

April, May 2013  
Issue 65

# The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

## 9th Anniversary

**Sunday 19th May at 5pm – Rev. Ray Hughes - Never limit others, ourselves or God**



On the occasion of the Ninth Anniversary of our Canberra Christian Fellowship, which also coincides with Pentecost (May 19), we were very pleased to welcome our friends from the Fijian Methodist Church who sang for us and enlivened our hymn singing.

Rev. Ray Hughes preached a great sermon entitled "Never limit others, ourselves or God." Before Pentecost the apostles lived in fear. Peter denied that he knew Jesus, but the power of God transformed him and he became their leader on the day that God gave his spirit to all men and women.


The miracle of Pentecost shows that we cannot limit God. How can we exercise our potential? By allowing the Holy Spirit to expand our horizons. HB




**Sunday, 19th May  
5pm**

# 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary


The Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist tradition) celebrates 9 years as a group of God's people in May 2013.




Above: Harvest Thanksgiving



Right: Hymn Festival



Below: Multicultural Carols



Lower Right: We have a light meal after each service

We meet **each Sunday at 5pm** to worship God.  
We are glad to share activities with friends from several ethnic churches who join us for some of our special events: - Harvest Thanksgiving; Hymn Festival; and Multicultural Carols.  
We have a light meal after each service. **Please join us.**  
We meet at Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, corner of Gould and Watson Streets, Turner.  
[www.canberracf.org.au](http://www.canberracf.org.au)

## Fijians

A Swiss guy, looking for directions, pulls up at a bus stop where two Americans are waiting. "Entschuldigung, koennen Sie Deutsch sprechen?" he asks.

The two Americans just stare at him.

"Excusez-moi, parlez vous Francais?" he tries. The two continue to stare. "Parlare Italiano?" No response. "Hablan ustedes Espanol?" Still nothing.

The Swiss guy drives off, extremely disgusted. The first American turns to the second and says, "Y'know, maybe we should learn a foreign language."

"Why?" says the other. "That guy knew four languages, and it didn't do him any good."

## Easter



Chinese Methodist Choir

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Hot Cross Buns have long been eaten on Good Friday with the cross on the bun reminding us of the cross on which Jesus was crucified.



Easter Eggs are prominent in shops for some weeks up until Easter. Many see them, buy them and eat them just as seasonal chocolate treats, but they have a Christian association which gave them widespread acceptance before chocolate and commercialism got in on the act.



Chickens hatch from eggs and so eggs can be seen as symbols of new life. For hundreds of years Christians have used this symbol at Easter as they remember Jesus rising from the dead to new life, and the promise of new life we have beyond earthly death if we accept Jesus' sacrificial death on

our behalf for ourselves. Easter Eggs are given on Easter Day (Sunday) to remember Jesus' resurrection.

Butterflies are another lesser known symbol used at Easter. Caterpillars go into their cocoons and 'die' as caterpillars. A little later they emerge from their cocoons 'born' to new life as new creatures, butterflies.



Easter is about God's love in action.

Jesus suffered and to restore our On Easter Day He giving us a certain live on beyond through faith.



died on Good Friday relationship with God. rose from the dead hope that we too can earthly death with Him

Read about the Easter events in the Bible. Matthew 26 - Matthew 28.

The Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist tradition) would be glad to welcome you to our Easter service at 5pm, Sunday, 31st March. Chinese friends will join us on that occasion. A light meal will follow the service.

Please join us then or on any other Sunday at 5pm.

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

[www.canberraacf.org.au](http://www.canberraacf.org.au)

### Sunday 31st March – Rev. Peter Nelson – Every Sunday is Resurrection Sunday

On Easter Sunday we had a joyful service with singing by the Chinese Methodist Choir, a communion service and Peter Nelson was our preacher. Peter said that every Sunday is Resurrection Sunday. Christians do not meet together on the last day of the week (the Jewish Sabbath) but we meet on the first day of the week. Why? Because Jesus rose to life on the first day of the week.

