

February 2018
Issue 97

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

"Jesus paid it all"

When Revin preached for us, he suggested a hymn to use in the service. The hymn was "Jesus paid it all". I found the hymn and a story that goes with it.

"How long Pastor's prayer is this morning," thought Elvina Hall.

Sitting in the choir loft, Elvina's mind turned to our need for salvation and the price Jesus paid for it. Words began to form themselves. She had to get them down. But she had no paper. Well, that wasn't quite true...

Scribbling on the flyleaf of her hymnbook, she wrote:

I hear the Saviour say, ...

Not bad. Not bad at all. After service, she handed the words to her pastor. Did his face crease into a little smile at this evidence of her "naughty" behavior? We may never know.

But we do know that an extraordinary "coincidence" took place that day at the Monument Street Methodist Church of Baltimore. Organist John Grape had recently written a new tune and given it to the pastor. The pastor saw that the tune and the poem fit together extremely well. So he united them. In that way one of the most beloved hymns of the church came into being - Jesus Paid it All."

Elvina Hall was 45 at that time. Born on this day, June 4, 1820, she was married first to Richard Hall and then after his death, to a Methodist minister, Thomas Meyers. She died in 1899.

<https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1801-1900/this-hymn-was-more-than-a-coincidence-11630381.html>

Several from our Fellowship found this hymn very meaningful and helpful so, as the hymn is in the public domain, here are all the words.

1 I hear the Saviour say,
"Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

Refrain

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

2 For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

Refrain

3 And now complete in Him,
My robe, His righteousness,
Close sheltered 'neath His side,
I am divinely blest.

Refrain

4 Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.

Refrain

5 When from my dying bed
My ransomed soul shall rise,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
Shall rend the vaulted skies.

Refrain

6 And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
I'll lay my trophies down,
All down at Jesus' feet.

Refrain

Words: Elvina M. Hall (1820 – 1899)
Music: John T. Grape (1835 - 1915)

Lunch and Supper

David and Fiona have been friends to us since our Fellowship began and to some of us quite a bit longer as we knew David when he was one of the minister's kids running around at Reid Church back in the 1970s.

It seemed wrong to just let them move away without some sort of farewell.

Time was short and they were busy preparing for the move however they were glad to join us for lunch.

A day that suited us and them was chosen, a venue selected and all systems seemed to be 'GO'.

Our first obstacle arose when the booking requirements for the chosen venue proved onerous, expensive and inflexible. Solution - go somewhere else. Fortunately Ruth had very recently visited the Fillos Taverna within the Hellenic Club at Phillip and found it particularly good and suitable for our lunch. Problem solved!

The day arrived and so did obstacle number 2.

David was called away to Wollongong to attend to a particular situation as part of his work.

There was little opportunity to reschedule or pass the word around so we went ahead as planned with just 1 guest of honour present, not 2.



**Left side of table, closest to farthest: Ian, Joyce, Isobel, Ruth, Fiona, Maurine, Marie (half hidden), Joan.
Right side of table, closest to farthest: John, Janelle, Vince, Warren, Heather, Ian, Laurie, Norma.**

Parking at the club was reasonable, the menu had a variety of reasonably priced meals to choose from, the food itself was tasty and the service was as friendly, helpful and welcoming as you could want. (I'm sure Fillos Taverna earned itself a number of repeat bookings.)

We wished Fiona and David, in his absence, God's blessing for their move and gave Fiona a card and gift made up from contributions from our Fellowship and people.



**Left side of table, closest to farthest: Norma, Laurie, Ian, Heather, Warren, Vince, Janelle, John.
Right side of table, closest to farthest: Joan, Marie, Maurine, Fiona, Ruth, Isobel, Joyce, Ian (hidden).**

The next Sunday, David and Fiona dropped in for supper after our service so David could say his farewells in person.

Even though they will be close to 650 kms away, David has said if we need his assistance, to get in touch and he will do what he can for us. ID

The law giveth and the law taketh away

A Charlotte, North Carolina man having purchased a box of very rare, very expensive cigars insured them against fire among other things. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of cigars and without having made even his first premium payment on the policy, the man filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the man stated that the cigars were lost "in a series of small fires." The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason: that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion.

The man sued and won.

In delivering the ruling, the judge agreed that the claim was frivolous. He stated nevertheless that the man held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure against fire, without defining what is considered to be "unacceptable fire," and was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure a lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid the man \$15,000.00 for the rare cigars he had lost in the "fires."

