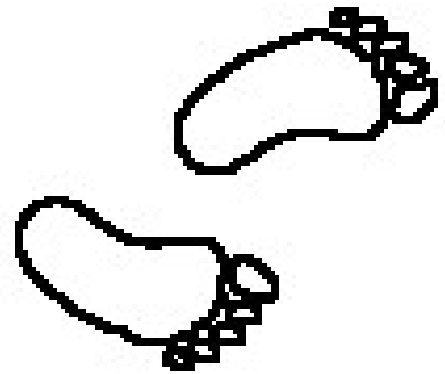


July - September 2019
Issue 107

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday, 15th September - Rev. Bob Prior - John's take on salvation

It took a while to firstly get in, and then to set up, but we began our service only 20 minutes late. (with Warren away, the other key to the door was also absent - my organisation skills need some work!)



God's love is what salvation is all about.

God first loved us and sent His son into the world to save the world, so that through believing in Him we can be born of the Spirit. Scaring people into heaven with a threat of hell is not God's way, rather He draws us to heaven through His love. If, however, we choose to live without God, He gives us our choice for eternity - hell.

Eternal life in Jesus is available to us if we believe. We cannot earn it. Belief in Jesus is the only way.

Belief doesn't ensure a trouble free existence. Bad things will still happen, but when they do, we have God's help in coping with them.

This service was one of encouragement and hope.

Bob shared the stories of several people he was working with and asked us to pray for them.

- A lady in gaol is reading the Bible and asking him questions.
- A man about to be released from gaol is also reading the Bible and is growing in faith.
- Another man in gaol has asked that Bob visit him for the purpose of talking about Jesus.
- A trainer at the racecourse is attending Bible studies which inevitably is noticed by others there.

God's Spirit is at work, but at the same time as Bob is seeing positive signs coming out of his ministry, negativity and flack also increase. It truly is a case of spiritual warfare.

Please pray for Bob and his chaplaincy work.

Another source of encouragement for our Fellowship was the way Kelly, Ruth and Sharon led the service for us.

Ours is predominantly an older congregation so it was a joy to have three youthful young ladies arrange the service, select the hymns, pray and read the Bible for us and to do it so well. God is truly watching over us and supplying our needs.

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Sunday, 16th June - Mr. Peter Wright - Are you ready?



Marie, Desleigh and Peter

3pm Saturday, 10 August
Afternoon Tea

What do Christians really think?

Come and ask your questions:

- About suffering
- About Jesus Christ
- About proof
- About forgiveness
- About purpose

cnr Gould & Watson St Turner
in the
Finnish Lutheran Church

Evangelistic Event

The evangelistic event that followed on from the Apologetics Study Group held earlier this year was held on Saturday, 10th August.

A small number attended and good discussion took place.

Austral-Asian Church, Isaacs, 35th Anniversary



Over the years we have had a link with the AustralAsian Church, particularly through our carols, but also through a couple of their people preaching for us.

On 25th August they held a service to celebrate their 35th Anniversary.

Although we were unable to made it widely known as we only found out a day or two previously, Ian was able to attend and pass on the greetings of our Fellowship.

Sunday, 30th June - Pastor Opi Nduati - Psalm 23

This was the fourth occasion Opi had visited us, the first being in June 2008. Once again he updated us on the work he and iAfrika are doing in Nairobi, Kenya with street kids - providing a home and schooling for some, assistance to others and helping reunite and reconcile families.



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Opi spoke on Psalm 23. He showed us that the psalm talks of relationship, supply, rest, refreshment, healing, guidance, purpose, testing, protection, faithfulness, discipline, hope, consecration, abundance and blessing.

Sunday, 7th July - Mrs. Lee McMullan - "But God"



Lee is chaplain at Campbell High School and she began by giving us some examples of the challenges faced at the school.

Sarah and Joe (not their real names) are students with problems. 15 year old Sarah suffers from anxiety, no sense of purpose in life and has attempted suicide. The school has put a support plan in place for her. Joe is intelligent and friendly but plagued with suicidal thoughts. His welfare necessitated placement in a care facility.

