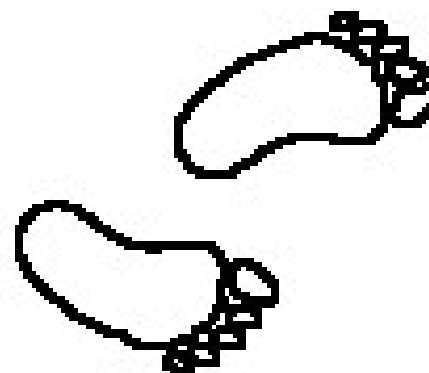


February, March 2019  
Issue 105

# The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

## 17th March



17th March is Saint Gertrude's Day (also St. Patrick's Day).

Saint Gertrude, the patron saint of cats and the people who love them.

Gertrude of Nivelles, Order of Saint Benedict. (c. 628 - March 17, 659) was a 7th-century abbess who, with her mother Itta, founded the Abbey of Nivelles located in present-day Belgium.

Although Gertrude was never formally canonized, in 1677 Pope Clement XII declared her universal feast day to be March 17. Gertrude is the patron saint of the City of Nivelles, ... . Saint Gertrude was also the patron saint of the Order of the Holy Cross.

Patron of Cats, the Recently Diseased, Gardeners, Travellers, those with Mental Illness, and Those with a Morbid Fear of Mice and Rats, people call upon Gertrude for protection from mice and rats, fever, insanity, and mental illness. However, cat lovers revere Gertrude of Nivelles most of all.

The assignment of Gertrude as patron of cats ... seems to date from the 1980s. ... A more superficial association of Gertrude with the cat as a mouse hunter goes further back. Her veneration as protector against rats and mice dates from the early 15th century during the Black Plague.

mostly from Wikipedia

## Sunday, 6th January - Mr. Roy Dallos - Jonah: God's final word

When God chose not to destroy Ninevah after the people repented of their evil ways, Jonah was angry. It seemed to him, that God was making a mistake. He was forgetting that God is God and that he himself was at best a forgiven sinner. In his anger, Jonah walked out on God again. He went out of the city, made a shelter and waited to see what would happen.

Jonah was putting God to the test - Would He really be merciful to the people of Ninevah?, however it was Jonah who ended up tested.

God caused a leafy plant to grow and shade Jonah. The next day God caused a worm to chew on the plant and so it withered away leaving Jonah more exposed to the heat. Once again Jonah was angry. God pointed out Jonah's concern and anger was for a plant that had grown and died without any contribution from him. Then God asked why He should not be concerned about the great city of Ninevah and all its people and animals.

In this story of Jonah and his dealings with God we see some very human traits that are not restricted to only Jonah.

Often we believe we know what God should do in a given set of circumstances and try to direct him. We are not God and cannot have the broad perspective or wisdom He has. While God sees things as they really are, we tend to see them the way we want them to be or with skewed vision and often we blame God for things gone wrong, ignoring the fact that so much misfortune and annoyance we have brought upon ourselves.

God is God and we should look to Him rather than tell Him what to do.

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Once upon a time Phil Anderson was Chaplain to the A.C.T. Emergency Services. He ceased that role when the A.C.T. Government decided they did not want chaplains to minister to the Emergency Services.

School Chaplaincy has been funded by the Federal Government for some years now.

Now

The ACT Government has announced it will **abandon the school chaplaincy program in government schools** at the end of 2019. In its place it will introduce a secular support option only.

The A.C.T. government appears to be very negative towards the Christian faith and chaplaincy.

Hi Ian and all at CCF.

I hope this email finds you all well. I am looking forward to coming and sharing with you all again in a few months time.

I wanted to get in touch in light of the recent news about School Chaplaincy. Obviously we are very sad to hear that the Education Minister has decided to abandon the School Chaplaincy Program at the end of this year, but I know this is not the first attempt by the government to get rid of Chaplaincy.

Scripture Union have been a great source of encouragement and strength, and have prayerfully advised us as to how we can proceed to try to overturn this decision. It is to this end that I write to you all today.

I know your fellowship has been very loyal and committed supporters of School Chaplaincy for a number of years, and this has been so deeply appreciated by Steve, and myself in more recent times. Scripture Union has given us 3 suggestions which we can act on to try to appeal the decision taken by the Education Minister.

1. To sign and share the attached petition with as many supporters as possible.
2. To pray for the Minister, that her mind will be changed and her heart softened to the Gospel and the work of School Chaplaincy.
3. To write respectful letters to Ms Berry highlighting the ongoing need for School Chaplaincy. You can write to her at: GPO Box 1020, Canberra, ACT 2601 or you can email her at : [yvetter.berry@act.alp.org.au](mailto:yvetter.berry@act.alp.org.au)

Also, we are inviting Churches to stand together in prayer about this issue this **Sunday 3rd March**. [Done] This involves simply including this in your prayers at this Sunday's service.

