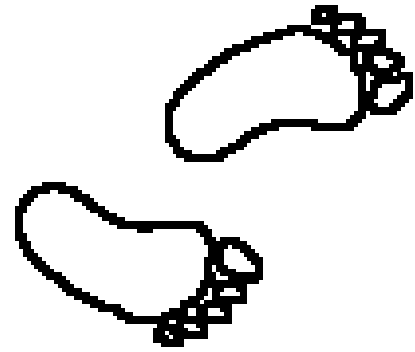


December 2015
Issue 83

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

**12th
Annual
Multicultural
Carols**

Sunday, 6 December 2015
5-00 pm
Campbell Primary School Hall
Chauvel Street, Campbell

ALL WELCOME !!!!!

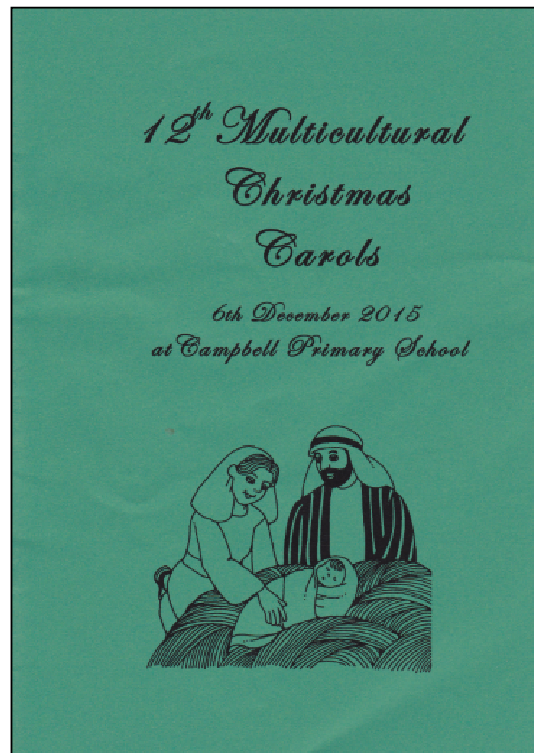
www.canberracf.org.au

Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist tradition)
Guests from Aboriginal Australia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Korea, Tonga
plus Austral-Asians and Tamils.

It is quite difficult to determine how many people actually turn up to something like our Multicultural Carols, especially as some have to leave early, others arrive late and there are some who wander in and out.

Our ushers and greeters all agree that the attendance this year was appreciably larger than the last couple of years. Perhaps 350 people were present for at least part of the Carols.

Our guest choirs brought us wonderful singing that expressed the joy and meaning of Christmas.





Our musicians



Welcome



"O Come All Ye Faithful"



Chinese Methodist choir



**Prayer
Rev. Peter Nelson**



**Introducing the
next choir**



Tamil Christian Fellowship choir



**Greetings from the Canberra Aboriginal Church
Mr. Barry Ingram**



"Away In A Manger" with the children



AustralAsian Church choir



**Bible Readings
Mr. Danny Gao
(Chinese Methodist Church)**



Indonesian Christian Fellowship choir



"The First Nowell"

Fijian Methodist choir



"Silent Night, Holy Night"



Reid Korean Church choir



Rev. Phil Anderson spoke to us about light.

It is obvious really, darkness is often a problem for us. We build lighthouses to help ships determine their position at night and we use torches to help us see in dark spots.

Isaiah recognised a spiritual darkness and prophesied an end to that darkness. *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."* [Isaiah 9: 2]



On that first Christmas the night sky was lit up as angels announced Jesus' birth to shepherds. Wise men followed the light of a star to find the baby Jesus. At Christmas the light of the world Isaiah prophesied came to the earth.

Jesus was God's gift to us that brought light to the spiritual darkness.

Jesus, Himself, claimed, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* [John 8: 12]

We have a choice. We can let the light shine or we can walk in darkness.



Tongan Wesleyan Methodist choir



"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"



**Christmas Blessing
Rev. Abraham Tang**

**Thank you to everyone
for coming and to all
those who contributed to
the success of these
Carols.**



Thank you to Graham for your photography.

Sunday, 1st November – Mr. Nick Cole – Christian Assurance



In 1979 Billy Graham visited Australia. In an interview he stated that he was certain that he would be with God when he died. Some people questioned that statement, asking how could he be 100% certain when he was imperfect just like the rest of us.

