

June, July 2013  
Issue 66

# The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

## Sunday 14th July – Rev. Bob Prior - We are all sinners

We have been glad to support Bob and his chaplaincy work in the racing industry for some years now. Bob's updates on that work show just how valuable that work is.



The work is spreading. Bob recently visited the Gold Coast to promote the work at a track there. He hoped they might see value in racecourse chaplaincy. They did. They not only saw its value but pleaded for someone to take up the work there. During the initial conversation, the course welfare officer, who would not normally be around at that time, appeared and was called over. He asked if Bob was able to see a female apprentice for whom he had immediate concerns. Bob saw her and after that saw someone else suffering from depression. The need is there. Bob is

currently trying to find the right person to take up that work. He greatly values our prayers for the work.

.....  
We know we have all sinned but we also know God loves us and Jesus died so our sins can be forgiven and we can be cleansed to become faultless in God's sight, clothed in Jesus' righteousness. Is it the reality of life that we live righteously?



Our lives often include faults (grumbling, fault finding, etc.) we consider inconsequential, but those faults remain ungodly and sinful. We see Paul as a great follower of Jesus who suffered for his faith while setting a wonderful example of faithful living, spreading the faith and encouraging believers. He saw himself differently. *"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do."* [Romans 7: 15]. Paul recognised his sinfulness. While not attempting to avoid responsibility, he explained *"I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it."* [Romans 7: 19, 20]. If Paul was a sinner, surely we are too.

Of course we are sinners, but we are forgiven sinners. God loves everyone and wants no one to perish. We have accepted God's love and forgiveness. Others, sinful like ourselves, God is wanting to repent and accept His forgiveness. By recognising our own imperfect state, we may find it easier to see others as God sees them.

We are engaged in spiritual warfare. Sinfulness is within us. By admitting our sinful state, we are more likely to rely on God and His power. God told Paul *"my power is made perfect in weakness."* Paul's response was *"for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, ... For when I am weak, then I am strong."* [2 Corinthians 12: 9, 10].

God loves us and he loves others - no one is too low to be outside of God's love. We should accept others as God accepts us and give them the opportunity to know God as we do. Presenting ourselves as forgiven sinners also lets the unsaved see they don't have to be perfect to be accepted by God. ID

As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools.

My wife is such a bad cook - at our house we pray after we eat. And our dog begs for Alka-Seltzer.




We were glad to welcome our Indonesian friends to our 23rd June service.



**DON'T  
FORGET**

**Sunday, 4th August, 5pm**  
**Mid-winter Hymn Festival**  
organised by the  
**Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist tradition)**  
**Rev. Paul Tabulutu (Fijian Church) will speak and Fijian, Tongan, Aboriginal and other friends will be joining us.**



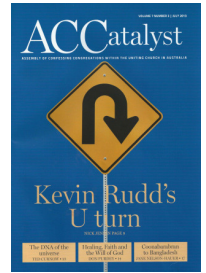
**Why do we sing hymns?**  
 Singing hymns is one way of praising and worshipping God.  
 The words of most hymns help remind us or teach us about the things we believe.

<p><b>HYMN</b>          To God be the glory, great things He has done;          So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,          Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,          And opened the life gate that all may go in.</p> <p>O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,          To every believer the promise of God;          The vilest offender who truly believes,          That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.</p> <p>Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,          Let the earth hear His voice!          Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,          Let the people rejoice!          O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,          And give Him the glory, great things He has done.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Words: Fanny Crosby</small></p>	<p><b>WHAT IS THE HYMN SAYING?</b>          God has done great things and He deserves praise for them.          Because He loved us He sent His Son, Jesus, to us. Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross paid the price (spiritual death) for humanity's wrong thoughts and actions, making it possible for everyone to progress to eternal life in God's presence.</p> <p>The shedding of Jesus' blood was required to make us perfectly acceptable to God.          God promises that any person, no matter how evil, immediately will have the penalty for their wrongdoing taken from them the moment they truly trust Jesus.</p> <p>Praise God! Spread the word of what God has done for us. Be thankful to God for His goodness to us. Jesus has provided the means for us to approach God. Use it and give God the praise and glory He deserves.</p>
---	---

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: e.g. 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)

**DON'T  
FORGET**

I have just received the latest copy of ACCatalyst and had time to read one article. The article is titled "Healing, faith and the will of God" and is written by Rev. Don Purdey from South Australia who of course has preached for us on occasions and many of us know well. Don is suffering from Motor Neurone Disease and his insights made in that context I found quite powerful and profound. I strongly recommend that article to you. I am told this issue of ACCatalyst contains other worthwhile articles too, but, as I haven't yet read them, I will leave you to discover them for yourselves.



