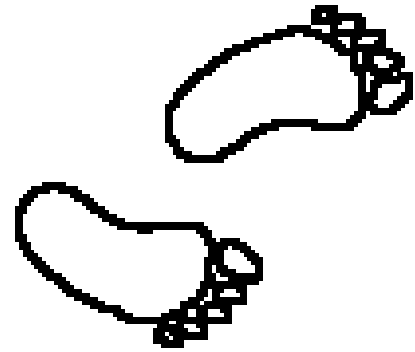


August 2021
Issue 146

The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)



Also distributed to **Canberra Aboriginal Church**

LOCKDOWN

Canberra is currently in the middle of a Lockdown imposed to limit the spread of COVID-19.

We may not be enjoying an enforced stay at home or the threat of sickness but a quick glance at history reminds us that **we don't have it so bad.**

Just over 100 years ago the world, just emerging from 'The Great War' battled a widespread influenza outbreak.

The earliest documented case was March 1918 Two years later, nearly a third of the global population, or an estimated 500 million people, had been infected in four successive waves. Estimates of deaths range from 17.4 million to 100 million, with an accepted general range of 25-50 million, making it one of the deadliest pandemics in human history. ... The pandemic broke out near the end of World War 1, ... [and] had unusually high mortality for young adults.

Depending on the studies and estimates consulted, between 1% and 6% of the world population died as a result of this pandemic.

The other pandemic disease that is part of public historical memory is Bubonic Plague.

This was responsible for the 6th Century Justinian Plague. Total deaths are not known however "it is estimated that up to 300,000 people died in Constantinople in the first year of the outbreak. Contemporary sources claim that there were approximately 5,000 deaths in the city every day at the height of the pandemic, even reaching highs of 10,000 on some days."

"The Black Death is the name used to describe the [Bubonic] plague epidemic that swept through Europe from 1348 to 1351. One of the most frightening Black Death facts is that it was extremely fatal and spread very quickly.

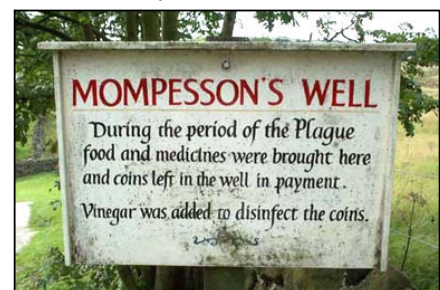
Although the exact death toll can only be estimated based on what we know now, it is thought between 75 and 200 million people died. It is estimated that 25% to 60% of the European population were wiped out during the epidemic. Some estimations are even set as high as two-thirds of the population."

In 2021 we have a much better understanding of how disease spreads, ways of protecting ourselves and hygiene in general. In addition we have vaccines to assist combatting viral attacks and communities mostly willing to endure some inconvenience to protect each other.

Lockdowns are not new. "In 1348, when the Black Death started to spread to the city of Venice, the city council scrambled to come up with an effective solution to prevent the plague. They immediately closed down the city's waters. All ships coming into Venice had to be isolated for 40 days. This was to make sure that the ship was clear of the plague. The 40-day holding period was called *quaranti giorni* in Italian. In modern day English, this phrase has evolved to quarantine, a term to indicate the isolation of a subject to prevent disease or virus spread."

1665-6 was the last major epidemic of the plague to occur in England. As was normal the plague concentrated in London. ... The movement of the rich alongside the normal trade patterns of England meant that the great plague spread quickly across the country. Rural areas that may previously have been safe from the diseases of urban areas were also exposed. The plague arrived in Eyam [Derbyshire] in late August 1665. ... in Eyam, a small village in the north, they acted in a unique way. Their intention was to act decisively and prevent the spread of disease. ...

The local Reverends were pillars of the community ... Eyam had two



Reverends. Thomas Stanley had been dismissed from his official post for refusing to take the Oath of Conformity and use the Common Book of Prayer. His replacement, Reverend William Mompesson had worked in the village for a year. Aged 28, Mompesson lived in the rectory with his wife Catherine and their two small children. Both highly educated, it was the actions of Stanley and Mompesson that resulted in the outbreak of plague in Eyam being contained to the village and not spreading to the nearby city of Sheffield.

... A three point plan was established and agreed with the villagers. The most important part of this was the setting up of a Cordon Sanitaire or quarantine. This line went around the outskirts of the village and no Eyam resident was allowed to pass it. Signs were erected along the line to warn travellers not to enter. ...

The village of Eyam, while undoubtedly saving the lives of thousands in the surrounding area, paid a high price. Percentage wise they suffered a higher death toll than that of London. 260 Eyam villagers died over the 14 months of the plague out of a total population of 800."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_flu
<https://facts.net/history/historical-events/black-death-facts/>
<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Why-Is-Eyam-Significant/>



With the COVID outbreak in Sydney proving hard to contain, please keep Daniel Cho (Ashley's husband) in your prayers. He is nursing in the COVID ward Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney.

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.



We do not currently know when our services will resume. Once lockdown has finished we will be better able to decide when to startup again.

Devotional material



Prayer



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Bible Reading



Fellowship by Phone

Alexander Francis Arnel 2 April 1920 -17 August 2021 (aged 101)

It was with sadness we learned of Alec's passing from this life early on Tuesday morning, 17 August.

I understand a Memorial Service will be arranged when restrictions are relaxed enough to allow Alec's many friends to gather and remember him.

Alec Arnel had a long and eventful life.

A country lad from rural Victoria, he became a teacher before enlisting as a pilot in World War 2.

Flying a Spitfire over Italy, he was shot down and eventually interned at Stalag Luft 3 Sagan, just after the 'Great Escape' had taken place there.

On return to Australia after the war he reunited with Margery whom he had studied and taught with and soon married her.

Alec was grateful for her influence and love that led him to reexamine and strengthen the Christian faith he had found while quite young but largely disregarded during the upheavals of war.

He returned to teaching and also studied psychology. After a while he returned to the RAAF initially as an education officer and then in other roles.

Leaving the airforce, he became a counselling psychologist at The Canberra College of Advanced Education / University of Canberra for ten years.

On retirement he became a church pastoral assistant and hospital chaplain.

We have known Alec as an enthusiastic and active Christian and have valued his contribution to our Fellowship and the wider Church.