After the man cashed the cheque, the insurance company had him arrested on twenty-four counts of ARSON. With his own insurance claim and testimony for the previous case being used against him, the man was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and sentenced to twenty-four months in jail and a \$24,000.00 fine.

Sunday, 4th February – Mr. Revin Blachard - Carried to the end



Living a Christian life can sometimes seem easy, but it is also true that hard times come to us and persecution and fatigue take their toll. We fail to follow God's way and so sin.

Relationships that are hurt by sin must be repaired. In Old Testament times the job of mediating between the people and God and repairing humanity's relationship with God fell to priests, in particular the High Priest. The priests' role was to make sacrifices to God to reconcile men and women with God.

Each year there would be a Day of Atonement when the High Priest, and him only, would enter the Holy Of Holies to make offerings to God. There were strict rules how this should occur [Leviticus 16] as the High Priest was going from the sinful world into the presence of Holy God and had to go there cleansed of sin.

We, as Christians, have a new great High Priest who is our mediator with God. Jesus lived without sin and so can freely enter God's presence and He, Himself, was the sacrifice that cleanses us of our sin.

We can have confidence in Jesus as our mediator. He knew life as one of us, died as a sacrifice for us, gives us direct access to God through Himself and he pleads for us.

Some people look away from Jesus and try to be "good enough" but that is futile. They can never be "good enough". Jesus' sacrifice however can totally cleanse us of our sins if we believe and trust in Him.

Let us remind each other of what Jesus has done for us all, believe together and enter God's rest, knowing Jesus has made peace between us and God.

ID

Lil (Elizabeth)

Lil has visited us several times to tell us about the work of Compassion and of what God was doing through that work.

On her last visit to us she told us how some of the children she was sponsoring had been praying asking that God find a good man for her to meet and marry.

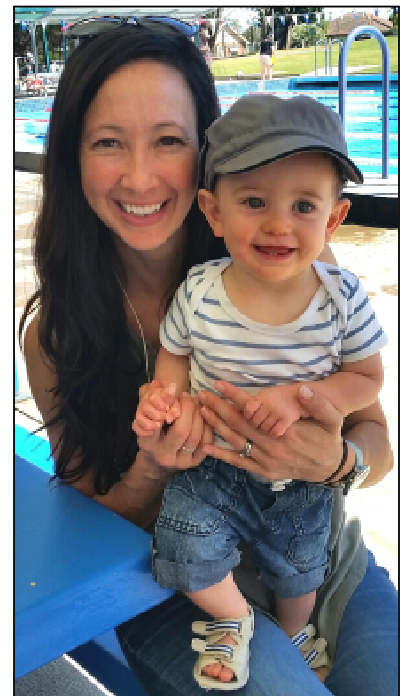
Those prayers were answered and Lil has now been married for some time, lives in Orange and has a young son.

She recently spoke to Ruth and has sent photos of her and her family.

She writes *"I would love to stay in touch and come and see you all in Canberra again soon. Maybe I can come and share one Sunday still about the precious work of Compassion.*

Sending everyone love and thanking God we are all one family.

Xx Lil"



BOXES



Boxes 2007

Let us ask God what He wants of us.

If the answer is just what we've been doing, regarding boxes, let's jump in and do boxes.

If He says serve Him in some other way, let us look for that way. That may still include boxes but perhaps at a level adjusted to our resources.

Both June and Norma in particular have done a wonderful job overseeing our Operation Christmas Child contributions and enthusing us for that work and we owe them much thanks.

Preliminary work for this year's boxes has begun so let us complete what we have started while seeking God's direction for the future.

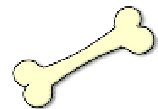


Boxes 2016

How do you rate as a Bone?

It has been said that members of a community are made up of four kinds of bones:

1. There are **wishbones** who spend all their time wishing somebody else would do the work.
2. There are **jawbones** who do all the talking but very little else.
3. There are **knucklebones** who knock back everything else that anyone else tries to do.
4. Finally, there are the **backbones** who get under the load and do all the work.



Thanks Marie for finding and sharing these insights

Chaplains

Rev. Phil Anderson - Army chaplaincy

Rev. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy

Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy

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



Maurine

When chatting with Maurine, several times she has observed "everyone has a story to tell". Maurine's story commences in 1926, extends through depression and war years, includes periods of Christian service in Korea and the Philippines and continues to the present day with her living her Christian faith here in Canberra.



Maurine's grandfather came to Australia from Cornwall. Her father was born in Tasmania but Maurine was a Melbourne girl. Around the age of 6, Dad, Mum, Maurine and her 3 brothers left Melbourne for Numurkah, relatively close to Shepparton in Victoria, where her mother took up a position as housekeeper for a lady there. Maurine's father was a shopkeeper and ran a general store, but he found it difficult to get stock. It was the depression years. Later he became an insurance agent.