The resurrection of Jesus marks the start of a New Age. Jesus is alive and He is active in the Church which He leads and in world events. He greeted the women at the tomb. "Go and tell my brothers and sisters." Why did he call them brothers when they had failed and deserted Him? Because He had paid the price for their sins. Despite their failures they were accepted.

If we are brothers and sisters of Jesus there are consequences for us. The curse of sin and the power of death is broken. We see the same inheritance as Jesus: eternal life with Him. He is our saviour, our brother and our friend.



HB

### Sunday 7th April – Mr. Paul Ahn – The Spirit confers victorious life



On Sunday, April 7 Paul Ahn preached for us from Romans 8: 18-39, one of the greatest chapters in the Bible. Some preachers today present prosperity for the Christian (a so-called prosperity Gospel), but Paul preached suffering. The first century Christians in Rome suffered. Suffering is still happening today in North Korea, where Christians are executed for their faith. They pray that when they are caught they may have a faith strong enough not to deny Jesus. They persevere because of the future glory. The whole creation is going through suffering - bare mountains in North Korea where the trees have been cut down for firewood to keep the people warm and the cows are skinny. Frustration has happened throughout history.

Yet "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him." We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. God has already declared that we are not guilty, because Jesus through His death and resurrection has broken the power of sin. Finally, "nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

HB

### Scripture Union Regeneration Dinner

Two tables of CCF people attended the SU Regeneration Dinner this year.

Speaker Kate Bracks (Masterchef 2011 winner) held everyone's attention and those who attended enjoyed the evening.

Thank you to Warren for organising our tables again this year.

## **Sunday 24th March – Dr. Howard Bradbury – The Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world**

### **John 1: 19-34**

John the Baptist gave Jesus a unique title not used by anyone else in the Bible. John called Him "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

In first century Palestine there was a great expectation that a Messiah would come. (The term Messiah in the Hebrew means the Anointed One and the Greek equivalent, as written in the New Testament is The Christ).

The Jewish religious establishment, sent priests and Levites to find out about John the Baptist and ask him questions. In v 20 he confessed freely to them "I am not the Christ."

Then they asked him whether he was Elijah returned. John the Baptist said, No he was not Elijah. Later after John was beheaded at the orders of Herod, Jesus said, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. But I tell you Elijah has already come ... Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist." (Matthew 17:11-13) so John the Baptist had fulfilled the prophecy concerning Elijah in Malachi 4: 5.

The priests and Levites then said "are you the Prophet?" (v 21) The Prophet they spoke about was referred to by Moses in Deut. 18: 15-18, and refers to the coming of Jesus. It says "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me, from among your brothers. You must listen to him." Once again John answered, No.

John told them "I am the voice of one calling in the desert. Make straight the way for the Lord." which is a quote from Isaiah 40: 3.

Next some Pharisees questioned John. "If you are not any of these, why do you baptise with water?" (v 24). John answered "I baptise with water, but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." (v 26)

The very next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said "Look, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (v 29)

How did John identify Jesus? John testified "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him except that the one who sent me to baptise with water told me. 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God" (v 32-33)

The statement that Jesus is "the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world" only occurs twice in the Bible and is used only by John in speaking about Jesus. The word picture of a lamb reminds us of the lamb that was sacrificed on the first Passover night, just before the children of Israel left Egypt.

1. The SOURCE of the Lamb is God himself. God provided the sheep for Abraham's offering when Abraham was about to sacrifice his only son Isaac. At the Cross, God gave His only Son as a sacrifice to take away the sin of the world. We are utterly unable to provide for our own atonement, it is a free gift from God.
2. The SIGNIFICANCE of His work is that the Lamb will "TAKE AWAY" sin. How many people struggle for survival beneath crushing burdens of guilt? Christ the Lamb of God really has born it all for us. He says to us today "Son (daughter), your sins are forgiven."
3. The SCOPE of the Lamb's ministry is "The sin of the world". Without any exception, every kind of sin and evil is covered. There is no sin too terrible, no habitual failure too often repeated that it cannot be taken away by Christ, our heavenly Lamb.

