

January - March 2015
Issue 77

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Jerrabombera Christian Fellowship

Some weeks ago we learned that Zane Edwards was looking into starting a Christian group in Jerrabombera as an existing church had recently closed.

Zane has given our fellowship great support over the years and so we were eager to show our support for this new Fellowship - The Jerrabombera Christian Fellowship. They intend meeting once a month as we did in our early days and similar to us will meet on Sunday evenings at 7pm.



The first service was on Sunday, 22 February. A number of our people were able to make the trip across the border into New South Wales and join with them for that first service.

They began with a number of songs, continued with prayer and a talk by Zane before concluding with more songs.

There was a cake afterwards and a sing song of old hymns sprung up as chairs and equipment were put away.

We wish the Jerrabombera Christian Fellowship God's blessing as they worship, serve and witness for Him in the Jerrabombera community. ID

The Jerrabombera Christian Fellowship can be found on the internet at <http://www.jerrachristianfellowship.org/>

Zane spoke on "Faith in '15"

There are some trends that can be seen in different places in 2015.

- Extremism
- Moral authority used to justify immoral actions
- Broad spectrum of religious belief
- Move away from organised religion
- Increased emphasis on spirituality

Many people are looking for simplicity - a back to basics approach to things. If we take Christianity back to basics, what do we have?

Jesus was asked

"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." [Mark 12: 28-31]

He also said *"If you love me, keep my commands."* [John 14: 15]

God loves us and love gives liberty and enables freedom to choose. We are free to choose well or badly.

If we love God, we will follow his commandments.

He commands us to love others.

Loving others is a demonstration of our love for God.

Sunday, 1st February – Mr. David Hay – Breaking the orphans cycle in South Africa

In early February David, Janenne and Rachel Hay came and told us about their pending move to South Africa.

They will be working for SIM at Lily of the Valley and Makaphutu with children who have lost their families due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic which has had such a devastating effect in South Africa.

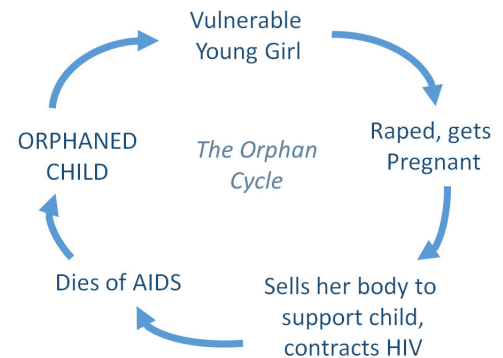


Lily of the Valley. Lily is a children's village that cares for approximately 120 children, infants through 19 years of age, who have been infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Our mission is to love and care for these children, as well as the surrounding communities, with the love of Christ.

As well as serving at Lily of the Valley, we will also be serving at a sister village called Makaphutu. Makaphutu Children's Village is about 40km away from Lily, situated in a place of spectacular natural beauty – the Valley of a Thousand Hills! Yet this beautiful place is sadly in the opinion of the experts the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the world.

The Orphan Cycle looks something like this:

- A girl is vulnerable and seen as public property in her community.
- She doesn't have much value.
- At 12 she is raped.
- She is pregnant at 15 and contracts the HIV virus around the same time.
- By the time she is in her twenties, she is too sick to raise her child or get a job.
- The child doesn't go to school, lives totally unsupervised, and is often exposed to abuse.
- By the time the child is 9 years old, her/his mother dies and she/he is an orphan.
- Perhaps this child will sell her/his body.
- Pretty soon, the child will also have contracted HIV and, if a girl, will get pregnant with a child of her own.
- That child will probably have the same story she did.



This is where we come in. With a solution! With hope!

- We take in that 9 year old orphan,
- or that 2 year old orphan,
- or that 13 year old orphan.
- We bring them into a loving, happy home, that unconditionally offers support, care, and nurture.
- We feed and clothe these children, get them medical attention and counseling.
- We send them to school and tutor them everyday for 2 hours until we can get them into a better school.
- We let them discover their dreams.
- We provide role models that show them what responsible parenting and achievement looks like.
- These children will grow up knowing the love of Jesus.

- One day these children will:
 - graduate from highschool
 - apply for university
 - get a job
 - avoid contracting HIV/Aids
 - and become responsible parents when they are ready.

- Their children will have a new future and hope.
- And it will go on for generations.

Taken from their website: <http://www.haysinsouthafrica.com/>

Janna

We have followed Janna's story for well over a year and prayed for her as she at first talked with Bob Prior, began a life of faith and then slowly grew in that faith.

Late last year we had the pleasure of meeting her when she came along to one of our services when Bob was preaching.

She was a sister in Christ and that was how it felt - all brothers and sisters together.

It was with shock, sadness and a sense of loss that we saw the newspaper report that announced her passing.

