

October, November 2021
Issue 148

The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)



Also distributed to **Canberra Aboriginal Church**

Back Together

The Canberra COVID lockdown lasted a little longer than we initially expected, however as restrictions eased we finally resumed our services in mid-October. Masks were mandatory for our first three services back together.

Lockdown started in winter and due to cold and it getting dark early we had been meeting at 4pm. Spring had arrived when we resumed services and it remained light until quite late so we returned to a 5pm start. Some people have indicated they prefer the earlier start so it will be a subject for discussion at a meeting of our Fellowship.

As a church notice board I saw said "If you've been waiting for a sign to come back to church, THIS IS IT !"



Stepping forward

Our Fellowship started in 2004 with something of a step into the unknown. We hadn't been looking to start a new church but that seemed to be where God was directing us. Our progress as a Fellowship confirmed to us that the step we had taken was indeed a step God wanted us to take -we found somewhere to meet, preachers were happy to come to us and a ministry for our congregation (getting to know and working along side several ethnic congregations) presented itself.

A number of steps further along God's path later we need to step forward again.

From a human point of view a firm footing ahead is hard to determine - we have lost a number of God's faithful servants through death, moves to aged care or transport difficulties - leaving less people to undertake tasks that need doing.

Perhaps we might be better looking at what God is achieving through us. Our interaction with Ethnic churches has lessened, partially as a result of COVID restrictions, however the support we have given a large number of organisations doing God's work is considerable, preachers are still more than happy to come to us (and many have commented on the sense of peace and warmth they experience when they come) and the support we offer each other through the stresses of life is invaluable. To me that suggests our Fellowship is still part of God's plan and being blessed by Him. It seems as if we are on a path that perhaps has mist obscuring its surface but is indicated by markers. Steps we take can be assured of a firm and secure footing.

Are you ready to take that NEXT STEP?

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As an incorporated body, our Fellowship is required to hold an Annual General Meeting.

This has been a disrupted year so we have had to 'fit in' our AGM where we can.

This year's AGM will be held at **4pm** (before our worship service) on **Sunday, 28th November**.

It cannot be a long meeting due to time constraints.

Please come and help guide the future of our Fellowship then **stay on to worship our God together** at 5pm.

One day, a customer placed a huge order for numerous goods but suddenly the company realised the customer hadn't paid for the previous order. Immediately, they left a message for the customer saying the new order cannot be processed until the last bill has been paid. The next morning, they opened their emails to find a reply 'We would like to cancel our order, we just can't wait that long'.

For many months Roy has been video recording sermons which he distributes to the people of his own church, us and others. During the periods of COVID lockdown this has been a particularly valuable source of spiritual nourishment.

Thanks Roy for the enthusiasm and effort you put into sharing God's Word during these unusual times.



Some messages received during Lockdown.



I hope those people with internet access have taken the opportunity to view the short message Daniel Pennington (from COMPASSION) prepared for us.

As quite a number of our Fellowship are not on-line, I have tried to briefly outline what he said in the video.

Daniel is in lockdown just as we are. This causes disruption to our normal lives.

Psalm 19 begins "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

No matter what governments or people say or do, God's presence and glory are made known throughout earth.

The psalm concludes "May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

We can trust God regardless of prevailing circumstances.

COMPASSION is helping kids around the world.

Prayer is IMPORTANT for sponsored children, those in poverty and for everyone living.

from Rev. Peter Nelson

I do hope you and the church are keeping well despite lockdown

It is a difficult challenge for us, especially meeting wise and enjoying Christian fellowship . Zoom has almost become the norm for the Aboriginal church as every time we plan a face to face meeting, restrictions knock us back. However through Zoom God has been able to hold us together.

I came across a book being sold in the US entitled "Make the rest of your life be the best of your life"- a good one for us oldies

Best Wishes

Peter



Hi everyone

please know that Darlene and I miss you all and are looking forward to seeing you all.

As I was doing my reading this week one thing that really spoke to me as I was reading the book of Revelation, having read chapter 1 hundreds of times over the years for the very first time it struck me. We see two pictures of Jesus (this one I have always seen) of The exalted Son of God the Saviour having completed his work of saving His people, Christ reigns NOW because all powers and authorities were defeated at the cross Praise God! But also that Jesus "walks among the golden lampstands (His Churches)! Praise God for His Mercy and goodness that we know that though we are separated and unable to meet together at this time Jesus is in our midst. And He walks among us! I pray that this world go well with you this week and that today's message is helpful. Let me know your thoughts.

... And please let me know if you have any prayer needs.

Bless you all. Roy

Rev. Ron Reeson who preached for us a number of times has passed on from this life to the next.

"Ron came to faith as a teenager and was called to ministry in the Methodist Church. ... For almost two decades, Ron served as a missionary in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea, where he learned several languages, was Principal of the Bible College, and is still a well-loved and revered figure." He returned to Australia in 1979, and served as Central Belconnen / Kippax Uniting Church minister then as Canberra Region Presbytery minister in the Uniting Church until his retirement.



A police recruit was asked during an exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?". The reply, "Call for backup".



Ashley, Daniel and family were recently able to visit Canberra for a few days.

Ashley managed to see several of our Fellowship while here including Ruth.



As COVID restrictions eased, it became possible to catch up with friends that had been isolated. Ruth and Ian were able to have lunch with Valda.

Valda has since moved from her home in Isaacs to Jindalee Aged Care in Narrabundah.



