



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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| Presbyter: | Rev. Siosifa Pole | 455 2923 |
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| | Dr Richard Cannon | 477 5030 |
| | Mrs Fay Richardson | 489 5485 |
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PARISH BULLETIN

18th December 2011

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER 2011

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| 9.30am | Mornington | C/G |
| 9.30 am | Mosgiel | C/G |
| 11.00 am | Glenaven | S.Pole |
| 11.00 am | Wesley | C/G |
| 1.00pm | St Kilda | TBA |
| 6.00pm | Broad Bay | |

Mornington Church end of year event

Wednesday 21st Dec starting at 6:30p.m.

The Mornington Minstrels go on tour from Argyle to Borthwick

This Invitation is extended to all members of the church

The plan:

A choir of carol singers will assemble to depart the church at 6:30p.m. Walk via a circular route to visit the homes of church members, who live within 2 km of the church. At each home the choir visits the carol singers will sing 2 well known carols (2 lively verses) and enjoy a responding song and maybe a treat from residents and their choir. After visiting the various homes the walkers will return to the church advising all the visited residents so all walkers and residents can join in supper and some further carol singing at the church.

You are welcome whether able to walk all (there are some hills to ascend) or some of route (flat sections abound) or to join as a "choir member" at a residence and then to join in supper afterwards.

Please all come and enjoy some singing, company and Christmas cheer at this special time in the church year.

Please bring a small plate to make supper enjoyable

Cam Weston Phone: 454 5600

CONGRATULATIONS to RICHARD CANNON on being awarded the Sir John Walsh Research Award by the Otago School of Dentistry - yet another indication of the respect that Professor Richard has won in his profession. Well done, Richard!

CONGRATULATIONS to SHIRLEY PARSLOW who earlier this week was presented with the National Executive Award from Girls Brigade New Zealand for representing Girls Brigade on the National Council of Women for 20 years. A remarkable achievement Shirley. Well done!

Services

24th December – The whole parish are invited to join Glenaven Methodist on their Christmas Eve service, supper 10.30pm, service 11pm.

1st Jan – Communion Combined service for Mornington and Glenaven Methodist Churches at Mornington Church.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the two “sons of the parsonage” whose rugby careers have taken off in the first year they have been with us in Dunedin. Both of them have attracted the attention of national selectors. SOLOMON has been selected for the under-20 training squad and SEKONAI A for the under-19 squad.

We share the delight of Siosifa and Naomi at their success so far, and wish them further success in their rugby careers. Photos show both lads in their roles in the recent [Y@M](#) production. K.R.

HYMNS FOR PRAISE BE

In May next year, and after a gap of five years, Television New Zealand will come to Dunedin to record congregations and choirs for the Praise Be program broadcast on Sunday morning. The producer has asked me to collate and send up to Wellington a list of hymns you would like to see and hear on the program. No, not grandma's favorites (they're heavily recorded already), but the hymns of our own time which are poorly represented on Sunday morning television or radio.

Please send me a first line or title (or a number of such lines or titles) by email or snail mail, before Christmas.

My address is: 28 Mitchell Avenue, Mornington, Dunedin 9011,

My email is: colin.gibson@clear.net.nz.

This is a rare chance to influence the program makers; I'd like to be able to send a long list!



SUNDAY 22 JANUARY pot-luck picnic: after the service on 22 JAN at GLENAVEN everyone's invited to the Watson White house, 5 Cairnhill St, Maori Hill, to have a picnic in the garden. Hot and cold drinks provided. Please bring food to share. No need to register interest in advance -- just turn up! (Tel 467 2936)

Preaching plan for Mornington during January

1st Jan. S. Pole

8th K. Russell

15th C. Gibson

22nd H. Watson White

29th C. Gibson



Conversation during a Bible reading

Matthew begins his Gospel with the words, 'This is the family tree of Jesus the Anointed One, who was a descendant of David and Abraham.'

