

February, March 2013
Issue 64

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Harvest Thanksgiving 2013

CANBERRA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
in the Methodist tradition

We are a small, friendly church that enjoys interaction and shared activities with several ethnic churches.

Services are every Sunday at 5pm and are followed by a light meal.



We meet at the Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, corner of Watson and Gould Streets, Turner.

On Sunday, 3rd March, we will have a special

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

at 5pm with a Harvest supper following at 6pm.

Our Indonesian friends will be joining us and we would be very happy for you to join us too (or on any other Sunday).



www.canberracf.org.au

Letterbox drop advertisement

Setting up

The produce display

The Indonesian choir

Part of the congregation



Harvest Thanksgiving is a time of joy as we thank God for His provision for all our needs. For our celebrations we have set up displays of fruit and vegetables that symbolise all God has given to us. We have invited friends (this year the Indonesians) to join us on these occasions. In addition to the Indonesians, we were also glad to welcome our Tongan friends this year.

This service is one when it is perhaps easier to introduce newcomers to the church. For that reason we did a small letterbox drop to flats close to the church in the hope that someone might come along as a result. We are not aware that that happened but we continue to pray we might be able to contact those close by and share with them God's love and the salvation He offers.

The produce from the display was taken to the Salvation Army for distribution to those less well off.

Sunday 3rd March – Rev. Bob Prior – Thank Jehovah Jireh for His goodness



Jehovah Jireh is another way of saying God, however it means more specifically 'The God who provides'.

When talking about prayer, Jesus taught us to ask our Heavenly Father (we can approach Him that way - as children approach their earthly fathers) to "*Give us today our daily bread*" [Matthew 6: 11]. Bread can be understood as the things we need for life. Just as good earthly fathers provide for their children's needs and do the best for them, God looks after us. He provides for our needs, not necessarily all our wants.

God Himself loves us and his great gift to us of salvation results from that love.

God has time for us. He cares for us and is always available to us.

Hebrews 13: 5 reminds us of God's promise "*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*" This is God's love in action.

"*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*" [Psalm 46: 1] Like a fortress that provides its occupants with a safe haven but no protection to those outside, God provides refuge to those who accept and enter into His protection.

God is good to us. In Him we can grow and fulfil our potential. Without Him we achieve nothing of eternal value. "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*" [John 15: 5].

ID

Sunday 20th January – Mrs. Joyce Hall – Christian Perfection

Tonight's sermon title "Christian Perfection" could easily make us squirm. We might be thinking to ourselves "that is not me, I know I'm nowhere near perfect." Yet Jesus told us "*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*" {Matthew 5: 48}

Saul (or Paul as he became and we know him) seemed to come close to being the perfect Jew. He had the background and connections, the education, the determined adherence to the Law and the zealous desire to do what he believed God wanted of him. On the road to Damascus he received God's assessment of him, "*Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?*" [Acts 9: 4] Where did Paul go wrong?

The perfection Paul eventually achieved was not anything to do with him. It came about totally through his relationship with God. We too cannot achieve perfection ourselves. We are completely reliant on our relationship with God.

Romans 3: 24, 25 tells us "*all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.*"

We are justified (**just** as **if I'd** never sinned) by God through Jesus' death on the cross. It is a gift from God to us. We cannot earn it, even in part, in any way at all. We are unworthy but receive justification completely through faith.

The cleansing we receive is absolute. Jesus' perfection becomes our perfection just as it became Paul's perfection. We have become perfect in God's eyes through faith.

ID



Bible Studies



After a break over the Christmas / New Year period, both our Bible Study groups are back in action studying God's Word.

The Tuesday group (mainly ladies) meets at the church at 2-30 pm and is currently studying Luke.

The Wednesday group (currently all men) also meets at the church and commences at 5-00 pm although a cuppa is available from 4-30 pm if you arrive earlier. This group is working its way through Romans.

I am sure both groups would welcome anyone who wanted to join them.

Sunday 3rd February – Rev. Dr. Murray Earl – What shall I do?



Corinth, back when Paul visited it, was the least Greek of Greek cities. It was a commerce hub so people from many different places travelled to and traded there. Corinth was cosmopolitan, wealthy but morally corrupt.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul talks about the spiritual gifts God gives out. In chapter 13, he continues by establishing the relationship between God's gifts and love. In chapter 14 he talks about using those gifts in the best ways.

