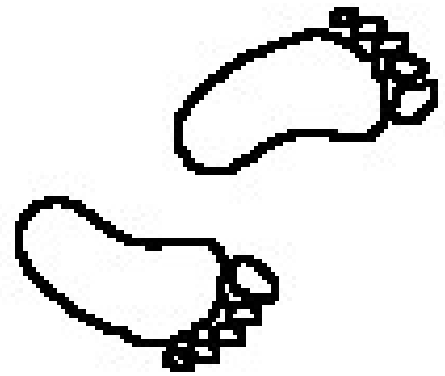


October 2019
Issue 108

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Chaplaincy at Campbell High School

From CHAPPY news Campbell High School TERM 3 - 2019

It has been pretty hard going at times over the past 2 terms with an increasing number of students struggling with self-harm and high levels of anxiety or depression. I feel deeply appreciative of the fact that, in my role as Chaplain, I get to be there for these kids at what can be their darkest hour and provide support in a variety of ways to both them and their families.

How you can help

There is a new 'Save our Chappies' campaign taking shape at the moment which I will keep you updated on asap. A number of local churches have come forward and said they would like to do something to try to reverse the Governments' decision to ban chaplains in schools, so SU QLD are working with them to establish a Social Media PR Campaign. This is very exciting but naturally nerve-wracking as we try to save School Chaplaincy so your prayers would be very much appreciated in this.



I want to reiterate my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support and prayers. In particular, I want to acknowledge my anonymous brekkie club donor (you know who you are!), St Johns Anglicare, Givit, Kaisercraft, Eckersleys & the Canberra Christian Fellowship.

It really does mean a lot and is the only way we can do this vital work in our schools.

*God bless,
Lee McMullan*

The Art competition results are printed later in this issue **in colour** !

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.



A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right and evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority.

Rick Warren

A new Aussie

Janelle, originally from the Philippines, worshipped with us some years ago.

She married Dale and they moved to Queanbeyan to live and to a church closer to their home.

On Thursday, 10 October Janelle became an Aussie. She received her citizenship certificate from the Mayor of Queanbeyan with whom she is pictured.

Janelle and Dale now worship at Hope Church, Queanbeyan, that meets at Googong.



Sunday, 22nd September - The Hay family - SIM / iKhethelo



Pat. John. Mark. David. Janenne. Rachel and Trish

The Hays gave us an overview of their work in iKhethelo (which means 'The chosen Ones'). iKhethelo Children's Village is a home of love, healing and safety for vulnerable and orphaned children in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. It also serves as a community outreach hub.

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

Sunday, 29th September - Rev. Peter Nelson - How to become great

Matthew 20: 20-28 contrasts two ways of seeking greatness, the world's way and Jesus' way of service and humility. Jesus' way gives us true life and is the most fruitful way. Without Jesus this life is a living death.

Jesus focussed on His suffering and humiliation; the disciples on their own glorification.

In verses 25-28 Jesus tells His disciples not to follow things of this world. He then contrasts worldly authority with service.

Husbands should serve their wives and vice versa; church members can use their gifts to encourage and help others and we can pray.

Slaves were common in Jesus' day. They did the lowest jobs. Paul called himself a slave. - "*just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*" [Matthew 20: 28].

What are we prepared to pay for our faith?

VL



Sunday, 6th October - Mr. Roy Dallos - Ruth 1: 18-22 Time to go home and face the music



Last time we looked at the book of Ruth we saw Ruth's commitment, devotion and determination - an attitude that allowed no turning back.

This time we see Naomi returning to Bethlehem, her husband and two sons dead and Ruth with her. Naomi is no longer wealthy. She could only do as we must do - stand in God's strength and look for what He is teaching us.

As is still the case today, bad talk is very hurtful and damaging. Naomi's return was the subject of comment and she heard what was said. She felt the bitterness of life and blamed God although the decision to go to Moab was made by Elimelek - her husband, and herself.

Hardship and despair can leave us against God. but the acts of God are loving.

Exodus 15: 23-25 tells us God showed Moses how to make bitter water fit to drink. Naomi told the women to call her Mara (which means bitter) but she had returned at the start of the barley harvest. God was providing for her and making things ready for a new beginning.

VL

Sunday, 13th October - Dr. Don Batten - Answers to the most asked questions

(Creation Ministries International)

I had intended to write up a brief summary of what was said at this service, however as someone who disagrees with the creationists' arguments and conclusions, I don't think I can do so fairly.

