

June - August 2021  
Issue 145

# The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship  
(in the Methodist Tradition)



Canberra Aboriginal Church

Also distributed to

Apologies that this Next Step has taken so long to compile.

## Yes God is good

Yes, God is good - in earth and sky,  
From ocean depths and spreading wood,  
Ten thousand voices seem to cry:  
God made us all, and God is good.



The sun that keeps his trackless way,  
And downward pours his golden flood,  
Night's sparkling hosts, all seem to say  
In accents clear, that God is good.



The merry birds prolong the strain,  
Their song with every spring renewed;  
And balmy air, and falling rain,  
Each softly whispers: God is good.



I hear it in the rushing breeze,  
The hills that have for ages stood,  
The echoing sky and roaring seas,  
All swell the chorus: God is good.



Yes, God is good, all nature says,  
By God's own hand with speech endued;  
And man, in louder notes of praise,  
Should sing for joy that God is good.



For all Thy gifts we bless Thee, Lord,  
But chiefly for our heavenly food;  
Thy pardoning grace, Thy quickening word,  
These prompt our song, that God is good.



*John Hampden Gurney, 1802 - 1862.*

This hymn (968 in the hymn-book we use) is in the public domain. We use the tune Williams. "The history of this popular hymn is somewhat curious and intricate. It is of American origin ... Mrs. Follen [was] the writer of the [original] hymn."

Englishman John H. Gurney that we know as the hymn's author wrote " 'Yes, God is good,' [was] suggested by [a] poem in a small American volume, which [was] well conceived, but very imperfectly executed. Successive alterations have left nothing of the original composition remaining but the first four words, and the repeated words in [the] hymn. With this acknowledgment, the writer has not scrupled to put his name to it—J. H. G."

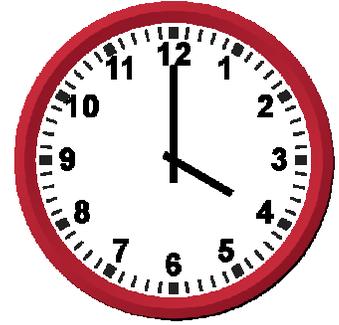
## 4pm church

Earlier this year as winter approached we decided to move our service time forward by an hour.

As years pass, temperatures seem colder during winter and it seems to get dark much earlier than it did in years gone by. Cold weather and driving in the dark are to be avoided where possible in the eyes of many older people so our decision to change was welcomed.

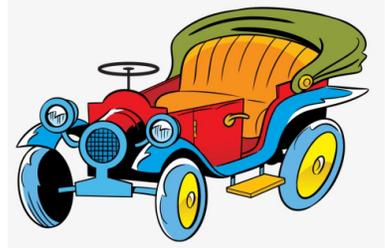
We will continue with our 4pm starts until warmer weather and longer days return. Then we will reconsider our service start time for summer.

Until then come along at 4pm for worship.



Transport is increasingly becoming a problem for those wanting to come and attend our church services. Accumulating years make driving at night an increasing challenge and health concerns sometimes also make driving impractical.

**THANK YOU** to those who have assisted the transportless by providing a ride to church and back home.



Back in May after one service, we got a phone camera out and took a number of photos.

Uti sent some of the pictures back to her church in Indonesia and shared with us a photo of that congregation.



The congregation Uti is part of in Indonesia.



^ L to R: Uti, Jonathan, Ruth.



^ L to R: Uti, Jonathan, Norman, Steve Prior (preacher), Ian.



^ L to R: Ruth, Marie, Uti, Ann, Kelly, Ruth, Sharon.



<- L to R: Uti, Kelly, Ruth, Sharon, Steve Prior (preacher).

Back in April, Koen (Christine Sloan's grandson) was christened.  
We mentioned it last 'Next Step' but then we had no pictures.



**Top and Centre:**

**Jason, Koen, Carmel,  
Rev. Peter Nelson**



**Bottom photo:**

**Wendy, Joyce, Marie,  
Christine, Jason, Koen,  
Carmel, Ann**



## Sunday 9th May - Mr. David Turner - Latest news from Eastern Europe



**David, Jill, Genille, Xavier**

We were glad to again welcome David Turner to update us on the work of Mission Without Borders in Eastern Europe. With him were Jill, office manager Genille and Xavier.

