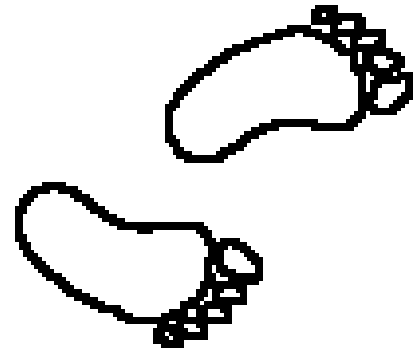


September 2020 (2)
Issue 136

The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

**Canberra
Aboriginal Church**



CCF & CAC services resumption
are currently uncertain.

CCF September 2020 Style



I don't think anyone can argue that this hasn't been a very memorable year in many respects. Bushfires raged over vast areas and created so much smoke that it circled the globe, handed Canberra the distinction of world's worst air quality for a few days and reduced Canberra visibility to just a few metres at times. A hailstorm dimpled thousands of Canberra cars resulting in paddocks of written off vehicles and then coronavirus came along leading to toilet roll shortages, social distancing and disruption to



normal living for not just Australians, but people the world over.



Of course many businesses, clubs, schools and churches closed so as to limit the potential spread of coronavirus and many remain closed. People explored new ways of maintaining contact and in the case of churches, worship. 'Zoom' services, recorded / videoed messages and more frequent newsletters have become common.



Now half a year later, we are still urged to take precautions against possible spread of COVID-19. Many areas, including Canberra, have been fortunate in limiting the incidence of the coronavirus and life is becoming a little more like what we knew before.



Canberra Christian Fellowship (and Canberra Aboriginal Church) has a larger proportion of older members and people with medical conditions than the general population. Consequently we have decided to exercise a cautious approach to resuming normal weekly services.

Many people have commented that they miss the worship and fellowship so we have attempted to restart our activities in a way that adopts the government coronavirus regulations, provides a safe way of meeting and allows those who wish to do so to meet together in a smaller



group than our normal services cater for.

On Sundays at 3pm, starting from 6 September Mark and Katherine have hosted a small gathering at their home in Campbell. So far it has taken the form of a Bible Study but depending on the numbers who attend may change to a talk, prayer and some socially spaced singing.

At her home in Ngunnawal, Joyce has resumed the ladies Bible Study on Tuesdays at 2-30pm.

PLEASE JOIN IN either of these activities if you feel able to do so. You would be most welcome, but so they can comply with distancing provisions and prepare appropriately, it would be helpful if you could advise them of your intention to attend. Mark / Katherine - 0413 599238, Joyce - 6241 2085.

No - the mail didn't get lost.
The copy of The Next Step that I intended to distribute last week never got written. My apologies.

An e-mail from the Wrights.

Greetings!

Just a short note to say hi and thank you sincerely for your email and for your ongoing work with the Next Step - well done, and we appreciate receiving your updates. CS Lewis is a favourite writer - some wonderful quotes as you have indeed noted and quite brilliant in his insights and story-telling.

We are sorry that the Corona Virus restrictions continue to impact and we miss not being able to be in Canberra. We have been able to conduct wide ranging ministry in South Australia. Currently, we are serving schools and churches in Port Augusta.

We have undertaken visits and services on Yorke Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula and up north in SA (getting up to Ororoo and then to Hawker). Additionally, we have undertaken services on Zoom & Skype, which has been useful in the extenuating circumstances.

Hope you are well.

Blessings to you and the congregation.

Peter and Desleigh



Roy Dallos has indicated he will continue to record his talks and send them to us.
He is recording them for some others anyway.

The A.C.T. election is fast approaching.

Of course there are many issues to consider before casting a vote, however a couple of issues that impact the Church are School Chaplaincy (or lack of it) and the promotion of humanistic concepts of human sexuality - You are not the sex you are but what you decide you are.

Family Voice has an ACT Election Vote Wisely Guide website - <https://familyvoice.org.au/elections/act-election>



Ashley, Daniel, Eden and Jay were back in Canberra briefly for a family occasion.
Their time was very limited but they did manage to visit 1 or 2 people and ask that their greetings be passed on to us all.

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



Prayer

Devotional material



Contacts

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Bible Reading



Fellowship by Phone

Prayer Points

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia.
- for leaders, doctors and ministers.
- for revival - that people will seek the Lord.
- for the elderly, those in lockdown in their homes (particularly in Melbourne) and 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 service resumption date is uncertain but will not be until the weather warms and the coronavirus risk, particularly for older and more vulnerable people, is more predictable and the possibility of local outbreaks lessened.



CCF Fellowship / Study / Worship

Joyce is running a Bible Study at her place (Tuesdays at 2-30pm) . Contact her for further information - 62412085

Mark and Katherine are hosting a gathering for worship in some form at their place in Campbell. (Sundays 3pm). Please contact Mark for details - 0413599238

1. We will follow the ACT Gatherings at Home Plan (i.e. this will not be a public event and won't be advertised).
 - a. Stay home if you are feeling unwell.
 - b. Practise good hygiene (we will have hand sanitiser available at the door).
 - c. Maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres: The rooms will be set up to support this.
 - d. No shaking hands, hugging or kissing.
2. The format will be flexible and respond to who comes.