

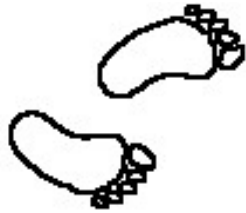
March 2020 (2)
Issue 112

The Next Step

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**Canberra
Aboriginal Church**

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)



**Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist Tradition)
and
Canberra Aboriginal Church**

**Worship Services SUSPENDED
due to COVID-19 coronavirus threat**

Martin Luther's pastoral advice during the Black Plague:



"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbour needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

—Martin Luther, Works v. 43, p. 132. Letter "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague" written to Rev. Dr. John Hess.

Dear Friends at Canberra Christian Fellowship

Greetings from David, Janenne and Rachel. As the coronavirus situation is affecting everyone around the world, we thought it important to update our friends and supporters about how we are affected and what is happening at iKhethelo Children's Village.

The most important things for you to know are that we are well and that we are continuing to serve here at iKhethelo. ...

we are staying put in what is our home and avoiding unnecessary contact with people from outside the children's village.

Just over a week ago, the President of South Africa declared a national state of disaster. Following this, there are now many changes and restrictions in place to limit contact between people. The first one to significantly impact us is the closure of all schools in South Africa for at least four weeks. ...

The second thing is for Child and Youth Care Centres like iKhethelo to be placed under lockdown. Some of our children are not well with compromised immune systems and underlying health problems. No visitors or local volunteers have been allowed into the village, and children have not been allowed out for the holiday activities we had planned. All our children are at home 24 hours a day, seven days a week since last Wednesday and at least until after Easter.

The President has addressed the nation again this evening. He has announced a nationwide lockdown for a period of 21 days. People will only be able to leave their homes if they work in essential services or to obtain food or medical services.

Most of our international residential volunteers have been impacted. ... The only other volunteer remaining is Petra from Australia ...

With the children home and a lack of volunteers, our workload has increased enormously.



Despite the circumstances we find ourselves in, we know that we can trust our heavenly Father who knows all our needs.

We are incredibly grateful for your prayers at this time. We join with you in prayer for all those around the world who are impacted by this crisis.

We would also ask you to remember and lift up Andrew, our son (Janenne and David) and brother (Rachel). Andrew ... has been stood down. He now faces an unknown period of time with no income.

With our love

David, Janenne & Rachel

Encouragement and Care

Few people would disagree that this world has entered a period of changed circumstances and disruption to what we know as a normal way of life. Shortages are apparent for some items we shop for, many sporting events have been cancelled or postponed, cultural gatherings have been curtailed and everyday activities like shopping, eating out or meeting up with friends are no longer threat of possible infection. Many will lose 'Every man for himself' will become the motto look to your own needs, but not to the



Phil Ng from the Stromlo Church has times over the years, most recently in mid-changing social conditions, he rang to enquire offered assistance if any of our people need dropped off at their door. He will contribute a Phil is just one of many putting their Christian encouraging to see God at work in our His people.

automatic but considered in the light of the their jobs and even more struggle to cope. for many. It should not be for us. Certainly exclusion of others.

come and preached for us a number of February. Now in the midst of the quickly after our Fellowship and it's people. He help obtaining supplies and having them devotion for use in our newsletter. I am sure faith and love into practice but isn't it so community in such uncertain times through

Thank you Phil. Your phone call was not just thoughtful and encouraging but an eloquent demonstration of Christian living in uncertain times.

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.

Devotional material



Prayer



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Bible Reading



Fellowship by Phone

Prayer Points

Chris has suggested prayer for the Aboriginal people and all in our community. Let us pray that all will take notice of the warnings and precautions to minimise the risk of becoming sick.

Younger people in particular tend to feel themselves at minimal risk and so often act recklessly. They need our prayers.

Many older people rely on others to some extent for their wellbeing, health and everyday needs. Keep them in your prayers

We should also pray for those who have become sick and for those anxious as they queue to buy food or look towards an uncertain future.

Very rapidly our world has changed. We pray that the whole population will adjust to the new reality and live sensibly and safely.

God remains God and He is in control. We pray that one change in our community will be that more and more people come to know Him as they see the world they are part of from a new perspective.

