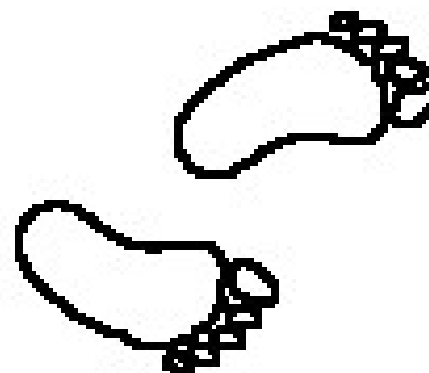


September, October
2018
Issue 102

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

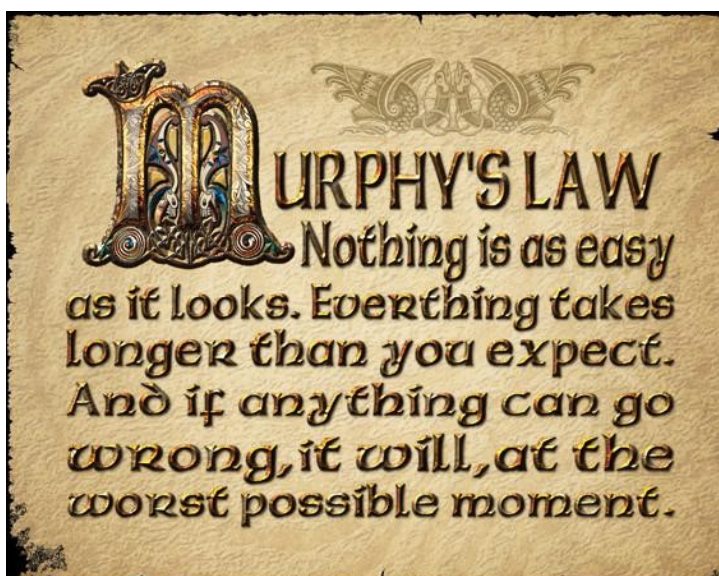
Murphy's Law

When Murphy's Law is mentioned, Most people nod knowingly and expect a tale of something going wrong. The law as most people know it states "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong".

Everyone at some point in time seems to be subject to that law, although it could be argued that bad planning, miscalculation, a lack of care or some oversight was a contributing factor to each and every case attributed to that most frustrating and widely accepted law of nature - Murphy's Law.

The law reminds me of another oft quoted trueism "Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity".

Whether Murphy had a hand in it or not, our service on 2 September got off to a inauspicious start.



Problem: I was running late on my return journey from a trip to Sydney. I would make it to church on time but only just.

Problem 2: I had the key to get in at home and needed to set everything up. The delay to get it would mean a late arrival.

Solution: Ring my friend and get him to bring the key to the church to save the delay to get it.

Oops: He was happy to assist but he got the wrong key.

Solution: Borrow a key from Janne.

Problem 3: Janne was not home.

Only remaining solution: Leave everyone gathered at the door waiting to get in and go and get the correct key and start very late.

End result: A late entry, hurried setup and a win to Murphy.

Final outcome: Everyone was able to have a before church chat, come together in God's presence for a late but worshipful service then have a light meal together and another chat. Everyone was very understanding of the hiccup however I still felt Murphy had had fun with me.

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Sunday, 26th August - Rev. Bob Prior - Living life to the full

One verse, John 10: 10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." encapsulates Bob's sermon.



The work of the thief (Satan)

Satan hates us and hates for us to live in relationship with God. He works to steal, kill and destroy, stealing our attention away from God, bringing about our spiritual death through sin and destroying us by urging us to operate on human understanding rather than relying on God.

The work of the Good Shepherd, Jesus

Jesus does not force us to accept what He has done for us, but He provides us with the opportunity to live with God moment by moment.

It is possible to know about someone without actually knowing them. By placing our faith in Jesus we are born again and enter into relationship with God. We know Him! We enter a partnership with Him in which He helps us do things the right way.

Doing good deeds doesn't get us to heaven, but doing bad things doesn't keep us out. Jesus has provided our entry to heaven.