I agree with them that God created the heavens and the earth, but their literal understanding of the time taken to do so conflicts with my understanding of truth being conveyed through story.

Evolution is a scientifically well accepted theory, but not by creationists. They regard it as just plain wrong, a misleading story that is used to eliminate God from the creative process. Once again I differ. To me it is a tool set up and used by God.

Belief in evolution is presented as a primary reason for the rapid rise in atheism since the 1960s. Perhaps some people do use it as an excuse to ignore God, but increased mobility, Sunday sport and other worldly attractions have also played a part in helping people lose sight of God.

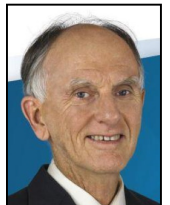
If you are interested in the creationists' viewpoint, you can visit the creation.com website.

I have written a summary of my own thinking which is printed later in this *Next Step*.

I do not want this issue to become an ongoing debate because I fear that might distract all of us, no matter what our understanding of how and over what period God created, from focussing on God now and our relationship with Him.

Yes, there are lessons we can learn from Genesis and every other book of the Bible, but let us focus on what is most important - Our relationship with God now; living righteous, godly lives; and serving Him faithfully. John 3:16 is my best focus. "*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.*"

ID



Congratulations Norm. 99 on 26/10.



Thank you for your support and advocacy of school chaplaincy in the ACT.

... we are about to launch a campaign next week to seek the reversal of the ACT government's decision to ban school chaplaincy in ACT government schools from the end of this school term. We need to act now.

This campaign will depend on developing a very broad base of public support and awareness - we hope, including through your churches and networks.

This email is for you to **share with your church networks now**, so that they can promote the Save Our Chaplains ACT campaign in church notices, and in services, **this Sunday. [27/10]**

What we are hoping is that churches will encourage their people to **visit the campaign website www.saveourchaplains.org** - and do three things:

1. **vote 'Yes'** to keep chaplains in the ACT;
2. **like the campaign Facebook page** (linked on the campaign website); and
3. if they are on Twitter or Instagram, that they **follow the campaign accounts** linked on the campaign website.

It's as simple as that.

The website is ready, but **will not be live until early Sunday morning (27/10)**, in time for congregations to go to the web address above and vote etc.

Next week we will launch the campaign with a fantastic video, and that will be put up on the Website, Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter account.

So if people have connected with the campaign via social media, they will automatically see that video and all subsequent updates and news.

Thank you for your prayer and support.

Warm regards,

Peter James | CEO

Jenni Dobbins | Director of Operations

passed on to us by Lee McMullan - chaplain Campbell High

Campbell High School chaplaincy / Art competition

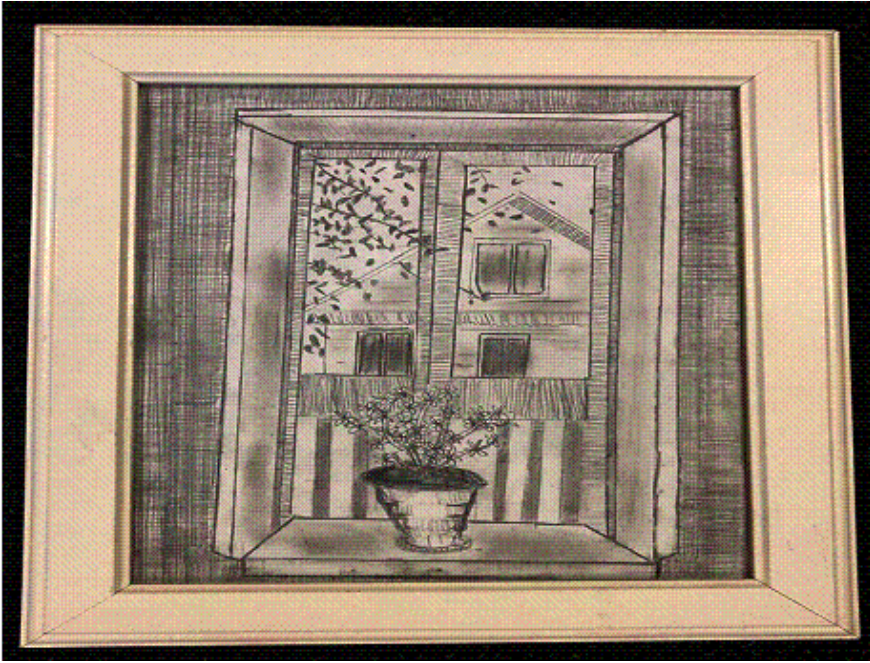
I have continued running the Art Program on Mondays ... It's amazing what time chatting over some paint and canvases can do ...