Although her life here ended prematurely, we can be glad that she knew our loving, forgiving God, He knew her and that He now has her with Him.



Ian & Adele Purdey of MAF, Elcho Island and Tropical Cyclone Lam

... We feel really blessed that God has watched over our place as it could have been so much worse. Our house was built by missionaries probably in the 50's or 60's and wasn't constructed to any cyclone code. By all rights it should have collapsed or sustained some major damage. God is good! ...

thanks for your prayers through this time for us, the Yolngu [the Galiwinku community] and Arnhem Land. God has worked miracles in so many places, while also displaying his awe-inspiring and almighty power. ...

Ian was able to make it to Elcho Island on Sunday afternoon despite some very challenging weather conditions. He had two passengers from two different homelands (Gawa and Mapuru) who were bringing in chainsaws and supplies. This was among the first of the aid to arrive to those communities.

While in Darwin we put together several food packages for the Yolngu families we knew best. Ian took these to their houses on Monday and the people he met were very grateful and very surprised and touched that someone had thought of their family in this time. Ian was able to talk with some of them about their experience and to check that their families were all ok. It was very special for us to be able to help in this personal and practical way.

Praise God for:

- protecting the people of Galwinku and of Arnhem Land- there were no fatalities or serious injuries!
- His hand over our house and the other MAF houses- two had trees fall on the roofs but no major damage done - we are amazed that more houses were not destroyed or damaged!
- the contact we have had with some Yolngu families because of this event

Pray for:

- the clean up effort
- more opportunities to speak to Yolngu and help them see Christ in this event



Ian, Adele, Jimmy, Edward and Josiah.

Q: What did baby corn say to mama corn?
A: Where's popcorn?

Sunday, 8th February – Rev. David McDonald – Partnership in the Gospel



In the Letter to the Philippians Paul talks about partnership and sharing. He talks about partnership in the Gospel [Phil. 1:5], sharing in God's grace [Phil. 1:7], sharing in God's Spirit [Phil. 2:1], participation in Christ's sufferings [Phil. 3:10] and of the way the Philippians shared with him in his troubles [Phil. 4:14,15].

As Christians we are united by sharing in the Spirit of Christ, what Christ has done for us and in us.

Are there practical ways we can share together? The Philippians showed us one way by sending aid to Paul when he was in need [Phil. 4:16]. Paul shows us another way. While in prison, he gave thanks to God for the Philippians and he prayed for them.

Charles Spurgeon, the famous 19th century preacher, when asked the secret of his success, replied that his people prayed for him. Prayer is powerful and praying is something we can all do.

We can pray about matters we know about and make our prayers specific. Sometimes that is not possible. Paul tells us his prayer and we can learn from it how to pray powerfully and helpfully without knowing details of a given set of circumstances. Paul prays for purpose "*that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ*" [Phil. 1:9,10]. He also prays for the end result "*[so that you may be] filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*" [Phil. 1:11]. ID

Dave shared with us a couple of items of interest.

- On a personal level, he and Fiona are travelling to Melbourne to see a world expert on the type of cancer Dave suffers from.
- The Stromlo Christian Church where Dave is Pastor has a welcome problem. There are around **130 children** within the church however the church's children's worker has recently left which leaves a lot of work for others. Fiona is temporarily filling this position until someone else can be found.

Sunday, 15th February – Mrs. Joyce Hall – The love of God

This is a world where there is constant change. One consequence is that many people find lasting relationships difficult. They crave loyalty and care but often what they get is indifference or rejection.

God is not like that. He doesn't reject us.

God gave everything for us. He IS love and we share in the love God gives.

Love is more than a pleasant emotional feeling that many people believe it to be. Love involves rightness and discipline.

Mary, Martha and Lazarus knew and loved Jesus and He loved them. When Lazarus fell ill, Jesus appeared to fail his friends by not immediately going to them. When He did arrive Lazarus was dead. Martha and later Mary expressed their belief that their brother would not have died had Jesus been there. Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would rise again. He continued "*I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.*" [John 11: 25,26]. Jesus shared the emotion of His friends and wept, but then He called to Lazarus to leave his tomb and Lazarus emerged.

Why did Jesus act as He did? God often has a greater purpose than we can recognise. Jesus did not ignore the needs of his friends. He shared their sincere love and grief. By waiting as He did he was able to not only restore Lazarus to life but show everyone there something of the Glory of God.

In this story we can see God's love at work but we can also better see the extent of God's love. It does not end when we die, death is no barrier to Jesus and God's love. ID



Sunday, 22nd February – Rev. Phil Anderson – The clash of the kingdoms - unseen made visible



Many people see science and faith as incompatible. Science tells us a lot about this world and how things operate, but faith too gives us insight into living. Both show us an aspect of our being. A fish inhabits a water world and is not aware of what lies beyond the water. A few creatures, like dolphins, catch a glimpse of what is beyond. Humans are a bit like dolphins in that they only catch glimpses beyond the physical world they know.