Living life to the full - doing the will of God

God has a specific plan for the life of each one of us. Our fulfilment comes when we follow that plan and do what God wants.

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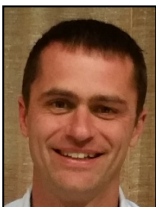
A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon.

"How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

Sunday, 2nd September - Mr. Ken Mansell - In the presence of greatness



Sometimes christian people seem to become distracted by the world and it's concerns and lose their faith, often when they are in their 30s and 40s.

Ken knows some such people and wants to help them retain their enthusiasm for Jesus for the whole of their lives. He shared with us some of the points he makes when discussing faith with them.

Just as many do today, many people in Jesus' time tried to belittle Him. While Jesus was on the cross Jewish leaders mocked Him and suggested He save Himself. So did the Roman soldiers and one of the criminals crucified with Him. The second crucified criminal, however, recognised Jesus' innocence and saw more in Him which the others had missed and asked that Jesus remember Him when He came into His Kingdom.

Many people dismiss much of what Jesus did as just stories rather than historical fact, but in doing that they contradict historians of the time who mentioned His miracles and found them inexplicable. They did not deny they occurred.

Sir Edmund Hillary, the conquerer of Mount Everest, was once told off for climbing on a New Zealand glacier by a local guide - 'that is only for good climbers'. Just as the guide was blind to Hillary's mountain climbing greatness, what Jesus did and who He is is often overlooked or not recognised.

Jesus was someone very special, someone great, but what are we?

The second criminal got it right. He understood he deserved punishment while Jesus didn't.

That applies to us all. In making that admission, the criminal also made one small request, "remember me when you come into your Kingdom." Jesus' response was to give much more than was asked. "Today you will be with me in Paradise".

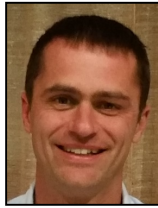
We can look at Jesus on the cross and think of it as a horrible punishment inflicted in the past but we would be foolish to dismiss what He did **for us** on that cross.

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Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Rev. Bob Prior



Mr. Ken Mansell



Rev. Rachel Tonga



Mr. Revin Blanchard



Mr. George Huang



Rev. Peter Nelson



Pastor Andrew Kiwanuka

Sunday 26th August – Rev. Bob Prior - Living life to the full

Sunday 2nd September – Mr. Ken Mansell - In the presence of greatness

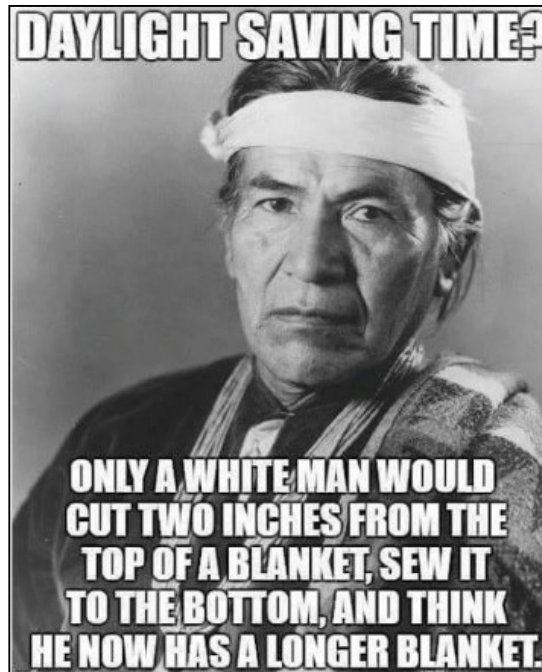
Sunday 9th September at 5pm – Rev. Rachel Tonga - Christians are like Mt. Zion, the holy place

Sunday 16th September – Mr. Revin Blanchard - Surviving in a world of sin

Sunday 23rd September – Mr. George Huang - Christian Unity

Sunday 30th September – Rev. Peter Nelson - Know your owner

Sunday 7th October -.Pastor Andrew Kiwanuka - When the rubber meets the road



Campbell High chaplaincy

Mrs. Lee McMullan is the new chaplain.
She will be visiting us in just a few weeks time.



