



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

28th APRIL 2013

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 5th MAY 2013

9.30am	Mornington	D Phillipps
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	D Phillipps
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00pm	St Kilda	Comb. Wesley
6.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

EXPLORERS GROUP

Meets 4-30pm on Sunday 28th April in the Mornington Church lounge.
All interested people are welcome to join us

ST. KILDA FAKA-ME SUNDAY CELEBRATION

The St. Kilda Tongan church will have their Faka-Me celebration on the 5th of May at 12.30pm at St. Kilda church.

This is a special Sunday for their Children. Most of the service is running by the children.

Those who wish to attend this special occasion are gladly welcome.

INVITATION TO MAY 2013 GRADUATION THANKSGIVING SERVICES

The University Chaplaincy Team invites you to join a brief ecumenical thanksgiving service in the Hunter Café, (corner Frederick and Great King Streets) for students, families, friends and staff.

The time and date of the services are as follows: 10.30am – 11.00am Saturday 4 May, 12.30am – 1.00pm Saturday 11 May, 10.30am – 11.00am. Saturday 25 May

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following children:

- Rachael Pitts who turns 10 on the 29th April
- Harry Sussman who turns 9 on the 1st May
- Alicia Horsfall who turns 5 on the 6th May
- Kirstie Kopi who turns 10 on the 6th May



STORY FROM THE MISSION

A man who started at Approach at the beginning of this year was reluctant about the value of learning. A couple of weeks ago after a maths class, a tutor noticed the student wearing a jersey with the Otago Darts Association logo, and struck up conversation about darts, during which the tutor shared some history as a youth playing in the Invercargill darts hall. Since the student had often expressed his dislike of certain subjects and wondered about the point of it all, the tutor decided to plan a maths lesson around the game of darts. The challenge that this presented our reluctant student caused a complete turnaround – here was something he could really get into and build on his already considerable maths skills that he had used for years scoring darts. When last seen, our student was still trying to work out how many ways you could score 21 points with three darts; “I never knew there were so many combinations” he said. This example reinforces clearly - the work with our students must be relevant to them, and connect with their real lives.



(The Connections Article this week supplied by Greg Hughson was written by Rev Ken Baker and appeared in the ODT Faith and Reason column on 19th April.)

Bid to put religious bigotry out to pasture

I join many who were incensed by New Zealand First MP Richard Prosser's statement a couple of months ago that Muslim men or anybody looking like a Muslim should be denied travel on Western airlines.

The overwhelming response from New Zealanders has been abhorrence that a public figure purporting to be serving the good interests of New Zealanders could make such an outrageous suggestion.

It is a statement that impinges so directly on a number of good New Zealand citizens, let alone the impression overseas people pick up about us from reports on Mr Prosser in their own news media.

The Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group (representing Jews, Muslims and Christians) at a recent meeting received feedback from the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand pointing out the nature of our interconnected world, and that the Muslim community in this country is itself made up of about 60 different ethnic groups including Maori and Pakeha - hence the call to reject such ignorant remarks.

The federation hoped this incident might serve to further remind us of the need to respect and appreciate each other's differences while building a better future for us all.

A breakthrough has occurred for Mr Prosser. In accepting an invitation for hospitality from a Muslim family, he has experienced openness and a desire for inter-human learning and reconciliation.

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He also plans to attend the annual Peace Lecture in Dunedin on August 19. The address this year will be given by Dr Ingrid Mattson from the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

Dr Mattson is a renowned woman Muslim scholar and communicator. This will further help a critique of Muslim faith and action.

The Dunedin Abrahamic group was formed more than 11 years ago after the 9/11 terrorist bombing in the United States. The motivation was to seek to understand each other better in the face of a reaction that might see all Muslims as suicide bombers.

It is not surprising to learn that Islam is fundamentally just as grounded on principles of peacemaking and the call to open hospitality as is Christianity or Judaism.

In Dunedin, the annual August Peace Lecture (first addressed by the late David Lange) continues to be a forum building on mutual respect and understanding. The invited presenters are consecutively Christian, Jewish and Muslim.

Such opportunities to move beyond racially based tensions need to be applauded. I am encouraged by the way Mr Prosser is prepared to relook at the basis on which he made his initial statement ostracising all Muslim men. Progress is being made.

Bigotry can continue to be "put to bed"!

Ken Baker is a member of the Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group and a retired Presbyterian minister.