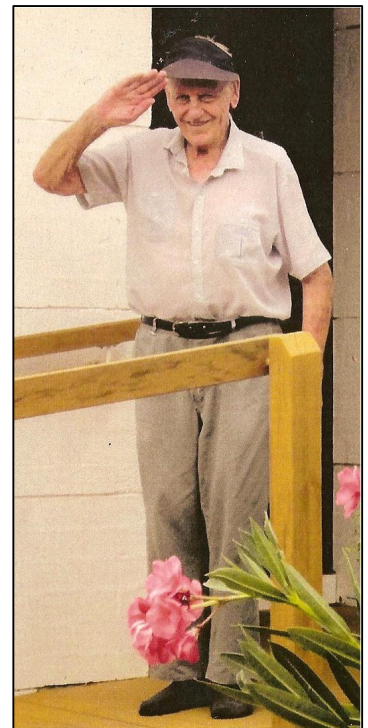
Jack was a man of faith who prayed every night for his family and all creation. His step-daughter suggested that through his life Jack had made his way to a spiritual peak, much like a climber makes his way to the summit of Mount Everest. (This has particular meaning to the family as Jack's grandson, Ben, has recently successfully climbed that mountain.) Jack's view of death was as a necessary condition for resurrection.

Jack and Shirley were for many years active members of Wattle Park Church where we met to remember and give our thanks to God for his life. We are also grateful for their participation in our Fellowship.

We are glad to have known Jack and will remember his friendly good humour, the sparkle in his eye and devotion to his God.



Shirley and Jack



ID

This was compiled from memories of Jack mentioned at his funeral

Edwin (Ted)



Our fellowship has been fortunate to have had Ted as a member from the start and it is with sadness that we recognise he is gone from us but joy that he has passed into the care of his God.

Edwin was a country lad from Peterborough, South Australia, one of 4 boys and 2 girls. He had dreams of becoming a motor mechanic. While most people knew him as Ted, the name he was given at birth, Edwin, was important to him and he always wanted that name or his initial E to be used when his name was listed as a preacher, rather than Ted.

The potential motor mechanic had his direction in life changed when he refused to go onstage in the school play and was given extra mathematics work to complete during detention.

He gained a scholarship to Adelaide Boys High School and from there went on to the University of Adelaide, where he developed a passion for physics, and got his university degree.

He was later awarded a PhD.

Ted became an educator and worked at Duntroon and the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) for 30 years teaching physics and

mathematics. Later he taught at the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and more recently privately tutored students, helping them with their studies. He spent some time in Fiji and Indonesia working at universities in those places. Ted sought to make his lessons / lectures both interesting and relevant. His philosophy while at CIT was 'If you have to teach a carpenter maths, why not make it relevant?'. Driving around with horn blaring to illustrate the doppler effect is an example of practical experiments to illustrate principles of physics that Ted undertook. Another scientist with a similar passion for taking science to the people and making it interesting was the eccentric Professor Julius Sumner Miller. When he visited Australia, Ted had the pleasure of showing him around Canberra – an interesting experience.

Ted met a young lady, Norma. Despite barracking for opposing football teams they were attracted to each other and married. Together they raised a family of three boys and a girl. Ted was a family man who enjoyed family occasions and was always ready to lend a hand when needed. It wasn't only family members Ted was willing to assist. He was quite ready to do what he could for others when he could.

A man of thoroughness and attention to detail (his grandchildren could have told you 'If you want the short answer, don't ask grandad!!'), Ted was also blessed with a keen sense of humour. Interests included cars and he owned and tinkered with a number of them over the years. On family car trips he told stories that kept younger travellers entertained for the duration of the journey. I understand his passengers now know how and why elephant repellent has kept Northbourne Avenue elephant free and many other little known facts and fantasies.

Ted came to faith as a young man and was nurtured in his faith within the Methodist Church. While in Canberra he has worshipped at O'Connor Methodist Church, St. Ninian's Uniting Church and our Canberra Christian Fellowship. For some time he preached regularly at Calvary Retirement Village.

We too have experienced Ted's straight forward, Bible based preaching on numerous occasions before he became ill and he was our Friday Bible study leader.

Ted was an intelligent and caring man with a strong faith.

He will be missed.

ID

This was compiled from Ted's daughter Sue's remembrance remarks at his funeral service

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



**Mr. Jeff
Mason**



**Rev. Bob
Prior**



**Pastor Mark
Warren**



**Rev. Owen
Chadwick**

Sunday **28th October** at 5pm - **Mr. Jeff Mason (Scripture Union)** – **Living as Jesus did**

Sunday **4th November** at 5pm - **Rev. Bob Prior** – **Our Need of Friends**

Sunday **11th November** at 5pm – **Pastor Mark Warren** – **How do we know the true Gospel?**

Sunday **18th November** at 5pm – **Pastor Owen Chadwick** – **Know Thyself**

Bible Studies

It has been a little hard to keep track of Bible Studies lately. The Tuesday study had some time off while leader Joyce was off on holidays with husband Ian, but is now full steam ahead again studying Luke.