We saw examples of many of MWB's assistance programs via video as well as recorded messages of thanks from many who had been helped.

The extra challenges of the work during the worldwide COVID pandemic were also explained.

MWB is without doubt doing very valuable work among people who are struggling through life and need whatever small boost MWB is able to give them.

We were glad to participate in that work through a financial contribution from our Fellowship.

God is active all around the world and in Eastern Europe Mission Without Borders and it's workers are one of his instruments.



Anne Warren, (Mark and Katherine's daughter) is undertaking Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) with St Mark's UNEChurch, Armidale.

She is receiving support from some our Fellowship.

She writes "This semester I have been studying a unit on OT theology as part of MTS, and I am enjoying being challenged to think more deeply about what it is to be in the image of God and what sin does to our ability to glorify him."

## Sunday 30th May - Mr. Phil McMaster - Counter Culture Christianity

This Sunday we had decided to celebrate our 17th Anniversary and had asked Phil Ng to preach on that occasion. There is a saying "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry" and that is how things panned out.



At the time (and as is still the case) most people were particularly aware of sniffles, runny noses and the merest hint of colds. No-one wanted to pass on the slightest sickness to any other person, especially with the threat of COVID ever present. Young children seem to be magnets for each and every cold doing the rounds and perhaps that was how the Ng household had succumbed to quite mild but undeniable 'lurgy'. Phil felt it advisable not to visit us so in his place arranged for another Phil, Phil McMaster to come in his place.

Phil McMaster had preached for us previously and we were glad to have him with us again for our Anniversary

ID

## Elsie

While doing a little shopping at DFO Fyshwick a couple of months ago, Ruth and I encountered Danny, a member of the Chinese Methodist Church, at one of the food outlets. He had worshipped with us occasionally when Howard was helping a number of foreign students with their English language skills.

Elsie, another of the Chinese Methodists, had also played the piano for us each week until she returned to China at the conclusion of her studies in 2015.



Danny informed us Elsie is now a mum and produced two photos as evidence.

## The Mark Drama

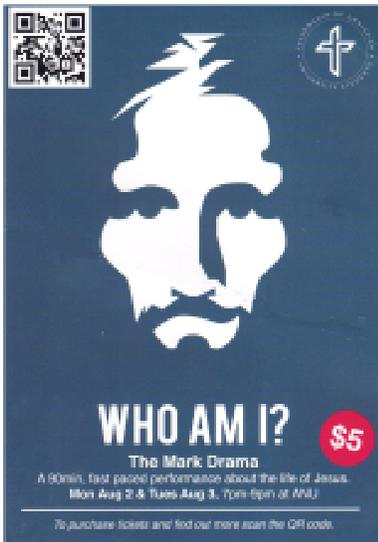
Kelly, among her other activities, participates in the FOCUS [Fellowship Of Christian University Students] group that runs at the University.

FOCUS were presenting a drama for two nights that gave an account of Jesus' life based on the Gospel of Mark. Kelly encouraged us to go along.

The 'Mark Drama' was a little different in that the action moved about and through the audience who were seated in a circular layout with there being no stage.

I found it an interesting experience, definitely worthwhile, and friends I took along (who tend to be dubious of some of my entertainment choices) also enjoyed it.

It proved a good witness of the faith of those who acted out Jesus' story and an opportunity for people unfamiliar with His story to discover a little of who Jesus is, what He taught and what He did.



## Truck For Sale Needs Parts



### Sunday 8th August - Mr. Mark Warren - Acts 17: 22-34



Bob Prior was down to preach and his sermon was to touch on trusting God.

As it turned out, instead of a sermon we gained a practical example of trust. A few hours before our service Bob contracted a stomach bug which prevented him from coming to us. (He had recovered by Monday.) With profuse apologies from Bob and around 25 minutes before the service was due to start, our trust in God was put to the test.



Mark Warren had a sermon he was able to use and stepped into the breach, preaching from Acts 17 about Paul's response to the Greeks' 'Unknown God'.

We will now hear from Bob on 29th August.

