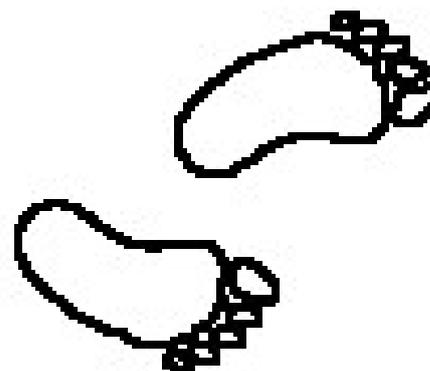


April 2018
Issue 99

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday, 25th March - Mrs. Joyce Hall - The abundant generosity of our Lord

Prayer and preparation produced a service that truly honoured God and left us all uplifted.

Our harvest display took form the afternoon before as all the produce that was purchased and donated was arranged to draw attention to God's goodness to us and His provision for our needs.

As the service time approached, the church filled until there were close to 40 present.



Included in the service were 5 hymns, all of them simple, easy to sing, rousing and with a strong message.

For the Bible reading, Joyce chose John 2: 1-11, the passage describing Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana. This was the first of the signs indicating Jesus was the promised Messiah.

Jesus had six large jars filled with water and changed that water to wine. He was very generous in the quantity of wine he provided. He was generous too in the quality of the wine. It was judged to be the best wine.

Just as the servants did as He asked them, we too should be obedient and put our trust in Him.

Jesus transformed water into wine, but He can and does transform sinners into saints and in place of death gives us life.

To conclude the sermon, Joyce took us through Psalm 23 - "The Lord is my shepherd ..." identifying themes the psalm touches on. Turn your Bibles to that Psalm and read it again looking for the themes mentioned. They are easy to see.

relationship
supply
rest
refreshment
healing
guidance
purpose
testing
protection
faithfulness
discipline
hope
consecration
abundance
blessing
security
eternity

Following the benediction we resumed our seats and enjoyed a postlude Ashley played for us on the piano as our after service meal was made ready.

The meal itself consisted of a wide assortment of cold meats and salads plus other goodies followed by some delicious desserts and was enjoyed by all.

Meal over, it was time to pack up the display and clean up.



On Monday morning all our produce was delivered to OzHarvest who were very pleased to receive it and remembered us from previous years. They collect unused food and distribute it among 54 different charities, refuges, homes and aid groups in this region.

God's blessing on us and our Harvest Thanksgiving service was very apparent and commented on by a number of those present.

ID

Harvest Thanksgiving through the years

Many of us grew up with Harvest Thanksgiving as an important celebration in the church calendar each year. Here are some pictures of Harvest Thanksgiving displays from years gone by to now.



HARVEST THANKSGIVING

- ^ Parkesbourne Church Hall (c1939)
- Parkesbourne Church Hall (1990s)
- > Reid Uniting (2001)
- v Canberra Christian Fellowship (2018)



Easter

Sunday, 1st April - Rev. Paul Tabulutu - Resurrection brings victory, hope and peace

Easter Day was the greatest day! - Resurrection Day!

2000 years later, what does that day bring to us?

Easter is more than just a story - it has power! It can help us in our daily lives because it was a day of reckoning. Jesus overcame death and in His resurrection we can see God's power.

Easter brings us hope. The disciples had great despair and fear - they didn't understand what was happening - but the resurrection gave them hope.

Just as Mary saw Jesus while caught up in her grief and despair, so Jesus is there when we experience despair.

Jesus restored our relationship with God. Now we have access to his power and glory.

Christianity is unique in that God came to us and gives us the power to be transformed.

We have a message of hope from Easter. There is a better life coming. Jesus is the first fruit - we too will be resurrected to a new and better life accessed through faith. Death is only the door.

ID



Sunday, 8th April - Rev. Bob Prior - Trust in the Good Shepherd



Before he began his sermon, Bob gave us a brief update on his race track chaplaincy work. He explained no two days are the same. One day recently he had had a call from a girl with an ice problem and spent some time with her. While with her he had a call from someone else, wanting to say goodbye. That person felt the pressures of life were too great and he was about to end his life. Bob asked him to wait for an hour until he could get to see him. They talked and Bob persuaded him that his problems were not quite so overwhelming as he thought. Some days later Bob received a request for help in getting into a detox program. It was the same bloke. He had realised he needed to make some changes in his life (against the advice of his 'mates') but the practical details were an obstacle. Bob was able to help him make the necessary arrangements.