Oh dear, we're going to have all that stuff about Jesus being God's son again.—And it's such nonsense! We actually come from some prehistoric woman in Africa, the one they call the African Eve. So Jesus must have been *her* son, just like the rest of us. —Really? I didn't know that.—Yes, they say they can trace us right back to prehistoric Africa through our genes.—Our what? —Our genes, our genetic makeup. —So there really aren't any different human races at all; we're all descendents of just one family of human beings.

Now Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah and Tamar were the parents of Perez and Zerah.

Africans? Just fancy that!—I remember a few weeks ago that YAM group telling us what a weird mob Abraham and Isaac and Jacob actually were. —But rellies are always like that! You should hear the stories about *my* family. —That Tamar woman, wasn't she the one who kept losing husbands. And finally she got really desperate and disguised herself as a street-walker and seduced her own father-in-law; and when they found out that she was pregnant and the ignorant old man was going to have her burned to death, she produced proof that her child was his—and then gave birth to twins! —How on earth did you know all that?—Didn't you read all the dirty bits in the Bible? The stories they never told us about in Sunday School?—O Ann!

Now Perez was the father of Hezron, Hezron was the father of Ram, Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab was the father of—

Father of this, father of that! That's all you hear about in the Bible. They leave out all the women. I don't care if men actually ran the place in those days. Women put as many genes into the gene pool that produced Jesus as those men did. —Interesting, when you think about it: Jesus's character and personality being shaped by all those people in his past, and we don't know anything at all about most of them.

Amminidab was the father of Nahshon, Nahshon was the father of Salmon, and Salmon and Rahab were the parents of Boaz. Boaz and Ruth were the parents of Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David the King. David and Uriah's wife were the parents of Solomon—

Well I'm quite sure my family history isn't as grubby as that! Rahab; wasn't she the Jericho prostitute who hid the spies Joshua sent into the city? —And Ruth was the foreign woman who lost her first husband before she could have any children, then went back with her mother-in-law Naomi to Judah. And Naomi put her up to getting Boaz to have sex with her, and marrying her. It'd be like bringing some Philippine or Indian woman into your own family! —And my gosh, wasn't David's wife Bathsheba, Uriah's wife—yes, I remember that bit now—and David had Uriah murdered so he could get into bed with Bathsheba, after he saw her taking a bath. What a lecherous lot they were! —And all those shenanigans on the way to Jesus.

Now Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam was the father of Abijah, Abijah was the father of Asaph...

Oh dear, this is dead boring! I don't care if it was Tweedledum or Tweedledee. I mean, who was Asaph? He might have been the Sheik of Araby for all I care.—Isn't Asaph a street in Christchurch? Bev, have you ever wondered if Matthew or somebody made it all up? —But they wouldn't have done that, would they? They were really into family histories then. So perhaps they didn't have to make it all up. Perhaps Jesus' family could reel off the names of their ancestors, like Maoris can recite their whole tribal line today. —Yes, perhaps. But it does make you wonder who they were, the people behind those bible names. (*Giggling*) Perhaps Jehoshophat made a fortune out of camel farming, and Perez was a sky diver, and Ahaz never let on that he wrote poetry; and Nashon—Nashon lived till he was 102 and reckoned it was lots of sex and fried locusts that kept him alive so long. —Yes, perhaps they all had something to remember about them, if we only knew their stories.

....And Zadok was the father of Achim, Achim was the father of Eliud, Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar was the father of Matthan, Matthan was the father of Jacob. And Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, who was the mother of Jesus.

Now just be serious! To think of Jesus coming along after all those generations and generations, all those messy stories, all those good people and bad people. And not one of them knowing they were helping to make someone as special as Jesus. — And in the end poor old Joseph didn't even get to pass on all that genetic inheritance. Not if Mary fell pregnant to the Holy Spirit, which is what it says in the Gospels. But I think he did father Jesus; he really did, don't you?

Postscript

Whether Joseph or the Holy Spirit was the biological father of Jesus, his biological mother Mary certainly brought her own genetic inheritance to the baby's formation. In that sense at least, Jesus was 'fully human'. What a tragedy, then, that because of its patriarchal and cultural bias, the Bible tells us nothing about Mary's ancestors, her family tree. What treasures—or what disasters—have been hidden from us for ever!

Colin Gibson