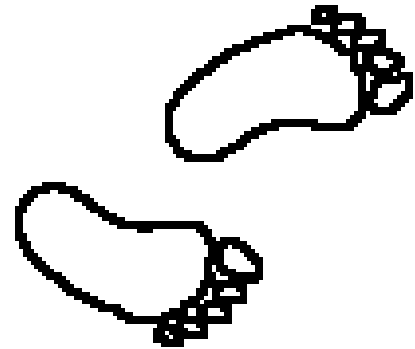


April, May 2015
Issue 79

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday, 26th April – Mr. Peter Bentley – From mutineers to puritans

Tonight's sermon started out as something of a history lesson.

We travelled back to 1788 when Captain Bligh on HMS Bounty was collecting Breadfruit plants at Tahiti. After 5 months the Bounty left Tahiti and about 3 weeks later, on 28 April 1789, Fletcher Christian led a mutiny, Bligh and 18 others were cast adrift in Bounty's launch.

Those remaining on Bounty eventually split up, 16 staying in Tahiti while Christian and 8 followers set off in Bounty to find a place of safety. Eventually in January 1790, Christian, his fellow mutineers, some Tahitian women and 6 male Tahitian servants arrived at Pitcairn Island.

By 1808 when contact with the outside world was first reestablished, all but one of the men, John Adams, were dead. Conflict between the mutineers and the Tahitian men, fighting among themselves, the reaction to mistreatment of the women and a drunken accident claimed the lives. Only Ned Young had died of natural causes - asthma.

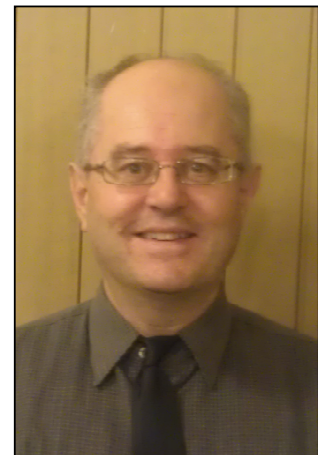
John Adams (with Ned Young until his death) used the Bible from the Bounty to teach literacy and the Christian religion to the community of 9 women and 19 children. They held regular Sunday services. The Ten Commandments formed the basis for the governance of the small, now peaceful, Pitcairn community.

Jesus taught us *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'* [Matthew 22: 37-39].

Although some people argue that the Ten Commandments are just a negative list of 'Thou shall not's, those rules help us to love God and each other.

The Norfolk Island community, formed when the Pitcairners relocated, became an important centre of Christian mission.

The story following on from the mutiny provides an amazing example of what happens when people follow God's Word.



The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20: 1-17 [NIV]

¹ And God spoke all these words:

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour."

Sunday, 22nd March – Mr. Mike Poulton – Service in Song



Our Service in Song, organised by Mike Poulton, was a little different. We used hymns to take us through Jesus' time on earth: His birth; His death; His Resurrection and our response to Him.

We were glad to welcome the Saint Andrew's Singers from Yass who contributed to the service.

In place of a sermon, Mike brought us some thoughts arising from Charles Wesley's hymn "And can it be ...", originally part of a sermon by Rev. Ian Alcorn which Mike used with permission.

The service reminded us of the wealth of devotion, teaching, theology, joy, praise and worship that the hymns we know so well and sing contain. They are more than just songs. They can and do direct us to God, help us focus on Him and give Him the Worship He is due. ID

There are often interesting stories behind the writing of hymns. Some were printed in the last issue of *The Next Step*, some Mike shared during the service and more are printed below.

Hymn Stories

"O For a thousand Tongues to Sing"

After their conversions, the Wesley brothers sent word to their sainted mother, Susanna, who didn't know what to make of it. "I think you have fallen into an odd way of thinking," she replied.

But, a new vitality came into Charles' public preaching. He discontinued reading his sermons and began preaching extemporaneously.

As the first anniversary of his conversion approached, Charles wrote an 18-stanza hymn describing his praise for the Lord. It was titled, "For the Anniversary Day of One's conversion," and the first stanza began: "Glory to God, and praise And love..." Verse 7 began "O for a thousand tongues to sing," inspired by a statement Charles had once heard: "Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Him with them all."

