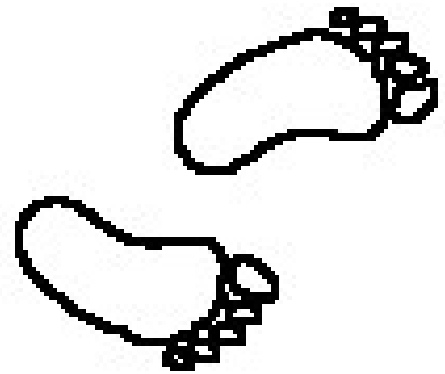


March 2018
Issue 98

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Scripture Union Regeneration Dinner 2018

Scripture Union do a great deal of good work particularly with young people and so it is good to come together at the Regeneration Dinner each year to be reminded of all that is happening, to be re-inspired to do God's work and to help the work continue by providing financial support to SU.

Warren again did a sterling job organising our table.

As always the meals were of a high standard and the speakers excellent.

Anna Davy, SU ACT's director spoke about what SU does and presented an inspiring picture of a dynamic and enthusiastic group of people serving their Lord.

A student from Canberra Girls Grammar spoke about her experience of SU camps and how they had helped her in her Christian growth.



The value and role of SUPA Clubs (**S**cripture **U**nion **P**rietary **A**ge program) was explained to us by a SUPA Club leader. There are many children with no knowledge of Jesus but SUPA Clubs enable at least some to hear a little about Him and get to know people who love and serve Him. We cannot know where these introductions to Jesus will lead but we can be confident they are a part of God's plan for those children.

Bishop, the Right Rev'd Stuart Robinson led us in singing "Wide, wide as the Ocean" before explaining the influence Scripture Union and its activities have had on his life. He believes SU has been much used by God in guiding his path.

Entertainment for the night was provided by SCAT.

\$67,000-00 was raised for Scripture Union's work as a result of the dinner.

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Ailsa

Remembering your own 'ancient history' can sometimes be an effort and Ailsa mentioned that she found it an exercise that tested her brain's memory cells.



Her Grandfather (father's father) came to Australia from Germany. Her mother's parents were from Scotland and Ailsa herself was a Melbourne girl, 1929 vintage.

She grew up with her parents, older sister and non-identical twin sister initially living in her mother's parents' home in Vortier Street, Elwood, then in the family home her father bought in Head Street (on the corner with Foot Street), Brighton, just a short walk from Brighton Beach. Her father worked as a statistician for the Atlantic Oil Company while her mother was a homemaker.

Thinking of those early years brought back memories of day trips to the beach or country every few weeks in the family's great big car or on other occasions going to watch her father play golf - he was a good player but there was a water hazard that he visited quite a number of times.



School was Methodist Ladies' College, Elsternwick (now part of Wesley College, Melbourne) and later Methodist Ladies' College, Kew, where the senior students attended. Certain teachers and their interaction with their students are still well remembered. Leaving school at the end of each day was something of an inquisition. At the gate uniforms were carefully examined and hats and gloves had to be correctly worn.

Despite the close supervision, girls will be girls, and Ailsa has memories of sneaking off to meet up with boys, sometimes missing parts of church services to do so.

Basketball / netball and tennis were sports Ailsa played and she also had an interest in Australian Rules Football and Cricket, attending games as a spectator when she could. Her mother supported the Saint Kilda Football Club but the rest of the family were Hawthorn supporters.

Occasionally Granny (her mother's mother) would provide a small amount of money that enabled Ailsa and twin Naomi to attend the local pictures.

When their parents had to go out and leave the girls alone, Naomi would confidently proclaim she would keep them safe and brandished a sizeable mallet as a weapon that would stop any potential intruders.

Schooling completed, the workforce beckoned. Having learned typing at school and enjoyed it, Ailsa made the most of her skill and became a government typist and stenographer. Firstly in Melbourne and later in Canberra, Ailsa built up her skills to become a valued secretary and experienced administrator, working within government, for department heads, senators and numerous Telstra CEOs. Her work took her in and out of Parliament House and led to plenty of interaction with people involved in the day to day mechanisms of government. If something was going on, Ailsa was likely to know all about it. There are no doubt many tales Ailsa could tell however she has maintained the privacy her position demanded and kept them to herself.

One contact she made through her work in Melbourne was with another clerical worker, Bob. Bob and Ailsa married in 1950 and soon had a family of 3 boys (including twins) and a girl.

The whole family moved to Canberra in 1960 when Bob was transferred. They made their home in Campbell. It was a time pre-lake when everyone seemed preoccupied with establishing their gardens.

Bob was very ill from rheumatoid arthritis for 10 to 12 years before he passed away in 1981.