Ephesians 2 contrasts being dead in sin with being alive in Christ. We know God's goodness, the purpose He gives us and the loving help He provides.

God is amazing!

Forty-five times the Bible has the words "but God". On each occasion those words come at a time when things look bleak or hopeless, yet we discover God had not yet had the final say and He intervened causing an unexpected outcome.

We should not be surprised by "but God" moments. The devil wants us to think we are on our own however God is always there with us. God sees, hears and knows and He provides hope. He seems to specialise in making a way forward when there is no way.

Lee finished with some signs of encouragement.

Sam is a cheeky 13 year old who has insecurities associated with his height and weight. Early signs of a turnaround in his life are evident. Grace has made unwise decisions concerning drugs and alcohol and has low self confidence. She is making small but positive baby steps by participating in quit programmes and pursuing her love of animals

VL / ID



CCF has given a donation toward Lee's chaplaincy work and the following is Lee's intentions for using it.

I run art groups with some girls who really find it helpful to deal with some of their issues. We have to borrow materials from the art department for this & I have been able to use some of my community money for this. However, it would be a great investment if we were able to buy some materials which were specifically for these groups & any future ones. I had thought of running a competition next term where the winner can have their piece of art displayed in both student services and your church if you agree to it. I would add a little plq in recognition of CCF's kindness too as well as the name of the student who completed it, etc.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.



3 of the girls, Trinitee, Meg & Rebekah and some of their encouraging messages in a well being room



Some of Campbell High craft / encouragement messages

"Okay, even if I accept your story that you dug up this ancient Big Chief tablet fragment with 2nd century crayon text, I don't believe Jesus was ever recorded saying, 'Parents, buy your kids whatever they wanteth.'"



Sunday, 18th August - Mr. Jeff Mason - Living as those made alive in Christ



From time to time we all attend funerals and generally hear stories that present the best of the person. Some times we come away thinking that was not the person I knew.

Jeff read a statement he had written that he believed presented the real Jeff Mason. It spoke of a man with all manner of faults and failures. The statement ended with the claim that if you knew a different Jeff Mason, it was only because of what God had done in his life.

Jeff gave his life to Christ when he was around 15. That changed him. He realised that if salvation depended on being good, he had no hope. Only by being cleansed by Jesus' blood could he be saved. Knowing Jesus died for him gave him peace. He was right with God because of Jesus.