Today we usually sing verses 7, 8, 9 and 10 of Wesley's original. John, was compiling a Collection of Hymns and chose "O For a thousand Tongues to Sing" as the first hymn in the book and it is still there today.

"O come, O come Emmanuel"

As a high church traditionalist, John Mason Neale disliked the hymns of Isaac Watts and longed to return Christianity to the liturgical dignity of church history. He campaigned against certain types of heating stoves that spoiled the tastefulness and charm of English churches. He also worked hard to translate ancient Greek and Latin hymns into English.

In today's hymnals we find Neale and Watts side-by-side, the old differences having been forgotten. We owe a debt of gratitude every time we sing one of his Christmas carols: "Good King Wenceslas", "O come, O come Emmanuel", "Good Christian Men Rejoice", and his Palm Sunday hymn "All glory Laud and Honour".

"Stille Nacht"

On Christmas Eve, 24 December 1818, in the newly constructed Church of St Nicholas in Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Fr Joseph Mohr prepared for the midnight service. But the organ was broken. He decided to write a new song that could be sung organless. Hastily he wrote :

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

Taking the text to the organist, Franz Gruber, he explained the situation and asked Franz to compose a suitable tune, and accompany it that night on guitar. Now of course we know it as the familiar "Silent Night".

"When I Survey"

In March 1700 Isaac Watts' brother, Enoch, urged him to publish his hymns, which finally happened in 1707. "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" appeared in this book of hymns. Inspired by Galatians 6:14, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world".

Many consider it the finest hymn in English church history, and, interestingly, Charles Wesley reportedly said he would rather have written it than all his own!

"Christ Arose"

This hymn, "Christ Arose", was written one evening during the Easter season in 1874 while Baptist preacher Robert Lowry was engaged in his devotions. He became deeply impressed with Luke 24:6-8, especially the words of the angel at the tomb of Christ: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."

The words and music began forming in his mind. Going to the little pump organ in his home, Lowry soon completed what was to become one of our greatest resurrection hymns.

"Guide Me O Thou great Jehovah"

The Great Awakening of the 1700s was a heaven-sent revival to many parts of the world. In Wales it was the electrifying preaching of Howell Harris and his convert William Williams.

Williams is best remembered for his hymns. He has been called the "Sweet Singer of Wales" and the "Watts of Wales". In all he composed over 800 hymns, his best known being this autobiographical prayer with its many Old Testament allusions, which first appeared in Williams' collection of Welsh Hymns, "Alleluia" (1745).

"Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah" was used at the funeral of Princess Dianna and it featured in the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games in London.

The repeat in the final verse, emphasises what this service has been all about. The hymn begins with the request to "guide us" and ends with our intention of continuing to "sing praises".

*Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.*

Sunday, 29th March – Rev. Peter Nelson – A song on the way to the Cross

Tonight's reading, Psalm 118, is the last of several Psalms sung by Jews before and after the Passover meal. Mark 14: 26 tells us that Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn after their Passover meal before going to the Mount of Olives prior to His arrest. Psalm 118 would have been that hymn.



It is a Psalm that would have been a comfort to Jesus as he faced his imminent trial and crucifixion. It begins by recognising God's goodness and emphasising that God's love endures forever.

God is our helper and can be trusted. He is our strength and salvation. He does mighty things.

God does not give His people over to death. Jesus did die but He conquered death and was restored to life.

God's judgment is best. The stone the builders rejected is used by God as the corner stone. Jesus was rejected by men but fulfilled God's plan completely.

The Psalm ends as it starts "**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.**" [Psalm 118: 29] ID

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for upholding the communities of Arnhem Land, MAF and our family in prayer over the last month. We have so much to be thankful for and praise Him for.



God's blessings!

Ian and Adele Purdey

Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for safety during both cyclones
- Praise God for many Yolngu who are testifying of God's protection over Galiwin'ku
- Praise God for the connections we are slowly making here, especially resulting from the cyclones
- Pray for us to regain strength and health in the recovery process
- Pray that we can continue with our enthusiasm for opportunities to interact with the community
- Pray for those who have been displaced by the cyclones and are living in the tents and for all the issues this brings

We have had another link with MAF. The Evans family have visited us and spoken about MAF on two occasions.

Sunday, 5th April (Easter) – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan – Good News

Christ is Risen !

He is Risen indeed !

