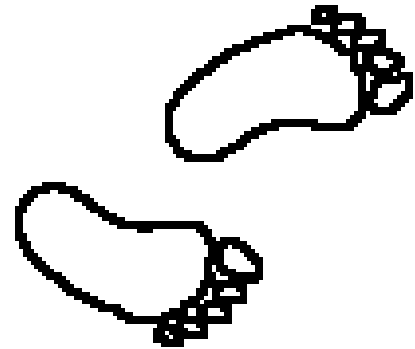


July - September 2015  
Issue 81

# The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

## Hell

### Sunday, 7th June – Mrs. Joyce Hall – The Choice

Hell tends to be an unfashionable subject for sermons, yet Joyce felt she was being led to that topic for tonight, despite her own preference to preach on something else.

Hell exists but what do we know about it? We have a picture of chaff (Matthew 3: 12) or unproductive fruit trees (Matthew 3: 10 & Luke 3: 9) being thrown into a fire. Another picture is of a place of darkness and weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8: 12). Revelations 20 talks about an abyss (v3), a place of torment and a lake of burning sulphur (v10,15). Our understanding of hell may be sketchy but it is certainly an exceedingly unpleasant place, a place of eternal torment.

Jesus doesn't want anyone to go there. It is a place for the Devil and his angels. Jesus has done all that is necessary to save us from hell but too many people are still heading there.

Joyce retold the story of a lady who had been going through some very difficult times. Things were so tough that death almost looked appealing - it would release her from all her worries. The Devil is a deceiver and the father of lies. The peace she imagined would accompany death is a deception. Unless Jesus took her through death, she would enter hell where her misery would be multiplied and remain with her for eternity.

God is love and we can either obey Him or obey the Devil. Jesus has power over death and life. Jesus has the power to change us and show us how to live. Jesus gives us faith, hope and love, he can change distress to joy and instead of despair the Holy Spirit works within us. The lady faced a choice between Jesus and abundant life or the Devil and his lies.

The Bible talks about hell on occasions but it more importantly tells us the way to avoid hell and receive a far better outcome. - "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*" [John 3: 16,17], "*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*" [Acts 4: 12], "*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God*" [Ephesians 2: 8].

Hell exists but we do not have to go there.

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### Sunday, 14th June – Pastor Steve Prior – A spiritual battle in a material world



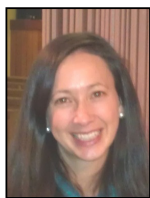
We got two Steve's for the price of one on this Sunday. Steve Prior came to preach and Steve Lindner to talk about his chaplaincy at Campbell High.

Steve Lindner told us a little of what he does and the programmes he runs at the school. There is a lunchtime group that meets weekly that Steve Prior comes and helps lead.

Steve Prior warned about worshipping idols in his sermon. Idols are objects that are crafted by men who then worship their own creation - foolish. Only God deserves worship.

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## **Sunday, 28th June – Miss Lil Hardwicke – Compassion**

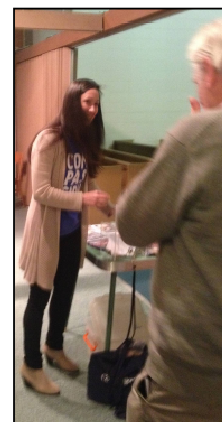


Lil joined us for this service to tell us more about the work of Compassion, an organisation that helps children in need around the world by channelling assistance through local churches. She was able to tell us of her experience visiting aid projects, meeting children being helped and their families and seeing the way lives are being changed.

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 encourages generosity and points to God's great generosity to us.

Lil also quoted Frederick Buechner who wrote "The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt."

Whatever we do may not seem much but it can produce amazing results. God is able!



## **Sunday, 5th July – Pastor Peter Nduati – Prayer**

Peter previously visited us in 2008 and told us about his work with street boys in Nairobi, Kenya. This visit he updated us on that work.

There are large numbers of street kids in Nairobi (60,000), doing whatever they can to survive. They are often exploited by crime gangs who sell them drugs or use them as a cheap criminal labour force.

Peter and his co-workers try to assist boys living on the streets as best they can by providing detox, shelter, food, clothing, schooling and Christian family.

Immanuel Afrika (or I Afrika) (the organisation Peter directs) is able to assist only a small proportion of the street kids however it's work is obviously effective. Peter has been physically attacked by thugs upset that their activities have been disrupted when potential drug customers or gang members are instead helped by I Afrika.

See <http://www.immanuelafrika.org/> for more information.



An old man lived alone. He wanted to dig his potato garden, but it was very hard work. His only son, Joe, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

*Dear Joe:*

*I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me.*

*Love, Dad*

A few days later, he received a letter from his son.

