

October, November 2013
Issue 69

The Next Step

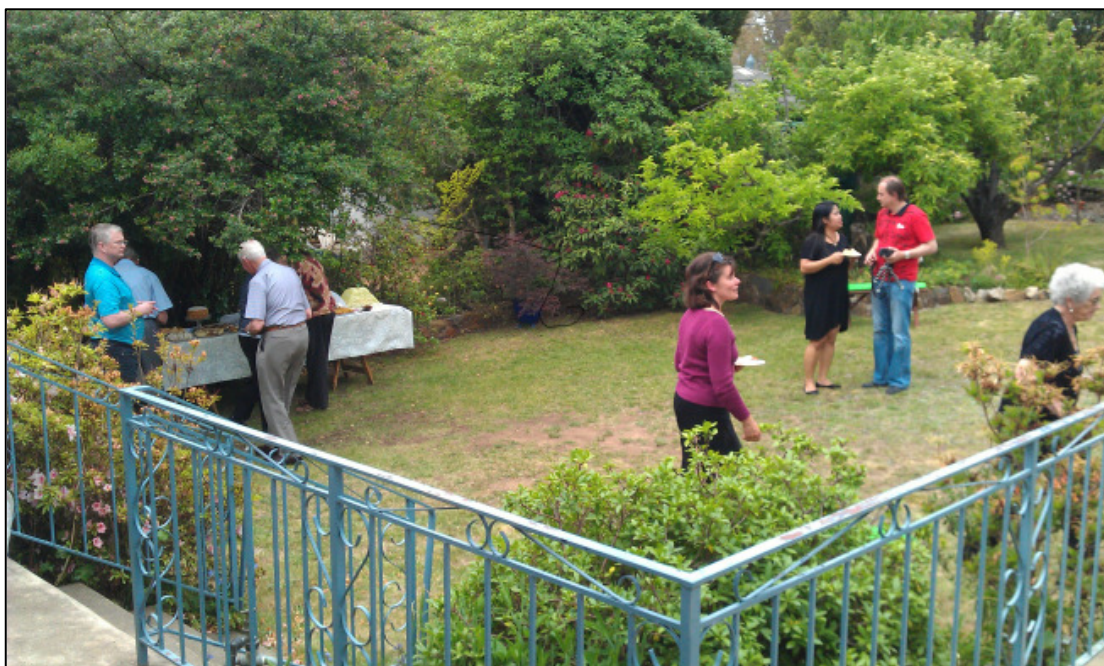


Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Marriage Celebrations come to Canberra

Last issue we shared in Janelle and Dale's joy on their marriage at Cobargo. We had to make do with photos and a report on the day as most of us were unable to be there.

Another opportunity to celebrate with them came yesterday when we spent a happy afternoon wishing them well.





Farewell Fanny

We have been very glad to have Fanny as part of our fellowship for much of the time while she has been studying in Canberra.

Her time in Australia has now ended and she has returned to Taiwan.

We wish her well for the future, especially as we understand she will be getting married in the first half of next year.

Fanny with Marie



AGM

Another Annual General Meeting has now come and gone. The business of the meeting was conducted and in particular we were glad to accept Janelle and Dale into membership. Arrangements for our Carols were also discussed.

All the way from England

Sue, who joined us while visiting Australia, has sent us some photos of her home church.



The harvest festival last Sunday: It was a family service which is held in the style of a cafe serving coffee and biscuits during the informal service. There should have been a service held outside in the afternoon on the allotments (accompanied by myself and others playing our recorders) but it was pouring with rain so it was held in our church followed by a soup and sweet supper.

Sunday 29th September – Rev. Peter Nelson - How Great Thou Art



Psalms 8 starts and ends praising God. It also asks the question 'why does God bother with us when we are so insignificant in comparison to God Himself?'. God made us and does care about us! We have been given positions of importance by God. We don't own this earth, it is God's and we are God's, but we have the responsibility to rule over and care for this earth.