Sunday, 9th September - Rev. Rachel Tonga - Christians are like Mt. Zion, the holy place

It was quite some time since we had done anything with our Tongan friends as we had lost contact with them, so it was a great pleasure to have Pastor Tevita Ahosivi and his congregation join us for our service. They commenced our worship by singing and their songs were both joyful and filled with praise to God. Later in the service they sang for us again. Rev. Rachel Tonga who had spent some time back in Tonga since we last saw her, preached for us.

ID



Likaina and Pastor Tevita Ahosivi



Rev. Rachel Tonga





Operation Christmas Child.

Our Operation Christmas Child boxes (40 this year) were trucked to Sydney on the Wednesday following their dedication and we were advised that all our boxes would be going to the Philippines where the people have been suffering the effects of a typhoon recently.

We are thankful to the Lord that our boxes are going to such a needy area.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to our Operation Christmas Child effort this year and in previous years, particularly Norma and June.



Sunday, 23rd September - Mr. George Huang - Christian Unity

George observed that living in close proximity to other people can be difficult. It is easy to get on each others nerves especially in times of stress.

Sharing fellowship with other believers is an essential part of Christian life but it too is not always easy as it brings together people with many different backgrounds and approaches to life.

As Christians we are called to live a certain way: to be humble, gentle and patient, to be forgiving of each other, to love each other. While this may be easy when things are going well, it becomes more difficult when conflict or strife surfaces, yet the power of the Spirit unites all sorts of different people.

We have one thing in common, we are saved through faith in Jesus, but we are all blessed with particular talents that enable us to fulfil God's purpose for us. By each doing what God asks of us, together we progress God's plan. As we do this we are strengthened, encouraged and grow.

One day we will all be together for eternity in heaven.

Ephesians: 4: 16 reads "*From him [(Christ)] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*"

ID



Norm

Beaufort, Victoria (a country town beautiful and strong) was the setting for a momentous occasion in 1920. A baby boy was born to the son of a Jack-of-all-trades and the daughter of a dairy owner who also had an orchard. That baby was Norm, first child of four and only son to his parents. Norm's father was a mechanic but had been badly wounded in World War 1, so spent around 1/3 of his time in hospital, 1/3 working at whatever jobs he could pick up and the other 1/3 hovering between hospital and work. Norm's mother's time was taken up caring for her husband and family.

Young Norm grew up through the depression years and became a bit of a breadwinner for the family due to his father's incapacity. He loved the bush and went rabbiting with his ferret, selling furs in winter and rabbit meat to the butcher in summer. It was a time of swapping, sharing and making do and that community caring and cooperation saved families.

At that time in history there were pronounced religious divisions between protestants and catholics, yet in Beaufort at least those divisions were not apparent as everyone was treated equally as just another member of the community.

Algebra was a subject that intrigued Norm while at school. He had a very good teacher who was able to explain it well and used stories to make it more relevant to Norm. Norm remembers that he willingly visited the teacher's place twice a week in his own time to learn more.

Norm was a good student in the scholarship class and progressed from primary school to secondary school but left at age 14.

The wage he earned from the Postal Messenger job he won made a huge difference to the family finances. His commencement in his new position was slightly delayed as while helping do some meat slicing, he sliced the tips off several fingers. An old WW1 Army doctor cleaned things up, reattached the tips and must have done an excellent job as today there is no evidence of that accident.

After delivering telegrams, and clearing public mail boxes and delivering letters twice a day for around two years, Norm sat the test to become a telegraphist and placing very highly in that exam became a telegraphist based in Melbourne in 1937.

War was again imminent and Norm wanted to head overseas and do his bit. While waiting for a response from the army or airforce, he enlisted in the 39th Militia Battalion (then a non-AIF unit) in early 1939. The Telegraphy Department wanted to retain his services but reluctantly let him go when an army signals opportunity beckoned.

War time for Norm was one of much movement from place to place and activity. Landing in Palestine in October 1940, he experienced heavy fighting in the western desert before being rushed to Greece. From north of Thessalonica he provided signals for the Greek army. His duties



led to him being left alone so he joined 9 Greek soldiers with whom he made his way to Crete - a "hairy" time.