So far, the art group has run a Student Services Competition where 3 entries won prizes donated by Kaisercraft and Eckersleys, and the opportunity to have their artwork displayed both in school and at Canberra Christian Fellowship, who so generously gave a donation for art materials to this art group.

Lee McMullan



1 Luna's Bee



2 Rebekah and her Window with a View



3 Laura and Textured Space



Creation - A personal perspective (I am using an NIV Bible)

Let me begin by stating that although I studied science subjects at school and take an interest in scientific discoveries and matters in general, I have no special claims to scientific understanding.

Similarly, although I read the Bible, I am by no means a Biblical scholar or theologian.

I do believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and as such to be trusted to reveal God to us and speak His message to us. *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* [2 Timothy 3: 16-17]

The first verse of the Bible tells us *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* [Genesis 1: 1]. To me that tells a fundamental truth - In the beginning there was nothing but God and everything that now exists is His creation.

In the next few verses of Genesis we read *"And God said ..."* [Genesis 1: 3,6,9,14,20,24] / *"Then God said ..."* [Genesis 1: 11,26,29] often followed by *"And it was so."* [Genesis 1: 7,9,11,15,24,30] as God completes His creation.

It is clear to me that God spoke and willed creation and what He willed happened, but I question if it all happened in six days as we know them. Science suggests creation of the world / universe as we know it took many, many millions of years. Is this contradictory to the Bible? Some people believe so, but I don't. Consider 2 Peter 3: 8 *"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."* Perhaps we should look back on creation using God's timescale rather than our own.

How did He do it? The Genesis account tells us God spoke but gives us little of the mechanics of the way things changed once He spoke. Samantha from the TV show 'Bewitched' twitched her nose and instantly things changed. Was that God's way? I don't believe so. Gardeners talk of creating a veg patch or a whole new garden but between announcing their intention and the reality of that creation there is a lot of work and slow changes to bring the goal to fruition. Allowing the almost incomprehensible expanses of time science talks of (a God day), I believe God used that time to mould His creation into the form He wanted through the application of the natural processes that He set up. Genesis 1 itself tells us God *"made"* a number of things although it doesn't explain his methods. For example *"And God said, 'Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.' So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so."* [Genesis 1: 6-7]. God said it, then He made it happen. Science / Bible conflict? Not to my mind, just different ways of looking at the same truth.

To me science is an exploration of God's creation. Certainly some scientific theories will be wrong or inadequate, just steps along the way to discovering truth, but others reveal the intricacy, expanse, complexity, interaction and wonder of what God has done. Some discoveries will challenge what we once understood, but that doesn't mean science is necessarily wrong. It could be our understanding is deficient. Once the earth was believed to be the centre of the universe. Galileo believed differently and was subject to great opposition for saying what his scientific observations taught him.

The theory of evolution is a widely accepted scientific concept, but it remains condemned by some who resolutely insist that the creation of man should be accepted literally as Genesis tells it. I cannot agree with those dismissing evolution so dogmatically.

I have difficulty getting my mind round big changes in animal lifeforms taking place very slowly over extremely long periods but I believe sufficient evidence has been discovered to show that is the case. Such a process may blur the distinction between non-human ancestors and those who finally became human but that is not my problem. I know that God loved all His creation. *"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."* [Genesis 1: 31]. I also concede that God knows far more than I ever will, has far more wisdom than I do and will deal with all His creation, inanimate, animal, almost human and human, in the way He chooses. He is fully able to make those decisions and I trust Him to do so.

The truth revealed in Genesis does not change. It is just wrapped in extra detail of the way God interacted with His creation.

Science doesn't diminish God or His work. For me it displays a God that cannot be contained by mere human knowledge or understanding. All that science reveals and so much more that is as yet undiscovered points to a God more powerful, amazing and beyond human comprehension than any one of us can possibly imagine.