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Canberra's taste of lockdown might restrict our activities and our face to face contact with each other, however we can still keep in touch and support each other by other means, for example the telephone.



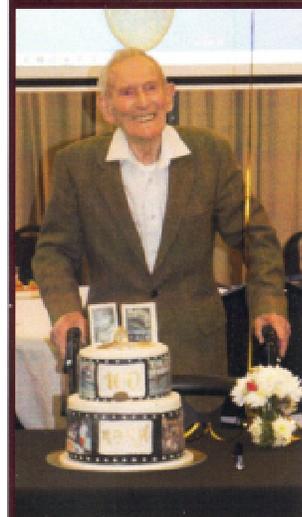
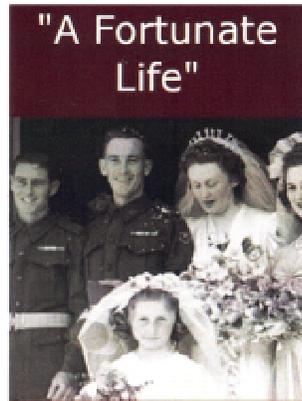
As Christians we also have an additional way of giving support! - through prayer. We have heard that Alec is quite ill in hospital. Please keep him in your prayers.

Steve Prior who has visited and preached for us has been suffering from a debilitating, stress related illness. This has led him to resign his ministry position at Crossroads Church. Please pray for healing and that God will show him the path he should follow into the future.



Let us all support each other through the various trials of life including COVID related restrictions by whatever means we can, particularly prayer..

## Norm SIMPER



We were saddened to hear of Norm's passing in June.

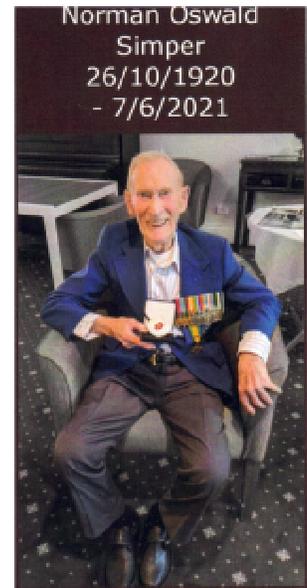
He had had a long and interesting life - a fortunate life - as he described it.

During the war he served in several different theatres.

Later he volunteered with St. John's Ambulance.

He was also a world champion cyclist.

Growing up in a devout Methodist family, Norm lived a steadfast and active faith, at first within the Methodist Church but then The Church of Christ with his wife. In recent years he also came to us when he could.



From



It has been a difficult few months as we have grappled with how to proceed with Ian's medical and licenses now expired and due for renewal in Australia.

... taking all things into account and with mixed emotions we have made the difficult decision to leave Madagascar and return to Australia towards the end of this year ... We are looking at possibilities with MAF in the Mareeba/Cairns area where the training base

is located and will update you further in the upcoming month or so ...

Covid in Madagascar has been fairly 'stable' for the past few months but rumours are circulating once more and we suspect a third wave with the Delta variant may be coming. Borders remain shut, as they have been since March 2020. ...

Thankyou for all your interest in the devastating situation that is occurring in the south of Madagascar. There are some programs running to help there, but much more is needed. We have heard that some NGOs have been unable to begin the work programs they have planned because

of travel/border restrictions. MAF is actively looking for ways to help through partnerships but there are many challenges. Please continue to pray for this area of Madagascar, for rain and for the borders to open so emergency aid can come in.

Ian is now unable to fly here due to the expiry of his aviation medical. But he continues to stay busy assisting the MAF Madagascar team with IT, helping implement a new learning management system, supporting flight operations and in other roles as they arise ... Adele has been helping our househelper with English and we are providing for her to do some cooking and English classes ... to give her some more skills and qualifications and hopefully help her get another position when we leave the country.

Thankyou for your ongoing support and prayers for our family and for the people of Madagascar.

Love and God bless,  
Ian, Adele, Jimmy, Edward, Josiah and Theo

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The following 'facts' found on the internet have not been checked and should be accepted with caution.

