

August 2016  
Issue 89

# The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

## Sunday, 31st July – Rev. Peter Nelson – What is faith?

This was a special Sunday as the Finnish congregation and the Korean congregation, who normally use the church before us, joined with us to make it a combined congregation service. Also with us were a number of people from the Aboriginal Church.



Peter Nelson preached on "What is faith?" and the sermon was also translated into Finnish. The Korean congregation supplied our organist for the service.

Hebrews is a letter originally written to new Jewish Christians. They had put their trust in Jesus and as a result were rejected by the Jewish community. They were in a minority and must have wondered if it was worth their while to follow Jesus. In Australia, we too are part of a minority. Less than 6% of Australians will worship God today. The theme in Hebrews 11 is to keep trusting Him.

Hebrews 12: 2,3 encourages us "*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*"

In trusting Jesus, those early Jewish Christians would be following the example of great Jewish heroes. Those heroes put their faith in God. Hebrews 11: 1 tells us what faith is. "*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*" For those new Jewish Christians and us, faith is believing the message of Jesus and putting our trust in Him.



We are able to prepare for eternal life knowing our hope is based on and looks to Jesus' resurrection.

We can have confidence in all God does and His promises to us. Noah was instructed to build an ark in a very unlikely location. He put his faith in God and did as instructed. The rain came and his faith was proved well founded. In the end, everything God says comes true.

There are two promises we can hold on to by faith"

- Matthew 28: 20 "*... surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*"
- John 14: 2 "*My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?*"

We are encouraged to run the race set before us patiently, always looking to Jesus. There is a great cloud of witnesses who have already gone before us and run their race. We will one day join them.

After the service we were all able to join in a meal together and get to know each other better.

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## Sunday, 7th August – Mr. Ken Mansell – The knowledge of truth



Right at the start of Paul's letter to Titus, Paul claims apostleship and declares he is preaching at the command of God.

Paul has a message from God for us. Even before time began, God planned eternal life for us which comes through knowledge of the truth leading to godliness.

What is godliness? Is it 'God likeness' which the word itself suggests? The original Greek actually translates as 'living good worship'.

To 'live good worship' we need to know what is good and true. Titus 3: 3-8 tells us. The truth is that we were enslaved by our sin but God saved us, washing us clean through Jesus. Nothing we did ourselves contributed to our saving in any way. God did it all. He gave us the hope of eternal life and made us his heirs. As people washed clean of our sin and who trust God we must devote ourselves to doing good, to living our worship, to being Godly.

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Also at our service was Steve Lindner, who came to update us on his chaplaincy work at Campbell High School.

He told us the story of a girl who lost her mother while quite young and came to Australia with an aunt who was caring for her. Things did not go to plan and the girl found herself with inadequate care and a very real threat of deportation back to her home country where there was even less support available to her.



A teacher took her to see Steve to see if he could help her. He was able to talk with her and help her deal with the issues she faced. This support has continued over a considerable period and included daily visits when she was hospitalised.

Recently Steve was able to enlist the help of a very experienced and able immigration agent to deal with the deportation threat. Subsequently he discovered that agent was also a Christian.

Steve received a message just within the previous two days that the girl had now been granted a permanent protection visa and will not be deported. This also means additional government support will be available to her.

Of course not all the problems instantly disappear, however hope has been restored.

There are many in the school community that Steve has chatted with or helped in various ways. He has a challenging and often difficult job. We can do our part by offering him all the prayer support we can.

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## Sunday, 21st August – Mr. Roy Dallos – The ten words of God, Part 2

Exodus 20: 3 is very clear when it reports God's Words "*You shall have no other gods before me.*"

In today's society the terms 'religious tolerance' and 'multifaith' are often heard. How are we as Christians to react to such attitudes but remain true to God's command? God gives us no option. "***You shall have no other gods before me.***"

God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit - The Trinity - do not change. The commandment is just as binding today as it ever was.