There is a good deal of theology grounded in the book of Genesis. In chapter 3 we read of the serpent tempting Adam's wife and she eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and giving some of the fruit to Adam. They were banished from the Garden of Eden for disobeying God. That banishment

illustrates the gulf that exists between us and God caused by our sin. That disobedience, that is common to us all, brought death - spiritual death, to humanity.

Believing the whole Bible is the inspired Word of God, it makes no difference to me if that is historically accurate or a story given to us to convey God's truth. Either way God speaks to us of the broken relationship between us and Him.

While I find the Genesis stories valuable for the lessons they teach and the theological truths they contain, I lean towards the understanding of them as stories given to people as a means to explain their origins and their relationship with God in a form they could understand.

If God had given ancient man a modern day scientific explanation of creation and their relationship with Him, I'm sure they would have been baffled, not having the background knowledge to comprehend what they heard. God provided them with history in a form they could understand.

While I understand some Biblical stories as narratives through which God is speaking His message to us, most I accept as history as we understand history today - a record of events as they occurred. Once again, I find the stories of equal value whether they are stories containing a message or history illustrating the very same message.

Is belief in the Genesis literal record of God's creation central to becoming and living as a christian? Definitely not! I have known both those who believed in creation as recorded in Genesis (they believed it but it was not central to their faith) and those who accepted a more scientific explanation, that I regarded as very fine, faithful christians who lived their faith and showed Christ in their lives.

John 3: 16 tells us "*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.*" Not a mention of creation there.

Does 'creationism' make it easier to accept the Bible because you are accepting everything written there literally, not correlating some of it with scientific knowledge, and so to accept Christ? Some people claim so but I have strong doubts.

Some christians I have known have witnessed confusion and rejection of the gospel when people were confronted with 'creationism'. Having seen what science has discovered in so many aspects of life and the advantages it has delivered they find the rejection of a well accepted and well tested scientific theory puzzling. What should they do? Reject science which will most likely enter into their lives and employment in many and varied ways for an inflexible doctrine, or reject the Bible, that is the source of that doctrine, and everything else it contains for a scientific understanding of the world? Easy choice - stick with what you know - science.

Those christians have found greater success in showing how the Biblical creation account and science have revealed the same truth in different ways. They may be superficially at odds but both describe God at work. Great - no need to discard either understanding.

God, His love for us and what He has done for us and our response should be our focus.

How He has done all He has done is to my mind a very minor matter with the one BIG exception.

Jesus saved us from the penalty for our sins, washing us clean and making us acceptable to God by taking our sins upon Himself and dying in our place as the perfect sacrifice. Now that really is a 'How did He do it?' answer that is worth remembering.

"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].

Ian D.

Charles



For much of this year we have been glad to have Charles worshipping with us while in Canberra from the USA working for his government.

His contribution to our worship, which includes leading us in prayer during a service, has been appreciated.

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Hay family



Rev. Peter Nelson



Mr. Roy Dallos



Dr. Don Batten



Mr. David Turner

Sunday 22nd September - Hay family (SIM) - Serving In Mission at iKhethelo

Sunday 29th September – Rev. Peter Nelson - How to become great

Sunday 6th October – Mr. Roy Dallos - Ruth 1:18-22 Time to go home and face the music

Sunday 13th October – Dr. Don Batten (Creation Ministries International) - Answers to the most asked questions

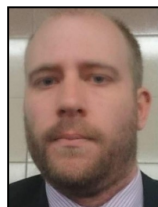
Sunday 20th October - Mr. David Turner (Mission Without Borders) -

Coming Services

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



Mr. Mark Warren



Mr. Alec Wallis



Mr. Ian Denton



Rev. Paul Tabulutu



Rev. Phil Anderson



Mr. Peter Wright



Mr. Jude Simion



Mr. Owen Chadwick



Rev. Peter Nelson

Sunday 27th October at 5pm – Mr. Mark Warren

Sunday 3rd November at 5pm – Mr. Alec Wallis (Bible Society)

Sunday 10th November at 5pm – Mr. Ian Denton

Sunday 17th November at 5pm – Rev. Paul Tabulutu

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

Sunday 1st December at 5pm – Mr. Peter Wright (Carols)

Sunday 8th December at 5pm - Mr. Jude Simion (Barnabas Fund)

Sunday 15th December at 5pm - Mr. Owen Chadwick

Sunday 22nd December - No service of our own. We will join the Fijians for their Christmas service at 10-30am.

Sunday 29th December at 5pm - Rev. Peter Nelson

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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