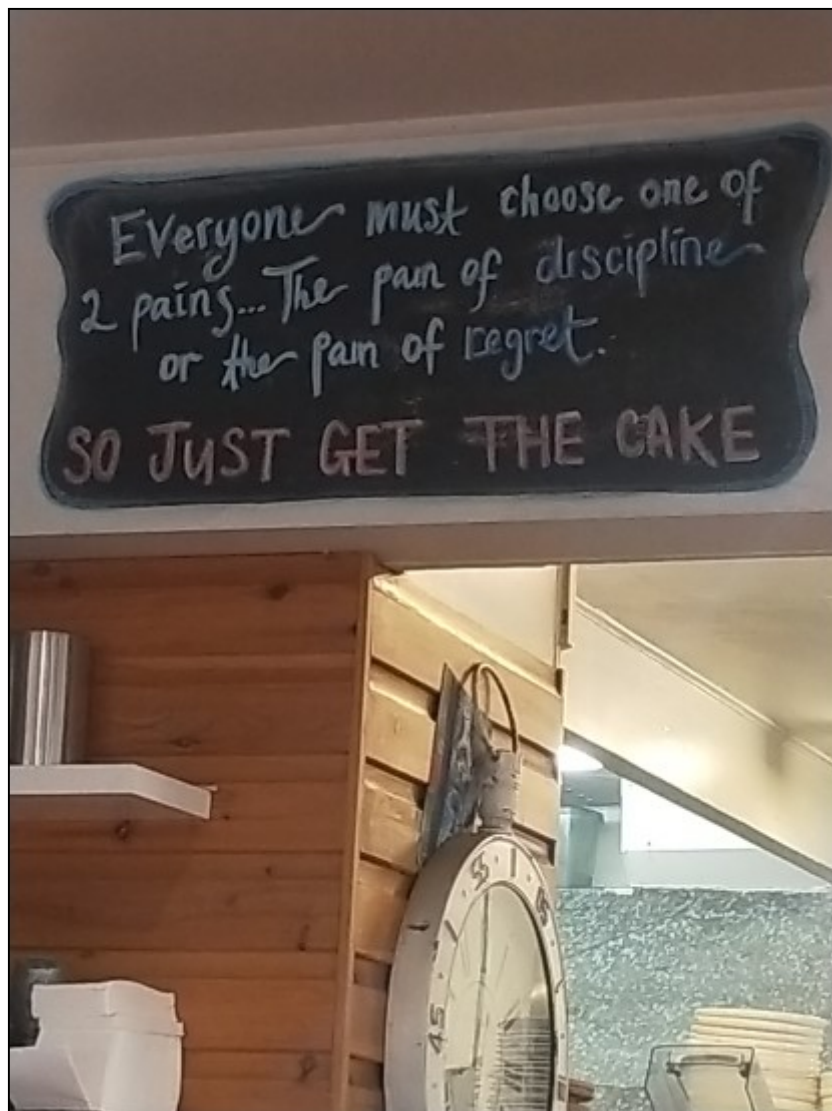
A bit later in life he reconsidered his faith. He looked more closely at the Bible and what it taught. He concluded the Bible was true. At the same time he realised his life was inconsistent with Biblical values. He just wasn't able to maintain Godly standards despite his efforts. He turned the problem over to God - 'I'm a Christian because I believe but I'm a bad example for christianity because my life doesn't reflect my beliefs. I'm your problem.' He found that as he focussed on the things of God, his life did change. If he focused on things of the world, the things he was doing wrong, he struggled.

Romans 6: 6 "*For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—*" became reality for him.

The Bible teaches that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God (Colossians 3: 1), the position of power and authority. That is so encouraging. Jesus is in control!

VL / ID

TEMPTATION in one of it's many forms



From The Purdey Pages



Over the past little while we have been feeling a change in the air, praying about our future and looking into the possibility of serving with MAF in another program overseas. About 18 months ago God placed the country of Madagascar, it's people, it's needs, and the impact of the MAF program there on our hearts. He also gave us encouragement from Psalm 37 to trust in Him, do good where we are in Arnhem Land and delight ourselves in Him while we wait for Him to bring these desires to fruition. Several months ago an opportunity came up to serve as a pilot family in Madagascar and we have recently been accepted to join the team over there. We are humbled and amazed at God's hand in this entire process and can testify to His faithfulness in keeping His promises.

We have been so blessed by our time in Arnhem Land over the past 8.5 years, across the indigenous communities of Milingimbi, Galiwin'ku on Elcho Island and Yirrkala. It hasn't always been easy as the needs here are immense, the remoteness and climate are challenging and the sense of hopelessness within the communities is a continual struggle. But we count it an enormous privilege to have served amongst the Yolngu people, met such wonderful Yolngu believers and worked alongside so many amazing MAF families. God has taught us so much and as He leads us into this new season we know it will be in His strength and that we can draw on our experiences to further use all He has given us during our time here.

We would greatly appreciate your prayers during this time of transition for our family. We are all excited but also nervous and we will miss Arnhem Land as we have called it home for so many years. More details will follow but at this stage the plan is to leave here in October to spend a few months in Adelaide and Hobart before heading to **Madagascar** in early 2020. We hope to see many of you during that time so please let us know sooner rather than later if you'd like to catch up!

Ian and Adele Purdey and family

Sunday, 25th August - Mr. Roy Dallos - Where you go I will go: A selfless life for Jesus



Satan seeks to turn us aside from what is right and good. In the story of Ruth, Naomi is his instrument as she tries to persuade Ruth to return to her own people rather than accompany Naomi back to Judah.