Maurine feels greatly blessed to have had Godly parents to guide her growing up. One of her earliest memories is of her father sitting in a rocking chair, holding her and singing "Tell me the stories of Jesus" for her. Church activities were a natural part of their lives. Dad was a local preacher who travelled to different churches to preach. Maurine remembers he gave wonderful children's talks. Mum would go too and sing for the congregations. Maurine was the organist. The Christian upbringing was effective. Two of Maurine's brothers, Bill and Edward, became Methodist ministers.

The third brother, Greg, enlisted in the RAAF and was reported missing in France during the war at age 20, eventually listed as killed.

Maurine completed Year 10 at Numurkah but family finances couldn't stretch to extend her education. Instead of pursuing her early dream of becoming a Kindergarten teacher she became a telephonist in nearby Nathalia. At weekends she would ride her trusty pushbike the 16 miles / 24 kms home over the rough dirt road that connected the towns.

Country football matches (Australian Rules) generated a lot of community spirit with most of the population involved as players or supporters. Numurkah and Nathalia were big rivals which placed Maurine in an awkward position. Who was she to support - Numurkah (home) or Nathalia (where she worked)?

Hockey, netball and particularly tennis were other sporting interests for Maurine.

A neighbouring family included Claude, four years older than Maurine. They knew each other quite well but there was no special connection. Claude enlisted and was sent to Papua New Guinea as part of the 20th Light Horse which was to become the 20th Motor Regiment. Claude's father died and he was returned home on compassionate grounds.



Families often shared meals with friends after church. Maurine and Claude found themselves both sharing a meal with the same friends and as Maurine had to make her way back to Nathalia, their hosts suggested Claude take the horse and gig to get her home. (It was the days of rationing - petrol, sugar, tea, material and other goods were in short supply). A connection between the two was established.

Many Methodists had a cautious opinion of dancing, so on one occasion when Claude took her to a ball in Nathalia, Maurine wondered how some of the people she knew would react. A Belle of the Ball was to be chosen and Maurine triumphed. Later she heard her selection came about because she didn't chew gum and her partner truly treated her as a belle of the ball. Maurine didn't mention any repercussions.

Maurine and Claude were married and a farm half an hour out of Warrnambool became their home. For 42 years Maurine milked cows, mustered sheep and performed the myriad of tasks that made up the life of a farmer's wife in addition to bringing up 5 children and taking her turn at the school canteen. She also took Religious Education classes at the school.

In 1989 Claude died. Daughter Lynn had done a Crossroads course run by Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Romania and suggested her mother do something similar. Maurine was a little reluctant, feeling some of the aches and pains that are a part of ageing, however those reservations were quickly dismissed when waiting at traffic lights, a car passed in front of her with "Crossroads" emblazoned on it. That, she believed, was the sign from God she wanted telling her to go ahead. He would watch over her.

Maurine headed off to Hawaii to the University of the Nations where for 6 months she received spiritual, cultural and other training to better equip her for God's work.

Three months in South Korea followed where she and the team she was part of conducted services and participated in outreach activities. While living and working conditions may have been slightly primitive, it was a time of blessing and learning as they worked with local people facing a wide variety of the pressures of daily life.

Three months doing similar work in the Philippines followed.

A trip to Israel and Greece proved memorable for Maurine. She visited many sites we read about in the Bible with a christian tour group and they were able to see the sights and put them into their



Biblical context. Following Paul's journeys took them to Greece and more Biblical sites.

After her adventures it was back to the farm and in 2006 a move to Canberra where daughters Lynn and Judy both lived with their families.

Looking back over her 90+ years, Maurine remembers times that she took for granted - that is just how things were. In the depression years there were shortages and everyone got by with whatever was available. The war years also meant restrictions and knitting for the troops and raising money for the war effort was part of life. People made their own entertainment. The local bank manager's wife organised a play in which Maurine played a grass skirted maiden. There was never nothing to do. Walks with friends, reading detective or mystery books and going to the pictures on Saturday afternoons filled in any spare time admirably.

Significant moments in her life were mostly family related - births, marriages and times spent with friends.

Her spiritual journey is also very important to her. Growing up in a Christian home, faith always surrounded her. Several ministers contributed significantly to her spiritual growth through their ministries and she remembers seeing Billy Graham preach.