**Sunday 21st July – Mr. Jeff Mason (Scripture Union) - Electional choice**



Jeff gave us an update on Scripture Union (A.C.T.). A year ago the financial outlook was dark. Debt was large. SU examined its operations, returned to its normal operating mode of volunteers supported by just a few staff and prayed. Debt has since reduced significantly and after some time with volunteers shouldering all the work, a new staff worker has just been appointed. The work of Scripture Union has continued with God providing some unexpected opportunities. A SUPA (Scripture Union Primary Age) club camp has recently concluded. Jeff provided some examples of how God has been working through Scripture Union.

He emphasised the importance of prayer, mentioning that prayer points so often are transformed into praise points in a matter of weeks.

.....  
 Ephesians is Jeff's favourite Bible book. He listed some of the wonderful things it tells us God has done for us:

- *blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*
- *chose us ... to be holy and blameless in his sight.*
- *adoption to sonship*
- *glorious grace, which he has freely given us*
- *redemption through his blood*
- *forgiveness of sins*
- *made known to us the mystery of his will*
- *bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*
- *marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit*



When we read the Bible we should look for what is most important first before we examine the mechanisms God uses. The Bible mentions predestination but it also talks about choice. John Wesley and George Whitefield differed in their opinions regarding predestination / choice but remained friends and both achieved great things in God's service.

Human reasoning understands that if one thing is correct, the opposite will be incorrect. While we may not properly understand the relationship between predestination and choice, they are both Biblically based facts. Understanding this paradox may become easier if we don't limit God in our thinking. God exists beyond the boundaries of space and time. They are His creation.

At age 18, Jeff was faced with deciding between three different university courses. Which course and career should he choose? He decided to commit himself to prayer and Bible study for the week before the decision had to be made and then follow God's leading. At the end of that time God had told him NOTHING. He had to make the choice himself and he chose teaching. Once Jeff had made his choice, he gained a peace and conviction that he was doing what God wanted. His teaching career threw up challenges from time to time, but God stayed with Jeff and Jeff remained convinced he was where God wanted him. The question of him choosing teaching himself or God manouvering him into teaching was unimportant. God was there with him.

The thought sometimes may come to us 'If I was You God, I wouldn't have chosen me for this task'. We may not feel adequate for the roles that are set before us, but God uses us in whatever circumstances we find ourselves and however we got there, and provides us with the resources we need to serve Him. That is quite an encouragement in our lives.

ID



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



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

- Sunday 2nd June – Mr. Laurie Hockridge - Let us come near
- Sunday 9th June – Mr. Mark Warren - Claim your inheritance here
- Sunday 16th June – Mr. George Huang - God Our Saviour
- Sunday 23rd June – Pastor Steve Prior - Hope out of hopelessness: How Jesus makes sense out of Israel's exile
- Sunday 30th June – Rev. Peter Nelson - The Search for Happiness
- Sunday 7th July – Rev. Owen Chadwick - All God's good promises stand
- Sunday 14th July at 5pm – Rev. Bob Prior - We are all sinners
- Sunday 21st July at 5pm – Mr. Jeff Mason (Scripture Union) - Electional choice



**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  
 IN RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

**Wednesday Study Group**

Wednesdays at 5-00 pm, 4-30 pm for a cuppa.  
 All welcome - contact John or Howard for more information  
 IN RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

**Prayer Meeting**

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, usually at Marie's.  
 Next meeting 19th August 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](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 28th July at 5pm – Rev. Phil Anderson
- Sunday 4th August at 5pm – Rev. Paul Tabulutu (Mid-winter Hymn Service)
- Sunday 11th August at 5pm – Mr. Zane Edwards
- Sunday 18th August at 5pm – Mr. Paul Ahn
- Sunday 25th August at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan (Communion)
- Sunday 1st September at 5pm – Pastor Dave Irving
- Sunday 8th September at 5pm – Rev. Ray Hughes
- Sunday 15th September at 5pm – Pastors Dan & Andrew (from Uganda)
- Sunday 22nd September at 5pm –
- Sunday 29th September at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson
- Sunday 6th October at 5pm – Mr. Adrian Summers



**Rev. Phil Anderson   Rev. Paul Tabulutu   Mr. Zane Edwards   Mr. Paul Ahn   Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan   Pastor Dave Irving   Rev. Ray Hughes   Pastor Andrew Kiwanuka   Rev. Peter Nelson   Mr. Adrian Summers**