Love itself is a fruit of the Spirit, not a gift, but it is immensely important when using God's gifts. "[If I] *do not have love, I am nothing.*" [1 Corinthians 13: 2].

Murray mentioned Edith Cavell, a British nurse during World War 1, who attended to both Allied and German soldiers. She also assisted stranded British and other Allied troops escape back to safety. This led to her arrest and execution. On the night before she was shot she told a chaplain "Standing as I do in view of God and Eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough, I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone". She recognised the importance of love.

Our gifts from God should benefit others and be used in a spirit of love.

Love is

- patient - give it time
- kind - don't ride roughshod over others
- not jealous
- not boastful - don't get 'blown up' with pride at your achievements
- not rude - be courteous
- doesn't keep count of wrongs - let it go
- doesn't delight in evil - don't delight in the failures of others
- doesn't fail - Jesus' resurrection provides our hope



Farewelling Murray (at table with tie)

1 Corinthians 13 ends by stating "*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*" [v. 13]. All of faith, hope and love are important and they are all aspects of the same word in the original language, but love is the first among equals.

ID

National Day of Prayer and Fasting **Sunday 10 February 2013**

10am-4pm Great Hall
Parliament House, Canberra

Life

On Sunday, 10 February, six of us went to the Great Hall of Parliament House to join with hundreds of Christians from many denominations and backgrounds in a time of prayer and fasting for Australia.

The timetable included a time for thanksgiving, prayers of repentance, prayers for the renewed proclamation of the Gospel in Australia as well as prayers for our national and parliamentary leaders.

I was very appreciative of the fact that so many Christians were able to gather right in the heart of the seat of government to lift this nation of ours to God in prayer.

Joyce

Recovering from an operation in a bush hospital Farmer Brown asked why the blinds were drawn.

"Well," explained the doc, "There's a bushfire outside, and I didn't want you to wake up and think the operation was a failure."

Sunday 17th February – Rev. David McDonald – What kind of church do we want to be?

What are we known for as a church?

The Thessalonians Paul visited and wrote to were known for turning away from idols to God and for their expectation of Jesus' return.

Paul had visited Thessalonica and clearly presented the Gospel to the people despite opposition. He had also worked hard to avoid being a burden to the people there through a love and care for them.

His efforts had been successful as many accepted the Gospel message.

Some churches today strongly proclaim the Gospel message and stick closely to the Truth they discover in God's Word.

Some other churches emphasise God's love and are tireless in their efforts to do good works and show compassion and care.

Both approaches by themselves are incomplete. Proclaiming the truth of the Gospel without diluting God's Word to us is essential but without a genuine love and concern for the people that message is going out to the message becomes hollow. God's message to us is not just words but something that must be lived.

Social action, caring for those who seek help and trying to be everyone's friend might seem to be a good way of expressing God's love but it too has its pitfalls. Love comes with a responsibility to act in the best interests of the person being loved. That doesn't mean just giving them what they want or agreeing with them. It is too easy to treat the symptom rather than the source problem. Helping with material needs, for example, might provide openings for helping in other ways, including spiritually, but if the material aid is all that is offered or available the person helped might miss the opportunity of sharing in God's eternal blessings.

The Gospel and the Truth in God's Word are of utmost importance and should always be a top priority in our lives. If God's Word is truly important to us, we will live out what we learn in God's Word. That means we will have a genuine love and concern for others and act accordingly.

It would be good to be known as a church that is faithful to God's Word and, in putting God's Word into action, shows a real love for one another.

ID



Operation Christmas Child

A recent quote from the 'Samaritan' magazine says:

"It's been an incredible season with a massive 309,263 shoe boxes given out to kids in Southeast Asia Pacific.

We're so grateful and delighted to tell you that, thanks to your support, one of these was the 3 millionth shoe box to be sent from Australia and New Zealand."

Locally, 20,376 boxes went from ACT and southern NSW last year, 80 from our Canberra Christian Fellowship. Thank you everyone for your support. We are already working and collecting for this year's boxes. At present needing cash donations from anyone who feels they can help. Also needing toys, especially tennis balls and skipping ropes.

Any help is really appreciated for these needy children.

God's blessings,
Norma

Matron at a large hospital answered a phone call in her office.

"Could you tell me how Paddy Murphy is getting on in ward three?" asked the caller.

"Paddy Murphy," repeated the matron consulting her list. "Oh yes. He had his operation last night. It was a complete success and he will probably go home in two days. Who is this speaking?"