This certainly does not give us an excuse to persecute or attack people of other faiths. As Christians we are called to love sinners, pray for those who are lost spiritually and do what we can to bring them to a true knowledge of God.

In Joshua 24 we read of Joshua presenting God's message to the people then challenging them to serve the Lord. In serving Him they were to throw away all the foreign 'gods' they possessed.

Those words are spoken to us too. We cannot be double minded, taking an each way bet and hanging on to our 'gods'. There is only one God!

In 1 Kings 18 we find Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal.

Elijah challenged the people "*How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.*" [1 Kings 18: 21]

The prophets of Baal were unable to entice Baal to light their sacrifice, however when Elijah prayed to God, his sacrifice was consumed by fire. Elijah had demonstrated that Baal was in fact no god at all.

Half hearted devotion is not acceptable to God.

We would do well to do as James 4: 7,8 says "*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*"

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### **Additional baby news**

Missing from last issue's report on Fanny's baby were her name and birthday. We didn't have that information then, but we do now.

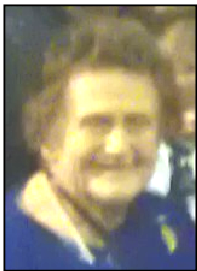
"We usually call her 'little little Chu' (my husband's family name).

Her Chinese name is 朱容寬 (Rong-Kuan Chu) , 容寬 (RongKuan) means tolerance and forgiveness.

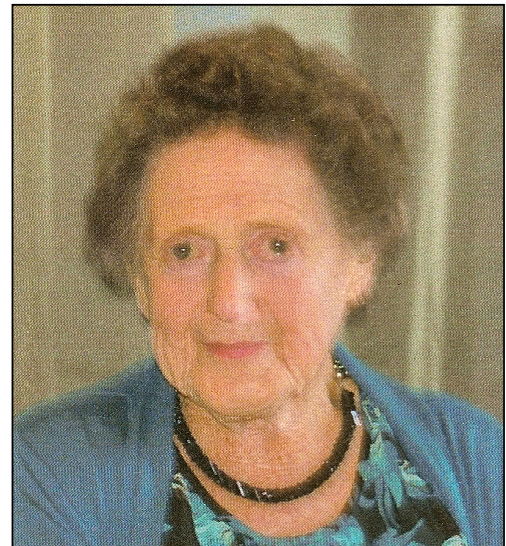
She was born on May 27th."



### **Norma Dennis**



We got to know Norma and Edwin (Ted) Dennis when our Fellowship first started. They were valued contributors to our worship and other activities up until Ted passed away in late 2012. Since then we have seen Norma only occasionally as she has worshipped with the congregation at St. Ninian's which includes many long time friends. Norma has now also passed on.



She was born at Moonee Ponds, Victoria, one of seven children in a farming family.

Early on in life, she developed a liking for reading books which stayed with her throughout her life.

After completing her schooling at Bendigo High School, she commenced work in the GPO (General Post Office).

At Wesley Church, Melbourne, she met Ted and they married.

Moves to Queensland, Sydney and eventually Canberra were a part of their married life, following the employment opportunities that presented themselves to Ted.

Her exploits in the kitchen were much appreciated as her grandchildren noted when remembering her. Her role as a homemaker was not limited to just food. She offered love, interest and assistance to all the family members at every opportunity.

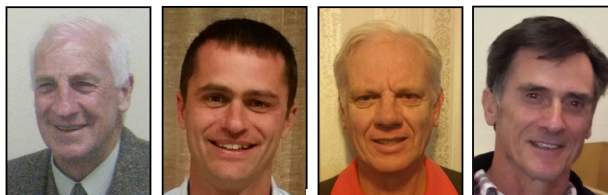
Norma was interested in education and taught Scripture in schools for a number of years. She became a teachers' aide and ended up teaching in a school for children with special needs.

In Canberra she attended Reid Church, then O'Connor Church and more recently St. Ninian's. For a time she also came to our Fellowship with Ted.

