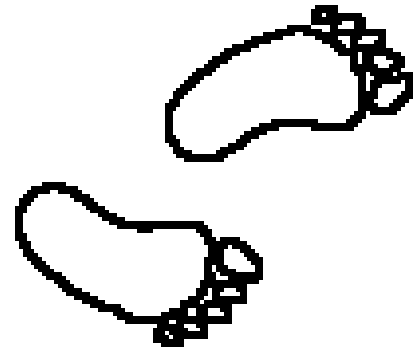


December 2014
Issue 76

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

2014 Carols

11th Annual Multicultural Carols

ALL WELCOME

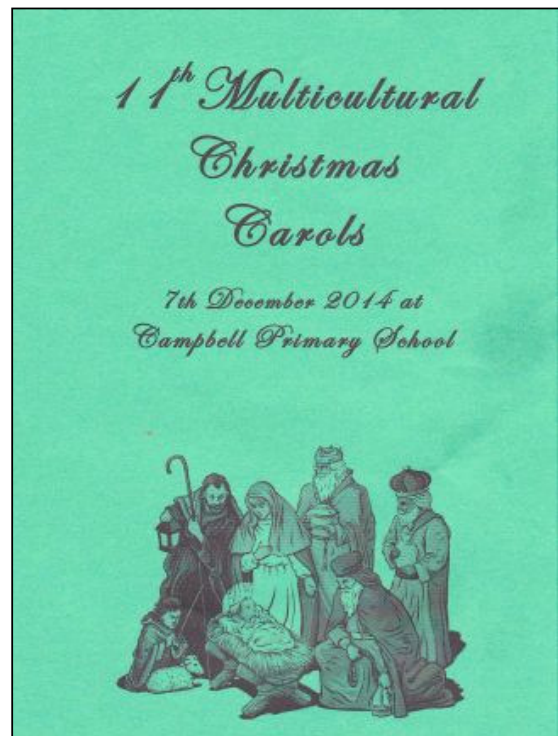
Sunday, 7 December 2014
5-00 pm

Campbell Primary School Hall
Chauvel Street, Campbell

Our guests include
Chinese, Fijian,
Indonesian, Korean
Tamil
& Samoan people.

*Refreshments
follow the
Carols*

Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist tradition)
www.canberracf.org.au



^ Welcome



Our Band >



^ "O come all ye faithful" ^



^ Canberra Christian Fellowship

Prayer: Rev. Jangwon Seo (Korean Church) >

v Chinese Methodists v





< Greetings from Aboriginal Church:
Mrs. Chris Sloan



^v "Away in a manger" with the children v^



^ Indonesians



^

Bible Reading: Dr. John Owusu (originally from Ghana)

Tamils >

v



^

Introducing the next carol

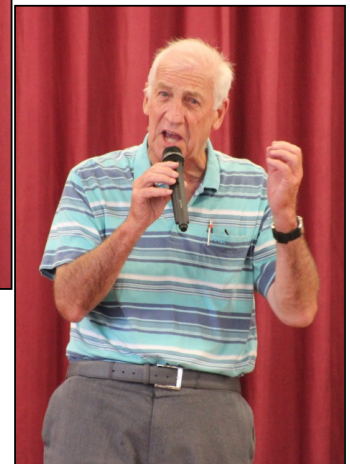
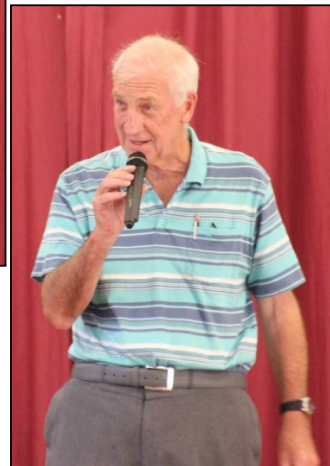


The first nowell ^ >





< Koreans
v



^
Talk
Rev. Peter Nelson



Fijian Methodists

The Kadavu Fijian choir was visiting Canberra for a few days and joined our local Fijian friends for our carols.

