



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

18th NOVEMBER 2012

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2012

9.30am	Mornington	H Watson White
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	H Watson White
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
6.00pm	Broad Bay	No Service

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 21 November at 7.30 pm at Mosgiel Church.

EXPLORERS GROUP

Gets together for a final occasion for 2012 on Saturday November 24th, a pot luck tea at 67 Glenross St, from 6pm. Thanks to Marion and David for their generous offer of hospitality.

MORNINGTON LEADERS MEETING

Our final Leaders Meeting for 2012 will be held on Tuesday 27th November, in the Lounge at 7.30pm. It would be appreciated if as many committee members as possible could attend. - Ian Pearce, Rostered Chair.

INVITATION TO MEET WITH INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR AND AUTHOR AJITH FERNANDO

12pm- 2.30pm Friday 23rd November at Elim Christian Centre (67 Harrow Street).

Ajith Fernando currently serves as Teaching Director of Youth for Christ (YFC) in Sri Lanka after being National Director for 35 years. These days his main responsibilities are mentoring leaders, teaching staff and volunteers. With his wife Nelun he is active in a Methodist Church just outside Colombo, most of whose members are recent believers. He ministers to Christian workers and others through a counselling and a Bible teaching ministry in Sri Lanka and abroad. Ajith is a visiting lecturer and Council President of Colombo Theological Seminary and also serves as Visiting Scholar at Tyndale University College and Seminary in Toronto. He has written 15 books and his books have been published in 19 different languages; **his recent book 'The Call to Joy and Pain' was awarded the Christianity Today Book of the Year Award for church and pastoral leadership.** You can find out more about Ajith's books here <http://amzn.com/e/B001IOBFSI>.

This 2.5 hour session will include lunch and times for Q & A with Ajith. The cost of \$10 per person is to cover lunch and a donation towards Ajith's costs in coming down to us and will be payable in cash on arrival at the event. For catering purposes **please RSVP to me (James Allaway) with the number of people who would like to attend and details of any allergies or food requirements by the 21st November.** Parking will not be available at the Elim carpark, but nearby places where you can park include the DCC park just across the railway tracks, the parking meter area near Ironic café (only \$1 per hour), or parking is available at the Meridian mall.

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND SYNOD

Our next synod meeting is on Saturday 24 November at the Mission Office (cnr Lockerbie Street and Middleton Road, Dunedin), beginning at 10am. Please let us know if you are coming so we can cater for the Christmas lunch at 1pm. Looking forward to seeing you. Regards, Jenny Winter, Synod Secretary. Phone - 03 478 0491.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To Darcy Pitts who turns 10 on the 22nd November.

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF DUNEDIN (INC.)

The Club is seeking persons, from the General Public, not necessarily having attended Otago University, to become new members of the club.

We meet at Mercure Leisure Lodge, Duke St. Dunedin- 12.10 mid-day- every Friday for lunch (\$18.00) followed by an interesting Speaker.

The Meeting opens at 12.25pm for Lunch & the Speaker gives a 30 minute presentation followed by questions. We usually finish at 1.45pm

Our members come from many walks of life & this offers a warm & friendly environment.

For those who have been waiting for admission to University of the 3rd Age, joining our Club may be an worthy alternative.

Joining is by written form of application & requires a Proposer & Secunder.

If members of the Parish are interested in this invitation please contact:

-Ian Pearce, Phone: 4536312 or email : dotian12@clear.net.nz

80 YEARS YOUNG was the constant theme of tributes paid to Rev **DONALD PHILLIPPS** who celebrated his 80th birthday last Sunday - among friends from near and far. Many tributes were paid to a presbyter who has spent his entire ministry in the South, principally in Dunedin City, as University Chaplain 1970 - 82 or as Superintendent of the Methodist Mission (1982 – 1995). Photo shows Donald with associates past and present - Greg Hughson (University Chaplain), Shirley Ungemuth (former Mission associate), Laura Black (Mission CEO) and Tim Langley (former Parish associate).