We are made by God in His image and are valued by God.

Peter quoted a statement of someone down on his luck "I ain't junk, because God doesn't make junk." God made the whole universe, and he has renovated it.

Just as the successful renovation projects we know are costly, need a good foundation to work on, extend over a long term and eventually deliver something better than the original, so it is with God's renovation.

It cost Jesus' life, Jesus' death and resurrection have provided the good foundation of new life, it doesn't happen quickly (God is using willing workers) and one day it will be complete and there will be a new heaven and a new earth that we will be part of and where we will know God better.

God is great and awesome!

Man is great and worthy in God's sight to be loved and given purpose.

ID

Sunday 13th October – Mr. Peter Bentley - Confessing Christ Today

This week Peter Bentley came from Sydney to be with us and preach. Also with us was Rev. Perry Smith and his wife visiting Canberra from Lake Macquarie.

Perry, as always, was very enthusiastic about his faith and brought us his greetings and shared thoughts from one of his poems dealing with "What is really precious"

Peter posed the question "What is the meaning of Jesus' death?" Disciple Peter had identified Jesus as the Messiah but rebuked Jesus for talking about the son of man needing to suffer and die. Peter's love for Jesus was strong but misguided. Jesus' concerns were God's concerns, not humans'. Jesus told Peter "*Get behind me, Satan!*".



Jesus' death was necessary. The cross was a symbol of torture and death. For Christians, Jesus' death and resurrection is a sign that torture and death in a spiritual sense are defeated.

Temptations are always around us but the way of the cross leads us away from temptation.

ID

Sunday 20th October – Mr. Mark Warren - Freedom



Galatians 5 discusses freedom in Christ and life by the Spirit.

We will be righteous before God because God gives us that righteousness when we rely on Jesus' death to cleanse us. We should defend the freedom that gives us and use that freedom for good.

What form does this freedom take?

We are freed from the burden of the Law and Old Testament rules. If we tried to be 'good enough' for God we would find it a never ending task and one we could never properly achieve. It would become a form of slavery to us. We would fail.

Instead Jesus offers us grace - he has done all that is required for us. Faith expressed through love is all that we need to have.

Let us defend the freedom we are given and not take back the shackles the Law imposes.

We should use our freedom for good. We are not controlled by the Law but led by the Spirit.

The Spirit brings us the 'fruit of the Spirit' - love, joy peace patience, kindness goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

The love we experience and should share is a deliberate love that comes to us from God.

ID

10th Annual Multicultural Carols

Sunday, 1 December at 5-00pm, Campbell Primary School Hall

A time of celebration shared with God's people from different places around the world.

Singing by our guests, Community Singing and a short message from Rev. Paul Tabulutu from Fiji.
Refreshments afterwards

Come along and bring your friends

Friday is the new Wednesday

The Tuesday Bible Study has had a stable timeslot for quite some time. but the other study group has moved from day to day and from time to time.

It has changed again!

Don't come along on a Wednesday afternoon unless you enjoy solitude when studying the Scriptures.

Friday 2pm is the new study time.

The change has been made as the old time was no longer possible for one Bible Student and the new time will make it easier for some others to join us.



2010

2011

this year their carols were a bit different to the carols the previous year. It was a fairly informal time and was good fun and a very happy time.



2012

2013

We have enjoyed the Indonesian's hospitality for the last few years and are again invited to their Carols.

Come and celebrate Christ's birth together with our Indonesian friends.

Saturday afternoon

7th December

4pm

**at St. Andrew's Church,
Forrest**

Indonesian Carols

**A meal
follows the Carols**

Sunday 3rd November – Rev. Bob Prior - Our Pattern for Prayer



We were joined this evening by some of the Tongan Wesleyan Methodists. They sang for us during and after the service.

We heard later their numbers were down due to concern and caring for a sick child. Our prayers are for a speedy recovery for the child.

