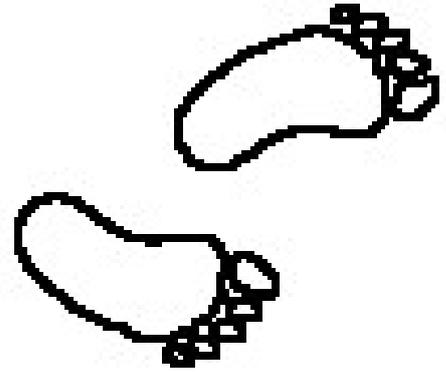


The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Canberra
Aboriginal Church



CCF & CAC services suspended
until (at least) 6-9-2020

Back on Monday, 21 July 1969 (it was still 20 July in the USA), I was seated in the Assembly Hall of my school along with all the other senior school students and staff watching very indistinct TV images of history being made.



In another similar incident, Astronaut Frank Borman, commander of the first space crew to travel beyond the Earth's orbit, looked down on the earth from 250,000 miles away. Borman radioed back a message, quoting Genesis: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." As he later explained, "I had an enormous feeling that there had to be a power greater than any of us – that there was a God, that there was indeed a beginning."

The late James Irwin, who walked on the moon in 1971, later became an evangelical minister. He often described the lunar mission as a revelation. In his words, "I felt the power of God as I'd never felt it before."

Charles Duke, who followed Irwin to the moon, later became active in missionary work.

Neil Armstrong stepped onto the surface of the moon and made the now very well known statement "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind." Buzz Aldrin joined him on the lunar surface a little later.

"before they emerged from the "Eagle," the Lunar Lander, Armstrong's co-pilot Buzz Aldrin, pulled out a Bible, a small silver chalice, and some sacramental bread and wine. There on the moon, their first act was to pray and celebrate communion.



The Apollo XI crew, from left: Armstrong, Lunar Orbiter pilot Michael Collins, and Aldrin



As he explained, "I make speeches about walking on the moon and walking with the Son of God."

Guy Gardner is a veteran astronaut who speaks in churches on the reality of God.

Astronaut John Glenn once proclaimed from orbit: "To look out at this kind of creation and not believe in God is to me impossible." ID

Buzz Aldrin (right) with Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins, is welcomed back to earth by US President Richard Nixon

<https://earthsky.org/space/this-date-in-science-first-human-footsteps-on-the-moon>
https://www.beliefnet.com/columnists/on_the_front_lines_of_the_culture_wars/2011/04/did-neil-armstrong.html
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-19/moon-landing-anniversary-astronauts-turned-religion-spirituality/11301606>

What did the pirate say when he turned 80 years old?
"Aye matey."

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



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Bible Reading



Fellowship by Phone

A mighty fortress is our God

I found this hymn in a list of hymns relevant to living in difficult times.

Martin Luther no doubt had certain challenges in mind when he wrote it, but it can be understood today in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. God is still in control, no matter what 'our ancient foe' throws at us.

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.
- 2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.
- 3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.
- 4 That Word above all earthly powers
no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

Author: Martin Luther (1483-1546); Translator: Frederick H. Hedge (1805-1890)
A different translation of this hymn can be found in the hymn book we use - No. 494

We had hoped to resume our worship services on 2 August, but as that date approached and we heard the news of increasing cases of COVID-19 in Sydney and more particularly Melbourne, it became clear in conversations that caution was believed necessary and our resumption should be delayed. Many indicated they were missing both the worship and fellowship (and asked their greetings be passed on), but all understood the need for Godly wisdom in these trying times. We now are looking at **6 September** to restart - the same date as the Aboriginal Church.

Let us continue to pray for each other and all those who are suffering from COVID-19, at risk of catching it or whose lives are disrupted by the fight against it and the restrictions that have become necessary.

Q: What did the duck say when he bought lipstick?
A: "Put it on my bill."