The Friday study also had a few weeks off as Alec was too busy helping his sick son Richard, to be able to host it. That study has resumed but is now held at the church. It has also changed day – see below. Romans is the topic.

The monthly Saturday study at Wamboin has had reduced numbers, the distance to get there deterring some. That study will not continue.

In order to cater for those who cannot attend during the day, the Friday study will move to 5pm on Wednesdays, still being held at the church. We hope those who have participated on Fridays will keep coming but on Wednesdays, and others who have either been going to Wamboin or been unable to join any of the studies might come too.

So what studies do we now have?

- Tuesdays, 2-30pm at the church. Studying Luke. Leader Joyce.
- Wednesdays, 4-30pm cuppa, 5-00pm study at the church. Studying Romans. Leadership is shared.

Brigadoon

Every so often it is good to get out and about and be a little bit cultural.

A good opportunity to do just that came up when the show “Brigadoon” was on at the Q Theatre in Queanbeyan. A few of us headed off across the border and before we settled down to watch the goings on in Brigadoon, Scotland, we detoured to the Country Heir café for a bit of nourishment. Having sampled the friendly service and delicious, filling fare served up to us, we made our way to the Q.

Brigadoon, for those not in the know, is a mysterious town in Scotland that isn't on the map and only materialises for one day every 200 years. Two Americans stumble across it while walking in the country on the day it reappears. One day seems a short time for romance to blossom, however one of the walkers falls for a Brigadoon lassie and she for him. I won't give away the whole plot but can say that we are treated to a happy ending.

All who went agree it was a good afternoon.

ID

Scripture Union Thanksgiving Dinner

About ninety-four people attended the dinner at Christ Church Anglican Church in Hawker including nine people from our church. After the meal of sausages and salads there were prayers and several speakers, including Jeff Mason, who told us of the progress made in Scripture Union this year. Following the talks, desserts were served. It was an enjoyable evening for us all.

RB

Two fishermen were out in their boat one Sunday morning when they heard the church bells ring in the distance. One said contritely, "You know, we really ought to be in church."

Baiting his hook the second chap replied: "I couldn't have gone today anyway. I've got the wife sick in bed."

The boss told the applicant there was a vacancy for a responsible worker. "Are you responsible?"

"I'm the right bloke alright," said Fred. "Every job I've had, when anything happened, everybody said I was responsible!"

Indonesian Carols

Visiting our Indonesian friends for their carols is rapidly becoming a highlight of our year. Two years ago I remember a very happy evening at St. Andrews celebrating Christmas followed by a generous and tasty meal. Unfortunately one year ago their carols clashed with something we had already planned so only a small number of our Fellowship were able to attend, but reports suggest it was again a special time we were able to share with them.

Again this year an invitation arrived. They want an estimate of numbers attending for catering purposes so put your name down and prepare for a wonderful time of fellowship as together we remember Jesus' coming at Christmas.

4-00pm, Saturday, 1 December at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. A meal follows the carols ID

CCF Singers

Some time ago we put together a small choir to sing a hymn at one of our mid-year hymn festivals. We did a reasonable job but if talent scouts had attended, we may not have been quite good enough to win a recording contract. Our choir became an almost forgotten curiosity of history.

Not anymore. Our choir has sprung back into life.

We were pleased to be invited to join the Indonesians for their carols but noticed the invitation mentioned they would like us to sing.

Laurie has again been appointed choir master and he has selected an Australian carol for us to present. So far we have had one practice and didn't do too badly considering everything. There is still a tiny bit of room for improvement though, especially when it comes to hitting the high note.

If you've always wanted to sing in a choir, now is your chance. Join us!

ID

9th Annual
Multicultural Carols

Sunday, 2 December 2012
5-00 pm
Campbell Primary School Hall
Chauvel Street,
Campbell

ALL WELCOME

Our guests include Aboriginal, Chinese, Fijian, Indonesian, Korean, Samoan & Tongan people.

Refreshments after the service

Organised by the
Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the **METHODIST** tradition)

www.canberracf.org.au



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

Wednesday Study Group

Wednesdays at 5-00 pm, 4-30 pm for cuppa.
 All welcome - contact Howard or John for more information
 Studying Romans

Prayer Meeting

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

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Services

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

- 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 **6pm** – We will join the Finnish Lutherans for their **Finnish Carols**
 Sunday **30th December** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**
2013
 Sunday **6th January** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**



Mr. Paul Ahn



Multicultural Carols



Rev. Ray Hughes



Rev. Dr. Murray Earl



Finnish Carols



Rev. Peter Nelson

2013



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan

All 15 members of a church choir were late for choir practice at a church in Beatrice, Nebraska in March 1950; they were all due to arrive at 19:20hrs, but for 10 separate, unconnected reasons, they all arrived after 19:30hrs. This was just as well for at 19:25hrs the church building was completely destroyed in an explosion.

from Mind Beggars: Bizarre but amazingly true trivia!, Lagoon, 1996