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This was compiled from memories of Norma mentioned at her funeral

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



**Rev. Peter  
Nelson**

**Mr. Ken  
Mansell**

**Mr. Ian  
Denton**

**Mr. Roy  
Dallos**

Sunday 31st July – **Rev. Peter Nelson** - What is faith?

Sunday 7th August – **Mr. Ken Mansell** - The knowledge of truth

Sunday 14th August – **Mr. Ian Denton** - Almighty God interested in us

Sunday 21st August – **Mr. Roy Dallos** - The ten words of God, Part 2

## **ANU Giving Day - Let's make konzo disappear**

Most people in our Fellowship are doing to combat the disease konzo, careful not to use his membership of work. Regardless, our Fellowship has been so demonstrably beneficial to humanity.



aware of the work Howard has been although he has been particularly the Fellowship to enlist support for his chosen to support that work as it has one of the poorer sections of

This year the Australian National University has decided to make that work the focus of their Giving Day and hope to raise a considerable amount to further that work. We have already forwarded a contribution to the Giving Day on behalf of the Fellowship as a whole.

Howard tells us more :

On September 21 the Australian National University (ANU) is having a Giving Day, for those who would like to contribute to a worthwhile project developed at ANU. This year, to my amazement, ANU are supporting the work I have been doing since I took "retirement" from active teaching and research at ANU 28 years ago.

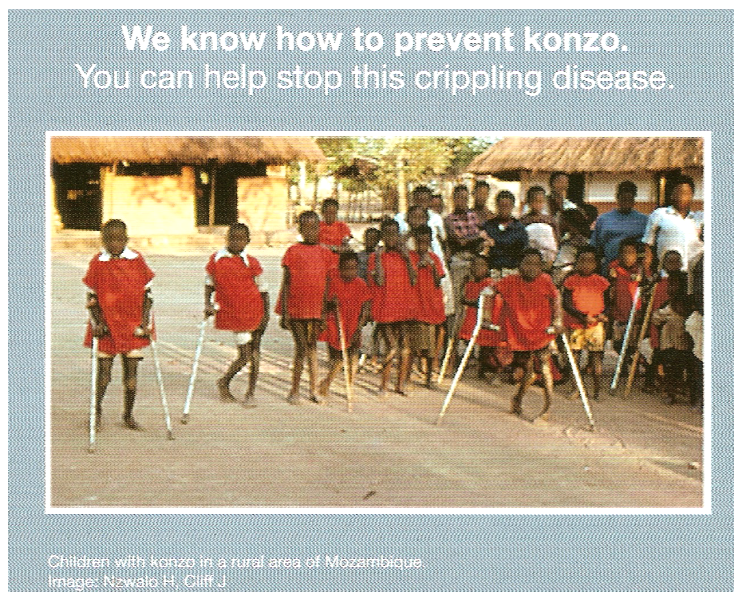
In 2005 I discovered a simple wetting method to remove the poisonous cyanide compounds present in cassava flour, which is produced from cassava roots, the staple food of tropical Africa. I believe that the wetting method is a gift from God for these people.

The cause of konzo is malnutrition and the intake of large amounts of cyanide compounds from cassava. Konzo is a neurological disease that produces an irreversible paralysis of the legs and occurs particularly in children and young women. In collaboration with a team of workers at the National Institute of Nutrition in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) we have taught the women that konzo is not due to witchcraft but to a poison in their food, and shown them how to remove it, using the wetting method. Providing that the wetting method is used every day by the women to remove the cyanide compounds from their cassava flour, then konzo is prevented.

For the first time ever we have prevented konzo in 13 villages in DRC by getting the women to use the wetting method regularly, in the area where konzo was first discovered in 1938. The intervention in the village takes 6-9 months and costs \$25 for every person who is saved from getting konzo. Ian Denton has worked with me part time over many years, both of us on a voluntary basis.