Romans tells us that everyone falls short of God's glory - we all have our faults. There is hope however.

It wasn't Judas's desire for money that led to Jesus dying on the cross, nor was it Pilate's fear of upsetting the Jews, nor the Jews' envy of Jesus. John 3: 16 tells us "*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.*" Jesus went to His death on the cross because of God's love for us.

God knows of all our wrongdoing, but it has been paid for by Jesus. We are forgiven, justified and declared righteous. By Jesus' blood we are pardoned.

Romans 8: 38,39 reassures us "*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.*"

Billy Graham's confidence was well founded as can ours be because it is based not on our actions but on what God has done.

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Sunday, 8th November – Mr. George Huang – The glory of God

This day has been a nice day, however not everyday is like this. Some days can be very 'dark'.

When things are not going so well, we want solutions.

Isaiah prophesied when the Israelites were in exile in Babylon. They were looking for a better future.

The prophesy in chapter 60 begins with Isaiah saying God will make Israel a light to the nations. The darkness is sin, but God will show Israel His glory, overcoming the darkness and shining so other nations can see.

This light of God's glory will attract people.

Gifts and treasures will be brought and offered so as to honour God.

Jesus is the fulfilment of this prophesy.

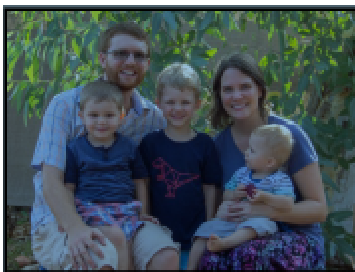
He came to earth and when we look to Him we see God's glory, and the darkness of sin is defeated.

People from all nations are attracted to the light He brings. People and nations are brought together to bring praise and worship to God.

ID



Mission Aviation Fellowship



Ian and Adele Purdey
(Jimmy, Edward & Josiah)

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!

Thankyou for your support, through prayer and financial giving, for reading our newsletters and keeping in touch. We are so blessed to have you partnering with us in so many ways.

Soon we will be heading south for a few months of leave and home assignment. We will be attending and/or presenting at the following churches so **please come along and have a chat.**

That list of churches includes us on
3rd January 2016 at 5pm.



Chinese Methodists

Our fellowship has developed friendships with several ethnic congregations. Those friendships have brought us closer together as fellow members of the Body of Christ.

That oneness becomes particularly evident on occasions when we join together for something special.

On Sunday, 15th November several of our people travelled to Lyons to join the Chinese Methodists for their service at which 4 new Christians were baptised. Two, Danny and Wendy, have been a part of our Wednesday students' Bible Study and Danny has also come to a number of our services, initially with Elsie when she was playing the piano for us.

We were made very welcome, and knowing we would be there, they even arranged for a translator, Emma, so we could understand the sermon and testimonies.

Pastor Lifang preached about becoming a new creation.

Those being baptised acknowledge that Christ is making a new creation of them. They in effect become minute examples of Christ and the fruit of the Spirit will become apparent in their lives. They will be light and salt to the earth.

Lifang told the story of a Christian lady who worked with 13 non-Christian colleagues. She at first felt most uncomfortable and lonely, however her Pastor suggested that it was the dark (difficult) places that most needed light. Rather than quit, she stayed on and became the light of the world to that company. In time several of her colleagues, seeing her faith and example, became followers of Christ themselves.

Everyone of us has a role to play in Christ's Kingdom. We are light to the world. We should pray for non-believers and that we will sow seed that will grow in them, producing a harvest of faithful new believers.

ID



Wendy and Danny

Uganda Biblical Studies Training

Andrew and Dan have visited us twice and preached for us.

Dan Muwanguzi leads the Church-based Training in Biblical Studies (CTBS) helped by Andrew Kiwanuka who is the Director of The Uganda School of Biblical Studies (SBS).

Dan reports that the CTBS Graduation on 1 November 2015 was colourful and full of excitement and joy.



Andrew Kiwanuka (gold shirt), Dan Muwanguzi and Mourreen (student) with Edward Kato and Peter Sekatawa, additional staff, who were crucial to the success of the expansion of the CTBS into two classes.

Sunday, 22nd November – Rev. Steve Lindner – Living a holy life



Steve Lindner came to preach for us for the first time on 22nd November.

