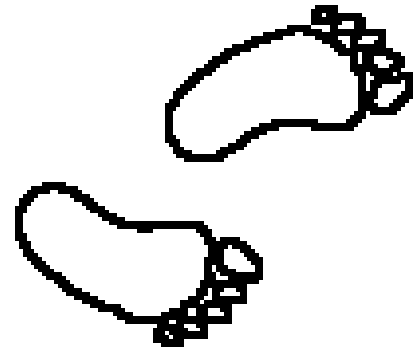


February, March 2017
Issue 91

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday, 5th March – Mrs. Joyce Hall – For what we are thankful

Joyce began our 2017 Harvest Thanksgiving service with a story that reminds us of what we owe to God for His goodness to us.

Alphonso 19th, King of Spain was a good man who noticed that the young men who attended his banquets did not offer thanks to God before eating. He decided to teach them a lesson.

At the next banquet a beggar wandered in, ate his fill and then wandered off again. The young men were indignant that he had eaten from the King's table but not offered any thanks to the King. At this point the King pointed out that they had also not offered thanks to the God who had provided so abundantly for their needs.

Joyce used Psalm 34 for her text. It is a psalm that is filled with praise for God and highlights His goodness to His people.

The psalm ends "*The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.*" [Psalm 34: 22]

What a message of hope that is.



ID



On 5th March, we held a Harvest Thanksgiving service to celebrate God's provision for our needs and the many blessings He showers on us and to offer Him our thanks.

We were joined for the service by friends from the Canberra Aboriginal Church and the Finnish Lutheran Church.

Afterwards we sat down for a meal together.

The produce from our display was given to OzHarvest for distribution.

To Canberra Christian Fellowship,

Our special thanks to you all for the beautiful bowl of flowers, your prayers, thoughts and loving sympathy on the passing of Howard. As you all know CCF and you all were a very important and precious part of Howard's life.

With our love,

Ruth, Joanne, Annette, Meredith and their families



India Update

It is with heavy hearts we announce that on 15 March 2017, Compassion will formally end all program operations in India.

This is an extremely difficult decision that affects more than 147,000 children and 589 local partners in India. Our hearts break with yours as we think about what this means for them—and for you, our sponsors and supporters in India.

However, we trust God and His plan in the midst of all this, even though we don't fully understand it now.

Why is this happening?

We have not been given a definitive response from the Indian authorities as to why they have chosen to restrict our funding and limit our operations—or why they have refused to lift their restrictions. We believe there are two primary reasons.

1. The current India government has placed increased scrutiny specifically against NGOs. Some of their concerns are that foreign aid comes with expectations, so they want to reduce their dependency on foreign funding. In the past 12 months we have seen many NGOs, big and small, faith-based and secular, affected by the government's restrictions.
2. We also believe their decision not to lift the restrictions is, at least in part, religiously motivated. We are a Christ-centred, child-focused and church-based organisation that seeks to serve children living in poverty as a response to our faith and Jesus' call to care for the poor.

But it's important to note that Compassion accepts and serves children and communities of all faith backgrounds (or no faith background), and categorically does not require or force conversion to Christianity at any time. Our support for children and their families is in no way linked to their religious affiliation or beliefs.

Compassion's primary mission is to release children from poverty, not convert them.

Hope for the future

This news is not what we have prayed for over so many months. Yet we know and accept that working in India, and all countries where poverty is so extreme, comes with many different challenges. We're so grateful for your continued partnership in all seasons, but especially during times like these.

...

In the meantime, please join with us in prayer for India. Here are updated requests to join us in praying:

- Please pray for your sponsored children and their families. Pray that they will draw comfort from God's presence and find their security in him. Pray that children will not lose the sense of safety, protection and belonging they found through Compassion's local partners, the program staff and their friends. Pray that God will continue to lead the children, develop them, and call them on to great things.
- Please pray for the local partners in India who will continue to serve children without the funding Compassion has historically provided—pray for wisdom and creativity as they seek the resources they need and the best ways they can minister to their children.
- Please pray for our Compassion India staff as they make difficult decisions during this time.
- And we at Compassion are praying that sponsors and supporters like you will continue to advocate for children living in extreme poverty through this turbulent time.

