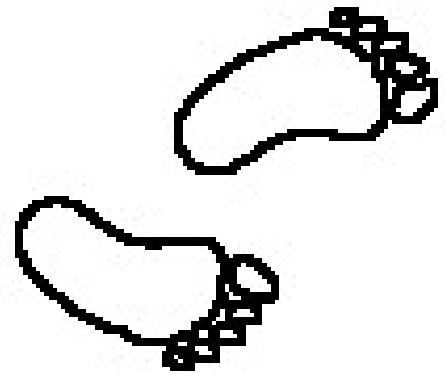


April - June 2019  
Issue 106

# The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

## CCF Website

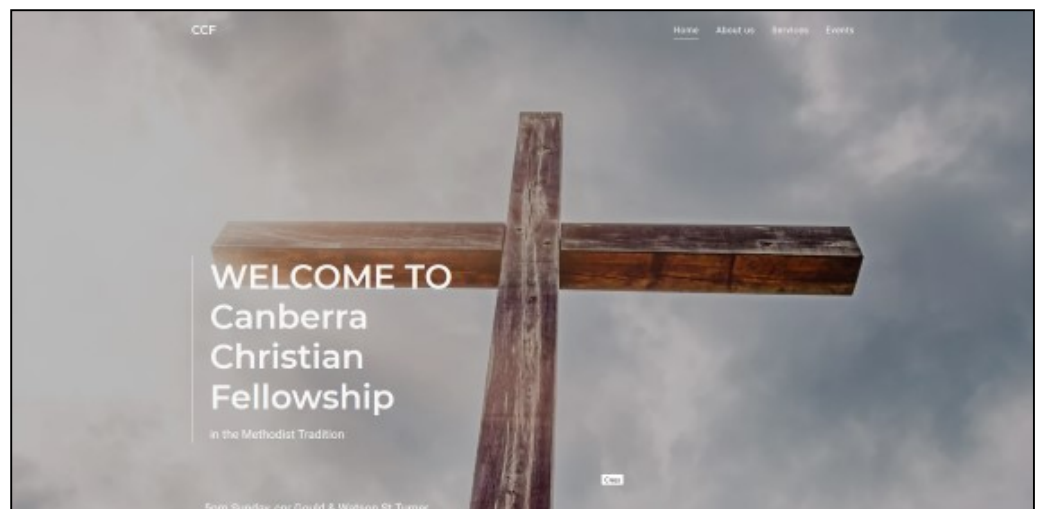
In the early days of our Fellowship, we set up a church website which gave us an internet presence and resulted in a number of people either visiting us or joining us.

Our website was admittedly unsophisticated and had a rather dated look, however it served its purpose.

Up until now it has remained basically the same with just information on our activities being updated.

Mark has recently been willing to devote time to modernising our website, so now it has a much more up to date look but without the excess flashiness from which some sites suffer.

The website content has remained much the same as it was but is now presented in a more appealing manner.



Check out our updated website at <http://www.canberracf.org.au> and let Mark know of any tweaks that are required.

**Sunday, 24th March - Mrs. Joyce Hall - (Harvest Thanksgiving) A Rich Harvest**



For this, our Harvest Thanksgiving service, Joyce drew her thoughts from two Bible passages (Luke 5: 1-11 and John 21: 1-11) both mentioning fishing.

In the Luke reading Jesus tells His disciples to cast out their nets. Peter did so but a little half-heartedly as they had been fishing all night without success and were tired. They had a big catch, so large the nets began to break.

In John, again Jesus calls out to cast out their nets. They did so and again made a big catch. As soon as he realises it was Jesus who called out, Peter jumps into the water to go to him. This time the nets do not break.

We can pray for big or small things and should not limit our expectations of God. He is generous. Half-heartedness may lead to unnecessary concerns / the need to repair torn nets.

ID



I don't know where this came from - whether someone passed it on to me or if I found it among old papers, but I thought it was worth sharing.

## GRASMERE METHODIST CHURCH

*If after Church, you wait awhile,  
Someone may greet you with a smile.  
But, if you quickly rise and flee,  
We'll all seem cold and stiff, maybe  
The one beside you in the pew  
Is, perhaps a stranger too.  
All here, like you, have fears and cares,  
All of us need each other's prayers.  
In fellowship we bid you meet,  
With us around God's Mercy Seat.*

The internet tells me "The foundation stone for Grasmere Wesleyan Methodist Chapel [in the Lakes District of England] was laid in June 1873 and the chapel opened on 4th June 1874." The chapel is now closed and been converted into a bistro.