He had been involved with the Liberal Party as A.C.T. President and Ailsa, for a time, became the treasurer. It was also through the Liberal Party that she later met Arnold whom she married in 1989. Arnold passed away at age 92 in 2016.

Home life and work make up a substantial part of life, however there are other aspects of living that are of importance and significance.

Ailsa grew up in a Christian home and the family attended the Presbyterian Church. For Ailsa her Christian faith grew as she did and became more and more a part of her. In Canberra she attended Reid Uniting Church and was one of our original members when Canberra Christian Fellowship began. She put her business talents to good use for several years as our CCF treasurer.

Ailsa's community spirit was not confined to politics and Church. She has done a lot of charity work with Quota, a service organisation originally set up for women, that has among it's goals eradicating



extreme poverty, empowering women and assisting those with hearing problems. She undertook several Quota board roles over the years such as secretary and treasurer.

As husband Arnold suffered from epilepsy and was active as an advocate for those with epilepsy, Ailsa too became involved. She held the positions of secretary and treasurer of the ACT Epilepsy Association and transformed it from an interest group to a properly regulated organisation, rewrote it's constitution and got it registered as the Epilepsy Association of the ACT.

One little known fact of Ailsa's life is that for a period she owned and ran a sandwich / coffee shop in the main street of Queanbeyan. I'm told she made a 'mean cappaccino' !

For relaxation Ailsa mentioned she did knitting and more knitting. As we chatted she nursed an almost complete scarf that she has been working on recently. She also has done some sewing and just for something different, french furniture polishing. There are a number of examples of her handiwork scattered around various homes in Canberra.



Ailsa with her children

Over the years she has established many friendships and those friends and her family are important to her. Her family she described as "fantastic !!" The family consists of 4 grown children (1 a film maker in London, a set of twins, and only 1 girl) plus spouses and 8 grandchildren (5 boys and 3 girls).

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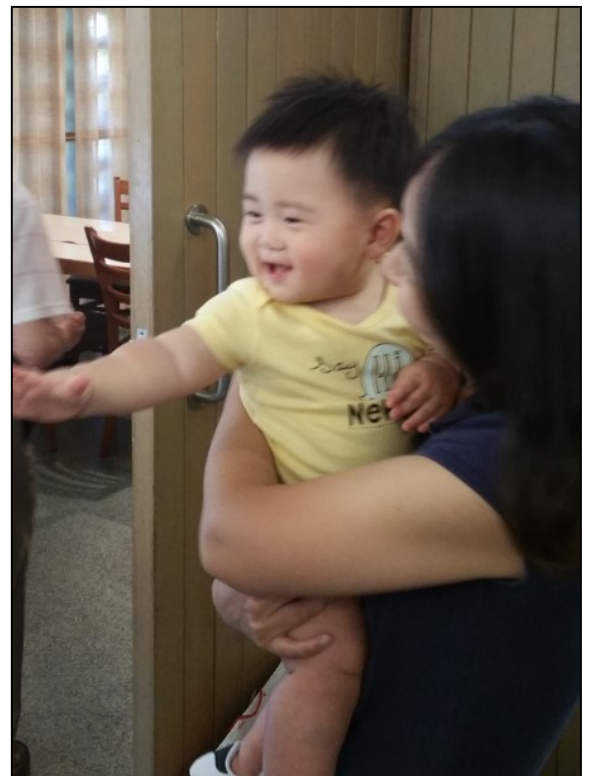
Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?
Of course! The Empire State Building can't jump.

I told my friend not to get too excited about turning 32, since her birthday party would be so short.
"Why would it be short?" she asked.
I said, "Because it's your thirty **second** birthday."

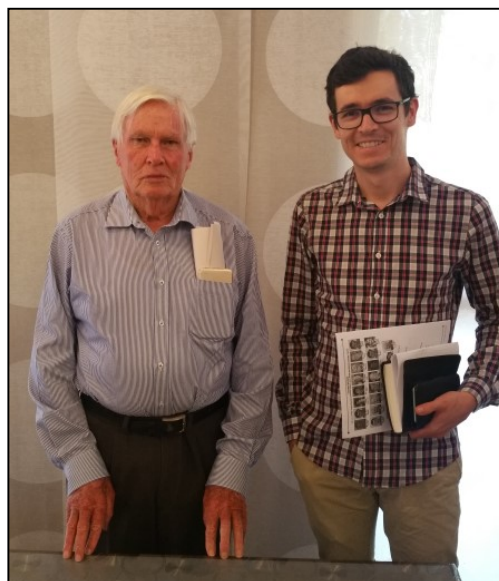
A Tale Of Two Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays is quite a common occurrence for us as most weeks someone has added a year to their total.