He has, of course, visited us on several previous occasions to update us on his chaplaincy work at Campbell High.

The picture is not from this visit but the last occasion he came a few months ago.



School Chaplaincy, A.C.T.

Christmas Greetings,

Thanks for praying, posting our emails and prayer notes on your bulletin boards and for caring for our school chaplains in ACT.

We are in the process of reporting to the Education Department regarding the program in each of our 21 schools this past year and while their first and only question is around complaints, of which there has been none, I'm again reminded that God looks on the heart and has given us opportunity to flourish in the schools that have opened their doors and hearts to chaplaincy.

Working with the chaplains is a joy and privilege and I enjoy hearing the stories from them as they bring help and hope to students in their care.

We still hear from Principals who want a chaplain and our prayer and hope going into 2016 is that we can partner with local churches to fund and provide for these schools.

Please put **Wednesday Evening 25th May** in your diaries ready for next year where we'll be running our annual fundraising event – **Living Hope**. We'd love to see you there to celebrate chaplaincy and enjoy a great evening of fun, food and fellowship.

I'm grateful for your kindness and generosity and thank you for partnering, praying and being genuinely interested in the front line role of chaplaincy in our ACT schools.

Please contact me if you'd like me to visit your church or home group and share about what God is doing in our ACT schools through chaplaincy.

Jesus is the reason for the season.....enjoy celebrating the gift of life in Him.

Sincere thanks,
Di Priest

Prayer:

- Ted finishes as chaplain at Gordon Primary this week and is unwell
- Karen Connors is unwell and trying hard to be able to meet with her keen students at Ngunnawal Primary
- Steve Lindner is bravely finishing off the year with the school and students as they all still mourn the loss of a student to suicide
- Some schools are still wanting chaplains-pray for provision of finances so this can become a reality in 2016
- For all our chaplains who are in need of a well-earned break over the Christmas and New Year
- For our staff retreat in January - provision of funds to cover our costs
- For our Finance Team who are required to complete all our acquittals to the Education Department in a very short time period

Praise:

- Katie Pratt is to become the new chaplain at Wanniasa Hills Primary School in Feb 2016
- For some great applicants already applying for Torrens and Gordon Primary for 2016
- Helen Betz is finishing at Torrens and leaving a strong and positive legacy for the next chaplain
- Principals completing the required Progress Reports along with strong community support for the continuation of chaplaincy in their schools

Dianne Priest | Director Chaplaincy Services
School Chaplaincy ACT

Sunday, 29th November – Rev. Peter Nelson – A great invitation

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong." [1 Corinthians 1:27 (NIV)]

Little children can become disciples of Jesus - little children not in age but in openness. Little 'children' are willing and able to put their trust in Jesus and His Word.

God has committed everything to Jesus. Jesus alone can reveal God to us. He told us Himself *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* [John 14: 6]



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Indonesian Christmas Service

Once again we were delighted to be invited to the Indonesians' Christmas Service held in St. Andrew's Church, Forrest.

As always, it was a special time of celebration and worship. One of the last musical items was a group of young children singing "Away in a manger". They closed the service particularly well.

The preacher was Rev. Robert Benn.

He spoke about coming into God's presence.

Psalms 24 talks about the coming of the King. It also points out that the earth and everything in it (including us) is made and owned by God.

The psalmist also asks who can ascend the mountain of the Lord and stand in God's holy place. It is somewhere we would like to be but it seems unattainable as we don't meet the criteria of "clean hands and a pure heart".

The psalmist appeals to the gates and doors to open up to allow the King of Glory to enter.

Who is this King of Glory? He is "The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.", "The Lord Almighty".

We know it is Jesus. He alone meets the criteria to climb the mountain and enter God's holy place. He conquered sin and death on the cross and rose victorious. He also makes His people clean and pure hearted so they too can enter God's holy place.

In the supermarket, customers were wished a fun filled Christmas.

God gives us so much more than fun. Fun lasts only for a moment. That day Jesus came to earth as a baby, God gave us the opportunity to meet the King who has made it possible for us to join a procession up the mountain to God's holy place where we will spend eternity with Him.

After the service we enjoyed the Indonesians' hospitality with a meal.

