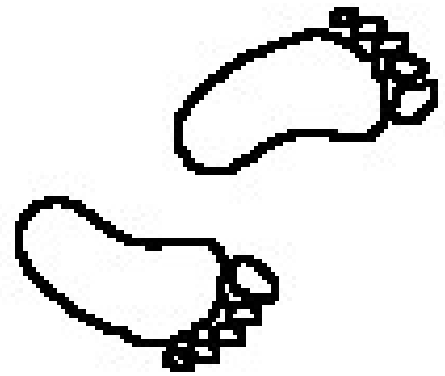


February, March 2020  
Issue 110

# The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)

## COVID-19 Coronavirus

Concern about COVID-19 coronavirus is sweeping the world.

While it is more a topic for medical publications than church newsletters, it is a topic that cannot be ignored. There is a marked degree of concern in the community which can be seen in changed shopping patterns leading to shortages of products such as hand sanitiser and some food products that people are stockpiling 'just in case'. There is a risk that people could catch it and become quite ill.

We must all decide how we will live our lives as the coronavirus uncertainty continues. Some of us may decide to be extra cautious due to existing ailments or other reasons.

Generally accepted and recommended precautions include using hand sanitiser or washing your hands with soap and water regularly particularly after touching objects other people may have handled.

Avoiding touching your face and taking care when preparing or taking food items is also suggested.

The Australian government website says

**Everyone should practise good hygiene to protect against infections. Good hygiene includes:**

- **washing your hands often with soap and water**
- **using a tissue and cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze**
- **avoiding close contact with others, such as touching**

"it is most important to heed the advice of the health professionals whose expertise is to protect the community and prevent the spread of the disease, and to be aware of public health announcements." [from a letter to Uniting Churches from President Deidre Palmer]

We at CCF intend to continue as safely as we are able, adopting precautions recommended by the health authorities.

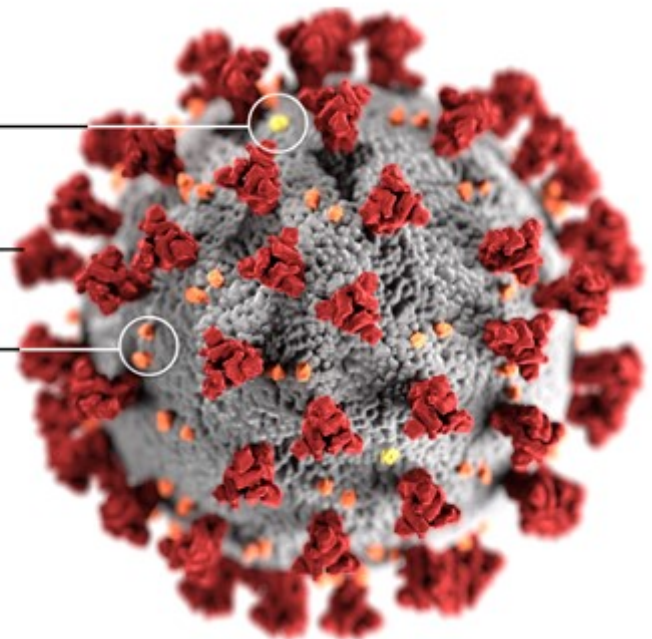
If it is felt necessary that we should suspend services for a time to help contain infection we will do so but at the same time will endeavour to maintain our worship and fellowship by whatever means remain available, perhaps frequent mailed newsletters and or regular phone calls to each other. Hopefully such measures will not be required.

No amount of precautions can 100% guarantee immunity to the virus threat however God has given us the ability to make choices and to act wisely. He will remain with us whether we stay healthy or become sick.

E protein

S protein

M protein



**Mission Without Borders**  
**60 Years of reaching people for Christ**

In late February, Mission Without Borders CEO Stephen Young, who is based in England, and Australian Director David Turner came to Canberra for an afternoon with supporters and those interested in MWB's work.

MWB partner with 178 local churches spread over 6 eastern European countries to provide assistance where it is much needed. They run Self Sufficiency Programs with the goal of enabling people to gain the ability to help themselves. Other activities are after school care providing a safe environment for children, soup kitchens, summer camps and family sponsorships.

MWB is motivated by God's love and a desire to make it known so they provide not only assistance but access to the Gospel.

Lives are transformed through their work and that continues across generations giving hope for the future.