In Korean society, the first birthday of a child is a very special occasion and celebrated accordingly. As Eden Cho had achieved the 1 year milestone the previous day, on Sunday 11/3 we too celebrated his birthday, after church. Unfortunately Eden's maternal grandparents who had come from Korea for the birthday and the previous day's party were already on their way back home.



"Happy Birthday" was sung too for John who has an additional 82 years experience of this world minus 3 days.



John with Pastor Paul Avis

Late last year The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Australia / New Zealand contacted us and other churches inviting us to partner with them in the Easter 2018 evangelism outreach to our nation.

During Easter 2018, we are seeking to partner with 1,000 churches to present a united Gospel message to our country through the nationwide My Hope evangelism event.

As our nation turns increasingly to secularism and challenges Christian values, we as the church of Jesus Christ need to lovingly proclaim the everlasting Gospel and share the message of hope and eternal life with everyone we can.

My Hope is based around a 30-minute video 'The Cross', produced by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA). It is designed to be shown by churches and Christian organisations at outreach events and is being offered free of charge.

Partnering churches will be offered promotional resources and the contemporary 'The Cross' video, featuring Billy Graham and guest musical artists, at no cost. They will also be offered free training resources to assist them with the My Hope Easter 2018 outreach.

Jesus said about Himself: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6, NKJV) and churches are asked to stand together and proclaim this truth.

No matter how you use this resource, remember that *My Hope* begins and ends with prayer.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Sharing Jesus is all about relationships. Here are some steps you or your church can take:

PRAY
Billy Graham once said, "We must repent of our prayerlessness and make prayer our priority." Evangelism must begin and end with prayer. Organise a group to pray for a burden and strategy for your community. Begin to pray specifically that people will be saved.

1 PLAN

- During Easter 2018, set a time to share *The cross* film to your community.
- Think creatively about how to show it—and reach as many people as possible to hear the Gospel.

2 PREPARE

- Encourage your church to ask God for a renewed love for people who need the hope of Jesus Christ. Write down the names of those you will commit to pray for daily and challenge your congregation to do the same.
- Help your people prepare by learning to simply share their story and present the Gospel. See our website for helpful tips and downloadable PDFs.


3 WATCH

- Show the film and encourage your congregation to bring their friends, neighbours, or loved ones—including those they're praying for.
- After watching the film, invite guests to put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

4 DISCIPLE

- Use your own materials or BGEA resources to help new believers grow in faith.
- Involve others in your church in personal discipleship of those who made decisions.

PRAY
Praise God for answering prayer and for the salvation of those who received Christ. Continue to pray for those who have not yet been saved and for additional opportunities to share the Gospel in your community.



Our congregation may be relatively small and slightly ageing, however we can pray and have prayed numerous times for revival in this land.

Let us continue to pray as the BGEA has suggested, for our community and for specific people.

We can arrange a time to watch "The Cross" together and with those we invite along.

We can share our stories, our faith and our relationship with God with others.

None of us are religious or theological experts who have all the answers but we do have experience as everyday Christians facing the ups and downs of life. God has been there with us and helped us through those ups and downs. We do have stories to tell of how we came to know God, to learn about what Jesus has done for us and how God has been faithful to us despite our many failings.

"God so loved the world ..." Let us pass on that message to the world as God leads us forward in His service.

PNG earthquake

from the Mission Aviation Fellowship website <http://maf.org.au/png-appeal/>

This is PNG's biggest earthquake in a hundred years.

Now is their time of need. Help us reach the remote and isolated parts of PNG with food, clean water, sanitation solutions and medical care. Help us deliver hope.

On the 26th of February, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake shook Papua New Guinea.

This quake has been followed by numerous aftershocks, including one at magnitude 6.

While the major cities experienced only minor damage, it is the isolated parts of PNG – the areas that are already vulnerable – who have experienced the full force of these earthquakes.

It is currently estimated that:

- 67 people have lost their lives (and many more are seriously injured)
- 7000 people have lost their homes
- 147,000 are in severe need of food, water and sanitation

Help us reach the remote and isolated parts of PNG with food, clean water, sanitation solutions and medical care.

HOW WE ARE HELPING:

MAF has been serving the remote areas of PNG for over 65 years.

In conjunction with MAF Technology Services (CRMF), we have developed a network of radio communications and airstrips to serve these isolated communities.

We are in a good position to serve these remote areas in their time of need.

Aid agencies are scrambling to reach the isolated areas, but with very limited infrastructure available, many will rely on MAF to gain access.

Together, with your support, we can reach these areas.