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CAMEO at Christmas

John and Audrey, among other things, organise and run a fortnightly gathering for older members of the community at North Canberra Baptist Church. The group has the name **CAMEO - Come And Meet Each Other.**

The last meeting for 2015 was held on Saturday, 12th December and those from our Fellowship who were interested in going along were invited. The programme was lunch, some singing items, a short talk, Christmas carolling together and there were also some craft items for sale. Money raised is to go towards support for a missionary family.

The North Canberra Baptist minister, Rev. Dr. David Griffin, in his talk suggested that we borrow the group's name and remember **Christ And Me Eternally Ok** if we believe in and put our trust in Jesus.

ID

Sunday, 13th December – Mr. Ken Mansell – What I Need To Know

This world can be one of disappointments. We don't always get what we want. What is it, though, that we really need?

We need to know God, both when times are good or bad for us. We need to know what He has already done for us and of the inheritance He promises us.

Paul is 'blown away' by God. God is so deserving of praise. He has already done so much for us. He "*has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*" [Ephesians 1: 3] (The 'heavenly realms are a reality we can't yet see.) "*he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*" [Ephesians 1: 4] Reading the first few verses of Ephesians we can see a little of what God has done for us and how much He thinks of us.

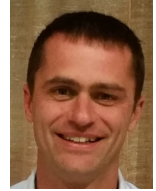
And what of the future?

We are adopted as sons and can look forward to the inheritance due to sons.

God loves us and that love is evident to us through the many things God has done.

Jesus shed His blood and died to buy us back from the clutches of sin and redeem us.

Knowing God gives us a real hope and promise for the future.



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Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Mr. Nick Cole



Mr. George Huang



Pastor Steve Prior



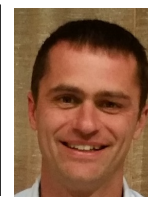
Rev. Steve Lindner



Rev. Peter Nelson



Rev. Phil Anderson



Mr. Ken Mansell

Sunday **1st November** – **Mr. Nick Cole** (Bible Society) - Christian Assurance

Sunday **8th November** – **Mr. George Huang** - The glory of God

Sunday **15th November** – **Pastor Steve Prior** - The arm of the Lord revealed

Sunday **22nd November** – **Rev. Steve Lindner** - Living a holy life

Sunday **29th November** – **Rev. Peter Nelson** - A great invitation

Sunday **6th December** – **Rev. Phil Anderson (Multicultural Carols)**

Sunday **13th December** – **Mr. Ken Mansell** - What I need to know

Oops

His request approved, the News photographer quickly used a mobile phone to call the local airport to charter a flight.

He was told a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport.

Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger.

He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, 'Let's go'.

The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off.

Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, 'Fly over the valley and make low passes so I can take pictures of the fires on the hillsides.'

'Why?' asked the pilot.

'Because I'm a photographer, he responded, 'and I need to get some close up shots.'

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment. Finally he stammered, 'So, what you're telling me, is ___ You're NOT my flight instructor?'

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm.

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information
Studying Corinthians
In recess until next year

Wednesday Bible Study Group

Wednesdays at 5-00 pm.

Catering for Uni. students. contact John or Howard for more information
Studying Mark
In recess until next year

Friday Study Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm.

All welcome - contact John M. for more information
Studying John
In recess until next year

Prayer Meeting

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

All welcome
In recess until next year

Contacts

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

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

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

Rev. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy

Rev. Steve Lindner - Campbell High School chaplaincy

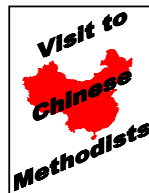
Rev. Peter Nelson - Institute of Sport chaplaincy

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



Coming Services

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



Visit to
Chinese
Methodists

Rev. Dr.
Campbell
Egan

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6



Mr. Revin
Blanchard



Mrs. Joyce
Hall



Mr. Vince
Lorimer



Rev. Paul
Tabulutu



Rev. Peter
Nelson



Mr. Jeff
Mason

Sunday 20th December at 12-30pm – Lunch and Christmas service with Chinese Methodists

Sunday 27th December at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan (Communion)

2016

Sunday 3rd January at 5pm – Mr. Revin Blanchard

Sunday 10th January at 5pm – Mrs. Joyce Hall

Sunday 17th January at 5pm – Mr. Vince Lorimer

Sunday 24th January at 5pm – Rev. Paul Tabulutu

Sunday 31st January at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson (Communion)

Sunday 7th February at 5pm – Mr. Jeff Mason (Scripture Union)