Thank you for standing with us to release children from poverty in Jesus' name.

Elsie

Supermarkets are great places to acquire information.

Li Fang from the Chinese Methodist Church just happened to be doing her shopping at the same time and in the same place as me so we stopped to say hello to each other. After some chat about how things were going at our churches, I asked if she had heard from Elsie, as we hadn't.

Yes, she had and the news was that Elsie was married a couple of months ago in January.

She will pass on our greetings and congratulations to Elsie and try to get a photograph of the big day for us.

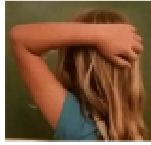
We have tried e-mailing Elsie without success whereas Li Fang uses some mobile phone app to talk to her.

Perhaps we have been using the wrong technology!

More news will be passed on as it is received.



DO YOU KNOW
THE TRUTH
ABOUT
THE SAFE SCHOOLS COALITION
PROGRAMME ?



HEAR

- Joe Carolan, Australian Family Association
- Kat Klayton, concerned Canberra mother

7.30 PM
WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH
The Parish Hall
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Strangways Street
CURTIN

FOR Parents, Grandparents, adult Citizens

**NOTICE OF AN INFORMATION MEETING
ON THE 'SAFE' SCHOOLS COALITION
PROGRAM – 29 MARCH 2017**

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" Hosea 4:6

There is a great opportunity on the 29th of this month (March) to learn more of the truth about the so called Safe Schools Coalition program, which is already in at least 25 ACT schools. Joe Carolan from the Australian Family Association, and concerned Canberra mother Kat Klayton will speak on this program, and what it means for Canberra schools, and our families.

You may be already aware that the ACT Government recently announced, that Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT will start to roll out an ACT version of this program, starting in June 2017, for two years.

Please consider encouraging an open minded parent, grandparent or ACT adult citizen, who should know about the dangers of this program, to attend this meeting. If possible please attend yourself.

**SAFE SCHOOLS COALITION
EXTREME SEX EDUCATION
PROGRAMME**



HEAR

Joe Carolan
Australian Family Association

Kat Klayton
concerned Canberra mother

7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH

The Parish Hall
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Strangways Street CURTIN

FOR Parents, Grandparents, adult Citizens

Dear Friends at Canberra Christian Fellowship

Greetings from David, Janenne and Rachel. Welcome to our January newsletter. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. We certainly did!

This was our second Christmas here at iKhethelo and away from family at home in Australia. However, we were blessed to have Andrew with us for Christmas. For those who don't know, Andrew is David and Janenne's son and Rachel's brother. Andrew is spending three months here as part of our iKhethelo volunteer team. He is living in our volunteer accommodation along with others from Germany, Italy and the UK. Andrew arrived in December and will leave in March. He is loving it here and the kid's certainly love him.



Summer in KwaZulu Natal is normally our rainy season. However, this year has been very dry (and hot). Winter is our dry season with very little rain and the grass goes brown. However, this summer we have not seen much rain. But we did have a few days recently when it bucketed down and closed our access road. Our village manager's car spent two days in this sideways position until the road dried out sufficiently to move it.

Please don't forget we love to hear from you! Please keep in touch and share what is happening in your life, your family and how we can pray for you.

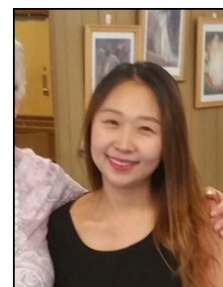
With our love
David, Janenne & Rachel

Ashley

Marie reports she has received a note from Ashley in Korea. It arrived by snail mail and the Post Office must have selected an older, more doddery snail to deliver it as it took around a month to get from Korea to Australia.

Ashley is spending time with family and friends and finding the weather somewhat cold.

The baby is due this month.



Bob Prior

Steve Prior mentioned that Bob underwent surgery in early March which went well. He is likely to move back to Canberra and will probably resume his racecourse ministry.

As Bob was unavailable, Steve was able to assist in that ministry following a recent tragedy.

Warren was good enough to read out the notices for us at church a few weeks ago. It quickly became apparent that he was VERY excited about one event that had taken place during the week. There had been an addition to the family!