Again, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and prayers. Words can't say how much it is appreciated.

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel..." Phil 1:3-4*

God bless,

**Lee McMullan** | Chaplain Campbell High School

The statement of support petition is online at <https://schoolchaplaincy.org.au/act-statement/>



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## Ailsa

In a recent conversation, Ailsa was asking after our Fellowship and all our people. She indicated she misses seeing us greatly.



She is in the Baptist Care home in Griffith and I am sure would welcome any visits from us.

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## Sunday, 13th January - Mr. Mark Warren - Joy



Mark used 1 Thessalonians 1 as the basis of his sermon. The Thessalonians experienced 'severe suffering' but the Holy Spirit gave them joy.

Paul writes to the Thessalonians as a friend and rather than praising them for their faith and good works, he thanks God for them.

God has been active through the Thessalonians and Paul recognises their faith has produced work, their love labour and their Christian hope endurance.

The evidence he sees is in their lives. They welcomed the Gospel that Paul, Silas and Timothy brought to them, accepted it with great conviction and their actions in living their faith followed the example set for them by Jesus and by Paul, Silas and Timothy. Their faith and joy has become well known and they have set an example for other Christians themselves.

Chosen by God, they were not just surviving in their faith but thriving even in the face of opposition.

The Thessalonians turned from idols to the true God. That is something we must do too. Idols are not alive but many people treat them as if they were gods. Whatever drives our decision making is our god. That drive should be the true God, not idols. In today's world many people worship 'self' and follow their own feelings. For them that is their idol.

The Thessalonians depended on Jesus who rose from the dead and rescues them and us from the coming wrath.

God fashioned something extraordinary in the lives of the Thessalonians and He can with us too.

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## Pastoral Care



It is pleasing to know of the care people who are a part of our Fellowship have for each other. As a need arises prayer support and practical help is provided, phone calls are made and encouragement given.

While such mutual support is invaluable, there are occasions where additional pastoral care may be desired. Several clergy have helped us with this in the past.

We have recently asked both Rev. Bob Prior and Rev. Phil Anderson if they would be willing to assist us in this way. Both have agreed to do so.

If you would like a visit from or a chat with either of them, please let us know so we can put them in touch with you.





## Kelly

Many good things come out of Singapore and one of them has ended up at our Fellowship.

Although keen to study overseas, Kelly is glad to have grown up in Singapore. It is a city where people from many countries come together. She had friends from several different cultures, particularly Indian and Malay. It is a conservative and quiet place. Particularly among older Singaporean people Kelly recognises a still persisting gender bias with males considered more important.



**Kelly and best friend, Buddy**

Her family consists of her mother, her father, a younger brother, her grandmother (her father's mother) and Buddy, her Shih Tzu - cross dog. The family has a Taoist background and speaks both Mandarin and English at home. Mum is a restaurateur, Dad a bus driver and her brother is currently studying.

One aspect of Singaporean life Kelly feels is over emphasised is education. It is undoubtedly very important however the study, study, study culture leaves little time for other activities and can place excessive pressures on the students. Growing up, independently minded Kelly enjoyed a relaxed amount of parental control, however school followed by student care accounted for over 12 hours each day. It was a fast paced life dominated by study. Kelly's favourite school subject was physical education and she was good at maths but overall she disliked study.

Prior to coming to Australia, Kelly had visited several countries. A school trip took her to Taiwan and holidays to China and Hong Kong. After becoming a

Christian, Kelly visited Myanmar with her church in 2017. They went to a rural area and lived fairly primitively, sleeping on the floor in sleeping bags and eating what the locals ate. They were advised against eating the uncooked pork but not before Kelly had tried some. During the trip Kelly contracted a fever and had to spend a period in bed resting until she recovered. Wanting to finish her studies overseas Kelly was exploring the possibility of going to Northern Ireland however after considering the historical conflict and continuing bad feeling friends mentioned, she came to Australia instead.

When it comes to sport, Kelly is a try anything type of girl, although on reflection she recognises a preference for sports she can participate in as an individual rather than team sports. At primary school she enjoyed softball and skipping, at secondary school athletics and badminton and now at university is becoming a frisbee thrower. Swimming is another sporting activity she enjoys.

Finding it hard to motivate herself on occasions, Kelly has no burning passions / hobbies, although she enjoys music, especially that of the band "Panic! At The Disco". On a recent trip to Sydney to see them perform, she was disappointed to have to leave the concert early as she had

to catch the bus back to Canberra. Mandarin music, although quite different to "Panic! At The Disco"'s punk rock, she also enjoys. She is a listener only as she claims no musical talent.