### Pastoral Care



Last 'Next Step' we reported that both Bob Prior and Phil Anderson were willing to assist us with pastoral care by visiting or chatting with people as needs arose.

Both have done just that.

Please keep them both in your prayers. They too are subject to the vagaries of life. Bob has recently been out of action with a very bad back and Phil has undergone surgery.



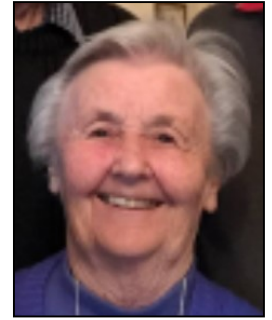
## Ruth

Tripping over sheets and blankets is not a recommended activity!

Ruth tried it and ended up in hospital with a fractured kneecap.

A hospital stay of some 7 weeks allowed her kneecap to heal up.

From Tuesday 11/6 she will be in rehabilitation at Mullangarrie Transition Care Unit of Carey Gardens, Baptist Care, Astrolabe St., Red Hill 2603, ACT for a period.



She has asked that her appreciation for the thoughts, prayers, calls and many visits be passed on to everyone.

## Thoughts

Needing someone is like needing a parachute. If he isn't there the first time, chances are you won't be needing him again.

My reality check bounced.

On the keyboard of life, always keep one finger on the escape key.

I don't suffer from stress. I am a carrier.

You are slower than a herd of turtles stampeding through peanut butter.

Everybody is somebody else's weirdo.

Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level, then beat you with experience.

## The Alford Mystery

John and Pat H. came along to our Harvest Thanksgiving service and during supper John sidled up to me and asked if the author of the hymn 962 (Come, ye thankful people, come) that we had sung was the same Alford that had written Colonel Bogey March. I'm afraid I was unable to offer any enlightenment.

A few days later I received the following e-mail from John.

Thank you for the reminder/invitation to the service, last Sunday. The message, service, fellowship and food made it all worthwhile.

Maybe you remember my query about Henry Alford who wrote the words of hymn 962. Well, Henry [1810- 1871] was an English Churchman, scholar, poet, writer, theologian. hymnodist...

Kenneth Ricketts [1881- 1945] was British military through and through who, it seems, wrote Colonel Bogey, using his mother's maiden name of Alford and composed a number of marches.

So there. You have it! No connection!

Straying away from the hymn and looking at Colonel Bogey March, we find a golfing connection.

After a comment at a golf game likening a player to a Bogey man, referring to a song with the line "I'm the Bogey man, catch me if you can.", Bogey became the standard score for a good round of golf, what we today know as a par round. Golfers played against the course known as Bogey. Bogey became Colonel Bogey at a services golf club where every member had a rank.

The march tune was said to have been inspired by a military man who was also a golfer. That golfer did not shout "Fore" when it was called for. Instead, he whistled a two-note phrase, a descending interval which begins each line of the march's melody.

As players and courses improved the par score for golf holes went down but Bogey ratings remained the same. Eventually a Bogey score became known as 1 more than par for a hole and that is how it is understood today.

## Music



Back in March when Ashley was otherwise occupied in getting to know Jay, her child no. 2, she was unavailable to play the piano / organ for us.

Joan took her place for several Sundays and proved she was an accomplished musician.

Thank you Joan for your contribution to our worship.

## Apologetics Study Group

“This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” Jn 17:3.

That is what Theology is all about: knowing God in all his fullness. Moore Theological College has an excellent course which makes it easy, called the Preliminary Theological Certificate. A group of us wanted to give that a go and with a bit of discussion we thought we'd start off with the Apologetics course. After advertising at church we started off with Mark (leading), Katherine, Maree, Kelly, Miriam, Laurie, Trish, Vince, Joy and the occasional visit by John Mann. We met from 6-7 on Wednesday evenings so it was possible for both workers and seniors to attend.