Landon David Joshua was born on 16th February to Natalie and Jason which elevated Warren and Heather to the status of Grandpa and Grandma.

Congratulations!

Mother Knows Best - Eventually

One day, young Sarah was watching her mother make a roast sirloin of beef. She cut off the ends, wrapped it in string, seasoned it and set it in the roasting dish.

Sarah politely asked her mum why she cut off the ends of the roast. Mum replied, after some thought, that it was the way that her mother had done it.

That night grandma came to dinner and Sarah and her mother asked why she had cut the end off of the roast before cooking. After some thought grandma replied, she cooked the meat the way her mother had done it.

Now great-grandma was quite old and lived in a residential nursing home, so Sarah, her mum and grandma went to visit her and again asked the very same question.

Great-grandma looked at them a bit surprised and said, 'So it would fit in the roasting dish, of course.'



We have received these certificates in acknowledgement of our support.

Since Operation Christmas Child began in 1990, 146,000,000 boxes have been distributed. Last year 119,828 boxes were distributed that came from Australia with 17,182 of them from the A.C.T. and southern N.S.W..



Sunday, 12th February – Rev. Phil Anderson – Living life to the fullest

When people discuss life, what are they talking about? Life is more than just biological living. People are sometimes described as 'full of life'. In that context life incorporates a certain quality, vitality and enthusiasm.

How do we go about choosing life?

To really obtain life we should embrace God's laws. Psalm 119: 1-8 talks about God's laws and decrees, and states that those who follow them are blessed.

Worldly wisdom suggests that feeling good is an end in itself but the good life by itself lacks meaning.

A life worth living includes the ability to connect with others in a meaningful way and that requires a capacity for selflessness. A pursuit of happiness brings misery but a life moulded by discipline, structure and morality produces fulfillment.

Results in any endeavour come at a price. A runner trains hard to succeed. Without the discipline of the training regime, success is just a dream. Things take effort and so it is with life.

God's law is more than a set of inflexible rules. We need to conform to the spirit of those laws not just follow them with blind obedience. In Jesus we see a life lived to the fullest. Jesus fulfilled the law.

Why should we do things?

We are instructed to love God and to love one another. That gives us ample motivation and guidance to live life as God wants us to and in a way which will give us fulfilling lives.

Anger, immorality and deceptive speech are not a part of that life but Godly living in thought, word and deed is the goal that will bring fulfillment.



ID



Over the last few years a good number of our people have attended the Scripture Union Regeneration dinners and enjoyed good food, entertainment and inspiring speakers.

2017 has been no different.

Once again the food this year gave no reason for complaint and SCAT, a jazz band, did their job well.

The MC injected some humour into his comments and conducted a question and answer session with two young people who had attended a Scripture Union Zone 40 camp. This gave us a real insight into the running and value of such camps, covering topics such as activities, leaders, best aspects of camp, groups, etc.. The attendees are obviously fed well as 'the food' was mentioned as a best part of camp. When asked if camp was worth attending the answer 'Yes, as long as you don't go for the sleep' said volumes.

There were three speakers during the evening.

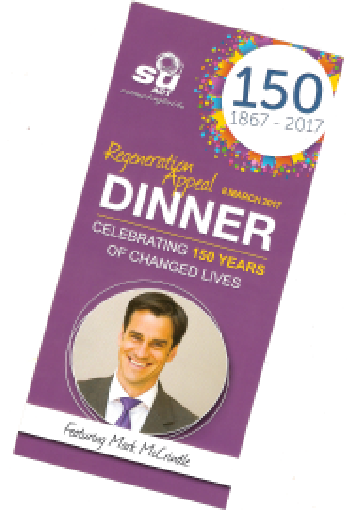
Ana Davey spoke about Scripture Union, not as an organisation, but as a diverse collection of God's people come together to do His work. She looked back at all that has been achieved in God's name through Scripture Union over the last 150 years SU has been operating in Australia and emphasised the need to continually look for the best ways to connect with the present day community so lives can be changed.

Guest speaker, Mark McCrindle, is a social researcher who was able to give us a fascinating summary of the way Australian society has changed in the last 150 years. The population has grown considerably, many new products and technologies have come into existence and the ways we interact have changed. We cannot avoid change and must adapt as society changes about us however we have a message that remains just as important for people today as it was for those 150 years ago.