Not surprisingly for someone studying criminology, she enjoys crime shows on TV however I'm not sure if that explains her enjoyment of shows with supernatural or vampire themes as well.

Debating controversial subjects she finds stimulating and interesting.

Kelly is a lady of the great outdoors. She dreams of getting away into woods or forrests and just spending time alone in such places enjoying the peace and solitude they can offer. Such settings hold much more appeal to her than beaches.

Still young, Kelly has no long employment history to boast of, however she has tried her hand at waitressing, handy when her mum runs restaurants, and done some tutoring in languages. Currently studying criminology at university she has visions of solving crimes sometime in the future, but for now lets the experts do it in the who-dun-its that she watches on TV or netflix.

Friends are very important to us all and no less so to Kelly. She was a part of a gang of nine friends during secondary school who hung out together, ate together, chatted and did what young people do together.

Being someone who felt at ease with older people and able to relate to them, Kelly has also formed friendships with some of her former teachers. With them she can discuss 'life matters'.

In 2014 at a time of family disharmony, Kelly saw a social worker who happened to be a Christian. She was invited to a church camp and there she came to know Jesus as her friend, helper and someone who would share her burdens. For three years Kelly worshipped within the charismatic church that had run the camp but felt her faith was superficial, not backed up by much knowledge. She explored the Bible with a teacher friend and decided to attend a methodist church where the teaching more closely fitted with her understanding of what the Bible said and their form of worship better suited her.



**Kelly and Mum**

On coming to Australia, Kelly thought she might have difficulty finding the right church for her. She found Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist tradition) on the internet, came along and felt God had led her to us despite the difference between her age and that of the rest of the congregation.

Kelly appreciates the variety of preachers who minister to us, the focus on Biblical truth and the desire to live out the faith.

We appreciate her enthusiasm and the vigor she bring to our Fellowship.

We can all be thankful God brought Kelly and CCF together in fellowship and service to Him.

ID

## **Assembly of Confessing Congregations**

Back in mid-January the Assembly of Confessing Congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia (ACC) organised a get together in Queanbeyan so members could explore what is happening in the Uniting Church (UCA) and the ACC.

Peter Bentley from Sydney was there to provide an update and contribute to the discussion.

Since 2007 the ACC has been acting as a network and support base for evangelical Uniting Church members. It has also been a voice calling the UCA back to faith and Biblically based principles.

In July 2018 the UCA changed its understanding of marriage, accepting a 'new human understanding' as equally valid as marriage as it has been known for generations. In doing this the UCA has moved further towards a theology of diversity (perhaps loosely described as anything goes) and away from a faith that looks to God and His Word.

Within the Uniting Church matters of vital importance to the church need concurrence from other councils of the church, however this decision was not considered to be of vital importance yet it was of such importance that it was steam-rolled through Assembly.

Understandably many people are upset by the decision and divisions within the church are apparent. In the few weeks of this year prior to the Queanbeyan meeting between 1000 and 1500 people left the UCA. The Bega church congregation has been divided with roughly half leaving and a significant number from Queanbeyan are exploring their options for the future.

In Peter's opinion, attempts to reform the Uniting Church structures to better reflect the beliefs of the local church members are unlikely to work.

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A number of members are unhappy with the teaching and direction Queanbeyan UC is providing. They find themselves in a similar position to us when our Fellowship began. They were interested in our story - how we formed and how we operate.

They are searching for their own way forward and would greatly value our prayers.

As part of their search two of those at the meeting attended our service a couple of weeks later.

## **Children's Program**

One question we were asked at the ACC meeting was what was our children's program like.

I answered that we had no children and so no children's program.

The very next Sunday we had 4 children come.

God speaks to us in many ways and it seemed to me that God was making a fairly strong suggestion to us.

Every Sunday since we have had a children's talk as part of our service, even though those children have not reappeared yet.

It may be a fairly basic form of children's program, but it is a start and can be developed if and when we have children attend.

## **Friendly, loving, caring and welcoming**

When you watch a football game, or some other sporting contest, sometimes you will see a team dominate their opposition but then ease off in their intensity as they start to think they have the game won. The opposition, under less pressure gets into their own rhythm, applies their own pressure and takes control of the game.

There is a danger of complacency when things are going well.

Our Fellowship has been described by a number of visitors as friendly, loving, caring and welcoming. Such comments are very encouraging to hear but my mind goes back to those strong football teams that let a game slip away.

Our job is to continue doing all God asks of us always, not ease off from our best.

We are doing well in many ways. Let us keep it up and strive for even better.

