

The Next Step

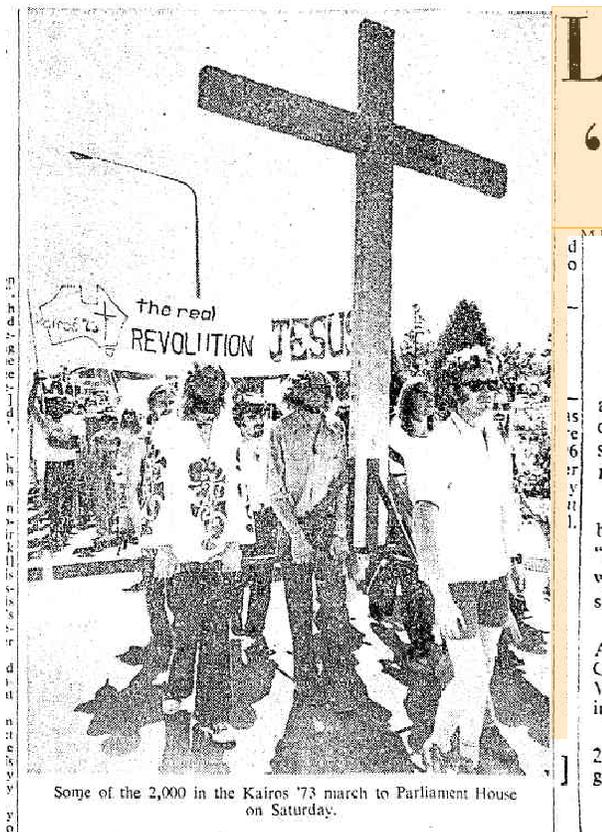


Canberra Aboriginal Church

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)



THE CANBERRA TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1973



Some of the 2,000 in the Kairos '73 march to Parliament House on Saturday.

Kairos '73

Back a few years when we were a bit younger, 47 years younger in fact, many Canberra Christian young people, supplemented by a few out-of-towners, got together to proclaim their Christian faith to the community. That collective statement was named Kairos '73.

I still have a yellow rag that once was my Kairos '73 T-shirt and probably a copy of the Kairos '73 paper that we were giving to everyone who'd take one. My memory of all that took place is now very hazy, however I remember

2,500 AT A.C.T. 'JESUS PEOPLE' SERVICE

A crowd estimated at 2,500 attended a non-denominational church service on the lawns outside Parliament House yesterday morning.

The service mainly was arranged by the Kairos '73 movement, or "Jesus People". [Kairos is a Greek word meaning a time of special significance.]

Among those present was the Anglican Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, the Right Reverend C. A. Warren, who addressed the gathering.

On Saturday morning more than 2,000, waving banners and singing gospel songs, took part in the Kairos

'73 march from Haig Park, Northbourne Avenue, to Parliament House.

A concert was held on the lawns with the crowd later surrounding the building to offer prayers for Australia's leaders.

A manifesto prepared by the Kairos '73 people was read, proclaiming, in part, "No amount of legislation will liberate man from those basic desires that make legislation necessary, such as apathy, hate, lies, greed or lust for power."

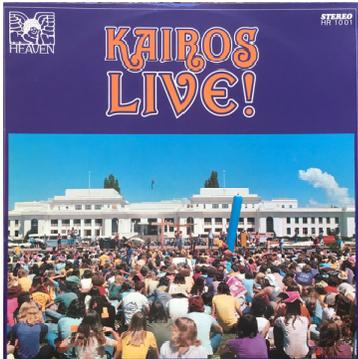
"Therefore we declare to you our conviction that the only workable life style for mankind, the only way of dealing with the root cause of society's problems is personal submission to the authority of God through the person and work of Jesus Christ".

assembling at Haig Park and making my way

down Northbourne Ave, across Commonwealth Avenue Bridge to the lawns in front of Parliament House (the old one) as part of a sea of Christian young people. There were speakers, music and a celebration of shared faith. At some point there was a gathering in Garema Place as well but I cannot remember where that fitted into the program.