HOW WE WILL USE YOUR DONATION:

There is an estimated need of approximately \$30,000 AUD to cover the emergency relief flights during this time.



Our Fellowship has contributed \$500-00 to PNG earthquake relief through MAF.

Sunday, 11th March - Pastor Paul Avis - True Comfort



It was September 2011 when we last saw Paul. Since then, he has left Canberra, trained at Moore College in Sydney and returned to Canberra as an assistant Pastor at Stromlo Church.

Canberra is a 'comfortable' city. We have it good here, but is it really 'comfortable' when difficult times confront us or is it's 'comfort' just creature comforts?

The Apostle Paul starts his letter to the Corinthians by describing God as "*the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort*" [2 Corinthians 1: 3]. Paul is reminding them they should rely on God, just as he does.

Life isn't all plain sailing and it certainly wasn't for Paul. Rather than pass off his difficulties as many people tend to do, he states them plainly using them to reinforce the message that he could only rely on God to get him through. His own efforts could never be sufficient. "*But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God*" [2 Corinthians 1: 9].

We would be foolish to settle for Canberra's 'comfort'. For true comfort we must look to God.

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Sunday, 25th February - Mr. David Turner - Mission Without Borders



David Turner and his wife Jill made the trip from Sydney to share with us something of the work of Mission Without Borders.

David particularly requested prayer for Ukraine where continuing conflict oppresses the people.



Mission

We are a Christian organisation serving children, families and elderly people suffering poverty and oppression. Through practical and spiritual support we give hope by meeting urgent needs and building self-sufficient communities.

Called to Mission

We do this work because we believe we have been called by God to help the poor and needy.

Our work is currently focussed on six Eastern European countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. We work with thousands of children and families across the region working through local churches, volunteers and our own specialist staff.



We saw several videos of the work and could see clearly how MWB was benefitting the communities in which they serve.

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.



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

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Mr. David
Turner

Mr. Roy
Dallos

Pastor
Paul Avis

Sunday **25th February** – Mr. David Turner - Mission Without Borders
Sunday **4th March** – Mr. Roy Dallos - The runaway prophet Part 2, Mercy in the midst of God's wrath
Sunday **11th March** – Pastor Paul Avis - True comfort

Aubrey, young Aubrey and I Afrika

One side effect of the SU Regeneration Dinner is that you tend to meet up with people you only occasionally see.

I happened to bump into Aubrey Newman, a great supporter of I Afrika, an organisation we also support that works with street kids in Nairobi, Kenya. Aubrey mentioned that two boys recently came into I Afrika's care. The boys' parents had died and their grandmother was unable to look after them. One of the boys, for reasons unknown, didn't have a name. The other boys got together and chose the name Janice (Aubrey Newman's wife's name) for him. When it was pointed out that that was a girl's name, they got together again, reconsidered and renamed him Aubrey, so now there is a little Aubrey growing up in I Afrika's care.



Unfortunately the 2 boys' grandmother needed help too as she had been raped. I Afrika took her in as carer for 6 girls they now have in a separate house.

ID

You know you're getting old when you go to an antique auction and three people bid on you.

I was on a flight the other day when the air hostess came up to me and said, "Excuse me sir, would you like to have dinner?"

I said, "What are the options?"

She said, "Yes and No."

Coming Services

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



**Rev. Jangwon
Seo**



**Mrs. Joyce
Hall**



**Rev. Paul
Tabulutu**



**Rev. Bob
Prior**



**Mr. Roy
Dallos**



**Pastor Ian
Leung**



**Rev. Peter
Nelson**



**Rev. Ron
Reeson**



**Mr. Phillip
Ng**



**Rev. Dr.
Campbell
Egan**



**Pastor
Dave Irving**



**Mr. Roy
Dallos**



**Mr. Aubrey
Newman**



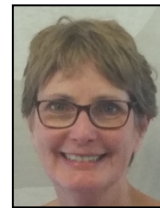
**Mr. Jude
Simion**



**Rev. Phil
Anderson**



**Mr. Brett
Hillam**



**Mrs. Pam
Lake**



**Mr. Jeff
Mason**



**Rev. Janne
Pekkarinen**



**Rev. Peter
Nelson**



**Rev. Patrick
Cole**

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 – **Rev. Ian Leung**

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. Aubrey Newman** (I Afrika)

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

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

Sunday **1st July** at 5pm – **Mr. Brett Hillam**

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

Sunday **15th July** at 5pm – **Mr. Jeff Mason** (Scripture Union)

Sunday **22nd July** at 5pm – **Rev. Janne Pekkarinen**

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

Sunday **5th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Patrick Cole**

Q Why shouldn't you marry a tennis player?
A Because Love means nothing to them.