ID



**Sunday, 27th January - Mr. Doug Tompsitt - Gideons**



Early in this service Ian gave a children's talk, telling us about Gideon who we can read about in our Bibles.

Later Doug told us something of the activities of the Gideons of today.

They are best known for the placement of Bibles in hotels and motels but also distribute Bibles among other groups of people.

Doug encouraged us with stories of some of the lives changed after reading a Gideon's Bible.

**Kevin Kim**

We recently heard from Kevin Kim, a former minister at the Korean Church in Reid who preached for us a number of times before taking up a placement at a parish in Melbourne.

He writes:



G'day Ian.  
Kevin Kim from Melbourne here. How's everything with you and how are the people of CCF?

We are doing well and Wesley will be starting his first day at his secondary school tomorrow.

Please give my best regards to your church members.

May God bless you!

With regards,  
Kevin Kim



I wish I could visit Canberra to meet your people once again. It's been two years since I moved to Brighton (where the famous colourful bathing boxes are) for a new placement.

It is hard to believe that Wesley is now 12, and our baby girl Angie has turned 10. Time flies and I'm getting maturer! :)

Thanks and have a great day!

Blessings,  
Kevin



**Trinity Uniting Church Brighton** (est. 1853)

Minister: Rev. **Kevin Kim** *BTh, MTh, MTh*

**Email** doxamoxa@gmail.com

**Facebook** facebook.com/keeyoon

**Instagram** instagram.com/doxamoxa

For weddings, baptisms & funerals, call 0414 788 431

15 Black St. Brighton (Phone: 03 9592 4716)

www.trinitybrighton.org.au



## The story of the bread group at Havelock House

In February 2008, a retired Christian Pastor asked me if I would like to take a box of bread to Havelock House every week to help the people there. I said that I would, and for months I faithfully picked up the bread from the Pastor's home and brought it to Havelock House.

After several months, I thought to myself, "this is not enough bread for these people, it is gone in 5 minutes." I prayed to God, (through Jesus) and asked Him for more bread for the people at Havelock House.

In July 2008, my Pastor friend phoned me and asked if I would be able to pick up all the bread from Baker's Delight as the people who usually pick it up are going on holidays. I agreed to do this.

Again I prayed and said to God, "If You provide the people to pack the bread and a place to do it, then I will pick up all the bread"

Residents from Havelock House and others came to help pack the bread in freezer bags, and the manager at Havelock House at the time, Loc Lu, was impressed with what we were doing and gave us permission to use the Federation Room to pack the bread.

By the end of 2008, the Pastor asked me if I would take over the complete bread run, as he and his wife were retiring from it and so were the others he worked with for seven years.

I have had good feed back from residents at Havelock House saying, "If it was not for the bread, I would not have had anything to eat."

So, Thanks to Baker's Delight, the Havelock House Management and the workers who show up every Tuesday evening to help me pick up the bread and pack the bread, we help a great number of people with food, while they are doing it tough. We have now been doing the bread run for 6 years! Glory to God!

Testimony of Trish

14th December, 2014

This was written 4 years ago.

Trish has added "On Christmas Day 2018, we celebrated 10 years!"



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## Christmas at Havelock House

Instead of heading off for her own Christmas celebrations, Trish got together with Bread Group helpers, Havelock residents and management and organised Christmas celebrations at Havelock.

A room was decorated and a festive meal prepared. The menu included turkey, potato bake, salads, orange cake and custard.

Fifteen people joined together for Christmas lunch and around twenty-five participated in the extended celebrations which included carol singing.

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## A Dream

Trish is enthusiastic to help the homeless and less well off.

Accommodation for the homeless is insufficient in the A.C.T. and once there access to them is restricted so hindering those who want to give them assistance. Trish's dream is to get some land where accommodation can be provided and help given - all in God's time.



**From the Hay's February Newsletter**



'Take up the cause of the fatherless'  
Isaiah 1:17

PO Box 80  
Botha's Hill, KZN 3660  
South Africa

David.Hay@sim.org  
Janenne.Hay@sim.org  
Rachel.Hay@sim.org



**David, Janenne & Rachel Hay**  
Serving at iKhethelo Children's Village  
KwaZulu Natal, South Africa  
[www.HaysInSouthAfrica.com](http://www.HaysInSouthAfrica.com)

SIM Australia  
PO Box 42  
Penshurst NSW 2222  
02 9580 1422

Dear Friends at Canberra Christian Fellowship

Greetings from David, Janenne and Rachel. Welcome to our February newsletter.