An LP record was made containing the music from the event. The sleeve notes highlighted the limited press attention Kairos '73 received. The report shown above was on Page 3 whereas previous political protests involving just dozens were front page news.

ID



Charisma

Youth Christian witness in Canberra all those years ago was not confined to just a one-off big event. No doubt many churches had their own youth programs and that was true of the church I then attended.

An additional outreach that I participated in was a Sunday evening coffee shop called 'Charisma'. On Sunday evenings I and one or two others would, after our own church's service, travel out to the Lyons Church of Christ and join the Charisma team who had already got the coffee house underway for the night. In the confined space of the hall there, tables were set up, nets hung for atmosphere, the lighting subdued, recorded music was played softly and a collection of customers would come and go. Coffee and raisin toast were served up at a price that would suit the tightest budget and several sets of live music would be played during the evening. Team members would join and chat with customers. We got to know some customers quite well.

One evening each week the Charisma team would meet together for study, prayer and fellowship.

The team was gathered from different churches and some members were apparently not associated with any particular church as far as I could tell. Although Charisma was run by young people, an older couple was a vital part of the team, offering wisdom, advice, assistance and counselling.

Ken Laughton and his wife Lorraine were prominent in the Charisma leadership.

Ken was noticed by Scripture Union (A.C.T.) and invited to become their first local Director. He filled that role for a couple of years before leaving Canberra for Canada.

ID

Canberra Christian Fellowship and Canberra Aboriginal Church - Worship Services are currently SUSPENDED.
Current plans are that

CCF services resume on Sunday, 2 August, 2020 at 3pm

As conditions and plans could change rapidly, we will phone around on the Saturday to confirm whether or not the service will go ahead as planned.

Ring Ian with any queries.

CAC services resume on Sunday, 6 September, 2020 at 5pm

Youth Christian witness did not stop 45 years ago. Today's young people are just as enthusiastic about their faith and sharing it !!!

Mission trip to Young by Kelly, Ruth and Sharon

On the 23rd of November 2019, slightly more than 10 of us travelled down to Young, a town in New South Wales to spend time with the locals, getting to know them and sharing the story of Jesus with them. On the first day of the mission, we arrived safely at Young and had a scrumptiously made lunch by the wonderful hosts of the Young Baptist Church. We then went to Young North Primary School and performed a skit on the story behind Christmas and had a fun time singing with the kids.

Later that night, there was a gingerbread making event which we were invited to and we had an amazing time sitting at the counter looking at the smiles of the people making their gingerbread houses.



The next morning, we woke up bright and early to prepare ourselves for another performance of the Christmas skit at Quandialla Primary School.

The kids enjoyed the amazing performance put on by us as evident from the wide smiles spread across their cheeks - and that was really heartwarming for us to witness. In the arvo, after lunch, we went to the Southern Cross Retirement Village and had afternoon tea with the residents, chatting with them about anything and everything. Sharon also shared her testimony during the visit to the retirement village! Later that day, Ruth also shared her testimony during a youth group at the Baptist Church.

(Ruth) It was a good experience as it was my first time sharing my testimony in a youth group context and it was really sweet to see that the youth were keen and interested to listen to the talk and were keen to pray together when we broke off into smaller groups.

After the sharing session, we played a night of table tennis with the kids and that was definitely the highlight of the mission for me (Kelly).

The next day, we took a day off and went cherry picking together and had such a lovely time in the heat picking cherries and eating them straight from the bucket! Later on, we watched sunset together as a team and took a team photo.



The next day was a Sunday and we had a service in the morning and Anslem, one of our team members, gave a sermon, which we were sadly not there for as we were spending time with the kids in the church, sharing the story of the cross with them.

(Kelly) I really enjoyed teaching the kids the story of what the cross meant and to see them being so eager to learn and engage in the story.

(Ruth) The small kids were really energetic and sweet, we did colouring of Jesus walking on water and spent time with the little kidz.

In the afternoon, we had lunch with the church.

(Ruth) I met a couple who knew my parents and I chatted to them. There was a man that I met and he really loved his music and we vibed.

The day ended with us having dinner with our billets. What a lovely day.