One 'fact' from the list "On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag." is actually a persistent claim but WRONG. The very tiny flag shown is actually a Canadian Red Ensign used as the national flag before the Maple Leaf flag was adopted.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds.

Dogs only have about 10.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt."

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth,

but our nose and ears never stop growing.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients in dynamite.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand; "lollipop" with your right.

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

The Bible does not say there were three wise men; it only says there were three gifts.

The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

The words 'racecar,' 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).

There are more chickens than people in the world.

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks; otherwise it will digest itself.

**If you all look closely, You will see a lion under that tree over there.**



Two guys walked into a bar. The third guy ducked.

Want to know why nurses like red crayons? Sometimes they have to draw blood.

Why do some couples go to the gym? Because they want their relationship to work out.

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Pastor Steve Prior



Mr. David Turner



Mr. Roy Dallos



Rev. Phil Anderson



Mr. Phil McMaster



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan



Mrs. Joyce Hall



Mr. Etienne Pieterse



Rev. Bob Prior



Mr. Revin Blanchard



Rev. Jangwon Seo



Mr. Roy Dallos



Mr. Phillip Ng



Mr. Mark Warren



Mr. Mark Warren

Sunday 2nd May – Pastor Steve Prior - Hope in our resurrected bodies

Sunday 9th May – Mr. David Turner (Mission Without Borders) - Latest news from Eastern Europe

Sunday 16th May – Mr. Roy Dallos - A proposal of marriage

Sunday 23rd May – Rev. Phil Anderson - Defining Moments

Sunday 30th May – Mr. Phil McMaster - Counter culture Christianity

Sunday 6th June – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan - Controversy

Sunday 13th June – Mrs. Joyce Hall

Sunday 20th June – Mr. Etienne Pieterse (Leprosy Mission) - Matthew 10: 5-8

Sunday 27th June – Rev. Bob Prior - The most dangerous verse in the Bible

Sunday 4th July – Mr. Revin Blanchard - God does not play dice

Sunday 11th July – Rev. Jangwon Seo - The Holy Spirit makes us know the love of God

Sunday 18th July – Mr. Roy Dallos - Being still and the kinsman redeemer

Sunday 25th July – Mr. Phil Ng - The scandal of grace

Sunday 1st August – Mr. Mark Warren - Powerful Ministry

Sunday 8th August – Mr. Mark Warren - Acts 17: 22-34

Coming Services

We meet at **Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Cnr. Gould and Watson Streets, Turner**



Rev. Paul Tabulutu



Rev. Bob Prior

Sunday 15th August - NO SERVICE DUE TO LOCKDOWN

Sunday 22nd August at 4pm – Rev. Paul Tabulutu

Sunday 29th August at 4pm – Rev. Bob Prior

Chaplains

Rev. Phil Anderson - Australian Federal Police chaplaincy

Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy

Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy

Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches

Please remember Phil, Owen, Bob, Paul and their work in your prayers.



## Canberra Aboriginal Church



Church gatherings all currently take place over the internet using ZOOM. Physical gatherings will resume when the COVID danger is much reduced and when weather is warmer. Chris describes ZOOM as a Godsend. Using ZOOM everyone is still able to mix and meeting that way still feels like Church.

Numbers participating in ZOOM church have increased as old friends have participated and introduced new friends. ZOOM church is also good for those who are unwell as they don't need to venture out into the cold to attend.

Christine has been waiting to commence dialysis however problems with narrow veins are preventing that. She is due to consult doctors again on 29/8.



Koen is now around 9 months old. He is a very active, happy and smiling youngster - A joy to his family.



Chris observes that God works in mysterious ways. A stream of people have come to her for assistance or counsel and it seemed almost overwhelming.



On reflection Chris realised that it meant that her mind was focussed on the needs of others rather than brooding on her own needs.

A number of people have been praying for Tania. Her outlook did not look good with doctors suggesting a poor outcome for her. Prayers have been answered and she has shown great improvement. She is now completing rehabilitation following her brain infection.

Please pray for the Aboriginal Church just as they are praying for us.

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Teacher: "What is the chemical formula for water?"  
Student: "HIJKLMNO."  
Teacher: "What are you talking about?"  
Student: "Yesterday you said it's H to O!"