We are now in our fourth year at iKhethelo Children's Village. We have celebrated our fourth Christmas with our iKhethelo family. We love being with our children at this special time of year, but this Christmas, more than the previous three, we really missed being able to celebrate with our family in Australia. The last couple of months have been the hardest so far to be away from family and friends back "home". The physical and emotional demands of our ministry can be so overwhelming at times that it would be easy to pack up and leave. If we acted based only on our feelings, we surely would have done that. If we did not know that we have such a clear call from God, who is our rock, to be in this place at this time, we surely would have done that.

Five years ago, God gave us a verse that is our "rock" verse for why we are here: "Take up the cause of the fatherless" (Isaiah 1:17). We know that we can only continue on in this ministry by remaining close to our Father, who



sustains us and is our Rock. We know that this is not "our" ministry - we are simply the hands and feet of Jesus, who is the only one who can truly meet the needs of the children in our care.

Thank you to all our supporters who pray regularly for us. We can only continue on with what we are



called to do through prayer, and we value your prayers so much.



**Visit to Umgeni River Bird Park**

Don't forget we love to hear from you! Please keep in touch and share what is happening in your life, your family and how we can pray for you.

Please scroll down for some highlights of what has been happening over the last few months.

With our love  
David, Janenne & Rachel



**Visit to Splash Water World**

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### Wild Weather and Dinah

Australian weather patterns and conditions have been somewhat uneven this year.

We might be praying for rain to relieve the drought in one region while in another rain is coming in such a deluge that there is major flooding. Elsewhere bushfires are threatening property and burning almost unchecked and in yet another part of the country conditions are such that mass fish deaths are taking place and fouling one of our major rivers.

Flooding in Townsville was at it's most prominent in the news on a recent Sunday. The question of how Dinah and Steve were affected was raised.



That evening Ruth rang to check. The call remained unanswered but a little later Dinah rang back. She confirmed the flooding was very bad but she and Steve are located on some higher ground so are quite OK although surrounded by water. Her church had cancelled it's services for the day (as noone could get there) and she mentioned a reluctance to venture far in the filthy water as crocodiles could also be venturing. Only one had been spotted so far to her knowledge.

Dinah seemed delighted that we had been thinking of her and was very glad to have a chat.

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### Three years at St. Andrew's for the Indonesian Fellowship

A couple of our Fellowship were glad to join with the Indonesians at their service on Sunday, 24 February, which marked 3 years of holding their services at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church., Griffith.

We have attended other Indonesian events there longer ago than that, so it may be that the formal arrangement for services or regular services began just three years ago.

In welcoming us, Yama suggested our Fellowships had been participating in each other's activities for around 10 years.

Rev. Remy M. Faggidae preached the sermon in Indonesian which was titled "Safety Guarantee". He gave a brief summary in English and ended by reminding us our guarantee of salvation from our sins is found in Jesus.

One highlight of the service was a solo by Joice Nababan who sang "Goodness of God"

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### Bible Study

After a number of months in recess resulting from winter's cold, sickness, holidays and summer's heat, the Tuesday Bible Study, led by Joyce, resumed in late February.

I am sure the six who attended would welcome more students if you would like to join them.

They are currently looking at Isaiah.

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## Sunday, 20th January - Rev. Bob Prior - Blessed Intimate Relationship

What do we believe about prayer and how do we pray?

God knows all about us. Psalm 139 makes that quite clear. He doesn't need us to tell Him our thoughts however His greatest gift to us is that we can know Him and come into a personal relationship with Him. Relationships flourish when there is good communication and that is what prayer is - communication between us and God.

For other religions prayer is a duty or ritual. For us prayer is more a privilege.

Jesus gave us a pattern for prayer in the Lord's Prayer.

That prayer starts by acknowledging who God is and our relationship to Him. God is our Father! Romans 8:15 also reminds us of our sonship.

In considering who God is, we are faced with God's holiness and righteousness. How can we fellowship with such a pure and holy God? Colossians 1:22 and 1 John 1:9 give us the answer - "*But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation*" and "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*"

The Lord's Prayer asks forgiveness for our debts / trespasses / failings / imperfections - all our sins against God.

We are caught up in spiritual warfare (see Ephesians 6:12). We are tempted (temptation is not sin) and sometimes give in to it (which is sin). In the Lord's Prayer we ask that God help us avoid temptation and rescue us from evil.

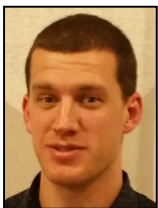
As we enjoy our relationship with God, we should be filled with thankfulness and a desire to exercise His power within us to serve Him.

We should be people who make the most of the relationship we have with our Father. We should be people who pray.

Prayer is a privilege. Don't waste it.

ID

## Sunday, 3rd February - Mr. Brett Hiram - God forsaken



At His crucifixion Jesus uttered some words that might seem strange or out of place. He said "***Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?***" (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'). [Matthew 27:46].