Apologetics is defending the Christian faith, which we have seen has become more difficult in recent times. In that environment, the way we go about it is just as important as what we say. This is how the course describes itself:

Apologetics is written with the conviction that it is more than just intellectual and philosophical debate. Apologetics involves people's whole beings. We need to be concerned with how people feel toward Christ and the gospel as well as how they think. So the course provides apologetic arguments along with practical guidance on the attitude and behaviour that must accompany those arguments.

We've had some vigorous discussions, cold nights and difficult concepts; but we've learnt a lot and enjoyed it very much. Hopefully we'll have the opportunity to put it into action soon.

For those who are interested, next up we will be studying. “God's Plan from Beginning to End.” It will be a helicopter view across the whole Bible showing how the message of the gospel develops and culminates in Jesus Christ.

MW

PS As part of the course, our group is going to host a Christian Q&A night for our non-Christian contacts. It will be on a Saturday afternoon in about a months time (we're still sorting out the details).

## Another Generation

Sunday, 9 June, was a momentous day for Joan.

At 1 minute after midnight she became a great grandmother to a baby girl born in Sydney, her first great grandchild.

Congratulations.





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## The Fijian Church and Paul Tabulutu

We have known the Fijian Methodist worshipped together with them on a been their leader and some years ago Fijian Methodist Church. He has preached



congregation now for many years and number of occasions. Paul Tabulutu has become an ordained minister within the for us quite regularly.

Recently we learned that Paul had left to not only his Canberra congregation but as Griffith and Brisbane.

his weekday job and was now ministering other congregations as widely separated

Knowing that the burden of sustaining this ministry rested largely on him, we decided to offer some support such as we do with chaplains, by means of prayer and some financial help.

Please keep Paul and the Fijian congregations he visits in your prayers and our Fellowship will provide a monetary contribution to his work twice a year.

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## More Thoughts

Don't be irreplaceable -- if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

After any salary raise, you will have less money at the end of the month than you did before.

You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.

Eat one live toad the first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.

If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.

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## Bible Study Fellowship Gathering



## **BIBLE SOCIETY**

I attended the afternoon Fellowship Gathering at the Baptist Church, Kingston, on the 9th May. It was a happy and lovely meeting, not many people there though - about 14.

Andrew, from the Society, led the meeting telling many stories and showing films, the main one being about the Amity Printing Press in China - it is in such a huge, huge building and has a great outpouring of Bibles.

The Chinese converts are growing in amazing numbers with not enough churches being built so many are home churches still. When we see photos of the Cross on a church being burnt, it is usually in certain provinces due to the head of the province not liking Christians - this is not a trend throughout all of China.

There is a great deal of Bible work being done in the Northern Territory and Torres Strait with translations coming into being for the Aboriginal people of this land.

Marie

PS There are lovely stories in the May ETERNITY paper (pages 8&9) about early translations of the Bible for the Aboriginal people.

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## Sunday, 28th April - Mr. Laurie Hockridge - Hymns, Readings, Prayers and Comment



This was a service where hymns were used to highlight aspects of our faith and to express our thanks and praise to God to a greater extent than in our normal services.

Of course Scripture readings and prayers were also an important part of the service.

Comment on what was being sung and read helped the congregation focus on God, Who He is, all He has done for us and our relationship with Him.

ID

## Sunday, 19th May - Rev. Peter Nelson - Small but Powerful

For our Anniversary service, we were glad to have the Aboriginal Church congregation join us.

The Church is blessed with the power of God's Word in the form of the Bible and that power can transform lives.

John Wesley was "a man of one book". He wanted to find the way to heaven. That way was in God's book. He wrote "O give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God!"



The Charles Wesley hymn, "O for a thousand tongues to sing" claims in verse 4

He [God] speaks, and, listening to His voice,  
New life the dead receive. ...  
The humble poor believe.

God's Word is powerful and it is found in the Bible.

The story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5 illustrates how seemingly unimportant people or things can bring about big changes.

The unnamed Israelite slave girl is the hero of the story. If it wasn't for her, Naaman would not have seen the prophet Elisha and been cured of his leprosy. She pointed him to Elisha for his leprosy cure and in a similar way to her we can point sinners to the means of their salvation, their Saviour.

The slave girl had no status and we may feel inadequate but the power of God is hidden behind weakness. Naaman had grand ideas of what his cure might involve but he was asked to do something very simple to be cured. Likewise the way of salvation is very simple but profound. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* [John 3: 16]. Belief, faith and trust is all that is needed for salvation but many people cannot bring themselves to simply believe.