Another former CCFer we have heard from recently is Dinah.

She has been living in Townsville for some time now and when speaking to Ruth on the phone was interested in how our Fellowship and its people are faring.

**Dinah
and
Steve**



Over in South Australia it is Uniting Church Synod time.

Annette Purdey was attending and happened to bump into Rev. Dr. Murray Earl. He asked if she knew how we were getting on here in Canberra and she was able to tell him a little of what has been happening here.

Sunday, 31st October - Rev. Paul Tabulutu - Exodus 19: 1-6

God freed the Israelites from their old masters, the Egyptians.
We too have been freed from our bondage, the bondage of sin.
We have been saved to be God's people and a special treasure to Him.
In whatever way he asks us to serve Him, we will be His priests.

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Sunday, 14th November - Rev. Bob Prior - Why Pray?

Bob explained he didn't want to talk about how to pray (there are hundreds of books on that subject) but 'why pray'.

- **PRICE PAID** - Jesus was subjected to unimaginable pain, physical and spiritual, in order to return us to fellowship with the Father. He took all our sin upon Himself.
- **PRAYER PLEASES GOD** - 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*
- **PRIVILEGE and PURPOSE** - 2 Chronicles : 7: 14 *" if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. "*
- **PATTERN** - Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer as an example of how to pray. Components of prayer include **Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.**

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After the service 7-11-2021



L to R
Standing :
Joyce, Uti,
Wendy,
Katherine,
Mark,
Laurie,
Jonathan
(down low),
Norman,
Joan,
Cassandra
(hidden)
Sitting :
Ruth, Ian
Taking
Selfie : Kelly



Cassandra and Jonathan hard at work

Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Mr. Mark Warren



Rev. Paul Tabulutu



Mrs. Joyce Hall



Rev. Bob Prior

Sundays 15th August to 17th October - No services due to COVID lockdown

Sunday 24th October – Mr. Mark Warren - Powerful Service

Sunday 31st October – Rev. Paul Tabulutu - Exodus 19: 1-6

Sunday 7th November – Mrs. Joyce Hall - Faithful or not?

Sunday 14th November– Rev. Bob Prior - Why Pray?



Dear Mrs. Jones,

I wish to clarify that I am not now, nor have I ever been, an exotic dancer. I work at Home Depot and I told my daughter how hectic it was last week before the blizzard hit.

Her picture doesn't show me dancing around a pole. It's supposed to depict me selling the last snow shovel we had at Home Depot.

Coming Services

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



Mr. Matt Sweeney



Mr. Mark Warren

Sunday 21st November at 5pm – Mr. Matt Sweeney

Sunday 28th November at 5pm – Mr. Mark Warren

Sunday, 7th November - Mrs. Joyce Hall - Faithful or not? (2 Chronicles 14: 2-12)

King Asa was King David's great, great grandson and a good King.

Israel had split into two, the northern kingdom which had turned away from God and the southern kingdom, Judah, where Asa ruled.

Asa commanded his people to seek the Lord God and obey His commandments.

When the Cushites marched against Judah, Asa called upon God and the Cushites were defeated.

Do we seek to do what is right in God's eyes like Asa? Do we get rid of our idols (which may take the form of work success, health, mobile phones, etc. - not bad in themselves but bad as a main focus of life)?

The people of Judah lived in peace.

Peace is a calmness of heart in the midst of everything.

Asa was a good King however he did not always rely on God as he should have done.

God wants the best for us and we should always put God first in our lives.



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Sad News

We were saddened to learn that Janelle Mann passed away suddenly and unexpectedly Monday morning, 15 October.

Our thoughts and prayers are with John and the family in their loss.

The service for Janelle will be held at the crematorium at midday, Friday, 26 November. Rev. Patrick Cole will take the service.

MAF

During this last week I received a phone call from Malcolm of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

He was ringing as part of their programme to maintain contact with their supporters. After asking after our Fellowship he prayed for God's blessing on us and for some of the specific issues facing our Fellowship.



From



Our past few months have been difficult and we have been trying to stay occupied and motivated now that Ian is unable to fly due to the expiry of his aviation medical and license. However he (and Jimmy, our budding IT guy) have been doing a variety of IT related jobs ...

The work of MAF has continued with the flight schedule becoming more steady over the past few months. ...

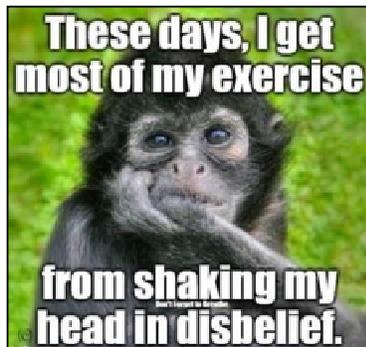
I (Adele) recently took up an invitation to visit a children's oncology and trauma ward in a city hospital with a friend who has been making dolls and toy helicopters to use to share the gospel and distribute to children in hospitals and schools. This was both a huge privilege as well as very confronting. ...

After countless hours of searching for flights, liaising with the MAF travel assistants to secure them, researching airport transit rules, getting vaccine advice for the various stop overs ... and a great deal of thinking outside the box (it turns out traveling with 6 people from one closed island nation to another is in the nigh on impossible category), we finally have tickets booked for our return to Australia for early January, via Paris, Doha and Kuala Lumpur! ...

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



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.



Prayer

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Bible Reading