The final speaker was a mother who attended a Scripture Union camp during her school years and has since been actively involved in a number of Scripture Union activities. She was eager to reach out to young people with God's love and found Scripture Union initiatives, such as SUPA clubs, a wonderful means to do that.

The Regeneration Dinner provided a very enjoyable evening, informed us of the value and potential of SU's work and I'm sure will have raised a good amount to support that work.

Thank you to Warren for organising our tables.



ID

PARAPROSDOKIANS are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence is unexpected. Winston Churchill loved them. Some examples:

1. *Where there's a will, I want to be in it.*
2. *Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.*
3. *If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.*
4. *War does not determine who is right - only who is left.*
5. *Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.*
6. *They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.*
7. *To steal ideas from someone is plagiarism. To steal from many is called research.*
8. *In filling in an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency' - notify: I put 'DOCTOR.'*
9. *I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.*
10. *Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they look sexy.*
11. *Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.*
12. *A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory.*
13. *I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.*
14. *Nostalgia isn't what it used to be. Nor is there any future in it.*
15. *Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.*
16. *Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.*
17. *I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.*
18. *I am not arguing with you, I am explaining why you are wrong.*

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

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



Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Mr. Laurie Hockridge **Mr. Roy Dallos** **Rev. Peter Nelson** **Mr. Jeff Mason** **Rev. Phil Anderson** **Mr. Ian Denton** **Rev. David McDonald** **Mrs. Joyce Hall**

- Sunday 15th January – **Mr. Laurie Hockridge** - The first and the last
- Sunday 22nd January – **Mr. Roy Dallos** - The ten Words of God part 4: Carrying the Name of God
- Sunday 29th January – **Rev. Peter Nelson** - From darkness to light
- Sunday 5th February – **Mr. Jeff Mason** (Scripture Union) - So that you may know Him better
- Sunday 12th February – **Rev. Phil Anderson** - Living life to the fullest
- Sunday 19th February – **Mr. Ian Denton** - Sin, guilt and facing the future
- Sunday 26th February – **Rev. David McDonald** - Learning to number our days
- Sunday 5th March – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** (Harvest Thanksgiving) - For what we are thankful

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm. - In Christmas / New Year recess
 All welcome - contact Joyce for more information
 Studying John

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month at 2-30 pm, usually at Marie's.
 All welcome

Contacts

Canberra Christian Fellowship
 P.O. Box 184
 Campbell 2612
 A.C.T.

E-mail: canberracf@yahoo.com.au
 Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

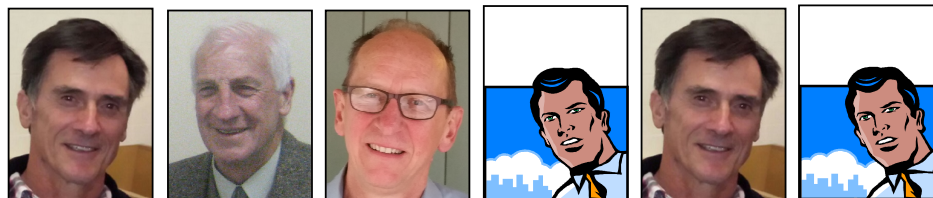
TNS editor : Ian Denton – e-mail : iancd@yahoo.com

Coming Services

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



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan **Mr. Roy Dallos** **Rev. Paul Tabulutu** **Mr. George Huang** **Rev. David McDonald**



Mr. Roy Dallos **Rev. Peter Nelson** **Rev. Owen Chadwick** **Mr. Roy Dallos**

- Sunday 12th March at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**
- Sunday 19th March at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**
- Sunday 26th March at 5pm – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu**
- Sunday 2nd April at 5pm – **Mr. George Huang**
- Sunday 9th April at 5pm – **Rev. David McDonald**
- Sunday 16th April at 5pm – to be advised (Easter)
- Sunday 23rd April at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**
- Sunday 30th April at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**
- Sunday 7th May at 5pm – **Rev. Owen Chadwick**
- Sunday 14th May at 5pm – to be advised
- Sunday 21st May at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**
- Sunday 28th May at 5pm – to be advised