The Kadavu choir were due to sing at Parliament House the following day.





^ ^
"Hark the herald angels sing"



< Blessing: Rev. Paul Tabulutu (Fijian Methodists)



Thanks >



^
Refreshments





Our special and grateful thanks to the Chinese, Indonesian, Fijian, Korean, Samoan and Tamil Choirs, our Speakers, our Musicians led by Matthew Foster, the Campbell Primary School and all those who have taken part in our service or worked so hard to make it such a success.

*Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)*

Website: www.canberracf.org.au
Email: canberracf@yahoo.com.au

We were expecting the Samoan Methodists to sing, however they had to travel to Sydney so missed the carols.

Many thanks to Graham, our photographer.

Campbell High School chaplaincy – Rev. Steve Lindner

Institute of Sport chaplaincy – Rev. Peter Nelson

Universities chaplaincy – Rev. Owen Chadwick

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

Please remember Steve, Peter, Owen, Phil and their chaplaincy work in your prayers.



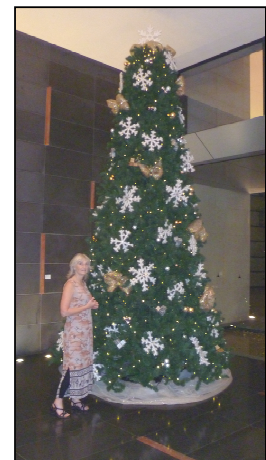
Sue

We have heard from Sue who was with us for a couple of months from England last year while her husband was working in Canberra. Since then her husband has had another Australian assignment (in Melbourne) which is just ending.

I thought that 2013 was a hectic, unusual year for us, but this one's been even more so (ranging from going to Melbourne Grand Prix; watching an Aussie football match at MCG; living in busy city; cycling along the coastal path lovely to beaches including Brighton in Victoria and heaps more)! ... The Wesleyan church I attend [in Melbourne] struggle with small congregation but they are a lovely group of people who have made me very welcome as you did. ... I will close now and wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year

All the best for 2015

Love Sue and Nev



Campbell High, Chaplaincy and Money



Warren reports that he bumped into Steve Lindner while shopping at Belconnen.

Steve was keen to pass on the news that funding for his chaplaincy at Campbell High has been extended.

We will no doubt learn more in due course, however it is a good news story just in time for Christmas.

Fanny

After a few years studying in Canberra, Fanny left us and returned to Taiwan in late 2013. We knew she had married earlier this year.

Gathering to study wedding photos and ooo, aah and comment on how good the bride looked is almost obligatory after a wedding, but there was no ooo-ing or aah-ing here as we had no photos to look at. That has now changed. (By the way, the bride did look good! See for yourself below.)



me serving tea to my husband-to-be's family and receiving their blessing (red envelopes with Money!)

a photo of my family (grandmom, parents, sisters and brothers (in-law)) on the engagement day



Introduction of the new Husband and Wife



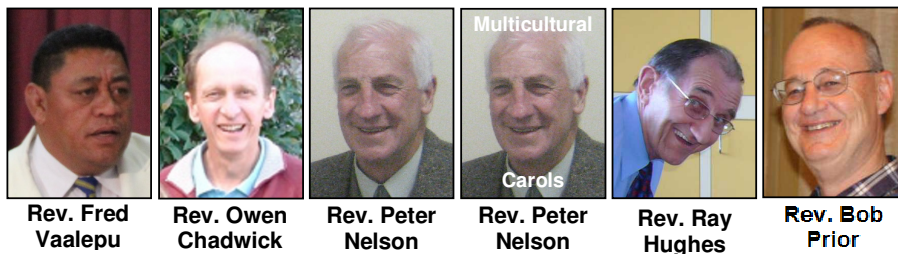
me walking down the aisle with my father at the church



a photo of two families



Services over recent weeks have included the following:



- Sunday 16th November – Rev. Fred Vaalepu - God is good
- Sunday 23rd November – Rev. Owen Chadwick - We do not lose heart
- Sunday 30th November – Rev. Peter Nelson - Heaven
- Sunday 7th December – Rev. Peter Nelson (Multicultural Carols)
- Sunday 14th November – Rev. Ray Hughes - Good News
- Sunday 21st December – Rev. Bob Prior - Changes bring new beginnings



Indonesian Christmas Service

This year we were again invited to the Indonesian's Christmas Service and a number of us were able to attend.

