

January 2019
Issue 104

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Christmas lights the minimalist way



Have you noticed that the lit up house doesn't have Father Christmas, reindeer or the common Christmas lights subjects (at least that I can make out), but does have a nativity scene with three wise men in attendance?

There are still some people prepared to proclaim the true significance of Christmas.

Sunday, 9th December - Mr. Roy Dallos - "What right do you have?": Jonah was angry at God

Over some months and quite a few sermons, Roy has taken us through the book of Jonah looking at God's dealing with Jonah himself and the Ninevites and at the lessons we can learn from the book.



The story is nearly over. Jonah has preached to the Ninevites, prophesying their fate, the Ninevites have responded to Jonah's warning, repented and turned from their evil ways.

The passage Jonah :3: 10 - 4: 4 tells us God relented from destroying Ninevah when He saw how the people had changed. This angered Jonah. He knew the evil ways of the Ninevites in the past and wanted the destruction he had preached to take place. He knew God was loving and compassionate and anticipated God's mercy but believed the Ninevites past sins had earned them God's wrath and their repentance should not change that. God asked him "Is it right for you to be angry?"

The Ninevites had repented and called on God for mercy. but Jonah believed that it was just not right that God should change His mind and give it. Jonah despised God's mercy and misunderstood it. God had long been known to offer mercy if people repented of their sins and turned back to Him.

Jonah looked on the Ninevites as a lost cause yet they responded to his preaching of God's message in a matter of days, something the Israelites failed to do after years of his preaching.

Like Jonah, we have no right to determine what God should do..

ID

A little child in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering plates.

When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so that everyone could hear: "Don't pay for me Daddy, I'm under five."

Sunday, 16th December - Rev. Paul Tabulutu - A time for reflections



The speaker at the Indonesian carols service mentioned how she had grown up with an eye on the clock so she would be on time for whatever events she had scheduled for her day. Working in communities with a much more relaxed attitude to time she found it difficult to adjust to the concept of starting when people eventually turned up, perhaps some considerable time after the clock suggested.

This Sunday we had our own experience of flexible time. Our preacher was unfazed as being Fijian he felt very at home with starting when the congregation was gathered and ready rather than being dictated to by the clock.

Vince was to lead our service but an unforeseen family health concern demanded his presence and he could not come.

After a short wait we began without him, sang a christmas carol, came before God with a short prayer then launched into the service as planned. Midway through the service we received the message he sent us earlier in the day but had not been received until then.

Paul preached on 'A time for reflection' using the reading 1 Thessalonians 3: 6-13 for his text.

Paul, Silas and Timothy had visited Thessalonica and established a group of believers there. This passage was written to those believers in response to a report by Timothy after he had paid a second visit to them. Paul was looking back with joy at what God had achieved among the Thessalonians, encouraging them and exhorting them to continue and grow in their faith and love.

Our service concluded with Communion.

ID

After a worship service a mother with a fidgety seven-year old boy told how she finally got her son to sit still and be quiet.

About half way through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, 'If you don't be quiet, the Pastor is going to lose his place and will have to start his sermon all over again!'

It worked.

Hi Ian and all at Canberra Christian Fellowship,

I just wanted to send you all a very merry Christmas and I hope 2019 is a very peaceful and blessed year for you all, individually and as a Church.

I also want to say a deeply heartfelt Thank You to you all for your continued support for my chaplaincy work at Campbell High. It is not taken for granted and I really appreciate your hearts of generosity and prayer for this work. I honestly couldn't do this work without your support.

The end of term 4 is just around the corner and we are all looking forward to the break. It has been a pretty busy term and challenging at times but I feel it has also been a very full one with the continued development of helping relationships with students, staff and families, and the completion of 2 programs - Menslink for some young boys and ShineGirl for young girls. These programs looked at the various issues young people face today and provided helpful tips and resources which they can use to deal with these issues. We explored such topics as self-worth, self-confidence, body image and how to make better, healthier life choices. We also discussed what we would like to be known for in life, challenging these young people to really think about their character and the legacy they leave behind them wherever they go through life.

It was a very humbling, touching privilege to be able to play a part in these young peoples' lives through these programs and they helped me get to know more students and identify any other issues that may require follow up afterwards.



I have attached photos of some of the students who participated in these programs for you all.

There has also been a few conversations (albeit in the very early stages) surrounding faith matters with some students so that has been very encouraging! Please pray for God to heal any hurts that have caused some students to turn away from Him, and encourage them and other Christian students and staff to keep going on with the Lord, getting stronger and stronger with each passing day, no matter what challenges they may face.