None of us can understand all of this until we have understood the truth about ourselves stated in Isaiah 53: 6 "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way". And Paul says in Romans 3: 10 "There is no one righteous, not even one".

No amount of outward going to church, saying our prayers, reading our Bibles and helping others, can cleanse us from our sin, even though all these things are good in themselves. But when we face up to the truth that we have all gone astray, and confess our sins our eyes are opened and we see Jesus as The Lamb Who Takes Away the Sin of the World.

much cut down version of Howard's sermon from his sermon notes



## **Sunday 21st April– Mrs. Joyce Hall - Something different**

On 21st April Mrs. Joyce Hall led our service and, as Joyce explained, it was a service with a difference. Joyce had prepared a power point presentation of hymns illustrated with many beautiful pictures. The pictures were the results of some of Joyce's spectacular photography and were matched with the words of well known and well loved hymns. The illustrated hymns Joyce had chosen were 'Love Divine', 'When I survey the wondrous cross', 'Shall we gather at the river' and 'How great Thou art'. It was a very inspiring and enjoyable service and we hope Joyce will do another similar service at some future time.



RB

## Ian

### Family

Ian's great grandfather came from England and settled down in South Australia. In Adelaide, Ian's father and mother started their family. Ian grew up with his sister and brother. He is the eldest, 3 years older than his sister and 10 years older than his brother. In Ian's early life, he and his family had many delightful memories of being together. In the backyard of his parents' house was a big garden, where his parents grew vegetables and had some fruit trees, and he and his sister and brother played around. His parents would arrange some family trips every year, going to the beach at Victor Harbor for a holiday, during the Christmas school holidays.

Ian admires his mum and dad very much, who were very loving and supportive to their kids and very committed to the church. Their good character has been a big influence to Ian. Ian's mother is special to him. She devoted much time to voluntary work (visiting) in a



local nursing home in Adelaide. The church they attended held regular services at that nursing home which for many years Ian's mum organised. Also, to Ian, his father was an honourable man, accountable and very active. His father had polio, a disease that wastes the muscles, when Ian was little. His father recovered, but was left weakened. Since then, Ian's father needed the aid of walking sticks. Despite Ian's father's physical limitations, he was still the provider for the family. He did a lot of voluntary work for church organisations and was also involved in running an organisation to help other disabled persons by helping them get work. To Ian, his father was a great man; disability did not become an obstacle to his father living a full life.

### Occupational endeavours

Ian graduated from Prince Alfred College in Adelaide and got a job in the public sector. That was in the early days of the Australian government installing and using computers in the public sector in order to expedite original paperwork and keep records. Ian was asked to undertake computer training for a year in Melbourne before he started his work at the Department of Customs and Excise in Canberra. In 1972 Ian came to Canberra. He began his career in the public service in Canberra. For more than twenty years in the public service, Ian basically worked on computers and computer programs. He worked for several different government departments and agencies, such as the Department of Treasury, the Department of Finance and Australian Archives / National Archives of Australia. Ian enjoyed seeing the advantages that computer technology could bring to the world develop and be adopted. The job, to him, was no more just solving computer problems, but helping people with the work aids available to them.

### Church life

Ian started going to Sunday school when he was quite young. The church Ian and his family attended held a grand Sunday School anniversary celebration every year. The children would march on to the platform and do much singing. That was a big event and a lovely memory to Ian. Ian got used to going to church regularly. He learnt things in church, and going to church became routine in his early life. When Ian undertook the job training in Melbourne, he started thinking about his relationship with God. That year was a turning point to Ian, leaving his parents, living a life on his own and having his own paycheque. At Scots Presbyterian church in Melbourne, his faith grew. He was more determined to believe in God. After that year, he finished the training and moved to Canberra. He was told that Canberra is a hard place to fit in but Ian felt he was blessed. He was quickly welcomed by the North Canberra Baptist Church in his first year in Canberra. Everything went well. Ian stayed in the North Canberra Baptist Church for 3-4 years, and then started attending the Reid Uniting Church for 25 years before he joined the Canberra Christian Fellowship 9 years ago. Being part of the church constitutes a significant aspect of Ian's life. Ian, like his parents, has been very involved in church affairs.