I found the children's segment particularly uplifting as they came out dressed as participants in the Christmas story and said a few words.

I was unable to stay for the whole time but understand the meal that followed was much enjoyed.

Tamil Church

We were glad to welcome a choir from the Tamil Church to our Carols for the first time this year.

They held their Christmas celebrations the previous day and extended an invitation to us to join with them.

Unfortunately we were already committed to another event and were unable to accept on that occasion however the invitation was much appreciated and we look forward to getting to know them better in days to come.



Elsie

Natasha was part of our musicians roster for quite some time so her move to Scotland left a bit of a hole to fill. (We were not keen to overburden our other musicians).

Elsie is part of the Chinese Methodist Church which is how we have got to know her. She has agreed to play for us and so we will see her regularly as her turn to provide our music comes around.

Welcome Elsie, and thanks for being so willing to help us.



Tuesday Bible Study breakup



The Tuesday Bible Study ladies are not only a studious lot, but they know how to relax and enjoy themselves.

To mark the start of the Bible Study Christmas recess, they got together at the Rodney's Nursery cafe and sampled some of the goodies on offer there.

Bible Study will resume in a few weeks time.

Natasha

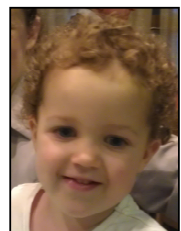
Back in early October we farewelled Paul and Natasha prior to their move to Glasgow, Scotland. Paul headed off days later leaving Natasha to finish the year in Canberra. This meant she was able to play the piano for us several more times before she left. She mentioned that Paul found Scotland a bit on the coolish side and she was bracing herself for her turn in the Scottish winter.

She was with us for the last time (for now - she said she'd be back in four years with 4 or 5 babies for us to mind) on 30 November. To mark the occasion we had a special meal and several friends we haven't seen for a while were able to come. We gave Natasha a light, Canberra made, woollen scarf to help insulate her from the worst of the Scottish weather.



< & ^ Enjoying a meal with Natasha

Ava, who was there with parents Derek & Carolyn >



Sunday, 21st December – Rev. Bob Prior – Changes bring new beginnings

It is self evident that changes bring new beginnings, however new beginnings are not necessarily good, they can be bad.

Deuteronomy 28: 1 - 20 tells us God wants to shower us with blessings which will come IF we obey Him. If we don't, we will be cursed.

What does this mean?

Some people might suggest God is unfair in blessing some and cursing others, however there is really no question about how much God loves different people. He loves us equally. It is rather a question of how much we allow God to love and bless us.

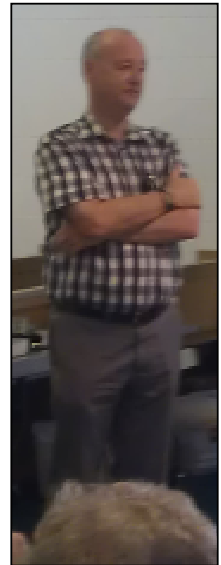
God's blessings contribute to a fulfilling life, they aren't necessarily wealth, fame or worldly success. The curse is missing out on God's blessings. God's followers are subject to the whole range of human experiences, good and bad, however when we walk with God, He helps us to cope with whatever comes our way. When we don't we can be easily be freaked out by many of life's low points.

We all have a choice. We can choose to follow God's way or go our own way. Setting out in God's way will bring a good new beginning. ID

In the course of his chaplaincy work, Bob has sometimes mentioned some of the issues and people he has been dealing with in order for us to be able to pray intelligently for that work. (He has of course limited that information enough to maintain privacy).