*Dear Dad:*

*For heaven's sake, Dad, don't dig up that garden. That's where I buried the BODIES.*

*Love, Joe*

At 4 a.m. the next morning, the local Police showed up and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologised to the old man and left.

That same day, the old man received another letter from his son.

*Dear Dad:*

*Go ahead and plant the potatoes now. It's the best I could do under the circumstances.*

*Love, Joe*

## **Sunday, 12th July – Rev. Owen Chadwick – Salvation is found in no one else**



The Finnish Lutheran minister, Janne Pekkarinen, was to be away for a few weeks, so he arranged that his congregation would join us on this Sunday. Owen Chadwick has spent some years in France working with students there so found having his sermon translated into another language (Finnish), as he delivered it, no problem.

We enjoyed a very happy time of fellowship with the Finns.

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### Stromlo and Crossroads preachers

Over the years we have been glad to welcome a number of preachers from Crossroads Christian Church and more recently the Stromlo Christian Church.

During July and August we met another four that hadn't preached for us before.

Phillip Ng, Ken Mansell and Ben English visited from Stromlo and Brett Hillam from Crossroads.



Phillip ^  
Ken >  
< Brett  
Ben v



We thank them for their contributions to our worship and look forward to worshipping together with them again in the future.

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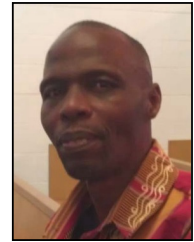
Q:       What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?  
A:       The same middle name.

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## **Dan Muwanguzi and Andrew Kiwanuka** (They have visited us in 2008 and 2013)



Dan Muwanguzi and Andrew Kiwanuka have just sent an Update on their ministries in Uganda. It is in the form of a 4 minute movie on YOUTUBE. It is simple to access. The You Tube site is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4K0QipMKt8>



The video also covers the NGO Christian Model Ministries (CMM) that many of you will remember from the video that Andrew showed during his visit in 2013. As Dan explains in this Update, this initiative is the "fruit" of the teaching and training received by graduates of the C TBS (Church-based Training in Biblical Studies). Our financial support from Australia is directed to Dan, Andrew and their colleagues Edward Kato and Peta Secatawa. This team delivers all the training that is aimed at equipping the students to interpret and apply the Scripture.

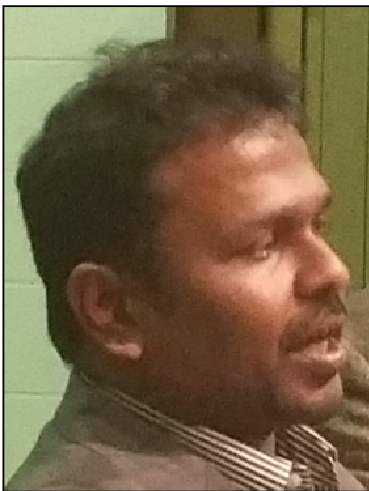
On the video, Dan and Andrew convey their heartfelt thanks to you as one of their supporters in prayer and the financial assistance without which these ministries could not continue.

## **At The Movies**

When the usher noticed a man stretched across three seats in the movie theatre, he walked over and whispered "Sorry sir, but you are allowed only one seat." The man moaned but didn't budge. "Sir," the usher said more loudly, "if you don't move, I'll have to call the manager." The man moaned again but stayed where he was. The usher left and returned with the manager, who, after several attempts at dislodging the fellow, called the police. The policeman looked at the reclining man and said, "All right, what's your name, joker?" "Fred", he mumbled. "And where are you from, Fred?" Fred responded painfully, "The balcony!"

## **Sunday, 16th August – Mr. Jude Simion - God called in a vision**

Jude was with us on behalf of Barnabas Fund, an organisation dedicated to supporting and helping persecuted Christians around the world.



He was able to give us some insight into the conditions forced on Christians in various parts of the world where they are in a minority or under pressure and what Barnabas Fund are attempting to do to assist them.

They are currently talking to the Australian government concerning the plight of middle eastern Christians who have been forced from their homes as a result of unrest there.

Barnabas Fund receive no government aid since they only work with Christians in need rather than the wider community.





## **Sunday, 6th September – Rev. David McDonald - True worship**



Christmas is approaching and so it was time our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were dispatched so they would be ready for distribution. Norma gave us some facts and figures about the distribution of shoeboxes and shared an example of how God connects shoeboxes and recipients. A boy in Cambodia was waiting for his box. Unfortunately the only box left was marked as for a younger girl. It was that box or nothing so it was given to him. He opened it and discovered a bottle of perfume among the contents (liquid, including perfume, in bottles is not meant to be included in a box). He began to cry. The onlookers thought it was caused by disappointment but soon discovered that it was joy. The boy explained he had never been able to give a present to his mother but now he could.