God's Word can transform any life and we are able to point people to His Word.

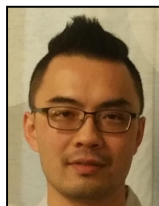
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## Still More Thoughts

When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.

When confronted by a difficult problem, you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, "How would the Lone Ranger handle this?"

## Sunday, 26th May - Dr. Ian Leung - The Parable of the Two Lost Sons



The term 'prodigal son' is well known and used loosely to mark the return of someone, perhaps a sports player, to a place or team they had previously left.

Jesus' parable of the prodigal son is these days less well known and what it teaches often lost or rejected.

Luke 15 contains three parables celebrating what is lost being found: the lost sheep; the lost coin; and the lost son - the common theme being that God desires to release sinners from their sin.

The lost son is a tale with three main characters: the wasteful and then repentant son; the compassionate father; and the begrudging older brother. Often the focus is concentrated on the younger, prodigal son but perhaps the parable might be better described as the parable of two lost sons.

The younger son is selfish and reckless. He squanders what he has and eventually hits rock bottom. We, by sinning, also destroy ourselves. We deserve what we get. The son came to his senses and returned to his father's home repentantly.

The father was glad to welcome his son back and celebrated, just as God welcomes repentant sinners.

The older son refuses to celebrate. He is unforgiving and jealous. He doesn't understand his father's generosity and compassion. He felt he had to earn everything by his own efforts. He too needed to repent.

We need to repent of our sin. We need to celebrate when others repent of their sin.

Church isn't a place for the sinless - churches would be empty. Church is for sinners.

God is good to us and wants the best for us. He is pleased to welcome repentant sinners back into his care.

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## Sunday, 2nd June - Rev. Bob Prior - Our God is Sovereign

**OUR** God **IS** Sovereign!

He is our God and He has supreme power and authority.

Many people live in despair. They don't recognise God's sovereignty.

Climate change is an issue raising great community fear, just as the threat of nuclear war or the communist threat has done in the past. It may be an important issue, however God remains sovereign - in control - and it is His will that will be done.

We can see God's sovereignty displayed in Joseph's life.

Joseph had dreams indicating that his brothers and parents would bow down to him yet he was sold to traders going to Egypt by his jealous brothers. There he was slave to Pharaoh's bodyguard captain whom he served faithfully until thrown in prison after a false accusation by his master's wife.

Joseph had served God, his father and master well, but he had become enslaved, falsely accused and imprisoned. He must have wondered what was going on, but he continued to trust in God.

Pharaoh had two dreams and Joseph was brought from the prison to interpret them. He told Pharaoh he could not do it himself, but God would provide the answer.

Joseph gave Pharaoh God's message and was placed in control of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh himself.

Eventually Joseph's brothers came to Egypt and before Joseph to get food during a seven year period of famine and his father came later. When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, he told them it was not just their actions that had sent him to Egypt, but God acting to save them.

In His own time God's plans had come about.

God had always been in control and He still is.

Bob shared with us his own experience earlier in the week.

Enthused by a sermon similar to what he preached that he heard in Darwin where he and his wife were holidaying, Bob was looking for God's purpose when He and his wife were refused boarding on the plane for their flight home due to medical concerns.

At the hospital Bob had the opportunity to chat with a girl who had severe depression and had contacted the police for help. She was most appreciative of Bob's friendly counsel and for sharing his own experience of depression with her. He was able to share the gospel with her and she has his phone number so she is able to continue the contact. Bob requested prayer for Jasmine.

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## Still More ...

42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.

I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.

Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how popular it remains?

He who laughs last thinks slowest.

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## Sunday, 9th June - Mr. Mark Warren - Spiritual Warfare



Many people in the community and even some within the church do not believe Satan exists. Jesus believed he exists and spoke about him on a number of occasions.

Satan is at work in this world. 1 Thessalonians 2:18 tells us Satan blocked Paul's way. He hinders our activities. Being aware of and alert to Satan is half our battle. We should expect temptation and interference but like Paul, still do what we can. Our strength is that we can have faith in and entrust all things to God.

We can be bold and confident in our faith, but not arrogant or rude about it.

As Christian people, we should value people's salvation, encourage faith, bring comfort and joy and pray earnestly.