We were delighted to welcome Ray and Janna, who have been part of Bob's life and work over the last few years, to our service. Ray was part of the reason Bob got into racecourse chaplaincy. Janna was a sports lady who Bob met when he was a chaplain at the Institute of Sport. He has helped her through a difficult time in her life. (See Next Step 71, March 2014).

Janna told us her story and of the way God has worked in her life. She also sang a few song lyrics to close the service. ID



A few weeks ago we learned that Bob was going to become chaplain at 'Destiny Haven' in the Hunter Valley and consequently would be leaving Canberra.

In July 2008, Bob first preached for us and we have got to know him and his chaplaincy work with the racing industry quite well since then. We wanted to mark this new phase in his service and to wish him and wife Evelyn well. (I was going to say it would be a change of direction, but his direction isn't deviating - it is still straight ahead down the straight and narrow path doing what God asks of him, just a little further along that path).

Bob told us he would be in Canberra from time to time and so we will probably see him on some of those occasions and he hopes he will still be able to preach for us sometimes.

For more information on "Destiny Haven" see their website at <http://destinyhaven.org.au/home> . ID

Humour

You can feel a real let-down after Christmas - especially when all you have to look forward to is your New Year's resolutions.

Some businessmen are saying that this could be the greatest Christmas ever.
I always thought the first one was.

I asked my grandmother for wireless headphones for Christmas... and got some really nice ear muffs.

May your longest list this Christmas be the one that counts your blessings.

Just for fun

The Santa Claus at the mall was very surprised when a young lady about twenty years old walked up and sat on his lap. Santa doesn't usually take requests from adults, but she smiled very nicely at him, so he asked her, "What do you want for Christmas?"

"Something for my mother, please." said the young lady.

"Something for your mother? Well, that's very thoughtful of you," smiled Santa. "What do you want me to bring her? " Without blinking she replied, "A son-in-law!"

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"

Q: Where do sheep get their hair cut?
A: At the baa baa shop.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

Dear Canberra Christian Fellowship,

Wishing you blessings of peace and happiness at Christmas and always

Thankyou for your support and prayer over this year and being part of God's work in Arnhem Land. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas celebrating Jesus' birth. God bless, Ian and Adele Purdey (Jimmy, Edward and Josiah)



Operation Christmas Child



As in previous years, we have been glad to contribute to the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes.

Norma reports that 112,500 boxes were packed with goodies for children in less fortunate locations and despatched from New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory this year.

We understand NSW/ACT boxes were distributed in Cambodia, Vietnam and Fiji.

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm.

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information
In holiday recess until early February

Friday Study Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm.

All welcome - contact John M. for more information
In holiday recess until early February

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month, usually at Marie's.
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 **28th December** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**
2015

Sunday **4th January** at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall**

Sunday **11th January** at 5pm – **Mr. Laurie Hockridge**

Sunday **18th January** at 5pm – **Gideons service**

Sunday **25th January** at 5pm – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu**

Sunday **1st February** at 5pm – **Mr. David Hay**

Sunday **8th February** at 5pm – **Rev. David McDonald**



**Rev. Dr.
Campbell
Egan**



**Mrs. Joyce
Hall**



**Mr. Laurie
Hockridge**



**Gideons
service**



**Rev. Paul
Tabulutu**



**Mr. David
Hay**



**Rev. David
McDonald**

Optimism

Little Susie had been born with a sunny disposition, and was the most optimistic kid anybody had ever seen.

She loved people and animals, and no matter what happened, she always saw the bright side.

She was also an artistic girl. So one Christmas, her parents got her a big bag of clay for making pottery. They put it on the back porch next to a bag of horse manure for the garden.

On Christmas Eve, Dad wrapped the presents. It was a little dark on the porch, and as you may have guessed, he wrapped the manure by mistake, instead of the pottery clay.

On Christmas morning, Susie was so excited to see what Santa had brought her. When she finally got to unwrap her big present, her parents watched with anticipation to see how much she liked her clay.

When Susie opened the package, and then the bag inside containing several pounds of stinky horse manure, the parents were aghast.

But before they could apologize, Susie said, "Oh boy! I got a pony!"