Bob recently heard someone speaking on prayer and disagreed with some of what was said so prayed about it and prepared this sermon on prayer for us.

God knows everything including our thoughts before we think them, so why pray? God already knows.

By praying we show faith and grow in faith. Praying keeps us in touch with God and what He is doing. God wants us to pray.

How should we pray?

The Lord's Prayer shows us how to pray. It is not a set of words that we should simply use every time.

God is our heavenly Father and we can approach Him.

He is in heaven, the almighty creator God to whom nothing is impossible.

God is holy and deserving of our worship.

We should pray that he will have control over our lives.



We can also pray that he will provide for our needs for daily living.

By praying that God will forgive us as we forgive others we acknowledge that we should be forgiving in our lives. Continuing to forgive is hard, but that is how God forgives us.

We live in this world but as God's people are not of this world. God is in us and we should look for and ask where does God want us to go.

Our battle is a spiritual one against principalities and powers of evil. We need God's help and protection.

Praying is not something we should do for show. It is time spent with God.

ID

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) pilot Ian Purdey on the job



A very "MAF" type day! It started out with a routine clinic run, taking two nurses into a remote homeland. Having dropped off the nurses, a lady asked if I could return to Gove with a sick boy on board. He needed immediate care. I was able to complete the medivac (medical evacuation). The afternoon involved a series of flights taking boarding-school kids and teachers back to their homes.

All up 3.8 hours flown, 7 landings, 9 passengers and 150kg of freight.

We have been attending church in the indigenous Yolngu community of Yirrkala. The church has started meeting on Sunday evenings in believers' backyards, far better suiting the culture and climate than a formal western style service. It is beautiful to sit outside under the stars and worship God together



Our fellowship has given Ian and his family some support as they serve God through MAF.

STOP PRESS: Ian, Adele and their two boys will be moving to Elcho Island in very early December.

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Rev. Peter Nelson



Mr. Adrian Summers



Mr. Peter Bentley



Mr. Mark Warren



Mr. George Huang



Rev. Bob Prior

Sunday **29th September** – **Rev. Peter Nelson** - How Great Thou Art

Sunday **6th October** – **Mr. Adrian Summers** - Suffering with Christ

Sunday **13th October** – **Mr. Peter Bentley (Assembly of Confessing Congregations)** - Confessing Christ Today

Sunday **20th October** – **Mr. Mark Warren** - Freedom

Sunday **27th October** – **Mr. George Huang** - Important things in Life

Sunday **3rd November** – **Rev. Bob Prior** - Our Pattern for Prayer

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

Friday Study Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm.

All welcome - contact John or Howard for more information

Prayer Meeting

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

BUT Next meeting 25th November 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**

Sunday **10th November** at 5pm – **Mr. Nick Cole (Bible Society)**

Sunday **17th November** at 5pm – **Rev. Owen Chadwick**

Sunday **24th November** at 5pm – **Mr. Ben Lattimore**

Sunday **1st December** at 5pm – **10th Annual Multicultural Carols (at Campbell Primary School hall)**

Sunday **8th December** at 5pm – **Pastor Steve Prior**

Sunday **15th December** at 5pm – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu**

Sunday **22nd December** – We will join the Finnish Lutherans for their **Finnish Carols**

Sunday **29th December** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**

2014

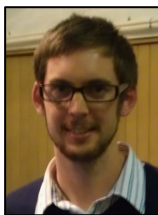
Sunday **5th January** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**



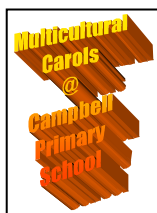
Mr. Nick Cole



Rev. Owen Chadwick



Mr. Ben Lattimore



Multicultural Carols



Pastor Steve Prior



Rev. Paul Tabulutu



Finnish Carols



Rev. Peter Nelson

**2
0
1
4**



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan