

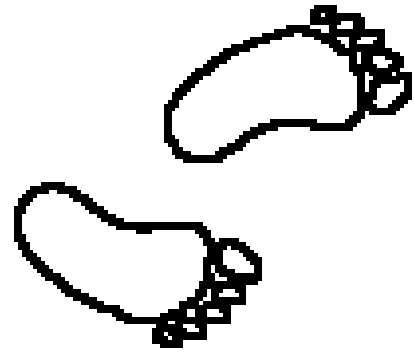
October 2020
Issue 138

The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Canberra
Aboriginal Church

The CAC service resumption
is currently uncertain.



John Newton (1725 - 1807)

At our mini-service at Mark and Katherine's on Sunday, we started off by singing the hymn "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear!". It wasn't until later that I realised that that hymn was one written by John Newton.

Most people have probably heard that John Newton was a slave trader who became a Christian and wrote the hymn "Amazing Grace" but perhaps know little more about him.

Born into a Christian home, his Godly mother died when John was 7. At age 11 he went to sea with his sea captain father and adopted the godless ways of many of his fellow sailors. Press-ganged into the Royal Navy when he was 19, he was flogged for attempted desertion and later was made a slave by a West-Africa slave trader. After 15 months he was able to leave his captivity however his experience didn't stop him becoming a slave ship captain himself.

His Christian conversion began when he was around 23 and was hastened by a violent storm which threatened to sink "The Greyhound" (the ship he was on) and so take his life. Another factor was his love for the pious Mary Catlett whom he had known since he was 17 and eventually married in 1750 when he was 25.

Having become a Christian, John Newton continued in the slave trade, although he did treat the slaves he was carrying better than slaves experienced on other transports. Meanwhile he was maturing in his faith.

Forced to leave the sea for health reasons, Newton worked in Liverpool, studied, preached and consulted with Whitefield, Wesley and others before being ordained and becoming the Church of England vicar at Olney.

John Newton was zealous in his pastoral visiting, preaching and prayer. His evangelical enthusiasm, hymn writing and now strong support for the abolition of slavery continued when he moved to St. Mary Woolnoth Church, London. He encouraged and worked with William Wilberforce in his mission to end slavery.

After an eventful life culminating in much good service to his God, Newton died in 1807 at the age of 82.

Newton is memorialised with his self-penned epitaph on his tomb at Olney:



JOHN NEWTON. Clerk.
Once an infidel and libertine
a servant of slaves in Africa was
by the rich mercy of our
LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST
preserved, restored, pardoned
and appointed to preach the faith he
had long laboured to destroy.

Near 16 years as Curate of this parish
and 28 years as Rector of St. Mary Woolnoth.



I am not what I ought to be — ah, how imperfect and deficient! I am not what I wish to be — I abhor what is evil, and I would cleave to what is good! I am not what I hope to be — soon, soon shall I put off mortality, and with mortality all sin and imperfection. Yet, though I am not what I ought to be, nor what I wish to be, nor what I hope to be, I can truly say, I am not what I once was; a slave to sin and Satan; and I can heartily join with the apostle, and acknowledge, "By the grace of God I am what I am." John Newton

https://hymnary.org/person/Newton_John
<https://truthfortoday.org.uk/transcripts/T0599/>
https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/John_Newton
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Newton

film "Newton's grace: The True Story of Amazing Grace" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdlZ8ykwuw>

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary rest.

Dear Name! the Rock on which I build,
My shield, and hiding-place,
My never-failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace!

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as Thou art
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death.

Mission Aviation Fellowship

A few days ago I received a phone call from Mike of MAF. He rang to let me know the people of MAF are praying for the churches that support the work of MAF and to ask how they could best pray for us. I suggested that they could pray that God go before us and bring us together as we return to in person gatherings and worship.



When I mentioned we had a family connection with Ian and Adele Purdey within our Fellowship, Mike searched out the latest information from Madagascar and their activities.

In mid-July, MAF Madagascar Country Director Patrick Keller reported that "Numbers of confirmed Covid cases have been rising rapidly in the last weeks. The government has ordered more severe lockdown" ...

A fortnight after this tightening of regulations, pilots Ian Purdey and Ryan Unger were able to do a series of vaccine delivery flights for UNICEF. ...

In total they delivered 1458kg of freight across nine destinations. This included vaccines, syringes, sharps disposal containers, t-shirts for the health workers, and posters to advertise the vaccines.

"It was great to be able to help with these flights, especially as our work has dropped off due to covid," Ian says. "Despite covid and lockdowns, the needs in these remote locations don't change, so it's great that UNICEF have continued the work to supply these vaccination programmes. I hope and pray that these flights do change things in these communities, reducing the pain caused by the diseases that could otherwise be contracted." ...

"People - at least here in the city - seem to suffer more from the economic impact rather than the sickness itself," Patrick observes. "Many, many people have lost their jobs and therefore their income, and many families are down to one meal a day! ... Some MAF staff are also involved in church/social projects and try to help and bring relief, others try to help their families, friends and neighbours, often with their already limited resources."

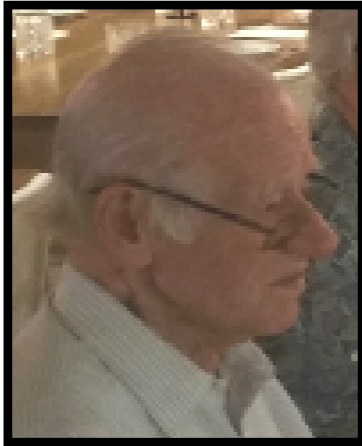
As Ian said, the needs don't change, and we are so thankful that MAF has been able to continue to serve remote communities even in these challenging times.



Late August: Friday morning pilot Ian Purdey together with ground staff at the Hanger prepared for a special flight – working closely together with Ravinala Airports, the airport operator in Madagascar. The Ravinala Airports of Madagascar wanted to donate medical equipment to the hospital in Nosy Be, to help prepare the hospital for the reopening of the airport on the island. Ravinala Airports donated several ventilators to support the people on the deeply challenged island, Nosy Be. ...

Nosy Be is a beautiful island north west of mainland Madagascar. Under normal circumstances Nosy Be is an island where you will find lots of tourists from mainly France and Italy. During the CoVid-19 crisis the island has been severely challenged because the Malagasy boarder has been closed since March 2020. Now the plan is to reopen the island of Nosy Be to tourists that can provide a negative CoVid-19

test. The rest of the country will still be closed for international flights.



Under COVID-19 restrictions,
65 people are permitted to attend
the service for Ian
in St. Philips's Church.
Any above this number can
gather in the St. Philip's Hall

IAN NEVILLE HALL
26 May 1928 - 5 October 2020

Loved and loving husband of Joyce.
Loved and loving former husband
of Daphne (dec).
Much loved father and father-in-law of
Ronald (dec) and Teresa,
Peter (dec), Diane and Gary.
Much loved Poppa of
Jamie, Rochelle, Brendan and Emily.

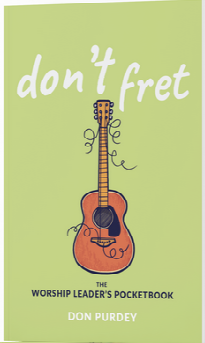
*We will miss your advice,
laughter and friendship,
but we will never forget you.*

The funeral service for Ian will be held
in St Philip's Anglican Church,
corner of MacPherson and Moorhouse Streets,
O'Connor on Monday, 12 October 2020,
commencing at 11:00 am.
A private cremation will follow.

 **WILLIAM COLE FUNERALS**
Canberra - 6253 3655



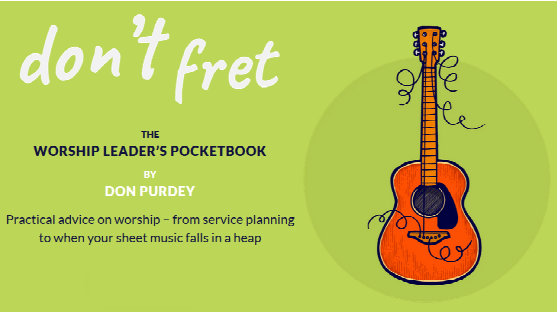
Rev. Don Purdey was not only Ruth's Son-in-Law, but a friend to many of us.



Throughout these pages you'll find practical advice on
worship that you can refer to when your sheet music falls
in a heap.

Discover tried-and-tested secrets for service planning,
direction and flow, as well as the ever-important skills of
music presentation, on-stage ministry and service
leadership, with the theology to back it all up.

Don't Fret is an organised, quick-to-read and informative
guide on the shaping and presentation of worship in
Australia today.



ISBN: 9780648856702



ABOUT THE AUTHOR
DON PURDEY

Don't Fret: The Worship Leader's Pocketbook grew out of Don's 30 years of
experience as a musician and worship leader, including 16 years as an
ordained minister in the Uniting Church in South Australia.

While sadly Don passed away in 2014, his family have worked to bring you
this published version of Don's manuscript. Throughout these pages, Don
invites worship leaders to refine their practical worship skills and uncover
truths on worshipping humbly and with a servant heart.

Nobody knows the Sunday struggle quite like
you do. You've been up all night getting your
service ready, only to have things fall apart
piece-by-piece the following morning. And just
when you think everything is sorted, your guitar
string breaks.

Don't fret.

If you wish to order a copy (\$14-95), go to <https://www.openbookhowden.com.au/product/dont-fret/>

Prayer Points

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia.
- and give thanks for new translations of scripture available to people in Arnhem Land.
- 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.



**The weather is warming up, the COVID-19 risk is lessened,
the clock has been put forward and many people are ready
to return to more normal worship services**

SO

CCF services resume on

Sunday, 25 October, 2020 at 5pm

Ring Ian with any queries.

Annual General Meeting

The rules we have adopted as an A.C.T. incorporated association require us to hold an Annual General Meeting each year.

This year has proved an unusual year in so many ways, however the requirement for an AGM remains.

This year it is impractical to follow our past habit of gathering for a meal then attending to business at meetings following.

Our AGM will follow our service on 25 October. It will include items of business specific to an AGM such as Membership, Election of Officers and the Treasurer's report.

Any other business will be dealt with in a (hopefully short) General Meeting.

Ring Ian with any queries.

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>

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