Signalists were regarded as valuable personell so when troops were being evacuated to Cairo he was evacuated with them. Many were unable to leave.

He returned to Palestine then went to Syria as part of an occupying force before returning home to Australia.

His war was still not over. After some time at a signals station in Toowoomba he was sent to Papua New Guinea to provide signals on the Kokoda Track.and then to set up a central signals station.

In mid 1944 Norm, along with his mate Grant O'Neill, requested and received a transfer to 2/7th Field Regiment, 9th Division Signals Section. With this unit they took part in the invasion of the island of Tarakan, not far from Borneo. They were located near the 2/24th Infantry Battalion commanded by an old friend and Norm received permission from him to join field party excursions into enemy territory, the reason Norm joined the Army. A victory at last!

Norm's mate Grant O'Neill was invalided home with shocking head to foot sores and was still hospitalised in Ballarat six months later.

After discharge, Norm resumed his Public Service work eventually becoming a clerical worker for National Development.



Increasing numbers of visits to Canberra prompted him to move to the capital from Melbourne in 1962. He spent time with the Bureau of Mineral Resources and National Mapping before retiring at age 60. He explained to his boss that the way he had organised things left him with "nothing to do".

Norm was a footballer, cricketer and played rounders at school but it was cycling that caught his interest. He won his first road racing championship when he was 16 but the war interrupted his cycling ambitions. In later years he took part in a number of veterans' events in Europe, winning two world veteran titles. He found Russia the friendliest country for cyclists.

Other interests include pottering in the garden and reading, mainly history which he finds fascinating.

Perhaps better described as community service rather than an interest is Norm's participation in ambulance work through St. John's Ambulance. He describes what he

experienced as life - both good and bad. On occasions he almost felt guilty as he and his colleagues could do little to help some of those they were called on to treat.

Norm first met Marian, who would become his wife, before the war at a Methodist youth gathering when he was 17 or 18. Rather than marry then risk the possibility of her becoming a war widow, they waited until he returned and was discharged. They had 3 children: Paul, Stephen and Debbie. Marian passed away some years ago.

His army mate, Grant O'Neill, remained a close friend. Although he was from a Roman Catholic family, Grant and Norm got on famously. At Grant's funeral some years ago at St. Francis Xavier Church in Frankston, Victoria, every person who took part - priest, organist, etc. was a member of the O'Neill family. Norm is still in contact with that family today.

The first Church of Christ minister that Norm got to know, Rev. Gordon Stirling, also had a lasting influence on him.

Growing up in a devout Methodist home, Norm always felt a part of the church. On his becoming a part of the Church of Christ, he jokingly commented that "he was trapped by a woman". Although he met Marian at a Methodist gathering, she and her family belonged to the Church of Christ. Her association combined with the relative proximity of church locations led to their attendance at that denomination.

Finding himself on the church board and realising there were many local boys with little to do, Norm wanted to start a boys club. There was some resistance to the idea as several people had a "church is for Christians" mindset however the boys club began to meet. Twenty boys who had not previously been to church turned up. One lad had drunken parents who sometimes didn't even provide meals for their family. That boy grew up to be a responsible, successful young man.

Norm still attends the Church of Christ, now at the Ainslie church and also comes to us when he can with good friend Dawn.

He has had a long and eventful life and we can learn from his steadfast faith and faithful Christian service.

ID

An honest seven-year-old admitted calmly to her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her after class. "How did that happen?" gasped her mother. "It wasn't easy," admitted the young lady, "but three girls helped me catch him."

Sunday, 7th October - Pastor Andrew Kiwanuka - When the rubber meets the road

It is five years since Dan and Andrew last visited us.

They run the dual ministries of the Uganda School of Biblical Studies (SBS) and Church-based Training in Biblical Studies (C-TBS) which provide Biblical teaching to Ugandan Christians and further afield.

On this occasion Dan's health was not good enough to travel and although he has since improved, it was too late to change plans.

Andrew's message was titled "When the rubber meets the road". He spoke about occasions when life takes an unforeseen turn and our response to it. Job was doing well in life then things went bad. Despite his problems Job kept sight of God and kept trusting and relying on Him. We would do well to do the same.