### Personal characteristics

Ian describes himself as an easy-going person, determined, realistic about things, and always trying to do the right thing. He likes living in Canberra. He loves the quietness of Canberra and enjoys this more country living style.

Ian has some hobbies and interests. First, he likes sports. He used to play basketball and tennis in his high school years. He also joined a men's rowing team for a while, like his father did. Now, he still likes watching some local football games when he is back home in Adelaide.

Ian is a collector. He started collecting things when he was a kid. In his childhood, he collected match boxes, bottle tops, and caterpillars. As he grew up, he started collecting coins and music records from Australia, the UK, the USA, and Canada. The music records of Cliff Richard and the Shadows are his main collection. Ian still keeps some of his early collections in his current residence. He may show you his treasures, when you come to his place, but unfortunately there is no chance to see his collection of caterpillars.

Ian also is interested in history, including the history of World War II and church history. Reading historically based fiction is one of his hobbies. For other reading he prefers something light with P. G. Wodehouse being his favourite writer. He likes travelling too. He would like to travel around a bit more in the future. He is hoping to visit Perth (never been there), New Zealand (again), some parts of Asia and Europe.

### Friendship

Ian has lost touch with most friends from school or work. He did not keep old friendships tight due to the passage of time and changed locations. There are plenty of people around him at the moment to care about and have as friends. One friend, Chris, he has known for 14 to 15 years and developed a close connection with his family, Ashlee, David and Rachel. They are staying at Ian's home and are like Ian's Canberra family. The Bradburys are long time friends from church, and Derek, a former work colleague, is another he has known for many years.

FH

### Sunday 28th April – Mr. Adrian Summers - The Call (Jonah 1)



**Alfred and Alsie spoke about their work in China**

On April 28, Alfred Ng gave us a very good talk on the mission work that he and wife Alsie are doing amongst the Yao people in South China. The accommodation block to house children during the week, who had great difficulty in getting to school, has been constructed. We were able to support them financially again in their work amongst the animistic Yao people.



This was followed by Adrian Summers from Crossroads church, who gave a very good talk on Jonah 1. The prophet Jonah was called by God to go and tell the people of the wicked city of Ninevah to repent and turn to God. Jonah wasn't ready, he didn't really trust God and went in the opposite direction. Our call from God to serve Him is like that of Jonah. Let us trust God.

HB

### Sunday 5th May – Pastor Dave Irving - In my distress I called to the Lord (Jonah 2)



**Pastor Dave Irving**

As was the case the previous Sunday, this week we had both a sermon and a report on Christians at work. Dave Irvine brought us the message from God's Word and Ian Purdey told us about the work of the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) amongst the aborigines in Arnhem Land. He will soon be going there again with wife Adele and their two little boys. Our church is helping to support the work of MAF by our support for Ian's work as a pilot with them. Ian also showed us a video of the work of MAF in PNG and the South Pacific, and in parts of Asia and Africa.



**Ian Purdey  
MAF Pilot**

Pastor Dave Irving spoke on Jonah 2 in the second of a series of four talks on Jonah by preachers from Crossroads Church. Jonah having been swallowed by a big fish, prayed to God. Jonah said that what he had vowed to do he would do. Dave told us that we must take everything to God in prayer, and reminded us of the words of one of our favourite hymns (MHB 538). "O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer." Jonah repented and at the command of God, Jonah was returned to dry land.