**CEO Stephen Young  
answering questions about  
MWB posed by David Turner**

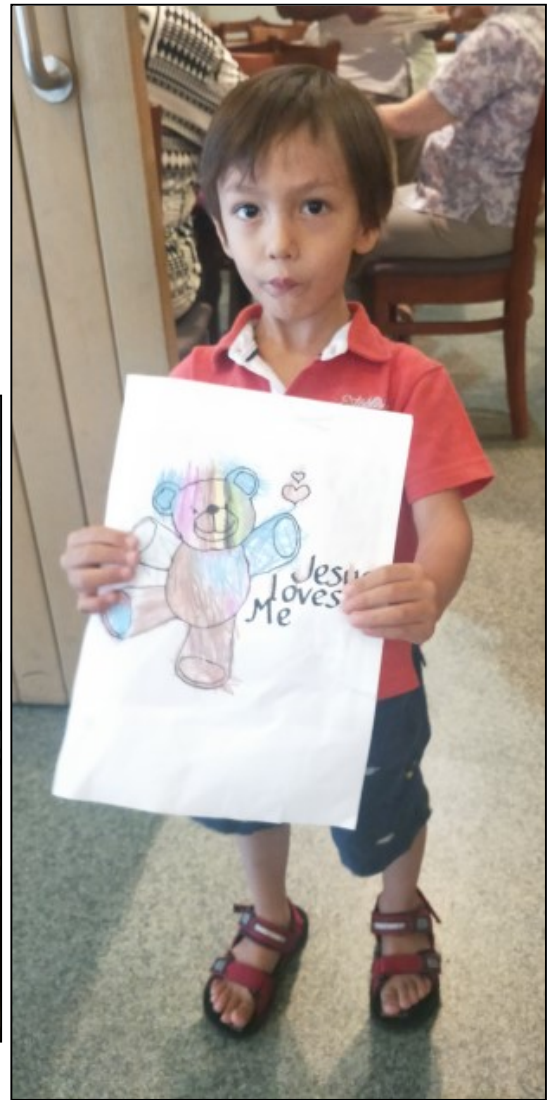


### Kids Spot

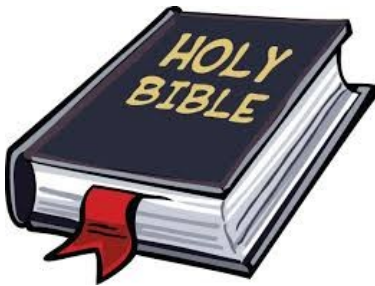
Last year we began including a kids spot in our worship even though it was rare for children to be present.

For the last couple of months we have had a small number of children present most weeks so our kids spots have proved valuable.

Praise God He has brought some of the younger generation to us and that we are able to talk about Jesus and His love with them.



### Tuesday Bible Study



For quite some time now Joyce has led a Bible Study group that meets weekly for much of each year.

Those studies have recommenced for 2020. The book currently being studied is Isaiah.

If you would like to join in a small group looking into God's Word, Joyce and the others attending would be glad to welcome you.

They meet on Tuesdays at 2-30pm. Joyce can provide you with more details.

It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.

### Wednesday Study Group

Daytime is not a suitable time for some to meet for Bible Study.

Recognising this and feeling a need to look more closely into the Bible with others, Mark and Katherine have invited those interested to join them on Wednesday evenings at 6-30pm at their home for a time with God and His Word.

Philippians is the book currently being studied.



Q What do you get when you cross a dyslexic, an insomniac, and an agnostic?

A Someone who lays awake at night wondering if there is a dog.

## Mission Aviation Fellowship - Madagascar - from the Purdeys

Salama! Hello!

We are writing to you from our new home in Madagascar! ... Our first few weeks have been spent settling in, finding our way around our new home and compound area, meeting the MAF team, starting the boys at school and commencing our language study. ...



The boys have enjoyed finding chameleons in our front yard and making new friends. ...

we are spending five mornings a week at a Malagasy language school. This is a school set up by some of our MAF colleagues to teach the Malagasy language to missionaries. ...

Some new challenges for us have been:

- Reconciling our western way of life and comparative extreme wealth with those living in extreme poverty nearby. This will no doubt be

a continual challenge for us.

- Learning to drive on the other side of the car and wrong side of the road.
- Negotiating what often seems chaotic traffic. There is a large mix of traffic from zebu carts (a wooden cart pulled by cattle) and posy-posy (rickshaws) to ancient trucks, old beat up French classics, innumerable scooters and myriad people crossing the road, selling things or begging. After years of minimal traffic in Arnhem Land this has been quite a change! ...