The last day began with the departure of Sharon and Ruth back to Canberra as they were leaving the country for their respective hometowns in Sri Lanka and Cambodia. In the afternoon, those of us remaining travelled to Koorawatha Primary School for our last skit of the mission. As three people had left for Canberra, a few of us had to take their roles in the skit which made things more interesting to see new faces representing new roles. Later that evening, I (Kelly) went to a ladies night Bible Study and got to meet new people of the town and they were really welcoming as we prayed together and as I got to know more about this town that I was in.

On the whole,

(Kelly) I really enjoyed my time at Young, getting to meet so many people from the town and spending time with the team members. It was an eye opening experience as I have never been on a mission trip in Australia and I am glad that my first time was filled with so many lovely memories. Furthermore, I also learnt a lot from the trip such as how to share the gospel with younger kidz which I have never done before. I am really glad that God has blessed us by providing for us throughout the trip.

(Ruth) the trip was a good opportunity for me to be involved in ministry and a good training opportunity and it was encouraging to be welcomed by the locals of Young. I am also glad to see God working in other parts of the country through the love that these people have shown to us.

(Sharon) Mission to Young was a great opportunity for me to get out of my comfort zone and share my testimony to a group of people. I really enjoyed getting to know, not only the locals, but the others in the group as well. I thank God for this incredible experience in being able to share God's love with other believers.

Prayer: *Even though the trip was a while ago, I would still love for the church to be praying for the lovely people of Young. Let's pray that God would continue working in the hearts of the people in Young and turn them who don't know Him to come to truly know Him. We would love to pray also for the youth of the Baptist Church that they would continue to grow in the Lord and concerning the possible persecutions that they might be facing in schools - pray that they would stand firm in their faith in the Lord and ask Him for wisdom in every aspect of their lives. Let's pray also that in this time of coronavirus, that the Lord would keep the people in Young and in His mercy and grace, deliver them from the virus.*

Prayer Points

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia.
- for Aboriginal pastors across the country.
- for Bible translators working to make the Bible available to Aboriginal people in their own language.
- for each other.

and give thanks for the Canberra Aboriginal Church virtual gatherings using ZOOM for around 40 minutes each Sunday from 5pm. - A time of fellowship, worship and delving into God's Word.

The Canberra Aboriginal Church currently intends resuming normal physical gatherings for worship services at Lyons on the 1st Sunday of September.



Chaplains

Please pray that as coronavirus restrictions are gradually lifted, the chaplains we particularly support will be able to follow the new paths You have set before them. - Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy, Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy, Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches



Devotional material



Prayer

Contacts

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Bible Reading



Fellowship by Phone

A mum texts, "Hi! Son, what does **IDK, LY, & TTYL** mean?"
He texts back, "**I Don't Know, Love You, & Talk To You Later.**"
The mum texts him, "It's ok, don't worry about it. I'll ask your sister, love you too."

Q: Why don't ants get sick?
A: Because they have little anty-bodies.

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...in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (1 Peter 3:16-17)

God's word encourages us to be willing and able to let people know what we believe and why we believe it. One way to do this is to share how God's story—the good news of Jesus Christ—intersects with our story. Traditionally this has been called 'sharing your testimony.'

Testimonies: evidence and honour

Testimony isn't a word we use very often. We hear it in a courtroom, because it has to do with providing evidence. Sometimes special functions or dinners are held as a testimonial to a person, honouring their life or particular achievements.

A personal Christian testimony will provide evidence of how the gospel has transformed the life of an individual. The transformed person provides evidence that God's continues to be active in people's lives today.

When I was growing up, it was very common for Christians to share their testimonies. We would do this at youth group, in church services, or during special evangelistic events. Let me share a few things I've picked up along the way. ...

Why a testimony?

Testimonies are a great way of letting others know that people do change to become Christians. Real people—people who are like them. Because the gospel we preach is rooted in an event of early history, it is helpful for people to hear that God still works powerfully through His Word today. And living evidence for this stands before them.

Where and when to give a testimony?