"It's Paddy Murphy in ward three. They tell you nothing in here."

The Salvation Army lass approached Jock and asked him for a dollar for the Lord.

"How old are ye?" said Jock.

"I'm nineteen." said the lass.

"Well I'm 75 and I'll be seeing the Lord before you do, so I will slip him the dollar myself."

From Steve Lindner at Campbell High

I've really valued the Fellowship's support and hope that this year we might be able to reconnect a little more often.

... I'm arranging a chaplaincy support meeting on Wednesday 20 March from 3pm to 3:45pm (45mins).

I'll be giving a brief report of things happening around the school and the key prayer needs, followed by a time of prayer.

If ... a church representative were available to attend, that would be great.

Unilodge



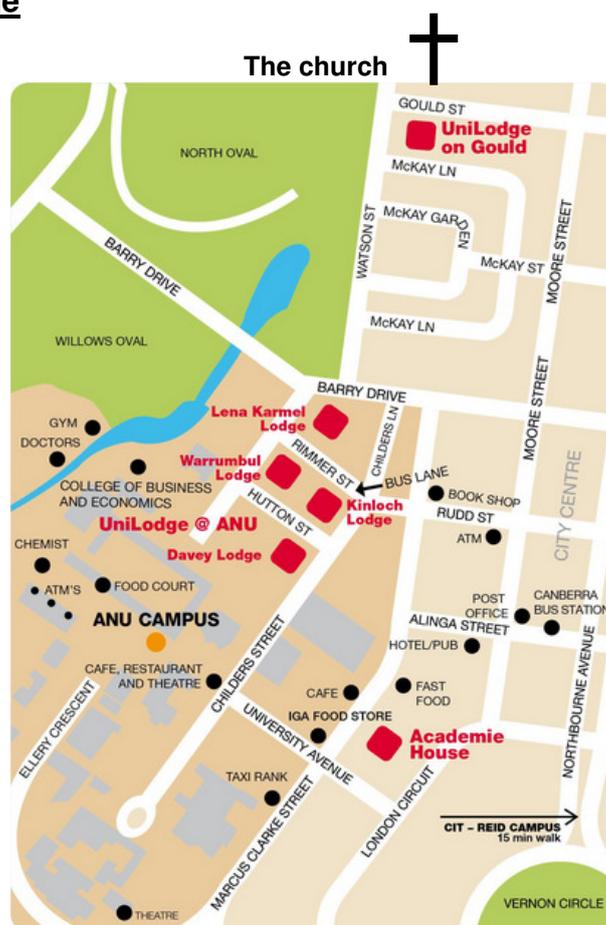
Within a 5 minute walk from the church are 6 accommodation complexes that together house over 2000 students. They are operated by Unilodge. Long established student residences have built up support structures for their occupants but those at Unilodge are new and still developing to meet students' needs.

Recognising a possible gap in the student care provided, Howard approached the Unilodge management to suggest a chaplain be given access to Unilodge. His suggestion for a chaplain was Rev. Owen Chadwick from Crossroads Church who already was working with university students at both ANU and UC. Discussions continued and it was agreed there could be a role for Owen at Unilodge starting this year.

The new university year has now commenced and Owen has begun work in his new role although he has not been given the title of chaplain. He attended a meeting of Unilodge residents and was able to chat with a few students afterwards.

Owen's job will be challenging but being accepted by Unilodge gives him some access to students (and them to him) that did not exist before.

I'm sure he would greatly value your prayers.



Editorial

Late last year A.C.T. Legislative Assembly elections resulted in a new make up of the Assembly. Mrs. Vicki Dunne became the new Speaker.

Parliamentarians in many places participate in a church service prior to the commencement of a new session and following that practice Mrs. Dunne arranged a service for the Assembly. I doubt if very many people would have been aware of the service if it had not been for some Assembly members making such a fuss about it. The Greens member and Labor members did not attend, although we are told they were not given instructions not to go. Liberal members did attend. Part of the fuss made was concerning community leaders who had not been invited to attend. There can always be debate about who should or should not have been invited, however it seemed to me that a good attempt had been made to invite representatives of a wide cross section of the community.

Uniting Church leaders declined their invitation citing a politicisation of the service. As a Christian denomination I would have thought they would be eager to honour God and ask His blessing for the Assembly. Apparently not. (I'm told one prominent Uniting Churchman did attend though.)