In April Ian will start flying and is looking forward to getting back in the air. ...



Roadside stalls

Misoatra betsaka! Thankyou very much!  
Ian, Adele, Jimmy, Edward, Josiah and Theo

## From the Hays - iKhethelo, South Africa

Dear Friends at Canberra Christian Fellowship

Greetings from David, Janenne and Rachel. ... This week sees us being back in South Africa for three months following our period of Home Assignment. ...

The school year is now in full swing. The beginning of the new school year is always a busy time. Getting stationary organised for all the children and new school uniforms. We were blessed this year to receive a donation for new good quality school shoes for all the children. We attended parent information sessions with children starting high school and attended first day with little ones going to Grade R (kindergarten).

It is now a government requirement that all caregivers (the house parents who live in the cottages with the children) employed by Child and Youth Care Centres such as iKhethelo, must have a specified level of qualification as a Child and Youth Care Worker. Not all of our caregivers have this qualification. This year we will be getting our caregivers trained to achieve this qualification. Unfortunately, our longest-serving caregiver is unlikely to achieve this as she can neither read nor write. This will be very difficult for her and for everyone at iKhethelo. ...

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.



With our love  
David, Janenne & Rachel

**Uganda - School of Biblical Studies (SBS) and Church based Training in Biblical Studies (CTBS)**

Two months ago, I [Mike Aylott] travelled from Kenya to visit Dan and Andrew. ... I came back reminded of the great value of the work they do in teaching others how to study and use the bible effectively and holistically. ... I met the group of pastors in the Church based Training in Biblical Studies (CTBS) that are being encouraged each week by Dan and Andrew and equipped to combat false teaching. It is not possible to overstate the value of this, particularly in Africa. The pastors are so grateful for the teaching received. ...

**And now for the bad news...**

Unfortunately, I had to tell Dan and Andrew that we can no longer afford to give them a reliable income. ...

**A report from Dan and Andrew**

We thank the Lord for the good work done in Uganda through CTBS and SBS. It is not just bible training. Looking back over more than 20 years, the School of Biblical Studies has produced many leaders in Christian circles in Uganda: in churches, NGOs, community development agencies, and as missionaries across the world. And many bible teachers too! ...

January 2020 started with a kind of "negative surprise" for us! Our usual support dropped by nearly 30%. ... Andrew and I started praying for God's provision many weeks back and we continue to pray. ... we trust that the Lord will provide and will normalize our funding or even improve it in the future.

We regularly pray and thank the Lord for you our supporters. We again thank you so much for your significant contribution towards these ministries and for your love to Andrew and me.

May the Lord bless you,  
Dan and Andrew

Dan and Andrew have visited us several times in the past.

Giving: You can transfer directly to CBA bank (BSB 762-913) account (the number is 18349 and the name is Uganda SBS Support Fund). You can also walk into any CBA branch with these details and make a cash or cheque deposit.



**David, Mike, Timothy&Miriam, Princess, Dan, Jonathan and me [Mike]**



**Gemma and Andrew**

## Lee



Chaplaincy in A.C.T. public schools has now ended so Lee McMullan, formally Campbell High School chaplain, has finished in that role. We recently heard that she and her husband returned to see family and friends in Northern Ireland over Christmas. Lee has had to remain there for now as she is expecting and her condition is such that the doctor advised her not to fly back here.

I'm sure she would value our continued prayers.

## Bob

Bob was to have preached for us just a Sunday or two ago. He had been sick with a short hospital stay but was on the improve. Unfortunately his recovery was not as quick as hoped so he was unable to come although he did arrange through son Steve for Tim Williamson to take his place.

He will be with us in May, God and health willing, before he and his wife take a holiday in Africa where he ministered some years ago.



## Chaplains

**Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy**

**Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy**

**Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches**



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

## Care and Prayer

Casting a superficial eye over our Fellowship, an outside observer might see a group of people mixing in a friendly manner each week as they come together for their regular Sunday gathering. There is a mix of ages, perhaps slightly more on the elderly side, but overall it is an unremarkable group.

Unremarkable we may be, but a closer knowledge of each of us reveals a more complex picture.

Age is a common factor for several of our number along with the restrictions and difficulties that it imposes.

Sickness is also a reality for many. Several of us have had recent hospital visits or stays ranging from hours to months. Ongoing treatment for serious conditions is a fact of life for some of us.

