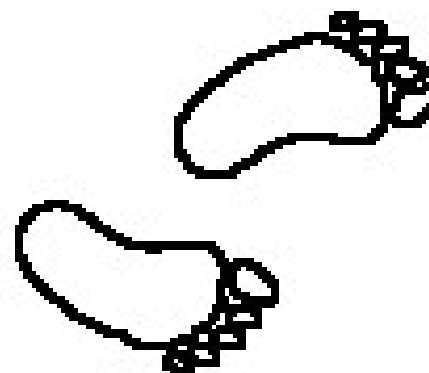


The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday, 20th December – Visit to Chinese Methodists



On the last Sunday before Christmas, we were invited to join the Chinese Methodists for a meal and their service.

Once the meal was completed, we moved into the next room for the service.

As it turned out, the service was a combination of worship and Christmas party, with carols, Bible reading, short talk and games. Pastor Lifang posed the question how would we explain Christmas to someone unfamiliar with it. Several answers were suggested, all ultimately centering on the birth of Jesus.

Members of our Fellowship answered most of the Bible trivia questions, however it should be noted that all questions were asked in English. I am convinced that we would have been spectacularly less successful if the questions had been posed in Chinese.



I couldn't help but think of the carol "Joy to the world, the Lord is come." The service / party certainly focused on the coming of The Lord and the importance that has for all of us, but it was also a time of fun and joy.

ID

Relaxing, refuelling and having a chat

One of the benefits of meeting for worship at the time we do is being able to relax together over a light meal and have a chat after the service is over.

Of course it doesn't just happen. Those people who set up and put away the equipment we use during our time together deserve our thanks. So do those who bring along the refreshments we enjoy and those who clean up and wash up.

This time after church is also valuable in that it allows us to chat with our preacher, any visitors who may have joined us for the evening and each other. Perhaps this opportunity has contributed to the 'friendly church' feeling that many of our visitors have mentioned.

For the last few months we have not moved the tables, as we once did, to reduce the setting up effort. This has meant seating is at the tables providing somewhere to place cups, saucers and plates which is convenient. It also reduces movement as getting to the seats between tables is more awkward.

We should ensure our keenness to mix with each other, the preacher and visitors is not hampered by the way the tables and seating are set out. Our friendliness is an expression of God's working in and through us and as such is something important we should work hard to maintain and increase.

ID

Sunday, 27th December 2015 – Rev. Campbell Egan – The Christ Child

Jesus was born an ordinary child, just as we were. As a baby He needed attention just like any other baby. As he grew He would have had lessons to learn and friends to play with. He would have settled into a daily routine just as everyone else does.



Jesus was also a threatened child. Wise men followed a star to find Jesus but they also enquired about where to find the new King. King Herod, tyrant as he was, wanted to eliminate any challenge to his rule, so ordered all boys under 2 years old in the vicinity be killed. Jesus' family fled to Egypt where they stayed until after Herod's death when they returned to Nazareth.

He might have been ordinary in many respects, but Jesus was also a special child. Before His birth an angel appeared to Mary and told her that the child she was soon going to have was very special. For several centuries this annunciation was celebrated by Christians rather than Jesus' birth. Jesus was the Child of God, the promised Messiah and the 'Word'.

If Jesus had been just been another Jewish child, even having been a great teacher and a martyr, would we still celebrate His birth and life after 2000 years?

God took action. He sent His Son to be our Saviour.

Jesus came to bring light into the darkness of this world.

He came to rescue us and take us back to God.

Jesus is Emmanuel - God with us.

ID

Elsie

Happy Chinese New Year! Sorry for contact you so late for there is a block between gmail to oversea web so I have to change my email address now.

These days I was busying applying for job. I have tried two jobs. First I worked in a hospital, but it's quite stressful and sometimes I need to work for 2 weeks without one day off. So I quitted this one and kept searching for other opportunities. By the way, I really learned much knowledge in the first job and realized many issues existing in China's medical system directly.

Now I'm working in a gene tes[t]ing company. Although it is challengable but very attractive for me. I like the working environment and atmosphere here and I aim to become a genetic doctor in the future.

I heard of Danny had been baptised in church, I felt really happy for him and I believe God will guide him in Spirit and bless his life in the following time. You and other church members also love him all the time that makes Dan feel like really warm in Canberra. It is the same as me, you are always like my grandparents and gave me much support.