The racing community is a hardly touched mission field right on our doorstep. Bob has been able to get along side so many of the people there and help them through ups and downs of life and on occasions share the gospel with them. God is active there and Bob can see small but incremental changes in many lives. He is very appreciative of our support for that 'missionary' work.

Psalm 23 is often requested as a reading at funerals but it is not about death, but life lived trusting God.

We have just celebrated Easter. In the events of Easter we find the reasons we can confidently put our trust in God. Jesus, our Lord, died for us. On the cross he told us "*It is finished*" and on the third day he returned from the grave.

King David who wrote the psalm knew the personal care shepherds gave each sheep. He had been a shepherd. "*The Lord is MY shepherd*". We know that shepherd is Jesus, our Lord, and He is shepherd to each one of us.

The psalm applies as we go about our everyday lives. We can go out and do the work God has for us and He will watch over us and provide refreshment and guidance as our shepherd "for His name's sake". People notice us as we live our lives Christ's way.

Difficult times will come, but we do not need to face them alone. Our shepherd will be there with us.

He will give us victory "*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*", abundance "*my cup overflows*" and a wonderful outcome "*I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*"..

ID



This photo was taken in Alabama by Bob Frew who writes:

"I took this picture on Int.20, travelling to Leeds, AL. It has given me strength in the times of trouble. I feel I should share it with the rest of the world. I hope it is an inspiration to you. It just goes to show what we already know ... We have a God, and He's watching over us. ...

Would you look at this picture? It reminds me of that song 'He's got the whole world in His hands'. He is definitely in control."

Sunday, 22nd April - Dr. Ian Leung - Wisdom



James 1: 5-8 talks about wisdom and tells us it comes from God. James 3: 13-18 also talks about wisdom telling us it is seen in good lives.

What is wisdom and how do we recognise it?

Wisdom is not the same as intelligence. Wisdom has a moral and ethical aspect to it and is predisposed to good. It encompasses good judgement and is the skill of living a righteous life.

Temptation seeks to turn us from God's path, so our wisdom is tested when temptation comes. If we are wise we will deny ourselves and reject sin that entices us. We will trust God and not doubt.

True wisdom is demonstrated by living a good life.

Earthly 'wisdom' is not anchored in God but can waver along with the vagaries of human desires, interests and emphases and so is really just foolishness.

Sin diverts us from wisdom but God has a solution for us.

Jesus is wisdom come from heaven (see James 3: 17). Wisdom has found us.

Jesus intercedes for us in Heaven and the Holy Spirit lives within us helping us grow in wisdom.

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SUACT Regeneration Appeal Dinner

SU had a target of \$90,000-00 they hoped to raise from the Dinner.

As of 31-3-2018 they had received \$95,076-00.

21/03/2018



I wanted to write to you and let you know that our Supporter Care team prayed for your church today during morning devotions.

We do this because we are so grateful to have you journey with us. Your faithful support over the years is so invaluable to our mission. Thank God for you and your church community.

God's leading has taken the work of SC ACT, its supporters, volunteers, and staff on a long and exciting journey in His name. And we are thankful for His provision in every way. That provision includes you and the people you lead, who have been inspired by God to keep sowing into this ministry.

And every day, children and young people in schools across the ACT, reap the benefits of that faithful support. Thank you.

And as you have blessed us, we want to bless you. If there is anything at all that we can do to be of service, please call me on 0407 118 387 or (02) 6171 2022, I would love to hear from you.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lyndal Rogers".

Lyndal Rogers,
Field Development Manager, SC ACT

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.
Ephesians 1:16

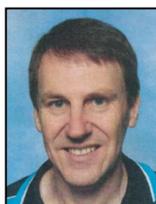
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We have heard from Steve Lindner who was chaplain at Campbell High (for almost 10 years) up until late last year.

I am presently working 3-days per week in Coordinator at Campbell High and am still the wider school community as the need

This has left me with 2-days for my Uni degree this year.



my role as International Private Student involved in providing support to students and arises.

lectures and to complete my social work

As far as chaplaincy is concerned, I have been told that a new chaplain will be commencing through next term, which is great news.