Would our places of trial be places of depth and growth.

Also, if you could remember the family of the student who passed away earlier this term, ..., as they face their first Christmas without their beloved son. May they know the peace, strength and comfort of the Lord in the days that lie ahead and may they come to a saving knowledge of God personally.

Thank you all very much again and I look forward to catching up with you all sometime in the new year. Robert and I are heading back to Northern Ireland for Christmas, leaving on Saturday so we are naturally very excited but have quite a few things to tie up before then. Please pray for safe travels and a time of rest and refreshment in the Lord over the break.

Thank you and God bless,

Lee

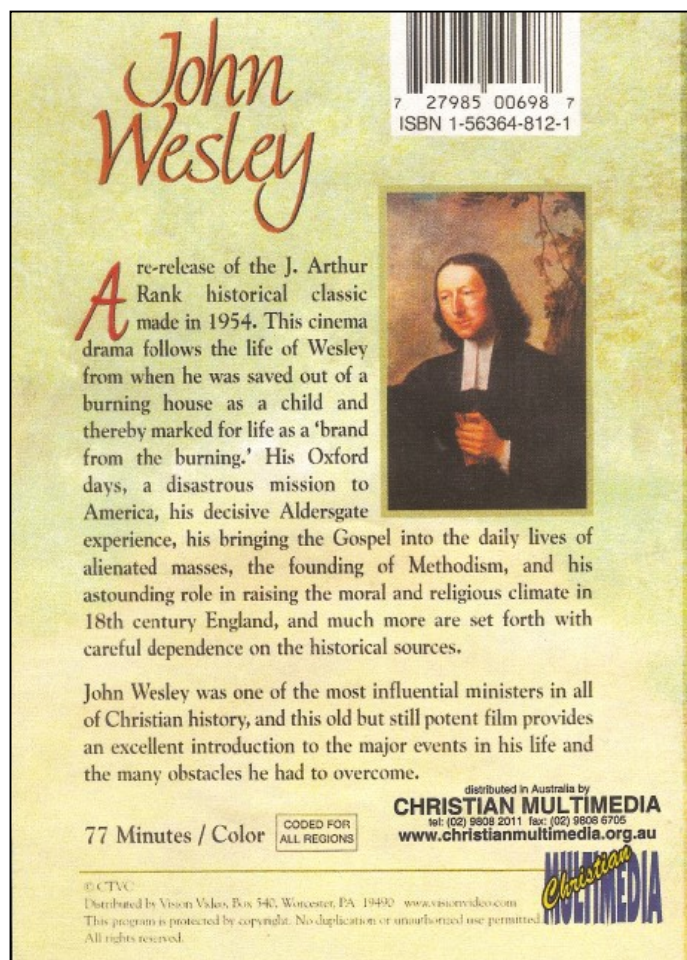
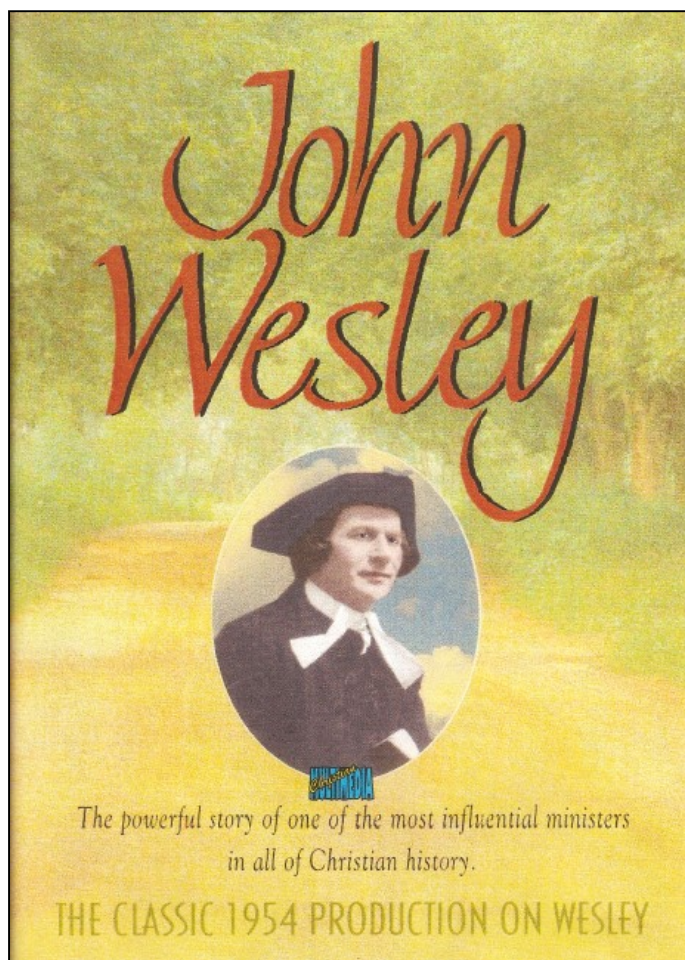
Chaplain, Campbell High School



Sunday, 30th December - John Wesley film and new computer

As expected there was only a small congregation on this Sunday, so our decision to view a film on John Wesley's life during our worship time in place of our normal service seemed wise.