On this special day for Christians everywhere, Campbell took us through the story of the discovery that Jesus was not in the tomb where His body had been placed but had risen from the dead, as recorded in the Gospel of John.



He made three observations:

- If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the Church is based on a delusion.
- The whole of the New Testament assumes the reality of the resurrection.
- Christian hope is founded on the reality of the resurrection.

On 27th July, 1631, Robert Bruce, a famous Scottish preacher, told his daughter "my Master calleth me." He requested the family Bible be opened to Romans 8 and asked that his finger be placed on verses 38 and 39 ("*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"). "God be with you my children. I have breakfasted with you, and shall sup with my Lord Jesus this night. I die believing these words." He died that day. Just as Robert Bruce knew and had confidence in a **living** Lord, so can we. ID



After the service we managed a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" for Alec - 95 years young.

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for.

"People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."

Dear friends

greetings from Finland.

Our life has been really busy with all kinds of activities.



Ritva was again elected to church council. Church council have had lots of meetings. Last Autumn three pastors left our congregation almost same time. Now we have again four pastors, but one of them got call from other congregation. It means more meetings to solve problem. With her school work there is interesting times also. They have to write new curriculum. She also hope that soon they can move from barrack classrooms to renovated school building.

Matti still visiting over 30 different congregations and gives a sermon. He said it is ok as long as he enjoy driving a car. Luckily for him last winter wasn't hard. Only two bad snow storms.

Springtime is coming, even we still have snow and frosty nights. Migratory birds already

flying here.



Today we thank Jesus for giving us the BEST GIFTS of all. The gift of love, forgiveness and Eternal life with him in Heaven. Happy Easter!

with Best wishes

Ritva and Matti Nuorala

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.



Scripture Union Regeneration Dinner 2015 result

After a great dinner, a dedicated team of volunteers helped to count all the donations. The total donated on the night was a fantastic \$76643!

This breaks down to

- \$46992 to the work of Scripture Union ACT, both School Ministry and Camping/Missions.
- \$17870 to School Chaplaincy ACT
- \$3516 came from the silent auction.
- \$8265 was donated to Scripture Union Vanuatu. This equates to over 4 months worth of running costs for the team in Vanuatu!



Services over recent weeks have included the following:



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

Sunday **8th March** – **Rev. Ron Reeson** - If I only had a week to live

Sunday **15th March** – **Mr. Zane Edwards** - Can it be that simple?

Sunday **22nd March** – **Mr. Mike Poulton** (Service in Song)

Sunday **29th March** – **Rev. Peter Nelson** - A song on the way to the Cross

Sunday, **5th April** - **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan** (Easter) - Good News

Sunday, **12th April** - **Mr Rob Nicholls** (Christian Blind Mission) - The King with scars

Sunday, **19th April** - **Mr George Huang** - Our relationships with Christ

Sunday, **26th April** - **Mr. Peter Bentley** - From mutineers to puritans

News from Sue

Hi

I hope you are well and enjoying your autumn - warmth, sunshine etc etc! Over here in Brr Britain we are awaiting our spring, some heat (anything in double figures will do) and sunshine! The spring flowers are now all out so it does cheer me up to see bright yellow daffodils waving in the wind. ...

It was a month ago since we flew out of Melbourne - time has flown by but I am constantly thinking of you back in Oz and what I was doing this time last year. I cannot believe that we are still sorting out things after our year away. ...

I have applied to do some volunteering with a local blind and visual impaired organisation/association so I can keep in touch with those skills. Of course there is another new role I need to practice - being a Nanny. I have tried to make up for the 9 months of cuddles I have missed

I had better finish for now but I wish you a Happy and Peaceful Easter and look forward to hearing your news.

Take care

Love Sue



Sue with grandson Reuben

The Pope and the Rabbi

Several centuries ago, the Pope decreed that all the Jews had to convert to Catholicism or leave Italy. There was a huge outcry from the Jewish community, so the Pope offered a deal: he'd have a religious debate with the leader of the Jewish community. If the Jews won, they could stay in Italy; if the Pope won, they'd have to convert or leave.

The Jewish people met and picked an aged and wise rabbi to represent them in the debate. However, as the rabbi spoke no Italian, and the Pope spoke no Yiddish, they agreed that it would be a 'silent' debate.