I'm sure your continued support for chaplaincy here will be welcomed by the incoming chaplain, as it was by me.

Please feel free to contact me again in May and I'll hopefully be able to introduce you to our new chaplain.

Kind regards,
Steve

What happens in heaven when we pray?

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel started showing me around. We walked inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received."

I looked around in this area and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section," my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. "How is it that there is no work going on here?" I asked.

"So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings they ask for, very few send back an acknowledgment or a thank you."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked.

"Simple," the angel answered. Just say, "Thank you, Lord."

"What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked.

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. And if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity."

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day. If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation...you are ahead of 700 million people in the world."

"If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world.

If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm; you're unique to all those in doubt and despair."

"How can I start?" I wondered.

Just then I woke up and decided to write down what I had dreamt. Then the thought occurred to me: If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

And if someone showed you this message, then you are doubly blessed because someone cared enough to give you a chance to read it.

Have a good day, count your blessings ... and if you care to, share this to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

"ATTN: Acknowledge Department -- Thank you Lord, for giving me the ability to share this message and for giving me so many wonderful people with whom to share it."

Thanks to Joyce for finding this story and sharing it with us.

A group of Britons were travelling by tour bus through Holland .

As they stopped at a cheese farm, a young guide led them through the process of cheese making, explaining that goat's milk was used there.

She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.

'These' she explained, 'Are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce.'

She then asked, 'What do you do in England with your old goats?'

A spry old gentleman answered, 'They send us on bus tours!'



Dear friends of The Canberra Christian Fellowship.

Thankyou for a special farewell luncheon. It was a lovely occasion.

Thankyou also for your very generous gift. We've put it toward 2 very comfortable recliner chairs - grey leather, which are wonderful to sit in at the end of the day.

David is busy preparing for his talks at Katoomba Easter Convention. I'm settling into work at a practice in Port Macq. 3 days a week

We're attending our little local church plant "Salt" at Lake Cathie on Sat night. The main church at Port Macquarie on Sunday morning.

Our 3rd grandchild is due sometime in the next 2 weeks, so looking forward to meeting them. We've enjoyed hanging out with the older 2 grandchildren at our place, on the beach. I get to go to grandparent day at preschool after Easter.

May you have a wonderful Good Friday remembering our dear Lord's death for our sins, a joyous Easter Sunday celebrating his resurrection as our Lord, Saviour

Love - prayer

David. Fiona.

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

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Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Rev. Jangwon
Seo



Mrs. Joyce
Hall



Rev. Paul
Tabulutu



Rev. Bob
Prior



Mr. Roy
Dallos



Dr. Ian
Leung

Sunday 18th March – Rev. Jangwon Seo - God's tactical Agility
Sunday 25th March – Mrs. Joyce Hall (Harvest Thanksgiving) - The abundant generosity of our Lord
Sunday 1st April – Rev. Paul Tabulutu (Easter) - Reurrection brings victory, hope and peace
Sunday 8th April – Rev. Bob Prior - Trust in the Good Shepherd
Sunday 15th April – Mr. Roy Dallos - From death to life: A prayer of hope and thanks
Sunday 22nd April – Dr. Ian Leung - Wisdom

Thoughts

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

I live in my own little world, but it's OK. Everyone knows me there.

The most precious thing we have is life, yet it has absolutely no trade-in value.

Every day I beat my previous record of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

No one ever says, "It's only a game!" when their team's winning.

Snowmen fall from Heaven unassembled.

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn't need the class!

Wouldn't you know it! Brain cells come and brain cells go, but FAT cells live forever.

Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.

Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison.

Coming Services

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



**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**



**Mr. Robert
Nicholls**



**Rev. Patrick
Cole**



**Rev. Peter
Nelson**



**Mr. Roy
Dallos**

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 – **Mr. Rob Nicholls** (Christian Blind Mission)

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

Sunday **12th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**

Sunday **19th August** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**

Norway has a town called "Hell". It freezes over quite regularly.

The goal of golf is to play as little golf as possible.

People laugh that an elephant would be scared by a mouse. But think how most people react to spiders.

Gyms should offer a very cheap basic membership, but charge a penalty for every day you don't turn up.