If you are interested to support this work then you may contribute by using the card and envelope that we have at the steward's table. The konzo prevention fund set up by ANU is tax deductible and 100% of the funding will go to support konzo prevention work in DRC.

More information can be found at <http://www.anu.edu.au/giving/support-us/konzo-eradication>



## Mission Aviation Fellowship

We have regularly supported MAF in the past and they are currently raising funds with their Fuel for Father's Day! campaign.



The graphic features a blue header with the MAF logo, the phone number 1800 650 169, and the email maf@maf.org.au. Below the header is a photograph of a small white and red aircraft on a grassy field. Overlaid on the photo is the text "Fuel For Father's Day!" in a white, cursive font. Below the photo is a white box containing the text "It's what's inside that makes the difference" in blue. To the left of this text is a red jerrycan with the MAF logo. To the right of the jerrycan is a block of text explaining the importance of fuel for the organization's ministry.

MAF 1800 650 169 | maf@maf.org.au

### Fuel For Father's Day!

It's what's inside that makes the difference



This humble jerrycan carries one of our most precious resources: fuel. That's why we need your help today.

When the equivalent of one jerrycan (just \$50) gets poured into our aircraft, we are fuelled for 20 minutes of flying. For isolated communities, it replaces days of travel on foot. These short flights have saved many lives.

With your gift of fuel Father's Day you can be a part of this life-saving ministry.

As a Fellowship we are contributing funds for 2 jerrycans.

More information can be found on their website at <https://www.maf.org.au/>

PS We received a phone call from MAF just recently thanking us for our support. Unlike many similar calls, it wasn't followed by "and can you help us again now?".

### Olympic trivia

Australia's Henry Pearce stopped rowing in his 1928 Amsterdam games quarter-final to allow a family of ducks to pass safely in front of his boat. He still won the heat and took gold in the final.

American Fred Lorz's marathon victory in the 1904 St Louis games was overturned when it was revealed he had hitched a lift in a car for most of the distance before racing to the finish from four miles out.

Modern games founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin introduced an arts competition at the 1912 Stockholm Games. The gold medal winner for literature was... Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

Hungarian pistol shooter Karoly Takacs was denied a place at the 1936 Olympics because he was only an Army sergeant and not an officer. The ban was lifted but Takacs then had his shooting hand - his right - badly maimed when a grenade exploded in it during military training. Undaunted, he learned to shoot left-handed and won Olympic golds in 1948 and 1952.

Steeplechasers at the 1932 Games had to run an extra lap on top of their normal 7.5 when an official lost count.

Russian Martin Klein was too exhausted to compete in the 1912 Greco-Roman wrestling final after his semi-final with Finland's Alfred Asikainen took 11 hours.

American Margaret Abbott won women's golf gold at the Paris 1900 games in bizarre circumstances. On holiday in the French capital with her mother to visit the World's Fair which was running concurrently, she took part in what she thought was merely a golf tournament to celebrate the Fair and left for the USA not knowing she had become the first-ever American gold medalist.

Swimming at Athens 1896 involved the competitors being taken out in boats and then asked to paddle the required distance back to shore.

Though cricket was included in the 1900 Paris Games, only two teams entered: Great Britain and a French team entirely comprised of British Embassy staff. Britain won.

Australia's Fred Lane is the only winner of an Olympic 200m obstacle race. In Paris 1900 he successfully negotiated a course which asked competitors to climb over a pole and clamber across a row of boats before swimming under another row of boats to reach the finish.

Possibly the all-time greatest Olympic performance came from Tunisia's modern pentathletes in Rome 1960, who failed to score a single point. All three contestants in the show jumping event fell off their horses before being removed from the shooting competition for firing dangerously close to the judges. One of them nearly drowned during the swimming. Finally, only one team member had experience of fencing, so the Tunisians sent him out again and again for the individual heats, cautioning him not to remove his mask. The ruse was discovered and they were disqualified.