David McDonald dedicated the 84 shoeboxes, some of which were on display.



Before commencing his sermon, David mentioned the Hay family who visited us some months ago to tell us about their proposed move to South Africa to work at Lily of the Valley caring for children abandoned or orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. The Hays have raised 100% of the one off funds they need but cannot make their move until they also have 100% of the continuing support they need. They currently only have 40%.

David preached on True Worship. Worship is not just getting together on Sundays to praise God. Instead we should absorb God's teaching and worship by living the life we learn about. As Christians we need each other. None of us are too insignificant to not be needed, nor are we too important. Each of us have gifts we should use for the common good. As scripture reminds us though, exercising our gifts without love is futile.

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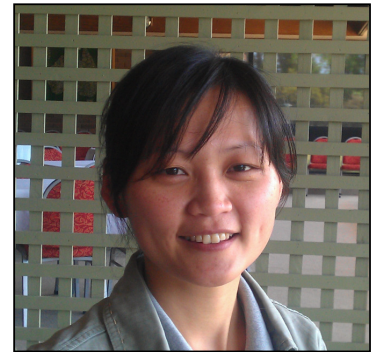


**Danny and Geesheir after the service**

## Fanny

An e-mail has been received from Fanny in Taiwan.  
She writes

I am ok.  
Fred and I moved to a new place, which is very close to his family, so we have more opportunities to get together with them. ...  
I just start my first job after graduation.  
I get a post-doctoral fellow position in a Taiwan's university for a year.  
A lot of work needs to be done within this year.  
Hope that I can complete most of the work in time. :)  
With love,  
Fanny



A vacuum sales man appeared at the door of an old lady's cottage and, without allowing the woman to speak, rushed into the living room and threw a large bag of dirt all over her clean carpet. He said, "If this new vacuum doesn't pick up every bit of dirt then I'll eat all the dirt."

The woman, who by this time was losing her patience, said, "Sir, if I had enough money to buy that thing, I would have paid my electricity bill before they cut it off. Now, what would you prefer, a spoon or a knife and fork?"

## Sunday, 20th September – Mr. Zane Edwards - Rodin's revenge

Zane has recently returned from a trip overseas. While in Paris he saw some of the works of French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) including a large work "The Gates of Hell" that Rodin worked on for much of his life.

Atop The Gates, (the entrance to Hell) stand The Three Shades (the souls of the damned), pointing to an unequivocal inscription, "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here".

This prompted Zane to think more about hope. He shared with us seven thoughts arising from the question 'How can I have hope?'.



- **Dream of what can be, here and in the life to come.**  
1 Corinthians 2: 9,10 tells us  
*"What no eye has seen,  
what no ear has heard,  
and what no human mind has conceived"—  
the things God has prepared for those who love him—  
these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.'*
- **Accept you don't have total control of your life.**
- **Accept you will not feel great all the time.** Life has ups and downs.
- **Set specific goals.** We all need focus and direction.  
Psalm 20: 4 says *"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed."*
- **Be true to your values.**  
Ephesians 4: 1 *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."*
- **Seek help from others.**  
Galatians 5:13 *"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."*
- **Find good in all circumstances.**  
1 Thessalonians 5: 18 *"give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Hebrews 4: 16 says *"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

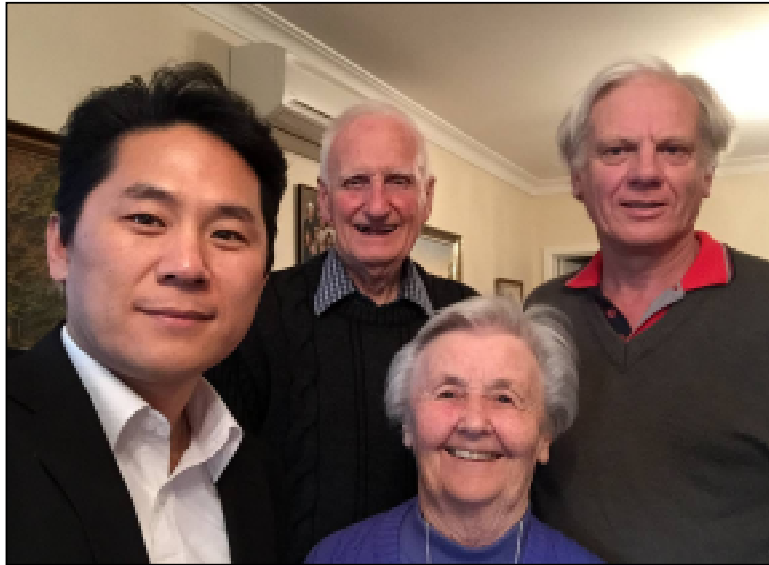
We can have real hope. We can approach God's throne of grace with confidence!