Ruth persists, asking not to be urged to leave and makes a great statement of commitment and love. *"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried."* [Ruth 1: 16,17] Ruth was not asking anything for herself. She had cast off her old life and

gods. For her there was no turning back.

In Ruth we can see Jesus' resolution and commitment. He left everything behind for us and gave everything for us. He will never leave us.

Naomi reflects us in as much as she was an obstacle to Ruth's righteous purpose and sought to do the expedient thing for herself.

Like Ruth committed herself to Naomi we should commit ourselves to Christ.

Ruth left behind the gods of Moab for the true God. Have we left behind the things that were once of primary importance to us, our gods, for Christ?

Christ's way is not an easy way for us, but it is the only way.

We can only be for Jesus or against Him.

VL / ID

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Mr. Peter Wright



Pastor Paul Avis



Pastor Opi Nduati



Mrs. Lee McMullan



Mr. Mark Warren



Mr. Revin Blanchard



Mr. Roy Dallos



Pastor Steve Prior



Mr. Mark Warren



Mr. Jeff Mason



Mr. Roy Dallos



Mr. Tim Collison



Rev. Paul Tabulutu



Rev. Bob Prior

Sunday **16th June** – **Mr. Peter Wright** (Fair Dinkum Life) - Are you ready?

Sunday **23rd June** – **Pastor Paul Avis** - The Gospel

Sunday **30th June** – **Pastor Opi Nduati** (iafrika, Kenya) - Psalm 23

Sunday **7th July** – **Mrs. Lee McMullan** - "But God"

Sunday **14th July** – **Mr. Mark Warren** - Unfinished business

Sunday **21st July** - **Mr. Revin Blanchard** - Fighting sin and temptation

Sunday **28th July** – **Mr. Roy Dallos** - Simple service and the grip of God's grace

Sunday **4th August** – **Pastor Steve Prior**

Sunday **11th, August** – **Mr. Mark Warren**

Sunday **18th August** – **Mr. Jeff Mason** - Living as those made alive in Christ

Sunday **25th August** – **Mr. Roy Dallos** - Where you go I will go: A selfless life for Jesus

Sunday **1st September** – **Mr. Tim Collison** (Leprosy Mission) - Christ centred partnerships

Sunday **8th September** – **Rev. Paul Tabulutu** - The way to the cross is the way of hardship

Sunday **15th September** – **Rev. Bob Prior** - John's take on salvation

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

David McDonald

Some months ago we were asked to pray for David because his cancer had returned.

Just a couple of days ago, I (Ian D.) heard my name called as I was visiting some shops. It was David, in Canberra to speak at a conference.

He asked after our fellowship and it's people.

He is receiving new treatment which while not curative should keep the cancer under control.

In addition to his role as National Director for the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, he spends 2 days a week pastoring a small church close to his home south of Port Macquarie.

David is booked to speak at next year's Scripture Union Regeneration Dinner here in Canberra.



Change is inevitable except from vending machines.

Sunday, 1st September - Mr. Tim Collison - Christ centred partnerships



At first glance the Bible reading (Romans 16: 1-16) that Tim chose was an odd one. It consists solely of greetings from Paul to the community of Christians in Rome, yet Tim shared with us a great truth that those greetings highlight.

We think of Paul as a great evangelist who did so much to spread the message of Christ in the world of his day and he was. What we tend to forget is that he did not do it all alone.

We read of Phoebe, a benefactor to many, and of others who contributed to the Christian community in various ways, probably often behind the scenes. Their faith was expressed in active love and service.

God's work is done by all His people in cooperation, all serving the same master and all helped by the Holy Spirit.

Tim told us about Munia, a lady in India, who had leprosy. She was set alight by her townsfolk, and when she managed to douse the fire, chased from the village. Someone directed her to a Leprosy Mission hospital where she was treated and loved with Christ's love. She is now part of that hospital community and making her own contribution to its work.