She identified the occasion of a Girls' Comradeship badge conferring service as something of a confirmation of her faith. She confided to her father that she didn't feel worthy of the badge she was to receive. He, with Godly wisdom, answered that if she didn't feel worthy, that was just the time she was ready to receive it.

Maurine sang a hymn she remembered that meant a lot to her and commented that is how she wanted to be.

Not merely in the words you say,
Not only in your deeds confessed,
But in the most unconscious way
Is Christ expressed.

Is it a beatific smile?
A holy light upon your brow?
Oh no! I felt His presence
When you laughed just now.

To me, 'twas not the truth you taught,
To you so clear, to me still dim,
But when you came you brought
A sense of Him.

And from your eyes He beckons me
And from your heart His love is shed,
Till I lose sight of you and see
The Christ instead.

I am uncertain who wrote this poem / hymn. A.S.Wilson is named as author on one internet site and Beatrice Clelland on another.

ID

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at the church.

Currently studying Isaiah

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information

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

BILLY GRAHAM

1918–2018

Billy Graham faithfully proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world, sharing the love of God and His forgiveness of sin. He often said, "I'm not afraid to die, for I know the joys of Heaven are waiting. ... Will you be making the same journey someday?"

The Bible says, "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ... Believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life"

(1 John 5:11, 13, NKJV).



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Rev. Dr. William Franklin Graham Jr 7-11-1918 to 21-2-2018

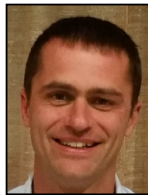
Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Mr. Roy Dallos



Rev. Phil Anderson



Mr. Ken Mansell



Mr. Roy Dallos



Mr. Revin Blanchard



Rev. Owen Chadwick



Pastor Steve Prior

Sunday 7th January – Mr. Roy Dallos - The Ten Words of God Part 11 - Covetousness: The Deep Root of All Sin

Sunday 14th January – Rev. Phil Anderson

Sunday 21st January – Mr. Ken Mansell - Hard Farming

Sunday 28th January – Mr. Roy Dallos - The runaway prophet

Sunday 4th February – Mr. Revin Blanchard - Carried to the end

Sunday 11th February – Rev. Owen Chadwick - Revealed to little children

Sunday 18th February – Pastor Steve Prior - Our God is mighty to Act

What do you call a dog that does magic tricks?

A I-abracadabra-dor.

What did the pirate say when he turned 80 years old?

Aye matey.

Coming Services

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



Mr. David Turner



Mr. Roy Dallos



Pastor Paul Avis



Rev. Jangwon Seo



Mrs. Joyce Hall



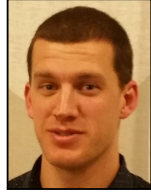
Rev. Paul Tabulutu



Rev. Bob Prior



Mr. Roy Dallos



Mr. Brett Hillam



Rev. Peter Nelson



Rev. Ron Reeson



Mr. Phillip Ng



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan



Pastor Dave Irving



Mr. Roy Dallos



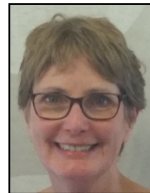
Mr. Jeff Mason



Mr. Jude Simion



Rev. Phil Anderson



Mrs. Pam Lake



Rev. Peter Nelson

Sunday **25th February** at 5pm – **Mr. David Turner** (Mission Without Borders)

Sunday **4th March** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**

Sunday **11th March** at 5pm – **Pastor Paul Avis**

Sunday **18th March** at 5pm – **Rev. Jangwon Seo**

Sunday **25th March** at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** (Harvest Thanksgiving)

Sunday **1st April** at 5pm – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu** (Easter)

Sunday **8th April** at 5pm – **Rev. Bob Prior**

Sunday **15th April** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**

Sunday **22nd April** at 5pm – **Mr. Brett Hillam**

Sunday **29th April** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**

Sunday **6th May** at 5pm – **Rev. Ron Reeson**

Sunday **13th May** at 5pm – **Mr. Phillip Ng**

Sunday **20th May** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan** (Church Anniversary)

Sunday **27th May** at 5pm – **Pastor David Irving**

Sunday **3rd June** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**

Sunday **10th June** at 5pm – **Mr. Jeff Mason** (Scripture Union)

Sunday **17th June** at 5pm – **Mr. Jude Simion** (Barnabas Fund)

Sunday **24th June** at 5pm – **Rev. Phil Anderson**

Sunday **1st July** at 5pm – ?

Sunday **8th July** at 5pm – **Mrs. Pam Lake** (Leprosy Mission)

Sunday **15th July** at 5pm – ?

Sunday **22nd July** at 5pm – ?

Sunday **29th July** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**