Bereavement has come as family members or friends pass on.

Lack of mobility, distance or other factors prevent some of our number joining with us and benefitting from the companionship of their friends.

Scanning our congregation for these complaints leaves very few of us untouched and it is quite likely that even they may be weighed down by trials of their own of which we are unaware.

Now that I have everyone depressed, let me give the good news.

God is with us, knows all our cares and sorrows and is our constant comfort and friend.

He has brought us into fellowship with Himself and with each other.

I am sure God wants us to extend His love for us to each other by looking out for each other and offering practical and prayerful support as we are able and as He shows us. I know that phone lines run hot with calls of concern, comfort and mere contact, visits are made to those more isolated and prayers offered for each other.

Unremarkable we may be in a human sense but God is using us in a remarkable way to build up, sustain and grow our little part of His Kingdom.

ID

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## Solomon

Solomon has been a member of our Fellowship and a part of our congregation for several years now.



Originally from Sri Lanka, he came to Australia as a refugee and sought permanent residency here. Very recently his application was turned down which means he will have to return to Sri Lanka. Please pray that God's will will be done concerning Solomon and his future.

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## Sunday, 16th February - Mr. Phil Ng - The Way Home

The events in John 14: 1-14 take place in Jesus' last hours. Jesus' disciples were disturbed. They had left their old lives, now Jesus was talking of leaving them. Jesus exhorts them to keep their belief in God. He made it personal by telling them there will be a place prepared for them and he will take them there. Jesus makes it clear that He is the only way to the Father. *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* [John 14: 6]



There are lots of things in this world that are not as they should be but John gives us the words of life from Jesus. His Gospel is written *"so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."* [John 20: 31]. By grace we are saved through trusting in Jesus.

We cannot rationalise away Jesus claims. He offers not **a** way to be saved but **the** way. C.S. Lewis observed that if Jesus' claims are false they are of no importance, if true they are infinitely important. They cannot be moderately important.

Everyone worships something, even if they don't use that word for their devotion - success, sport, family, etc.. They may be very good and worthy things but they are lousy Gods. Only God can bring us true significance and life.

Responding to a question from Philip, Jesus repeats He and the Father are one. He tells Philip even greater things will be done by those who believe in Him so the Father will be glorified.

ID

## **Sunday, 23rd February - Mr. Tim Williamson - Strength for striving Christians**



Complacency and laziness has a way of creeping up on us. Don Carson warns "no-one drifts towards holiness". God works in and through a striving for holiness.

Without holiness we will not see God.

Hebrews 12: 16 Esau didn't value his birthright. He sold it for a bowl of soup. Once done he couldn't get it back. We must get our priorities right. Compared to Jesus the things of the world aren't worth much. God is very good to us.

Hebrews 12: 21 Moses reminds us of God's glory. God is glorious, holy and righteous - set apart from sin. No one can approach God tainted by sin and live.

Hebrews 12: 24 Abel's blood cried out for vengeance however people are made perfect through the sprinkled blood of Jesus enabling them to draw near to God.

We are the recipients of God's love and God's grace and we are not condemned because we have been made righteous through Jesus.

Let us worship God with reverence and awe.

VL/ID

## **Sunday, 8th March - Mr. Michael Bevan (Gideons)**

In Exodus 3:14 we read God's words to Moses *'I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I am has sent me to you."*

The statement 'I am' became well recognised as applying to God.

Many times during His ministry Jesus used the words 'I am' while talking of Godly matters. :

John 6: 35 *"Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*

John 11: 25,26 *"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."*

John 14: 6 *"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*



**Michael and Joy Bevan**

Jesus' critics understood His claims. They understood He was equating Himself with God and that angered them. At the Last Supper Jesus' disciples showed by their questions that they still didn't properly comprehend Who He was.

Even though Jesus knew what was before Him, He showed concern for His disciples, explaining to them His oneness with the Father and their relationship with the Father through Him.

Just as God *"causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous"* [Matthew 5: 45], His love and mercy is not restricted to any particular group or groups of people. Michael told us of a man who had been given a Gideon Bible by his mother when he was young. He valued the Bible but never read it. Getting himself into all manner of strife he ended up in prison. Finally he opened his Bible and came to know Jesus as his Saviour. Despite his new faith he continued to find life a struggle until one day several years later, he said to God that he couldn't continue coping with his life as it was. He realised that he had accepted Jesus as his saviour, but not as his Lord. Allowing Jesus to direct his life changed everything. He found life became much more straight forward and that man is now the Pastor of a church.