Andrew closed by posing several questions for us to ask ourselves, the last of which is "What changes do I need to make to face life's realities without being crushed?"

ID



**Andrew
with
Ruth**

**The Uganda School of Biblical Studies (SBS)
and
Church-based Training in Biblical Studies C-TBS)**

Dan and Andrew and their team are being

used by God to expand this C-TBS ministry with more churches and more students involved. With God's help and your faithful support in prayer and finance, the vision we all embraced is continuing to become a reality as the C-TBS flourishes. The following report from Dan confirms this and also brings a challenge.

C-TBS 2018. This year Andrew and I started two C-TBS classes on 10 and 11 March. We have 21 students in the OT running at Mukono Deliverance Church. These come from 4 different churches. We also have 36 NT students coming from 6 different churches. This is conducted at "God's Centre of Blessings" Church in Bweyogerere. We again look forward to what the Lord has for us as we learn the inductive approach and study the scriptures. We will appreciate your continuous prayers as we conduct these two classes.

THE FUTURE. A lot has been accomplished so far as a result of these Bible training classes. But we also see a lot that needs to be done. The Lord has been speaking to us and giving us ideas regarding the ongoing C-TBS and SBS work. (1) We are looking at running two more C-TBS classes in a year. The additional two classes will not be as intensive as the mainstream two that we currently run. This is aimed at including some people who have always desired to study this course but still find the current C-TBS too intensive. The additional two will be less intensive but will study in depth the fewer books that they will be assigned in a year. (2) We are also looking at the many distant invitations that we have not been able to take up — as in Busia in the East on the border with Kenya, Kasese (SW), Arua (NW), Rwanda etc. We would love to discuss this with our supporters as it involves more funds to run a C-TBS in one of those areas. (3) We are also considering taking the inductive approach say in schools. Again a very less intensive Bible study program that does not distract the children or students from their academic program. This is to target the next generation of Bible teachers.

The inductive approach:

1. What does the passage say?
2. What does the passage mean?
3. How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?

Chaplains

Rev. Phil Anderson - Army chaplaincy
Rev. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy
Mrs. Lee McMullan - Campbell High chaplaincy
Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy
Please remember Phil, Owen, Lee, Bob and their chaplaincy work in your prayers.



Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at the church.
Currently in **RECESS**
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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Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

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Coming Services

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



**Rev. Owen
Chadwick**



**Mr. Roy
Dallos**



**Mr. Mark
Warren**



**Pastor
Paul Avis**



**Dr. Ian
Leung**



**Mr. Mitch
Hammond**



**Rev. Dr.
Campbell
Egan**



**Dr.
Malcolm
Purdey**



**Mr. Roy
Dallos**



**Rev. Paul
Tabulutu**

Opportunity
to visit the
Korean
Church at
Reid



2019



**Mr. Roy
Dallos**



**Rev. Bob
Prior**



**Pastor Steve
Prior**



**Rev. Phil
Anderson**

Sunday 14th October at 5pm – Rev. Owen Chadwick

Sunday 21st October at 5pm – Mr. Roy Dallos

Sunday 28th October at 5pm – Mr. Mark Warren

Sunday 4th November at 5pm – Pastor Paul Avis

Sunday 11th November at 5pm – Dr. Ian Leung

Sunday 18th November at 5pm – Mr. Mitch Hammond (Bible Society)

Sunday 25th November at 5pm – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan

Sunday 2nd December at 5pm – Dr. Malcolm Purdey (Carols)

Sunday 9th December at 5pm – Mr. Roy Dallos

Sunday 16th December at 5pm – Rev. Paul Tabulutu

Sunday 23rd December – No service of our own but we are welcome to join the Koreans at Reid at 11am

Sunday 30th December at 5pm – details later

2019

Sunday 6th January at 5pm – Mr. Roy Dallos

Sunday 13th January at 5pm – details later

Sunday 20th January at 5pm – Rev. Bob Prior

Sunday 27th January at 5pm – details later

Sunday 3rd February at 5pm – details later

Sunday 10th February at 5pm – details later

Sunday 17th February at 5pm – Pastor Steve Prior

Sunday 24th February at 5pm – Rev. Phil Anderson