HB

### Meeting

Sometimes it is hard to get people together and so it was with our Fellowship meeting on 23rd May. Attendance was smaller than usual but the agenda was dealt with and decisions made. The Mid-winter Hymn Service was discussed and it will go ahead with soup (using throw away cups) and rolls afterwards.

### Sunday 26th May – Mr. Ben Lattimore - God's Word: The power to transform (Jonah 3)



Ben came to preach for us, but early in the service he also sang a song for us that he wrote himself titled 'Apart from You I can do nothing'.

Ben reminded us of the words "And the winner is Sydney." which announced the success of Sydney's bid to host the Olympic Games. Those few words transformed Sydney as the city was prepared to welcome olympic competitors and spectators. Jonah's words to the Ninevites, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.", transformed that city too. God's message that Jonah delivered was a warning of judgement. The Ninevites took heed and believed God. They repented and God, because He delights in showing mercy, reprieved the repentant city.

We too have a message of judgement for those who reject God to deliver. We also can proclaim God's mercy for those who repent and follow Him.

ID

**Services over recent weeks have included the following:**



**Rev. Paul Tabulutu**   **Dr. Howard Bradbury**   **Rev. Peter Nelson**   **Mr. Paul Ahn**   **Rev. Rachel Tonga**   **Mrs. Joyce Hall**   **Mr. Adrian Summers**   **Pastor Dave Irving**   **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**   **Rev. Ray Hughes**

Sunday 17th March – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu** - Who do you think I am?  
 Sunday 24th March – **Dr. Howard Bradbury** - The Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world  
 Sunday 31st March – **Rev. Peter Nelson (Easter)** - Every Sunday is Resurrection Sunday  
 Sunday 7th April – **Mr. Paul Ahn** - The Spirit confers victorious life  
 Sunday 14th April – **Rev. Rachel Tonga** - Love, Love, Love  
 Sunday 21st April – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** - Something different  
 Sunday 28th April – **Mr. Adrian Summers** - The Call (Jonah 1)  
 Sunday 5th May – **Pastor Dave Irving** - In my distress I called to the Lord (Jonah 2)  
 Sunday 12th May – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan** - The Final Message  
 Sunday 19th May – **Rev. Ray Hughes (9th Anniversary)** – Never limit others, ourselves or God  
 Sunday 26th May – **Mr. Ben Lattimore** – God's Word: The power to transform (Jonah 3)



**Mr. Ben Lattimore**

**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

**Prayer Meeting**

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, usually at Marie's.  
 Next meeting 17th June at 2-00 pm.  
 All welcome

**Contacts**

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

E-mail: [canberracf@yahoo.com.au](mailto:canberracf@yahoo.com.au)  
 Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

TNS editor : Ian Denton – e-mail : [iancd@yahoo.com](mailto:iancd@yahoo.com)

**Services**

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

Sunday 2nd June at 5pm – **Mr. Laurie Hockridge**  
 Sunday 9th June at 5pm – **Mr. Mark Warren**  
 Sunday 16th June at 5pm – **Mr. George Huang**  
 Sunday 23rd June at 5pm – **Pastor Steve Prior**  
 Sunday 30th June at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**  
 Sunday 7th July at 5pm – **Rev. Owen Chadwick**  
 Sunday 14th July at 5pm – **Rev. Bob Prior**  
 Sunday 21st July at 5pm – **Mr. Jeff Mason (Scripture Union)**  
 Sunday 28th July at 5pm – to be advised  
 Sunday 4th August at 5pm – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu (Mid-winter Hymn Service)**  
 Sunday 11th August at 5pm – **Mr. Zane Edwards**



**Mr. Laurie Hockridge**   **Mr. Mark Warren**   **Mr. George Huang**   **Pastor Steve Prior**   **Rev. Peter Nelson**   **Rev. Owen Chadwick**   **Rev. Bob Prior**   **Mr. Jeff Mason**   **Rev. Paul Tabulutu**   **Mr. Zane Edwards**