LAST WEEKEND was a big one for the McLeod family as they celebrated the birthdays of **Claire** (90) and **Neil** (91). Stalwarts of our Parish, Neil and Claire have clocked up some impressive longevity statistics. 66 years married (married Baring Square Meth Ch, Ashburton) this hardworking couple lived in Alexandra for 19 years, and came to Dunedin 44 years ago and have lived in the same house in Riselaw Rd ever since. They have given 40 years each as lay preachers (is that a record of some kind?). The double birthday was celebrated with family and friends at a dinner last Saturday. Wesley Church would not be the same without them.

CONGRATULATIONS to Claire and Neil.



Story from the Mission

I first met Sarah when she began to attend Approach Community Learning Centre as an Adult Learner, she was initially very nervous as this was the first time she had done anything without her partner being there.

After a few weeks an appointment was booked for me to meet with Sarah to provide her with support. Sarah disclosed that she had been living with her partner for a number of years and that Family Violence was a regular feature of this relationship. As the meeting progressed Sarah continued to talk about incidents that had occurred with their relationship, there was regular verbal, physical and emotional abuse, which went alongside threats of serious harm if she left the relationship. Sarah also had pets at the property she shared with her partner and she feared that if she did not return he would cause serious harm to them.

Sarah initially was so fearful that she did not want to leave the relationship immediately. We spent time with Sarah providing support, expressing our concerns for her safety and encouraging her to access support from the Women's Refuge in Dunedin. Sarah did eventually feel empowered enough to agree to seek support from the refuge and to go to stay in a safe house, which she did.

The next day Sarah and I had an appointment with a Solicitor to have a Protection Order put in place for her. However Sarah did not arrive at the agreed meeting point and I was later informed that she had left the safe house. Despite our best efforts to contact Sarah we were unable to do so. Sarah did however arrive at my office the day after this having not eaten for long period of time, she was near to reaching a decision to return to her partner, because as she said at least she knew that if she was there she had food, clean clothing, and would have a roof over her head. The first task was to provide Sarah with something to eat and drink, she said that the Safe House was not the place for her and had been staying with a friend

We again allowed Sarah to have the time and space to reach a decision and formulate a plan in a safe environment. The first step involved visiting the Police Station to inform them of the situation, to seek their advice and to find out if Sarah was able to have any of her possessions from her home. Sarah was very reluctant to involve the Police however the Officer that we spoke to was very supportive and enabled Sarah to feel empowered. The next step was to visit the Bank as Sarah's ex-partner held all of her eftpos cards and knew her PIN Codes to access these, he therefore had access to her money.

Sarah's existing eftpos card was cancelled and she received a new card and PIN. We then needed to go to WINZ to arrange the changes to Sarah's benefits, initially we were told that she was not able to have an appointment to see them as she did not have proof of ID. Her driver's licence, birth certificate etc. were all at the house with her ex. Her benefit was also cancelled at that point as she was no longer in a relationship with the person that she shared her benefit with. We requested to see the Advisor that specifically worked with People in Family Violence relationships. She was very helpful and arranged all of Sarah's benefits for her immediately. Sarah was also given emergency funds so that she could buy some food items. The Police made contact with us whilst we were at WINZ and we arranged to see them next. At the Police station we spoke with a female Police Officer who arranged a Trespass Order for the property where she was staying and arranged to go the property to negotiate with Sarah's ex-partner to return her items. If he did not agree to this it would need to become a civil matter due to the time they had spent together in the relationship.

Before returning Sarah to the place where she was staying we went to "The Hub" we were lucky enough to be able to get some clothing for Sarah, also some pillows and blankets from Rhona's Store.

Throughout this time Sarah was determined that she wanted to continue to attend Approach, as this was one of the places that she felt safe and nurtured. Key members of staff at Approach worked together so Sarah could continue to attend, that she was safe whilst she was here and that everyone else onsite was also safe. A plan was put in place and Sarah was kept informed of this.



