

May 2020
Issue 117

The Next Step



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

Aubrey Newman was down to visit CCF on 26 April to preach and update us on the work of iAfrika. That being impossible in the present circumstances, he has sent us his sermon and the iAfrika information to read.

SERMON: OBEYING GOD - (Canberra Christian Fellowship ,26 April 2020)

We have just remembered the suffering of Jesus, before and during His crucifixion. Then, we recalled the amazing story of His resurrection. We are now in the period when Jesus appeared to many people who were witness to His being alive after His death on the Cross. Soon we will remember how He disappeared from our Earth.



We can only read about what those people some 2,000 years ago witnessed. While it is interesting to read about all those events in Jesus' life, the fact that He claimed to be God's Son and by implication claimed to be God is for me the most gripping part of His life. His miracles of healing the sick, reading the minds of people, bringing dead people back to life and His own resurrection from the tomb is consistent with Jesus' claim to divinity.

If you and I agree that Jesus was who He said He was, we need to take note of what He said and of any guidance or commands he gave during that short time on this Earth. In reading the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, chapters 5, 6 and 7 we can learn good strategies of behaviour for a satisfying life here and now. One of my friends became a Christian in his adulthood by seeing the logic in what Jesus was preaching.

In chapter 22 verses 37-40 Jesus replied to a questioner who asked which is the greatest law, we read: "Love the lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: love your neighbour as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these commandments." In Mark's Gospel chapter 12, verses 30-31 we read "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no command-ment greater than these." In the Gospel of Luke chapter 10, verses 27-28 Jesus was answering a question of how do we inherit eternal life, we read: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself". In John's gospel chapter 14, verse 15, Jesus is talking with his disciples and we read: "If you love me you will obey what I command."

In Matthew 28, near the end of His ministry on earth and after the resurrection, in verse 19, Jesus said: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey every-thing I have commanded you." In Mark chapter 16, verses 15 & 16, after he had appeared to the eleven, Jesus said "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved and whoever does not believe will be condemned."



As we have seen, Jesus has emphasised our need to love God and our neighbour. We can fulfill these commands by telling others about Jesus and considering their needs.

In John's gospel chapter 15, verse 13 Jesus tells us one way to show love: "greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Jesus certainly did and as we do on Anzac Day, we remember the lives sacrificed for our freedom. In more

mundane terms we face this challenge often. I remember when my sister gave up her job as Principal of the British Primary School in Kathmandu to return to Australia to care for my father after my mother's death; it took many months before she gained another position. Laying down our lives could also mean giving up ambition or other pleasurable past-times.

In the Epistle of James chapter 1, verse 27 we are informed that "religion which God accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

One of my grandsons wanted to know how he would know that he really knows Jesus. In answering him I read verse 3 of the 2nd chapter of the First Epistle of John: "We know that we have come to know Him when we obey His commands."

I have been quoting much scripture up till now to set the scene for telling you more news of Opi and Immanuel Afrika. I firmly believe the work of I Afrika is part of the fulfilling of Jesus' commands. I remember the story Opi told me many years ago. He had been ministering to the street-boys of Nairobi, Kenya for some time, depending on Christian financial support. When this support dried up he thought he should return to his former career as a Journalist to earn funds to enable him to continue. He had composed an application and was in the process of delivering it to a newspaper when he was hit by a runaway wheel barrow and had his papers scattered in the rain puddles surrounding him. The water ruined his paper application. As he pondered his next step he heard God challenging him "I called you into the streets to look after these street-boys, why are you planning to leave? Get back there and I will look after you." At that promise Opi abandoned his journalistic aspirations and he has never looked back.

Here is the latest News Sheet of I. Afrika



NEWS FROM I. AFRIKA

Our current population in the centre is 37 boys, 8 girls and a six-week old baby Karen, we also support 32 children with education and uniforms in our school and also in vocational training

Our outreach programme caters for a huge number, approximately 300 people benefit from this, it includes;

- Street feeding and evangelism at Nairobi town, providing a hot meal, direct transport to homes, urgent medical attention, first aid, small business and rescue (Approx. 180 ppl)
- Outskirts of Nairobi; feeding and monitoring of business
- Follow up on reintegrated children
- Business opening for individuals who need help and young mothers in the streets.
- Referral and follow-up of individuals struggling with substance abuse



AUBREY NEWMAN'S ACADEMY

It is the most beautiful school that accepts and loves children who are termed as street children by providing them with a safe environment where learning is fun and teachers are trained to meet individual needs of pupils.

We currently have a total number of 65 pupils, six teachers one head teacher.

14 children are from the community and they do pay school fees. 51 children are boys and girls of I. Afrika

Currently our major goal for the school is to advertise, first term we did not major on it as we had to finalise the completion of the school and equip the classes with books, stationaries and desks



2020 PRAYER ITEMS



There are a couple of projects and needs;

- Boy's foster home

This will be a home where boys rescued, and I. Afrika has not traced their families, can live and make a new family

- Buy dormitory beds and paintings

The beds we currently have, it's been used for over eight years each year serving more than a hundred new boys and it's been repaired until it can't no more. We are trusting God for metallic ones that can serve many more and are comfortable, as we repaint to restore its original beauty

- Wash Area construction
- Chickens and chicken house repair

Our plan is to rear over 300 chickens by the end of the year which will supply our children with eggs and meat and also we will be selling to help boost other areas like outreach as the need keeps growing each day

General centre maintenance; fencing, leaking roofs/ceiling, broken doors and windows, and damaged floors - it's been eight years and most areas are falling apart, it's time to rejuvenate it for our children, we believe our environment can positively impact our lives if it's beautiful and peaceful.