The service over, you would expect the Assembly to move on to other matters, but no. Not content with many members boycotting the service, the Assembly passed a motion to forbid such services in future. They really do seem very anti Christian. Of course we should have already known that since the previous Assembly abolished the use of the Lord's Prayer at the start of each day's sitting.

The separation of church and state and a desire to maintain secularism in the Assembly was the excuse for banning religious activities associated with the Assembly.

Are they going to leave morality issues, rightfully the province of the church, to the church? I doubt it.

I will admit to having a dislike for the Assembly. After all it began as an expensive imposition on the people of Canberra after the people had made it clear, on the only occasion they were ever asked, they didn't want self government for the A.C.T.. So much for listening to the people and following the will of the people. I'm afraid the recent actions of the Assembly and many of its members don't raise my opinion of it in the least.

Despite this Scripture does tell us in Paul's words "*I urge, then, ... that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*" [1 Timothy 2: 1,2]

Ian D.

Logo

Most organisations these days have a logo of some sort that is associated with and represents their organisation, brand or product. Some companies pay designers many thousands, hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars to design their logo. That is probably slightly edging above what our budget can accommodate but there have been occasions when having a logo for our Fellowship might have been useful.

Do we actually want a logo?

What should it be like?

The following are some preliminary ideas that have been put together for consideration and to set us thinking.



Any thoughts or other designs would be welcome.

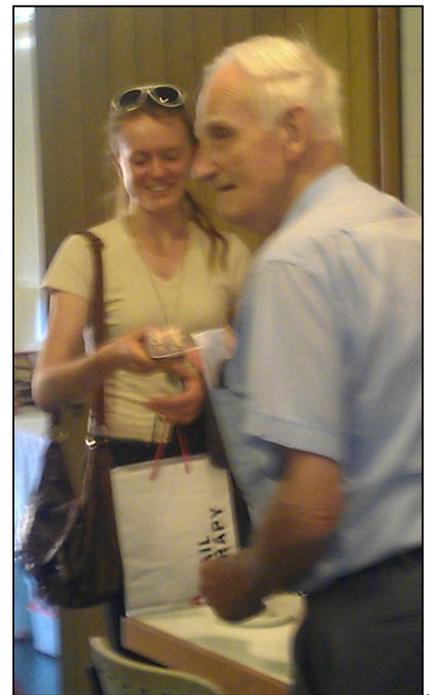
Antoinette

In our very early days as a fellowship, Vince, Dominica and Antoinette joined us and have been part of our Fellowship ever since.

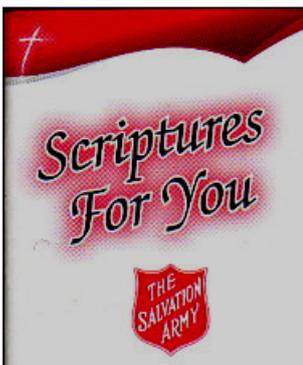
In the time we have known her, Antoinette has almost doubled in age.

In recent times she has added to the music in our services by accompanying the piano with her violin playing.

Having completed her secondary schooling, this year Antoinette is undertaking university study, not in Canberra but Wagga Wagga. After our 17/2 service we wished her well for her new life away from home and her new challenges.



Canberra Show, 21, 22, 23 February



I haven't attended the Canberra Show for several years due to having other things on and other uses for my money, however this year I was persuaded to go by someone who had a complimentary ticket but no one to go with.

We enjoyed wandering around looking at animals, craft displays, cakes, wood chopping and all sorts of other things. Of course there were numerous commercial booths too where salesmen and women proclaimed the desirability of what they had to offer.

I found it encouraging to come across the Salvation Army tent amid so much commercialism, offering somewhere to sit down and enjoy a **free** cuppa, **free** scone with jam and cream and entertainment from singers or their band at certain times.

On each table were small booklets to take if you wanted with 32 pages, each with a Bible verse on it.

God's people are out there amongst the general community doing His work and witnessing for Him.

Harvest Choir

For a number of weeks before church a group of us (of varying ability) have been learning a harvest hymn (967) to sing as a choir at our Harvest Thanksgiving service. The end result last Sunday sounded good to me from my position in the midst of the choir and I think was appreciated by those in the congregation.

Our thanks must go to Laurie who put us through our paces and somehow made us sound good together.



Kevin Kim



We enjoyed Kevin's preaching and the friendship of himself and his family while they were in Canberra, so we were happy to hear he was briefly visiting Canberra and would like to catch up with as many of us as he could. Howard and Ruth spread the message around to as many of us as they could contact and invited us to their home where Kevin would call in.