Winter is abnormally warm this year. It must be very hot in your place, pls take care and send my greetings to John, Maurine, June and other beautiful people in the church. My parents also asked about you and give the best wishes to you. Hope you can receive my words and wish to see you again :)



Best regards,

Elsie

Sunday, 17th January – Mr. Vince Lorimer – Psalm 36 - A poem in three parts

Psalm 36 has a 3 part structure.

The first 4 verses deal with the grievous state of the wicked.

While godly people know God and fear / respect Him, the wicked and those who do not know Him have no such fear. The ungodly do not recognise sin or they ignore it. They are no longer wise. Just as convicted sinners turn from evil to good, godless men turn from doing good to evil - they are no longer anchored to God.



Verses 5 to 9 make up a hymn of praise to God.

God's love and faithfulness connects us here with Him in heaven. He is righteous and just, the perfect standard against which all else is measured. He sustains us. His love is priceless and available to everyone abundantly.

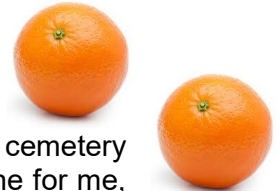
In the last 3 verses (10 to 12) the psalmist, David, connects the first two parts in a prayer that is full of confidence of deliverance.

David requests that God continue to bless His people. He recognises that God's enemies are our enemies too and closes with a picture of God triumphant and evil doers fallen. ID

Two little boys stole a big bag of oranges from a neighbour. They decided to go to a quiet place to share the lot equally.

One of them suggested the nearby cemetery.

As they were jumping over the gate to enter the cemetery, two oranges fell out of the big bag but they didn't bother to pick them up since they had plenty.



A few minutes later, a drunk man on his way home from a bar passed near the cemetery gate and heard a voice saying: "One for me, one for you. One for me, one for you. One for me, one for you."

He immediately sobered up and ran as fast as he could to a church nearby.

"Father, please come with me. Come and witness God and Satan sharing corpses at the cemetery."

They both ran back to the cemetery gate and the voice continued: "One for me, one for you. One for me, one for you. One for me, one for you."

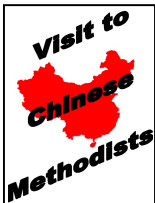




Suddenly, the voice stopped counting and said: "What about the two at the gate?"

A priest and a pastor are standing by the side of a road holding up a sign that reads "The end is near! Turn around now before it's too late!"

A passing driver yells, "You guys are nuts!" and speeds past them. From around the curve, they hear screeching tyres—then a big splash.

The priest turns to the pastor and says, "Do you think we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out' instead?"

Services over recent weeks have included the following:

2 0 1 5			2 0 1 6			
Visit to Chinese Methodists		Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan	2015		Mrs. Joyce Hall	
Visit to Chinese Methodists		Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan	2016		Mr. Vince Lorimer	

Sunday 20th December – Lunch and Christmas service with Chinese Methodists

Sunday 27th December – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan - The Christ Child

2016

Sunday 3rd January – Mr. Revin Blanchard - Enduring the tough times

Sunday 10th January – Mrs. Joyce Hall - Praise and adoration

Sunday 17th January – Mr. Vince Lorimer - Psalm 36 - A poem in three parts

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm.

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information
Studying Corinthians
Resumes in February

Wednesday Bible Study Group

Wednesdays at 5-00 pm.

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

Friday Study Group

Fridays at 2-00 pm.

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

Prayer Meeting

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

All welcome

Contacts

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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**



Rev. Paul
Tabulutu



Rev. Peter
Nelson



Mr. Jeff
Mason



Mr. Laurie
Hockridge



Gideons



Rev. Patrick
Cole



Rev. David
McDonald



Mr. Mike
Poulton



Rev. Ron
Reeson



Rev. Peter
Nelson

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)

Sunday 14th February at 5pm – Mr. Laurie Hockridge

Sunday 21st February at 5pm – (Gideons)

Sunday 28th February at 5pm – Rev. Patrick Cole

Sunday 6th March at 5pm – Rev. David McDonald (Harvest Thanksgiving)

Sunday 13th March at 5pm – Mr. Mike Poulton (Service in Song)

Sunday 20th March at 5pm – Rev. Ron Reeson

Sunday 27th March at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson (Easter) (Communion)