## Chaplains

Rev. Phil Anderson - Army & A.C.T. Emergency Services chaplaincies  
 Rev. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy  
 Rev. Steve Lindner - Campbell High School chaplaincy  
 Rev. David McDonald - A.C.T. Brumbies Rugby Union team chaplaincy  
 Rev. Peter Nelson - Institute of Sport chaplaincy  
 Please remember Phil, Owen, Steve, Dave, Peter and their chaplaincy work in your prayers.



## Coming Up

### Tuesday Bible Study

**Tuesdays at 2-30 pm. - In recess, resuming September**

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information  
 Studying John

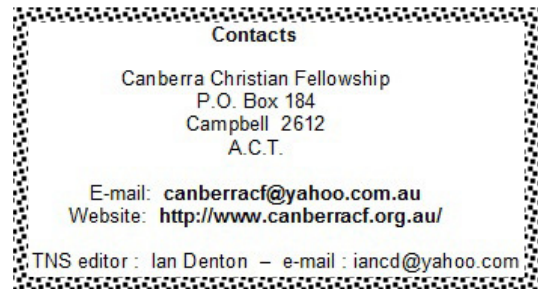
### Friday Study Group

**Fridays at 2-00 pm. - In temporary recess.**

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

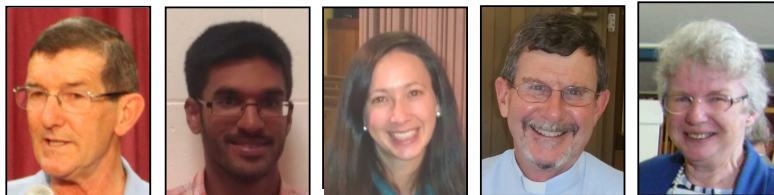
### Prayer Meeting

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

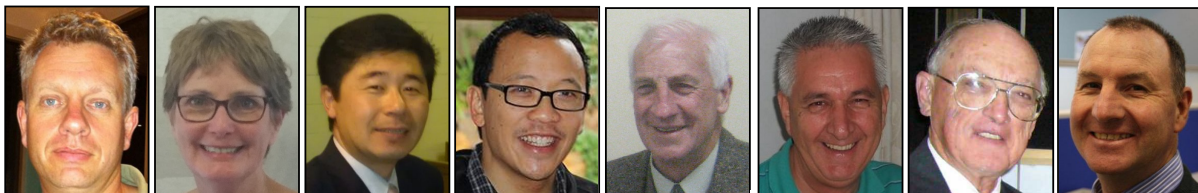


## Coming Services

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



**Rev. Phil Anderson**    **Mr. Revin Blanchard**    **Mrs. Elizabeth Starr**    **Rev. Patrick Cole**    **Mrs. Joyce Hall**



**Mr. Phil McMaster**    **Mrs. Pam Lake**    **Rev. Jangwon Seo**    **Mr. Phillip Ng**    **Rev. Peter Nelson**    **Mr. David Turner**    **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**    **Mr. Nick Cole**

Sunday **28th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Phil Anderson**  
 Sunday **4th September** at 5pm – **Mr. Revin Blanchard**  
 Sunday **11th September** at 5pm – **Mrs. Elizabeth Starr** (Compassion)  
 Sunday **18th September** at 5pm – **Rev. Patrick Cole**  
 Sunday **25th September** at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** (Hymns)  
 Sunday **2nd October** at 5pm – **Mr. Phil McMaster**  
 Sunday **9th October** at 5pm – **Mrs. Pam Lake** (Leprosy Mission)  
 Sunday **16th October** at 5pm – **Rev. Jangwon Seo**  
 Sunday **23rd October** at 5pm – **Mr. Phillip Ng**  
 Sunday **30th October** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson** (Communion)  
 Sunday **6th November** at 5pm – **Mr. David Turner** (Mission without Borders)  
 Sunday **13th November** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**  
 Sunday **20th November** at 5pm – **Mr. Nick Cole** (Bible Society)