It was good to see Kevin who appeared fit and healthy. His family have acquired a dog, a beagle, and he has had plenty of exercise walking it. Kay, Wesley and Evangeline are enjoying Melbourne life and Kevin is



getting on well at his new church.

After chat, sandwiches, cake and a cuppa, Kevin sang for us a new favourite hymn, one he first learned while with us -

"To God be the Glory".

Then it was time for him to leave for a meeting with someone else before driving to Sydney where he'd get a next day flight home to Melbourne.



L to R: Ken, Dominica, Vince, Ann, Marie, Kevin, Coral, June, Howard, Ruth, Denis.
Photographer: Ian



Regeneration Dinner

Presenting SUPA Clubs, camps and school chaplaincy

Featuring: *Kate Bracks and Jocelyn Jensen*





21 March 2013



We must look a very under nourished lot!
Scripture Union have sent out invitations to their fundraising Regeneration Dinner on Thursday, 21st March and earlier that same week on Monday 18th, Gideons International, Canberra North Camp have their Faith Fund Dinner.

Both organisations do valuable work in God's name and value whatever support we can give.

Warren is our coordinator for the SU Regeneration Dinner and John can tell you all about Gideons



The Gideons of the Canberra North Camp would like to invite you to attend our

Faith Fund Dinner

Providing Scriptures for the world

to be held at
Southern Cross Club, Jamison
Monday, 18 March at 7:00pm

the Speaker will be
Dr Warren Ling
who will share about
an International Scripture Blitz to Malaysia in June 2012

RSVP: Please RSVP to Michael on
02 6254 1426
by 13 March 2013

35.06



Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Mrs. Joyce Hall



Mr. Laurie Hockridge



Rev. Dr. Murray Earl



Mr. Mark Warren



Rev. David McDonald



Pastor Steve Prior



Rev. Bob Prior



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan

Sunday **20th January** at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** – Christian Perfection
 Sunday **27th January** at 5pm – **Mr. Laurie Hockridge** - Aspects of Covenant
 Sunday **3rd February** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Murray Earl** - What shall I do?
 Sunday **10th February** at 5pm – **Mr. Mark Warren** - Escaping the curse of God (Galations 3)
 Sunday **17th February** at 5pm – **Rev. David McDonald** - What kind of church do we want to be?
 Sunday **23rd February** at 5pm – **Pastor Steve Prior** - The Man who kills death
 Sunday **3rd March** at 5pm – **Rev. Bob Prior (Harvest Thanksgiving)** - Thank Jehovah Jireh for His goodness
 Sunday **10th March** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan** – A Family's dispute



Campbell High School chaplaincy – Rev. Steve Lindner
Racing Industry chaplaincy - Rev. Bob Prior
Institute of Sport chaplaincy – Rev. Peter Nelson
UniLodge chaplaincy – Rev. Owen Chadwick

Please remember Steve, Bob, Peter and Owen 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 a cuppa.
 All welcome - contact John or Howard for more information
 Studying Romans

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month, usually at Marie's.
 Next meeting 18th March at 2-00 pm.
 All welcome

Contacts

Canberra Christian Fellowship
 P.O. Box 184
 Campbell 2612
 A.C.T.

E-mail: canberracf@yahoo.com.au
 Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

TNS editor : Ian Denton – e-mail : iancd@yahoo.com

Services

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



Rev. Paul Tabulutu

Sunday **17th March** at 5pm – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu**
 Sunday **24th March** at 5pm – **Dr. Howard Bradbury**
 Sunday **31st March** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson (Easter)**
 Sunday **7th April** at 5pm – **Mr. Paul Ahn**
 Sunday **14th April** at 5pm – **Rev. Rachel Tonga**
 Sunday **21st April** at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall**
 Sunday **28th April** at 5pm – **Mr. Adrian Summers**
 Sunday **5th May** at 5pm – **Pastor Dave Irving**
 Sunday **12th May** at 5pm – **to be advised**
 Sunday **19th May** at 5pm – **Rev. Ray Hughes (9th Anniversary)**



Rev. Ray Hughes



Dr. Howard Bradbury



Rev. Peter Nelson



Mr. Paul Ahn



Rev. Rachel Tonga



Mrs. Joyce Hall



Mr. Adrian Summers



Pastor Dave Irving



Mr. Adrian Summers