The film provided us with plenty of material to ponder and reason to focus upon God and give Him praise.



Several people who wanted to see the film were unable to be there so we will show it again when a convenient opportunity presents itself.

At our meeting in November, we agreed to buy a laptop computer that could be kept at the church and used when projecting hymn words or showing videos.

That laptop purchase has been made. Together with the laptop we have bought a DVD drive, a pointer that enables a presenter to change slides easily and a copy of Microsoft Office software.

The laptop and DVD drive got their first use on this Sunday in showing the film, projecting it through the projector we have been using for some time.

A seven-year-old boy, was asked to say thanks for the Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. The boy began his prayer, thanking God for his Mummy, Daddy, brothers, sister, Grandma, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food.

He gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the Christmas pudding, even the cranberry sauce. Then he paused, and everyone waited ... and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the Brussels sprouts, won't He know that I'm lying?"

It was just before Christmas, and the jailer was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, 'What are you charged with?'

The prisoner replied, 'Doing my Christmas shopping too early'.

'That's no crime', said the jailer. 'Just how early were you doing this shopping?'

'Before the shop opened', answered the prisoner.

Christmas and New Year with a foreign flavour

Sunday, 23rd December, 11am - with the Koreans at Reid

Knowing quite a few of our people would be holidaying or with family and friends, we cancelled our own service for this Sunday and suggested those who were able attend the Korean service at Reid Church.

As is always the case, we were made very welcome and were able to participate in the worship with the assistance of headphones bringing an English translation of the Bible reading, prayers and sermon.

We enjoyed a meal with the Korean congregation after the service and were able to chat with some of the Korean people whom we have now known for many years.

Christmas Day, 25th December, 11am - with the Koreans at Reid

The Koreans were again very welcoming at their Christmas Day service.

There was no translation however the joy of Christmas was shared through two well known carols, the choir's singing and the attitude of praise and worship during the short service.

New Year's Eve, 31st December, 8pm - with the Indonesians

Yama wrote to us "As our tradition, all churches back home, always having New Year's Eve Service at 12.00 Mid night, These traditions, we would like to carry on, therefore we would like to invite members of the Canberra Christian Fellowship to attend."

We met, not at midnight, but at 8pm New Year's Eve, for a service to mark the passing of 2018 and coming of 2019.

Remy M. Fanggidae, an Indonesian minister, preached in Indonesian then briefly summarised his sermon in English. He said that no matter how things go and how they seem in the world, we know that the end result is that as God's people we will be on the winning side and live with Him in the New Jerusalem.

A light supper followed the service.

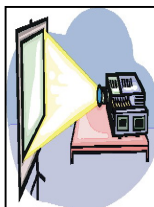
Services over recent weeks have included the following:



**Mr. Roy
Dallos**



**Rev. Paul
Tabulutu**



Film

Sunday 9th December – Mr. Roy Dallos - "What right do you have?": Jonah was angry at God

Sunday 16th December – Rev. Paul Tabulutu - A time for reflections

Sunday 23rd December – no service of our own

Sunday 30th December – Film on John Wesley's life

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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Coming Services

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



Mr. Roy Dallos



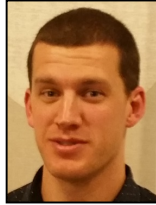
Mr. Mark Warren



Rev. Bob Prior



Gideons



Mr. Brett Hillam



Mr. Phillip Ng



Pastor Steve Prior



Rev. Phil Anderson



Mr. Roy Dallos



Mr. David Turner

2019

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

Sunday **13th January** at 5pm – **Mr. Mark Warren**

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

Sunday **27th January** at 5pm – (Gideons)

Sunday **3rd February** at 5pm – **Mr. Brett Hillam**

Sunday **10th February** at 5pm – **Mr. Phillip Ng**

Sunday **17th February** at 5pm – **Pastor Steve Prior**

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

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

Sunday **10th March** at 5pm – **Mr. David Turner** (Mission Without Borders)

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on.

Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"