By expecting Satan's interference in our relationship and dealings with God, preparing for it so our focus is not turned away from God and trusting in Him, we can live faithful Christian lives doing what God asks of us.

ID



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## Services over recent weeks have included the following:



**Rev. Paul  
Tabulutu**



**Mrs. Joyce  
Hall**



**Rev. Peter  
Nelson**



**Mr. Mark  
Warren**



**Mr. Owen  
Chadwick**



**Rev. Paul  
Tabulutu**



**Mr. Laurie  
Hockridge**



**Mr. Roy  
Dallos**



**Mr. George  
Huang**



**Rev. Peter  
Nelson**



**Dr. Ian  
Leung**



**Rev. Bob  
Prior**



**Mr. Mark  
Warren**

Sunday **17th March** – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu** - Luke 13: 31-35

Sunday **24th March** – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** (Harvest Thanksgiving) - A Rich Harvest

Sunday **31st March** – **Rev. Peter Nelson** - Filled with Love and Thanksgiving

Sunday **7th April** – **Mr. Mark Warren**

Sunday **14th April** – **Mr. Owen Chadwick**

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

Sunday **28th April** – **Mr. Laurie Hockridge** - Hymns, Readings, Prayers and Comment

Sunday **5th May** – **Mr. Roy Dallos** - Our Foundation is God's Promise

Sunday **12th May** – **Mr. George Huang** - Why God is majestic

Sunday **19th May** – **Rev. Peter Nelson** (15th Anniversary) - Small but Powerful

Sunday **26th May** – **Dr. Ian Leung** - The Parable of the Two Lost Sons

Sunday **2nd June** – **Rev. Bob Prior** - Our God is Sovereign

Sunday **9th June** – **Mr. Mark Warren** - Spiritual Warfare

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## Africa and Us

Africa is quite some distance from Australia (aren't most places?) however our Fellowship has been supporting God's work in three African countries for some years.

In **Kenya**, **Opi Nduati** has been assisting street boys in Nairobi and now has a home and school for them where former street boys (and now also girls) can grow up, learn and become productive members of the community. Opi will be visiting us at the end of June and update us on that work.

The **Hay family** are working in **South Africa** at a home for children there. They too will be visiting us and bringing news of that work later this year - in September.

In **Uganda** we have been supporting the dual ministries Uganda School of Biblical Studies (SBS) and Church-based Training in Biblical Studies (CTBS) which equip pastors and lay people with a sound knowledge and understanding of the scriptures. **Dan and Andrew** have both visited us several times over the last few years with Andrew here late last year.

New Support coordinator for this work, Michael, was in Canberra several weeks ago meeting supporters. He met briefly with Katherine.

Please keep these ministries in your prayers.

## Chaplains

Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy  
Mrs. Lee McMullan - Campbell High chaplaincy  
Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy  
Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches  
Please remember Owen, Lee, Bob, Paul and their work in your prayers.



## Coming Services

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



Mr. Peter Wright



Pastor Paul Avis



Pastor Opi Nduati



Mrs. Lee McMullan



Rev. Phil Anderson



Mr. Revin Blanchard



Mr. Roy Dallos



Mr. Jeff Mason



Mr. Roy Dallos



Hay family

Sunday **16th June** at 5pm – **Mr. Peter Wright** (Fair Dinkum Life)

Sunday **23rd June** at 5pm – **Pastor Paul Avis**

Sunday **30th June** at 5pm – **Pastor Opi Nduati** (iafrika, Kenya)

Sunday **7th July** at 5pm – **Mrs. Lee McMullan**

Sunday **14th July** at 5pm – **Rev. Phil Anderson**

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

Sunday **28th July** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**

Sunday **4th, 11th, August** at 5pm – to be advised

Sunday **18th August** at 5pm – **Mr. Jeff Mason** (Scripture Union)

Sunday **25th August** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**

Sunday **1st, 8th, 15th September** at 5pm – to be advised

Sunday **22nd September** at 5pm - **Hay family** (SIM)

## Coming Up

### Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at the church.

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information

### Wednesday Study

Wednesdays at 6-00 pm at the church.

All welcome - contact Mark for more information

### Prayer Meeting

**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday** of each month at 2-30 pm, usually at Marie's.

All welcome

### Contacts

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