

August 2013
Issue 67

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday 4th August – Rev. Paul Tabulutu (Hymn Festival) - Let us sing to the Lord

Thirteen hymns selected from The Methodist Hymn Book, Alexanders and Sankeys Hymns made up our service tonight with a short sermon from Rev. Paul Tabulutu. We were joined by a number of friends including some from the Aboriginal, Fijian Methodist and Tongan Wesleyan Methodist churches.

One hymn we sang was "Dwelling in Beulah Land". Many knew this hymn well, to some it was new. One thing we learned was that the tune for that hymn is the tune for Fiji's National Anthem.

Psalm 137: 1-4 was the text on which Paul based his sermon. Those words were part of a hymn written after the Jews returned to Jerusalem from their exile in Babylon. The original tune is lost but the words are preserved for us.



The Jews had been enslaved and were looking back at that low time in their history and the better times before. We have not been enslaved in chains, but bad relationships, debts or other pitfalls of modern day life can ensnare us and enable us to identify with the Jews in their reflections.

The Jews in captivity looked back at better times, remembering Jerusalem from where they had been taken and the God they worshipped there. Even in captivity they could relax and focus their thoughts on God. The words of Psalm 46: 10 "*Be still, and know that I am God*" were real to them and can be for us.

Who is God? He is the creator and sustainer of life.

We can trust God with our lives and trust Him for our salvation.

Our last hymn was that great hymn of praise to God, "To God be the Glory" by Fanny Crosby.

Michael from Yass was able to be with us tonight and he came forward and led the singing of this rousing hymn. It is a great hymn with words that say so much. It was sung with enthusiasm and conviction. What a way to close a joyous evening of singing God's praises!

A soup supper followed the service and gave us all the opportunity to chat to each other.

The general consensus of those I spoke to was that it had been a wonderful time of singing God's praises together and it had brought back many memories of times when the hymns we sang had been an important part of developing faith.

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.

HYMN	WHAT IS THE HYMN SAYING?
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.	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.
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.	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.
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.	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.

Words: Fanny Crosby

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.canberra.org.au



Above: Part of the congregation



"To God be the Glory"
Michael leading our singing



Serving up from the selection of soups



Sipping soup and chatting

Sunday 28th July – Rev. Phil Anderson - Is a glass half full or half empty?



Phil last preached for us in October 2006 before the Army posted him to Albury. He is now back in Canberra, still a chaplain to the army part time and also to A.C.T. Emergency Services.

Some people are optimistic, others pessimistic. Sometimes we are tempted to give up on things because they appear to be going badly (pessimistic mode). In God's kingdom there is hope. The parable of the growing seed reminds us that seeds grow with or without us. God's work will continue on to completion whether we know or understand all that is happening or not. The parable of the mustard seed contrasts the little we see now with the greatness of what we will eventually see. God is growing His kingdom. We have our part to play but it is not all up to us.

Phil once worked in hair dressing and Kim, a co-worker, was a try anything once girl. During a conversation between them Phil suggested she try Jesus. Ten years later Phil received a phone call out of the blue and it turned out to be Kim. She was by then an active, vibrant, enthusiastic Christian. How did that come about? Phil didn't know. He had planted a seed with his suggestion, but God had done the work, no doubt with the assistance of some of his people. We don't see all of God's big picture.

Sometimes our job is just to sow seed. It may sit dormant for a while, but when conditions are right that seed can sprout and grow. Even when things look bleak to us, God is involved somehow and we can hold on to hope.

Bad things do sometimes happen to good people. Christians can face up to life's challenges not with blind optimism but with a trust in God and a well founded hope that God will complete His good work in us.

Let us keep sowing. Don't give up. God is doing His work. Be faithful. We are spiritual gardeners. ID



Maurine, Howard and Ruth cutting her cake.



Refreshments afterwards

Laurie, Phil and Annette

A teacher was testing the children in her Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven.

She asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?"

"NO!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!"

Now she was smiling. Hey, they're getting it, she thought! "Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into Heaven?" she asked.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

She was just bursting with pride for them. "Well," she continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD."

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Rev. Phil Anderson



Rev. Paul Tabulutu

Sunday 28th July – Rev. Phil Anderson - Is a glass half full or half empty?

Sunday 4th August at – Rev. Paul Tabulutu (Mid-winter Hymn Service) - Let us sing to the Lord

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
 Army & A.C.T. Emergency Services chaplaincies - Rev. Phil Anderson

Please remember Steve, Bob, Peter, Owen and Phil 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

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

Next meeting 19th August at 2-00 pm.
 All welcome

Contacts

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Services

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

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**

Sunday 13th October at 5pm –

Sunday 20th October at 5pm – **Mr. Mark Warren**



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



Mr. Mark Warren