Why would God forsake His Son?

Certainly to the eyes of the Roman soldiers who mocked and crucified Him, Jesus was forsaken by God.

Simon from Cyrene, who was forced to carry Jesus' cross for Him, must have thought so too.

The Jewish religious leaders with all their knowledge didn't imagine God would let the true Messiah be mocked and killed. Surely that man on the cross was forsaken by God.

Jesus did everything with purpose. When He was challenged He referred people back to Scripture. He knew what He was doing and what He was saying.

The story of that day was already written in God's plan and we can read it in Psalm 22 and other passages.

Jesus was indeed forsaken by God, not because of anything He had done but because we (all humanity through the ages) forsook God. Jesus had taken all our sins upon Himself and was paying the price of sin for humanity.

BUT that is not the end of the story.

Psalm 22:24 reads "*For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.*"

God didn't forsake Jesus forever. Scripture was fulfilled and Jesus rose from the dead.

Scripture and Christian tradition tell us that one or more of the mocking Roman soldiers came to believe in Jesus as Messiah. So too did Simon as in time did one or more of the Jewish religious leaders.

ID

- I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.
- Tell me what you need, and I'll tell you how to get along without it.
- Accept that some days you are the pigeon and some days the statue.



## **Sunday, 17th February - Pastor Steve Prior - A light shining in the darkness**

Darkness can be oppressive.

The time in which the events of 1 Samuel 3 & 4 occurred was one of spiritual darkness for Israel. Eli was High Priest and his two sons, although priests, were scoundrels (1 Samuel 2:12). It was a time when *"the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions."* (1 Samuel 3:1)



The boy Samuel was serving God under Eli's supervision.

One night Samuel heard three calls and each time thinking it was Eli, went to him. Each time Eli sent him back to bed, Samuel heard a fourth call but that time answered as Eli had suggested. *"Speak, for your servant is listening."* (1 Samuel 3:10). God did speak to Samuel and told him that He was about to act against Eli and his family because of their sins as He, God, had previously warned.

Israel went out to fight the Philistines but were badly defeated with thousands killed.

Thinking they would win with God's help, the Israelite army took the Ark of the Covenant to the battle field and into battle with them. Again the Israelites were defeated, many thousands more slaughtered, Eli's sons killed and the Ark captured.

Word of the defeat reached Eli and when he heard of the capture of the Ark, he too fell back dead.

His daughter in law was about to give birth. The baby was born and named Ichabod because, she said, *"The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."* (1 Samuel 4:22). Following the birth she too died

The defeat of the Israelites and capture of the Ark seem awful and as if God had abandoned Israel however God used those events for good.

The Israelites had attempted to use God, through the Ark, for their own purposes. God showed He was not to be manipulated by men.

The deaths of Eli and his sons occurred as God said they would and were a part of God's judgement and the cleansing of evil from Israel.

God was moving His people out from the darkness that had oppressed them.

The glory had not really left Israel. God was not boxed up in the Ark.

Samuel was God's prophet and God was with him.

ID



## Harvest Thanksgiving approaching



Our Harvest Thanksgiving service is approaching rapidly.

It is a time to remember God's goodness to us in so many ways.

It also provides a great opportunity to invite friends and people we know to a service that focusses on God's goodness and love but in a way that is not churchy and can be more easily understood.

We hope to have a special meal together after the service.

We will need produce for our harvest display and assistance in setting it up.

Please help in whatever way you can.



All the fruit and vegetables from the display will afterwards be donated to OZHarvest for distribution to charities supporting people in need.

### Sunday, 24th February - Rev. Phil Anderson - Guilt, Shame and Fear



Families are complicated. Relationships are complicated.

Often little matters between people can flare up into blazing rows or lead to alienation, fanned on by things like pride and self-righteousness.

All of us live with guilt, shame and fear to some extent resulting from our broken or damaged relationships.

Joseph's brothers had good reason to feel guilt, shame and fear. They, out of jealousy, had sold him into slavery. The Genesis 45:3-15 Bible reading tells us what happened when they found themselves facing their brother whom they never expected to see again. Instead of taking revenge on them, Joseph told them it was part of God's plan and God had used it for good.

In some ways Joseph foreshadowed the Messiah. Joseph suffered servitude and prison but that suffering led to him gaining a position that enabled him to save his family from the famine.

Jesus was once asked what was necessary for eternal life. Jesus asked the enquirer what did the law say. "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind*"; and, "*Love your neighbour as yourself.*" [Luke 10:27] was the reply. Jesus told the man that was correct but was then asked who was the man's neighbour. In reply Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan.

The Gospel reading, Luke 6:27-38, gives us more directions on how we should treat each other.