Almost any situation can be a good time to give your testimony. You don't need to be invited up front at church to tell someone about what Jesus has done. This can be done as you talk with your friends, as you travel on a plane, as you chat with other mums in your antenatal class, as you share the good news on your campus, or as you talk with mates after work. If your church or group is planning a public outreach meeting, it may be helpful to arrange for someone to give their testimony. This gives a real-life example of the good news of Jesus at work.

Who should speak?

Remember the purpose of a testimony is to show that the gospel changes real people, people that the listener can relate to. For this reason, there is probably little mileage in having an ex-bikie speak at the Women's Fellowship dinner. It is usually better to have an ordinary member of the group speak, rather than some high-powered outsider. You want those who accept your invitations to hear about someone just like them. It might even be good to have a couple of people speak to show how God deals differently with each of us.

What should you say?

Firstly, work out clearly why you are saying anything at all. You are speaking because you want to see people come into a relationship with God. And that means they need to hear about Jesus, not all the sordid details of your pre-Christian days. Some testimonies I hear are 95% sin and 5% salvation. And sometimes Jesus doesn't even get a look in. Standing up and talking about your experience can be a great means of ego-tripping, so it is of first importance that we point people beyond ourselves to Jesus.

Your purpose is not to preach a sermon—it's not about explaining a Bible passage. It's about explaining what God has done in your life. So, speak about what *Jesus* has done, and how he has changed your life. ... A short clear talk will be remembered, but long-winded drivel will only bore people, and leave them wondering about your point. ...

How should you give it?

Not like an expert, but then you don't want to be sloppy either. ... Clarity, sincerity and honesty are called for in a testimony. Not slickness! Give it without notes. If you think you need notes, then you're probably saying too much ...

Interviewing

An alternative to the monologue testimony is the interview. Tom asks Jane a series of questions designed to show how Jesus has changed Jane's life. The aim of the interview remains the same as the testimony. But this way gives Jane the advantage of not having to remember the format of the testimony. And people like to hear conversations and dialogue. Tom is able to control what is being said and the length of the interview. This is a great help to people who are unsure about public speaking. If Jane says something that's unclear, or full of jargon, Tom is able to ask another question to clarify it. Again, preparation is important. Both people should meet beforehand to go over the questions and responses. Then you both know what is going to happen.

John Chapman developed a pattern of questions that you may find helpful:

- Did you grow up in a Christian home?
- What makes you say that?
- How did you come to understand that Jesus died for you?
- What did you do to respond to this?
- What is the hardest part of the Christian life for you?
- What is the best part of the Christian life for you?

Finally

Remember, it is *Jesus* you are promoting, not yourself. So pray that what you say might lead others to Jesus. That's what you really want to happen, isn't it?

from David McDonald's <https://macarisms.com/category/christian-outreach/> which is an edited version of article Remember Testimonies that first appeared on The Gospel Coalition Australia site.

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In order to make it permissible for more than 20 people to attend our services, we must have a COVID SAFETY PLAN

(see https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1561539/2006_CV_FS_Religious-Org-Covid-Safe-Plan_FA.pdf)

CCF COVID SAFETY PLAN

Noone should attend if they are unwell

Those who attend should understand the restrictions in place (listed here)

Leaders need to know COVID-19 safety requirements and be familiar with the COVID SAFETY PLAN

The entry / exit should be kept clear and free of congestion

Hand sanitiser must be available upon entry

Only one person is allowed per 4 square metres in any indoor or outdoor space (we can have 20 people in the church and 8 in the supper area at the back)

Physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres should be maintained (Those from the same household can sit closer together)

People should keep a distance from each other even when chatting together

Use of collection plates should be avoided during services (Offerings can be placed in a box at the back of the church and will not be taken up during the service)

Use of books should be limited. If used, they must be cleaned between each use. (Bibles and Hymn Books will only be distributed if specifically requested)

Good hygiene / hand washing is encouraged and soap, towels and hand sanitiser should be available

Frequently used areas should be cleaned with detergent or disinfectant and done while wearing gloves

High touch areas / surfaces should be cleaned after busy periods

A visitors book to record (VOLUNTARILY) first name and contact number should be maintained and kept for 28 days

A copy of the COVID SAFETY PLAN should be available onsite

We will not have any food or drink after the service