God used His Word to speak to that man, to show him the way to salvation and the way to live his life serving his master.

ID





speaker  
David McDonald



**4 March 2020**

Over 500 people attended this year's Scripture Union Regeneration Dinner although our numbers were down from previous years.

Ana Davy, SU's A.C.T. Director opened the evening and informed us 91% of children in the A.C.T. have no connection with the church. God has provided us with quite a challenge but we can depend on His guidance and help as we work to reach out to them.

As we enjoyed our meals we heard from a couple of other speakers about SU camps and SUPA clubs.

David McDonald was the main speaker and spoke about his life, his cancer and the reality of his mortality when confronted by his sickness. The big questions of life and faith became very real and he was forced to reexamine what he believed about God and his relationship with Him.

God has been good to David and granted him many more years than was initially expected when he was first diagnosed although he is still battling the cancer.

By the end of the evening we were better informed of how Scripture Union is reaching out to young people and the community with the Gospel and challenged in our own faith and witness by David's words.

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



Mr. George Huang



Mr. Jude Simion



Rev. Paul Tabulutu



Mr. Mark Warren



Mr. Roy Dallos



Mr. Phillip Ng



Mr. Tim Williamson



Mr. Mark Warren



Mr. Michael Bevan

Sunday **12th January** at 5pm - **Mr. George Huang** - This is Jesus

Sunday **19th January** at 5pm - **Mr. Jude Simion** (Barnabas Fund)

Sunday **26th January** at 5pm - **Rev. Paul Tabulutu** - The power of the Gospel

Sunday **2nd February** at 5pm - **Mr. Mark Warren** - The power of God

Sunday **9th February** at 5pm - **Mr. Roy Dallos** - The power of a noble character

Sunday **16th February** at 5pm - **Mr. Phil Ng** - The way home

Sunday **23rd February** at 5pm - **Mr. Tim Williamson** - Strength for striving Christians

Sunday **1st March** at 5pm - **Mr. Mark Warren** - The power of God - Where is the power?

Sunday **8th March** at 5pm - **Mr. Michael Bevan** (Gideons)

## Coming Services

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



**Pastor Steve Prior**



**Mrs. Joyce Hall**



**Rev. Peter Nelson**



**Mr. Roy Dallos**



**Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**



**Mr. Owen Chadwick**



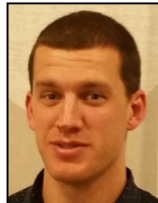
**Mr. Aubrey Newman**



**Mr. Revin Blanchard**



**Mr. Peter Wright**



**Mr. Brett Hillam**



**Rev. Bob Prior**



**Rev. Peter Nelson**



**Mr. Mark Warren**



**Mr. Paul Davey**



**Rev. Abraham Tang**



**Mr. Roy Dallos**

Sunday **15th March** at 5pm - **Pastor Steve Prior**

Sunday **22nd March** at 5pm - **Mrs. Joyce Hall** (Harvest Thanksgiving)

Sunday **29th March** at 5pm - **Rev. Peter Nelson**

Sunday **5th April** at 5pm - **Mr. Roy Dallos**

Sunday **12th April** at 5pm - **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**

Sunday **19th April** at 5pm - **Mr. Owen Chadwick**

Sunday **26th April** at 5pm - **Mr. Aubrey Newman** (iAfrika)

Sunday **3rd May** at 5pm - **Mr. Revin Blanchard**

Sunday **10th May** at 5pm - **Mr. Peter Wright**

Sunday **17th May** at 5pm - **Mr. Brett Hillam**

Sunday **24th May** at 5pm - **Rev. Bob Prior**

Sunday **31st May** at 5pm - **Rev. Peter Nelson**

Sunday **7th June** at 5pm - **Mr. Mark Warren**

Sunday **14th June** at 5pm - **Mr. Paul Davey** (Compassion)

Sunday **21st June** at 5pm - **Rev. Abraham Tang**

Sunday **28th June** at 5pm - **Mr. Roy Dallos**

### Coming Up

#### Tuesday Bible Study

**Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at the church or Ruth's.**

All welcome - contact Joyce for more information

Studying Isaiah

#### Wednesday Bible Study

**Wednesdays at 6-30 pm at Mark and Katherine's.**

All welcome - contact Mark for more information

Studying Philippians

#### 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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