It becomes clear that no one of us can achieve the level of love and service needed to fulfil the law. All of us are guilty under the law.

How then can we gain eternal life?

Will God overlook our shortcomings because we are 'good' people? No. We are not good.

The penalty we earned under the law **MUST** be paid. God is not a corrupt judge who is inconsistent or partial in His judgements. He is just and administers justice fully and fairly.

Fortunately for us, the penalty we earned has been paid, in full, by Jesus in our place.

All that is needed is for us to repent of our wrongdoing and put our faith in Jesus.

All our guilt and shame has been dealt with so there is no need to fear consequences.

ID

## **Sunday, 3rd March - Mr. Roy Dallos - Just for a while; By faith and not by sight**

Ruth 1: 1 sets the scene for the book of Ruth. During the time when Judges ruled Israel, there was famine and a man took his family to another country..

Earlier in the time of Joshua the Israelites chose to follow God. This they did for a while but then they began to worship idols like the nations around them did. Some of their leaders (Judges) were good, others bad, and Israel despite God's blessings rebelled against Him time after time. Judges 21: 25 sums up the situation. *"everyone did as they saw fit."* It is easy to see parallels with today. In such times the distinction between right and wrong is blurred in people's eyes and responsibility for actions is shifted away to outside factors. People are prone to turn away from truth to opinion.

In our current day and age, churches are in decline because in large part we have forgotten God. We, just like the people in Ruth's time, need to turn back and see God's mercy and care for us.

Did Elimelek take his family to Moab, the land of Israel's enemies, for self serving or Godly reasons? It seems likely it was a financial decision. They went "for a while" but a while can easily become an eternity.

Elimelek's home town was Bethlehem, which means 'house of bread'. He left at a time of famine, when 'bread' was in short supply there. Looking to the past Elimelek could have seen God's care for His people which should have given him faith and trust in God.

Believing without seeing with no other evidence is foolishness, however believing without seeing when there is evidence to support your belief is faith. God's past care for His people should have been sufficient evidence to give Elimelek faith in God's continuing care.

Joshua said it, Elimelek could have said it and we would be wise to say it - *"choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, ... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."* [Joshua 24: 15]. ID



## **Services over recent weeks have included the following:**



**Mr. Roy Dallos**



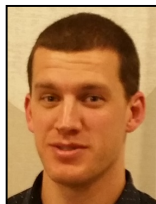
**Mr. Mark Warren**



**Rev. Bob Prior**



**Mr. Doug Tomsitt**



**Mr. Brett Hillam**



**Mr. Phillip Ng**



**Pastor Steve Prior**



**Rev. Phil Anderson**



**Mr. Roy Dallos**



**Mr. David Turner**

Sunday **6th January** – **Mr. Roy Dallos** - Jonah: God's final word

Sunday **13th January** – **Mr. Mark Warren** - Joy

Sunday **20th January** – **Rev. Bob Prior** - Blessed intimate relationship

Sunday **27th January** – **Mr. Doug Tomsitt** - Gideons

Sunday **3rd February** – **Mr. Brett Hillam** - God forsaken

Sunday **10th February** – **Mr. Phillip Ng** - Living for the King

Sunday **17th February** – **Pastor Steve Prior** - A light shining in the darkness

Sunday **24th February** – **Rev. Phil Anderson** - Guilt, shame and fear

Sunday **3rd March** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos** - Just for a while: By faith and not by sight

Sunday **10th March** at 5pm – **Mr. David Turner** - The continuing work of Mission Without Borders in Eastern Europe



## Phil Anderson reinvented

Rev. Phil Anderson is no longer a chaplain to the Army.  
Having reached the mandatory retirement age for Army chaplains he is now free to sport a more civilian look.



## Chaplains

**Rev. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy**

**Mrs. Lee McMullan - Campbell High chaplaincy**

**Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy**

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



## Fair Dinkum Life

Those who have had a connection with Reid Church may remember one of the former ministers of that church, back in Methodist days, was Rev. George Wright.

I was contacted by his son Peter recently. Peter and his wife Desleigh have a ministry, Fair Dinkum Life, which takes them around the country in their camper van going into schools and churches and offering what assistance they can provide.



They were interested in our Fellowship and encouraged by our story. In chatting with them it became very clear what a small world it is. We had so many mutual friends and acquaintances.

They pass through Canberra every 3 or 4 months and next time hope to attend one of our services.

Driving between towns, they have a lot of time on the road. They use that time to pray (with their eyes open!) for the schools and churches they visit.

They asked how best they could pray for us. I suggested they could pray for good health for our people as so many are advancing in years and for a few more to join us and share the load of our service to God.