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We were glad to have the Jerrabombera Christian Fellowship join us for this service, and afterwards we were able to congratulate Zane and Anita on their recent engagement.

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## Kevin Kim



Kevin Kim was recently in Canberra for a day to attend a wedding and took the opportunity to catch up with some friends. Unfortunately it was not possible to arrange anything so more people could say hello to him as his time was very limited and his schedule uncertain.

He was interested in how our Fellowship is progressing and asked after us all.

### Services over recent weeks have included the following:



**Mrs. Joyce Hall**



**Pastor Steve Prior**



**Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**



**Miss Lil Hardwicke**



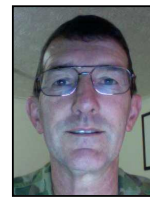
**Pastor Peter Nduati**



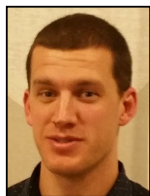
**Rev. Owen Chadwick**



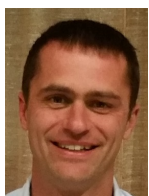
**Mr. Phillip Ng**



**Rev. Phil Anderson**



**Mr. Brett Hillam**



**Mr. Ken Mansell**



**Mr. Jude Simion**



**Mr. Laurie Hockridge**



**Pastor Ben English**



**Rev. David McDonald**



**Rev. Paul Tabulutu**



**Mr. Zane Edwards**

Sunday, 7th June - **Mrs. Joyce Hall** - The choice  
 Sunday 14th June – **Pastor Steve Prior** - A spiritual battle in a material world  
 Sunday 21st June – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan** - A cry for help  
 Sunday 28th June – **Miss Lil Hardwicke** - Compassion  
 Sunday 5th July – **Pastor Peter Nduati** - Prayer  
 Sunday 12th July – **Rev. Owen Chadwick** - Salvation is found in no one else  
 Sunday 19th July – **Mr. Phillip Ng** - The city of God  
 Sunday 26th July – **Rev. Phil Anderson** - From little things big things grow  
 Sunday 2nd August – **Mr. Brett Hillam** - He who has an ear let them hear  
 Sunday 9th August – **Mr. Ken Mansell** - Collecting stuff and death  
 Sunday 16th August – **Mr. Jude Simion** (Barnabas Fund) - God called in a vision  
 Sunday 23rd August – **Mr. Laurie Hockridge** - Don't worry about tomorrow - for God is already there  
 Sunday 30th August – **Pastor Ben English** - When God allows us to suffer  
 Sunday 6th September – **Rev. David McDonald** - True worship  
 Sunday 13th September – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu** - The totality of God's love  
 Sunday 20th September – **Mr. Zane Edwards** - Rodin's revenge



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.



### Coming Up

#### Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm.

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information  
Studying 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.

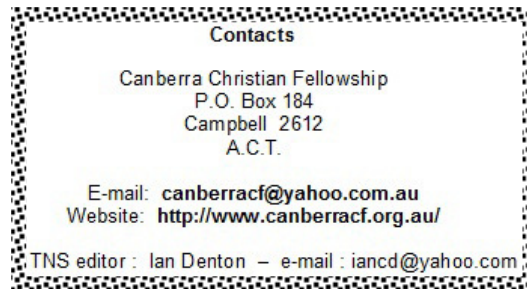
All welcome - contact John M. for more information  
Studying "The Cross"

#### Prayer Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, usually at Marie's.

All welcome

Next meeting 19th October



### Services

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



Rev. Peter Nelson



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan



Rev. Owen Chadwick



Mr. Mark Warren



Mrs. Pam Lake



Mr. Nick Cole



Mr. George Huang



Pastor Steve Prior



Rev. Steve Lindner



Rev. Peter Nelson



Multicultural Carols

Sunday 27th September at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson  
Sunday 4th October at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan  
Sunday 11th October at 5pm – Rev. Owen Chadwick  
Sunday 18th October at 5pm – Mr. Mark Warren  
Sunday 25th October at 5pm – Mrs. Pam Lake (Leprosy Mission)  
Sunday 1st November at 5pm – Mr. Nick Cole (Bible Society)  
Sunday 8th November at 5pm – Mr. George Huang  
Sunday 15th November at 5pm – Pastor Steve Prior  
Sunday 22nd November at 5pm – Rev. Steve Lindner  
Sunday 29th November at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson  
Sunday 6th December at 5pm – Multicultural Carols