REEFS OF TODAY IS AN ISLAND OF TOMMORROW – A TONGAN CONCEPT OF VALUING CHILDREN

Tonga is made out of 176 islands and only 26 of them are inhabited. Some of these islands are made out of volcanoes and others are made out of coral reefs. Those islands that are made out of volcanoes are above sea level. However, those islands that are made out of coral reefs are in a verge of danger posed by the rising of sea level. Despite this inevitable threat, people have lived in these islands for thousands of

years. These islands have become their home and their inheritance. Furthermore, their roots and their identity formed in these islands. They travel and migrate overseas but they always found these islands as their home. Apparently, this is where life began and nurtured. It was obviously started in those islands that are made out of coral reefs.

Coral reefs are formed by small sea animals (coral polyps) that they live in colony. Hard corals formed the coral reefs that produce limestone skeletons. Amazingly, they do this with the help of tiny, microscopic plant that actually live inside them. These corals from the coral reefs eventually evolve in millions of years to create the coral islands like many of the islands of Tonga including the island of Tongatapu where I came from. These coral inhabited islands give the people of Tonga a land to live and to cultivate for their sustenance. Hence, the land they live was not able to form without a long period of nurturing and protection. It certainly took considerable amount of time and care for these coral reefs to evolve into these islands. Generations have been benefiting from products that these islands produce for them. Without the coral reefs there were no islands for the reefs of today will become an island of tomorrow.

The development of reefs into island denotes the notion of child development from a Tongan concept of child rearing. Children are like reefs that are untouched and innocent in their natural environment. Yet they are vulnerable like the reefs for exploitation and abuse. They are expecting to be looked after and nurtured to grow physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy for the future of families and the nation are depending on them. Children are the treasure of the nation and if they are not protected they will obviously loss and no monetary term could compare the cost of it. If we want a nation that has a hope for the future we need to look after the children of today. We can't afford to wait under the cliff with an ambulance to heal their wounds and to mend their scars. We need to act now before is too late.

During the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, the President and Vice-president launched the Connexional theme for the next ten years, which is "Let the children live". How can we implement this vision? What are our strategies to address this important issue? Where could we find the resources to handle this issue? Do we have the energy to do it? We might have different responses to these questions but the bottom line that we must act now before is too late. The Commissioner for Children reported to Conference that 25% or 270, 000 of our children population

are living in poverty. Surely, there will be life-long consequences on children's health, education and well-being that will definitely have an impact on the security, economy, and welfare of this land. The government policy doesn't help to ease the problem of poor and low income families, which eventually affects the wellbeing of their children. Child Poverty Action Group reported, "New Zealand's most vulnerable children are bearing the brunt of the Government's punitive sanctions against beneficiaries, with solo parents making up the majority of those with children having their benefits cut." If the reefs of today will be an island of tomorrow and if the children of today will be the leaders of the future then surely the government and the whole of New Zealand society have a responsibility to nurture and care for their personal development. While I am writing this article there is a case in the court of a man accused of killing his step child. Child abuse and violence against children is an appalling social issue in New Zealand and I believe it is a side effect of poverty. Children who grow up in families who live under the poverty line are likely to go through tough times.

Let the children live should not only be the theme of the Methodist Church but a theme for every parent in this land of Aoteroa, New Zealand to ponder because it is God's will that all children should live. In Psalm 127 verse 3 says, "Sons [daughters] are indeed a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward." Children are portrayed in this verse as heritage and fruit from God, which are important metaphors for our future survival. We can't afford to lose our heritage and our fruit. If we lose both of them then there is not much hope for our future. In Tongan context those who do not have heritage, namely the land, definitely have no hope for their future. We are depending on the land for cultivation and for accommodation. Evidently, the land was not formed without a period of careful nurturing of the reefs of the past. Thus, our mission is to look after the reefs of today for one day they will form an island, which will give land for people to live and cultivate for their welfare. Similarly, we are called to invest in our children today for they are the future of families, of the nation, and of the church.

Siosifa Pole