After John the Baptist was imprisoned, Jesus proclaimed the good news of God and said. "*The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!*"

It was a time of opportunity for those who heard him. Jesus challenged them to believe then understand which is the way of faith.

If we make ourselves available to God, He can use us. We would not choose deceitful Jacob, or David with his faults, or Peter with his impulsiveness or Saul / Paul who originally set out to persecute Christians to be great men of faith or leaders of God's people, but God did.

We should not live by this world's standards but by God's.

Science is good and can explain many things. It works by deducing answers after examining facts. Faith works differently and is less understood by people today. Faith comes first and then confirmation follows. Science and faith do not conflict but they do present different approaches and viewpoints to looking at this world and our place in it. ID

Rev. Phil Anderson - Army & A.C.T. Emergency Services chaplaincies
 Rev. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy
 Rev. Steve Lindner - Campbell High School chaplaincy
 Rev. Peter Nelson - Institute of Sport chaplaincy

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



Sunday, 1st March – Harvest Thanksgiving



Pastor Steve Prior spoke on "On being thankful" at our Harvest Thanksgiving service. Our produce display, arranged by Joyce and helpers, was again given to the Salvation Army for distribution.

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan

Mrs. Joyce Hall

Mr. Laurie Hockridge

Mr. Trevor Monson

Mr. Michael Bevan

Rev. Paul Tabulutu



Mr. David Hay

Rev. David McDonald

Mrs. Joyce Hall

Rev. Phil Anderson

Pastor Steve Prior

Sunday 28th December at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan** - The Claim
 2015

Sunday 4th January at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** - Where is your treasure?

Sunday 11th January at 5pm – **Mr. Laurie Hockridge** - The investment of life

Sunday 18th January at 5pm – **Mr. Trevor Monson & Mr. Michael Bevan** - Gideons

Sunday 25th January at 5pm – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu** - The marks of Jesus

Sunday 1st February at 5pm – **Mr. David Hay** - Breaking the orphans cycle in South Africa

Sunday 8th February at 5pm – **Rev. David McDonald** - Partnership in the Gospel

Sunday 15th February at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** - The Love of God

Sunday 22nd February at 5pm – **Rev. Phil Anderson** - The clash of the kingdoms - unseen made visible

Sunday 1st March at 5pm – **Pastor Steve Prior** (Harvest Thanksgiving) - On Being Thankful

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm.

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information
Studying Corinthians

Friday Study Group

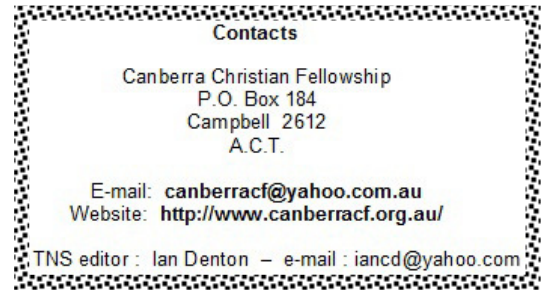
Fridays at 2-00 pm.

All welcome - contact John M. for more information
Studying Acts

Prayer Meeting

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

All welcome
Next meeting 16th March



Services

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



Rev. Ron Reeson



Mr. Zane Edwards



Mr. Mike Poulton



Rev. Peter Nelson



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan



Mr. Robert Nicholls



Mr. George Huang



Mr. Peter Bentley



Mr. Mark Warren



Rev. Ray Hughes



Mr. Revin Blanchard



Rev. Peter Nelson

Sunday **8th March** at 5pm – **Rev. Ron Reeson**
Sunday **15th March** at 5pm – **Mr. Zane Edwards**
Sunday **22nd March** at 5pm – **Mr. Mike Poulton** (Service in Song)
Sunday **29th March** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**
Sunday, **5th April** at 5pm - **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan** (Easter)
Sunday, **12th April** at 5pm - **Mr Rob Nicholls** (Christian Blind Mission)
Sunday, **19th April** at 5pm - **Mr George Huang**
Sunday, **26th April** at 5pm - **Mr. Peter Bentley**
Sunday, **3rd May** at 5pm - **Mr. Mark Warren**
Sunday, **10th May** at 5pm - **Rev. Ray Hughes** (Mothers' Day)
Sunday **17th May** at 5pm – **Mr. Revin Blanchard**
Sunday **24th May** at 5pm – **to be advised**
Sunday **31st May** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**

Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child, Shoeboxes

Norma has received a Thank You email for those who packed shoeboxes.

"2014 was the biggest Operation Christmas Child season ever with a record 321,526 shoeboxes sent to kids in 7 countries from our incredible army of dedicated shoeboxers in Australia and New Zealand. ...

Thank you again for packing a shoebox this year. You will make a child very happy."