On the chosen day the Pope and rabbi sat opposite each other. The Pope raised his hand and showed three fingers. The rabbi looked back and raised one finger. Next, the Pope waved his finger around his head. The rabbi pointed to the ground where he sat. The Pope brought out a communion wafer and a chalice of wine. The rabbi pulled out an apple. With that, the Pope stood up and declared himself beaten and said that the rabbi was too clever. The Jews could stay in Italy.

Later the cardinals met with the Pope and asked him what had happened. The Pope said, 'First I held up three fingers to represent the Trinity. He responded by holding up a single finger to remind me there is still only one God common to both our beliefs. Then, I waved my finger around my head to show him that God was all around us. The rabbi responded by pointing to the ground to show that God was also right here with us. I pulled out the wine and wafer to show that God absolves us of all our sins, and the rabbi pulled out an apple to remind me of the original sin. He bested me at every move and I could not continue.'

Meanwhile, the Jewish community gathered to ask the rabbi how he'd won. 'I haven't a clue,' said the rabbi. 'First, he told me that we had three days to get out of Italy, so I gave him the finger. Then he tells me that the whole country would be cleared of Jews and I told him that we were staying right here.'

'And then what?' asked a woman. 'Who knows?' said the rabbi. 'He took out his lunch so I took out mine.'

Birthplace of the Australian Dawn Service Tradition

Arthur Ernest White served as an army chaplain with the 44th Battalion, enlisting in 1916. It is understood that in February 1918 Padre White celebrated a private Requiem Mass for the battle dead at St John's Anglican Church in Albany.

At 6am on 25th April 1930, it is recorded in the church service register that Padre White celebrated a dawn Eucharist commemorating ANZAC Day. After wreaths were laid at the nearby war memorial it is believed that Padre White, with some of the congregation, proceeded up a bush track to the top of Mt Clarence where an observance took place of a boatman laying a wreath in King George's Sound.

The notation alongside the service entry in the church register reads "Procession to memorial, wreaths laid. Collection for the Distressed Soldier Fund" and "First Dawn Service held in Australia". It is written in Arthur White's hand.

It is the recorded events of this day which mark the birth of the first dawn service tradition in Albany.

While there are differing accounts of the date of the first Australian dawn service, it is certain that Padre White contributed to this Anzac tradition and Albany lays claim to the location to hold the first Australian Dawn Service on 25 April 1930.

from <http://www.anzacalbany.com.au/discover-ww1-albany/albany-convoy-departure/>

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm.
All welcome - contact Joyce for more information
Studying 1 Corinthians

Wednesday Bible Study Group

Wednesdays at 5-00 pm.
Catering for Uni. students - contact Howard for more information
Studying Mark

Friday Study Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm.
All welcome - contact John M. for more information
Studying "The Cross"

Contacts

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Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

TNS editor: Ian Denton - e-mail: iancd@yahoo.com

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month, usually at Marie's.
All welcome
Next meeting 18th May

Services

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



**Mr. Mark
Warren**



**Rev. Ray
Hughes**



**Mr. Revin
Blanchard**



**Rev. Paul
Tabulutu**



**Rev. Peter
Nelson**



**Mrs. Joyce
Hall**



**Pastor Steve
Prior**



**Rev. Dr.
Campbell
Egan**



**Miss Lil
Hardwicke**



**Rev. Owen
Chadwick**

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 - **Rev. Paul Tabulutu**
Sunday **31st May** at 5pm - **Rev. Peter Nelson**
Sunday, **7th June** at 5pm - **Mrs. Joyce Hall**
Sunday **14th June** at 5pm - **Pastor Steve Prior**
Sunday **21st June** at 5pm - **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**
Sunday **28th June** at 5pm - **Miss Lil Hardwicke** (Compassion)
Sunday **5th July** at 5pm - **Rev. Owen Chadwick**

Fix it Yourself

When a guy's printer type began to grow faint, he called a local repair shop where a friendly man informed him that the printer probably needed only to be cleaned.

Because the store charged \$50 for such cleanings, he told him he might be better off reading the printer's manual and trying the job himself.

Pleasantly surprised by his candor, he asked, "Does your boss know that you discourage business?"

"Actually, it's my boss's idea," the employee replied sheepishly.

"We usually make more money on repairs if we let people try to fix things themselves first."