

The Next Step



Canberra Aboriginal Church

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)



CCF Service Resumption

After speaking with most of our congregation, a common caution concerning resuming our worship services too soon has become apparent. The COVID-19 danger has diminished although not been eliminated, however combined with the cold and early darkness the overwhelming feeling I have detected is that we would be best advised to wait until the worst of winter is over before we meet all together again. Another popular suggestion is that until the days than our normal time of 5pm, perhaps at arranged.



Sunday, 2 August 2020

is a date we can set as a goal for restarting our services. By then any continuing COVID-19 danger will be better known, the days will be getting longer and the temperatures warmer. Of course if circumstances dictate, that date can be changed. I will explore the possibilities for an earlier meeting time while the days are still short.

One more fact that has been highlighted is apart from being a disincentive to venturing out in number of our people no longer have their own



that age and ongoing medical conditions, less that ideal conditions, means an increasing transport with which to come to services. It will

ID

The **Canberra Aboriginal Church** currently intend to resume their services on **Sunday, 6 September 2020**.

It is a Small World



I have previously mentioned that Jimmy Little's (TNS 114) sister attended Reid Church for a period many years ago and was known to people there, and that Ruth, as a girl met Doug Nicholls (TNS 118) when he visited her family's home.

I have since learned that Doug Nicholls



and his wife stayed with Alec's family in

Ruth never met Albert Namatjira (TNS 125) but bought a painting from him during an exhibition at the

his son Keith was also a painter and Ruth old Monaro Mall. Marie was for a time a



nurse at the War Memorial Hospital, Waverley, and while working there Albert visited the hospital occasionally, including visits to his friend Dame Mary Gilmore. Marie's recollection is that he was a very gentle man.

God's work does not Stop

Mission Without Borders

Mission Without Borders have shared the story of Sevda from Bulgaria. She came from a Muslim family but was disenchanted by the behaviour of her relatives and being forced into an arranged marriage. It that context she met people who showed deep and sincere love, and through them found Christ. Never experiencing such things before, she pursued this new concept of God and faith.

As a new Christian, Sevda was passionate about telling people about her new faith. Her relatives and initially her husband strongly opposed her, but God confronted her husband in a dream and he relented. So Sevda continued to share her faith and people came and formed a little church. Today about 90 people gather at this church.

Lessons for us: live for God passionately, in acts of kindness and in words of love. It all makes a difference. See www.mwb.org.au for more details.



Bible Society

Dave and Fiona McDonald have a long history of working with indigenous people, especially in health. Once when indigenous issues were in the news I asked Dave how we would best respond. He said share the gospel. Knowing Jesus Christ unlocks so many solutions to the difficulties they face. Wise words. The Bible Society thinks likewise and is working hard to get God's Word to indigenous Australians in their heart language. For Kunwinjku speakers, there are only 500 bibles in existence! You can put a Bible in their hands. Visit biblesociety.org.au .



Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) <https://maf.org.au/>

We recently gave a contribution to MAF's 'fuel for father's day' appeal, however needs remain.

The MAF team in Arnhem Land are making a plea on behalf of women and children in remote homeland areas who need to flee situations of domestic violence. ... MAF is in a position to provide emergency evacuation.

Safe havens have been set up in Gove and Elcho Island by Crisis Accommodation Gove (CAG) and Galiwin'ku Women's Space (GWS). ...

We urgently need to raise \$70,000 AUD to fund a rapid response program to help women and children who are in imminent danger escape the violence.

MAF also have a COVID-19 appeal. Your help is needed to bring relief to remote communities left reeling from COVID-19.

Ian and Adele Purdey (in Madagascar with MAF) write: "Sadly the number of (known) covid cases continues to rise in Madagascar, now approaching 2000, with the death toll now in the teens. Madagascar has about the same population as Australia but there are very few ventilators (some say only 6 nationwide) and several reports suggest that hospitals are at capacity in this already fragile health system. ... due to travel restrictions normal passenger flights are not possible, but MAF is able to operate medical evacuations and freight flights.

MAF Postal address: PO Box 7187 Baulkham Hills NSW 2153 Email: maf@maf.org.au Phone: 1800 650 169

Compassion <https://www.compassion.com.au/rise>

Daniel from Compassion rang to thank us for the donation we gave to their 'We rise as one' appeal which is a response to protect children from the devastation of COVID-19.



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

In TNS 110 we mentioned the financial support shortfall for these ministries. *"Your response to the appeal was amazing. We have been able to fully support Dan and Andrew through these last trying three months and support for the next few months is also secured."*

"There is a lot going on in Uganda. The government's efforts to "flatten the curve" have been successful, but at quite a cost to society. ... Amongst all this Dan and Andrew are seeking to bring understanding to students in their classes."

Dan reports "We strongly feel that this is a critical time where we cannot lay down our God-given tools so we want to somehow figure out how we can get back into business of teaching all our [CTBS] students. Please keep praying for us for wisdom and God's guidance."

Andrew writes "Much of the world is under lockdown but heaven is open to receive our worship & prayers. ... SBS had a great outreach week [in February] with the theme "End Bible Poverty Now". We distributed over 100 bibles and ... About 50 people accepted Jesus that week."

Giving: You can deposit to the CBA bank (BSB 762-913) account (the number is 18349 and the name is Uganda SBS Support Fund).

Michael can provide any additional information required. - 03 9028 7057 or mike_aylott@yahoo.com .

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



Contacts

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Bible Reading



Prayer

Fellowship by Phone

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