## **Scripture Union Regeneration Dinner**

The CCF representation at this year's Regeneration Dinner was somewhat smaller than it has been on previous occasions, however we were there supporting the great work of Scripture Union.

Two campers, one current and one from just a few years back spoke. They were very enthusiastic about the difference it had made to their lives.



SU Victoria CEO, Justin Simpson, was the main speaker. He too was very enthusiastic about the opportunities open to SU and urged us to look for what God is doing through SU.

## **Good and Bad news (Much more good than bad)**

Friday morning (8/3) I received a text message from Ashley:

"I have 2 news, one is good and one is not good. The good news is that we have our second boy yesterday and the other one is I should stay at hospital more so it is hard to go to the church on this Sunday."

I replied with congratulations and said we would let her off piano duties for Sunday.

A couple of photographs came a short time later.



Apparently the "little angel" arrived about 4-50 pm Thursday, 7 March. Ashley's parents were expected from Korea on Saturday.



**Katherine with  
David and Jill  
Turner**



Mission Without Borders (MWB) operate in 6 Eastern European countries, however it was Romania that David spoke of in particular as he had visited there comparatively recently.

He told us and showed a video about Summer camps that are run for children. These children have a great time and learn a little about Jesus. He moved on to the poor (and there are a lot of them) and what MWB are doing to assist them. Many are exploited and not paid for work they do. Among other things 'Christmas Love' food hampers are distributed at Christmas. MWB also work to help the elderly. They find it almost impossible to find work and there are few social services to help support them.

The next two videos we were shown presented a marked contrast. Visitors to the country see neat old buildings, landscaped vistas, modern hustle and bustle, historic sites, pleasant countryside and a land that is very appealing. The reality for most is starkly different. Away from the tourist routes life is hard. Families may have only 1 or 2 rooms in ramshackle buildings or just makeshift shelters, jobs are very hard to come by and life is a struggle. In Romania 41.2% of people do not have running water in their homes.

The city of Blaj has a large Roma population. They are badly exploited with many trafficked. MWB have helped set up '5 Day Clubs' which provide something to do and a safe haven for children.

Listening to David and seeing what Eastern European life is like for so many can't help but make you aware of how fortunate we are in this country.

MWB is doing great work in conjunction with churches and other local organisations in helping combat the plight so many face and also both sharing and showing in the lives of their people the love of God. ID

### **Sylvia Egan**



We were saddened to learn that Sylvia, wife of Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan passed away Saturday, 9 March. She was a good friend to us and our Fellowship.

Her life was celebrated at a well attended thanksgiving service held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.



## Coming Services

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



**Rev. Paul  
Tabulutu**



**Mrs. Joyce  
Hall**



**Rev. Peter  
Nelson**



**Mr. Mark  
Warren**



**Rev. Owen  
Chadwick**



**Rev. Paul  
Tabulutu**



**Mrs. Lee  
McMullan**



**Mr. Roy  
Dallos**



**Mr. George  
Huang**



**Rev. Peter  
Nelson**



**Dr. Ian  
Leung**



**Rev. Bob  
Prior**



**Mr. Mark  
Warren**



**Mr. Revin  
Blanchard**

**Sunday 17th March at 5pm – Rev. Paul Tabulutu**

**Sunday 24th March at 5pm – Mrs. Joyce Hall (Harvest Thanksgiving)**

**Sunday 31st March at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson**

**Sunday 7th April at 5pm – Mr. Mark Warren**

**Sunday 14th April at 5pm – Rev. Owen Chadwick**

**Sunday 21st April at 5pm – Rev. Paul Tabulutu (Easter)**

**Sunday 28th April at 5pm – Mrs. Lee McMullan**

**Sunday 5th May at 5pm – Mr. Roy Dallos**

**Sunday 12th May at 5pm – Mr. George Huang**

**Sunday 19th May at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson (15th Anniversary)**

**Sunday 26th May at 5pm – Dr. Ian Leung**

**Sunday 2nd June at 5pm – Rev. Bob Prior**

**Sunday 9th June at 5pm – Mr. Mark Warren**

**Sunday 16th June at 5pm –**

**Sunday 23rd June at 5pm –**

**Sunday 30th June at 5pm –**

**Sunday 7th July at 5pm –**

**Sunday 14th July at 5pm –**

**Sunday 21st July at 5pm - Mr. Revin Blanchard**

**Sunday 28th July at 5pm –**

## Coming Up

### Tuesday Bible Study

**Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at the church.**

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information  
Currently studying Isaiah.

### Prayer Meeting

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:canberracf@yahoo.com.au)  
Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

TNS editor : Ian Denton - e-mail : [iancd@yahoo.com](mailto:iancd@yahoo.com)