FARM

Farming has really been good and the rains did favour us this time. We have been planting lots of vegetables which the boys and girls have been consuming, we have three goats and two sheep and also two pigs; the children love taking care of them and feeding them.



IAfrika has been on the forefront to help where parents struggle to feed their families. Asante sana (thank you) for donating food items and soap.

More vulnerable families will be fed for the next two weeks. After distributing cereals and dry foods last week it was a day to give out fresh vegetables to families who have been struggling, around Dagoretti and Kibiku areas. With most families living from hand to

mouth they can now eat a balanced diet.

As she walked out of the gates of I.Afrika, she was so excited that her prayers were answered, being a widow, life has been tough and because you gave she has food for the next one month, May the lord Bless everyone who has given





These pictures show some of the activities I.Afrika has been contributing to the pandemic rescue.



THANK YOU!

With your support I Afrika has distributed 85 hampers to hungry I Afrika kids and their families struggling in these tough times!

Asante sana!

The Australian iafrika contact / donation details are :
 Alda - email immanuelafrikaaustralia@gmail.com
 I. Afrika Australia Inc, at NAB.
 The BSB is:084 402. The A/C No. 90 091 9119
 Gifts to iafrika are tax deductible.

www.immanuelafrika.org
The streets are no place for a child

iafrika

If any reader can access the internet this link will show more of the work of feeding streetboys and telling them about Jesus:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uG2M1NGzIfpA5F8RSy5AbvYpK1iK-DhB/view>

When we become aware of the scope of work I. Afrika undertakes, the application of Jesus' commandments can be seen: love God, your neighbour and tell people about Jesus to make them disciples. To continue these efforts I.Afrika needs our prayer and financial support.

It is most satisfying and humbling to be part of the I. Afrika mission. Praise God!

20 Minute Speech

The CEO was scheduled to speak at an important convention, so he asked one of his employees to write him a punchy, 20-minute speech. When the CEO returned from the big event, he was furious.

"What's the idea of writing me an hour-long speech?" he demanded to know. "Half the audience walked out before I finished."

The employee was baffled. "I wrote you a 20-minute speech," he replied. "I also gave you the two extra copies you asked for."

The Zoo

One day Joe's mother turned to Joe's father and said, "It's such a nice day, I think I'll take Joe to the zoo." "I wouldn't bother," said father. "If they want him, let them come and get him!"

In the Baker's Shop

An irate woman burst into the baker's shop and said, "I sent my son in for five hundred grams of biscuits this morning, but when I weighed them there was only two hundred and fifty grams. I suggest that you check your scales."

The baker looked at her calmly for a moment or two and then replied, "Ma'am, I suggest you weigh your son."

In the Fire Station

Little Jimmy's preschool class went on a field trip to the fire station. The firefighter giving the presentation held up a smoke detector and asked the class: "Does anyone know what this is?"

Little Jimmy's hand shot up and the firefighter called on him.

Little Jimmy replied: "That's how Mummy knows supper is ready!"

Little Brother: "If you broke your arm in two places, what would you do?"

Boy: "I wouldn't go back to those two places, that's for sure."

Ashley



By my calculations (which could be inaccurate) Ashley began playing the piano / organ for our services in late 2015 or early 2016. Whatever the date, she has been a valued friend and part of our Fellowship for quite some time now.

Husband Daniel, on completion of his studies, obtained a job in Sydney, working there and returning home when he was able. The strain of distance between home and work has led to the decision that Ashley, Eden and Jay will shortly move to Sydney to join Daniel. We will miss Ashley and Daniel and their two boys.

Our thoughts and prayers go with the four of them as they establish their new home in Sydney.

PS - I have heard a rumour they are hoping to return to Canberra when an opportunity arises.

Have you seen those weird clowns that hide away from ugly people? - No, sorry, of course you haven't.

Prayer Points

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia, that they will stay safe and coronavirus free
- for Aboriginal pastors across the nation as they minister in these changed conditions
- for Bible translators working to make the Bible available to Aboriginal people in their own language



and give thanks for the Canberra Aboriginal Church Sunday virtual gatherings for worship and fellowship using ZOOM that have been well supported.

Chaplains

Please pray that the chaplains we particularly support can adapt their ministries to the conditions we all currently face. - Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy, Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy, Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches



Guest to a waiter: "I'm actually quite sorry we haven't discovered your restaurant earlier."

Waiter: "Oh, that's nice. So you liked it here?"

Guest: "No. But earlier, that meat might have still been OK."

Devotional material



Prayer

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Bible Reading



Fellowship by Phone



A quick-thinking Helsinki bakery has saved itself from financial ruin due to the new coronavirus pandemic by creating a cake that looks like a toilet roll. The dismayed staff at the Ronttosrouva bakery found all their orders cancelled last month, at the same time as panicked consumers began to hoard toilet roll. This sparked the idea of a toilet roll cake made of oat batter, passion fruit mousse and covered with white fondant.

The first five cakes sold within an hour, baker Uliana Timofeeva said, and the cake became a social media hit. The bakery now has hundreds of orders and its owner Saana Lampinen has even been able to hire two extra people to her 9-member team.