Leprosy Mission work, as with other Christian service happens in partnership. We all need to play our part in whatever way God calls us.

God equips us with all the resources we need to do all he asks of us.

When we are weak, God remains strong.

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Sunday, 8th September - Rev. Paul Tabulutu - The way to the cross is the way of hardship

Luke 9: 51-62 was the passage on which Paul based his sermon.

The way to the cross of Christ is hard and challenging, but God is there. We are able to seek His help and walk with Him. There is a cost in following Christ but in the end, we see Him.

Our faith journey starts when we accept Christ and so do challenges. Even if we stumble, Jesus is there for us.

Jesus said "*Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.*" [Luke 9: 58] He made no secret of the fact that to follow Him would not be easy. To do so means taking up the cross by doing away with our own wills and adopting God's will.

To follow Christ must be our first priority. God will provide for us.

On entering into God's service we need to look forward to where we are heading, not back to old sinful natures.



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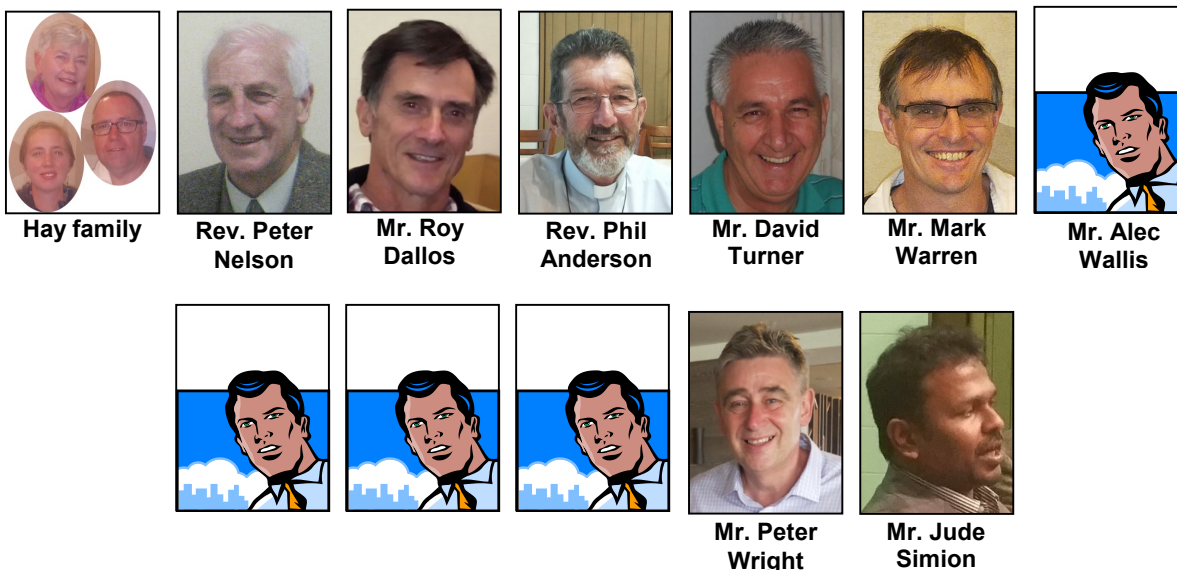
Chaplains

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**



Sunday 22nd September at 5pm - Hay family (SIM)
Sunday 29th September at 5pm – Rev. Peter Nelson
Sunday 6th October at 5pm – Mr. Roy Dallos
Sunday 13th October at 5pm – Rev. Phil Anderson
Sunday 20th October at 5pm - Mr. David Turner (Mission Without Borders)
Sunday 27th October at 5pm – Mr. Mark Warren
Sunday 3rd November at 5pm – Mr. Alec Wallis (Bible Society)
Sunday 10th November at 5pm – ?
Sunday 17th November at 5pm – ?
Sunday 24th November at 5pm – ?
Sunday 1st December at 5pm – Mr. Peter Wright (Carols)
Sunday 8th December at 5pm - Mr. Jude Simion (Barnabas Fund)

Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at the church.
 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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