



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

21st JULY 2013

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 28th JULY 2013

9.30am	Mornington	Explorers Group
9.30 am	Mosgiel	G Watson
11.00 am	Glenaven	Explorers Group
11.00 am	Wesley	G Watson
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
4.00pm	Broad Bay	No Service

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The July meeting will take place on 24 July at 2.00pm in the Church Lounge. At 2.30pm our guest speaker will be Lawrie Forbes. Lawrie has recently bought the Athenaeum building for restoration and will speak to us about his work with Heritage Buildings and earthquake strengthening. This is a topic of great interest to the Dunedin Parish at the moment because of current interest into our own buildings. Everyone is welcome, either at 2.00pm or 2.30pm.

THE EXPLORERS GROUP

Explorers Group will be leading the services at Mornington and Glenaven on Sunday morning 28 July on the theme: "Exploring with Evan: A tribute to the faith journey of Evan Lewis". The Group itself will then be meeting as usual at 4.30 PM in the Mornington Church lounge. A welcome to all interested.

DUNEDIN SEA OF FAITH GROUP

1st August 2013, Our Speaker: Sir Lloyd Geering – ‘How Humans Made God’. Highgate Presbyterian Church Hall, Time: 6pm, Visitors welcome. A collection will be taken to defray expenses



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A very Happy 90th Birthday to Mr Frank Chiles of Mosgiel from all your friends in the Mosgiel Congregation.

TESTING TEXTING

Test your wits against this modern text version of a famous prayer. (Texting is that weird thing where young people twiddle on their phone keypads with dextrous, not-yet- arthritic thumbs).



dad@hvn,ur spshl.we want wot u want&urth2b like hvn.giv us food&4giv r
sins lyk we 4giv uvaz.don't test us!save us!bcos we kno ur boss,ur tuf&ur
cool 4 eva!ok?

Solution next week.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

This is an email sent to us from our Accountant, Pip who met our Arahina Coordinator, Sharon, at the school formal where she was with her children –

It's nice to be able to pass on news on how special our Sharon is. I caught up with her at the school hall on Saturday night before the kids went to their formal. She was there with two of 'her girls' (Arahina regulars). She had spent time doing their hair and makeup so that they could attend (and look just as good as the more fortunate ones). She had a done a marvellous job and was standing their proudly with them. It certainly gave me the warm fuzzies!



The Lies We Tell Ourselves

“The longer I live, the larger allowances I make for human infirmities. I exact more from myself, and less from others. Go thou and do likewise!”
John Wesley.

A recent report from the UK (see below for link) sets out to tackle our comfortable myths about poverty; the “lies we tell ourselves”. It has been put out by four Churches: the Baptist Union, the Methodist Church, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church, and is quite confronting.

Most challenging of all is the suggestion that the reason these myths are so popular is that they keep the rest of us from having to take any responsibility for the struggles faced by those on low incomes.

With the New Zealand government’s latest welfare reforms predicted to cut over 6,000 people off benefit (not because they have a job, but because they will “fail” the new requirements), it is perhaps time that we also front up to these comforting lies.

Myth 1: They are lazy and don’t want to work. The greatest proportion of children in poverty in the UK is from working households. In New Zealand, the government plans to spend \$2.545bn on Working for Families this year, about two-thirds of what it will spend on benefits to non-working families. This suggests that in New Zealand, too, the greatest number of children in poverty have a hard-working parent.

Myth 2: They are addicted to drink and drugs. In the UK fewer than 4% of beneficiaries report any kind of addiction. In New Zealand the government is budgeting for a similar number of people to have their welfare cut for failing a drug test: and that’s allowing for the odd bit of pot staying in someone’s system for upwards of 30 days.

Myth 3: They are not really poor – they just don't manage their money properly. But statistics show that the poorest spend their money very carefully. Not surprising when the minimum wage, after tax, for an adult working full-time is less than the cost of renting a house in Auckland.

Myth 4: They are on the fiddle. In New Zealand the Ministry of Social Development's own fraud unit found less than 1% of beneficiaries were fiddling the system. It's only when overpayments (made by the Ministry, in error) are counted that the figure climbs.

Myth 5: They have an easy life. We constantly hear that being on a benefit has become a lifestyle choice. If that's the case, why were there only 35,000 people on the dole before the 2008 financial crash? Was it just a coincidence that living on half the median wage became popular just as the worldwide economy tanked? No, that can't be right ...

The new "welfare reforms" launched this month aim to attack drug taking by those on benefits (but not working for families), unanswered arrest warrants for those on benefits (but not working for families) most of which will be for traffic fines, and lack of early childhood care for the children of those on benefits (but not working for families) at a time when uptake of early childhood education is above 93% nationwide.

It is hard to see how these moves will make a positive difference in the lives of those who are not working; certainly none of these reforms create any jobs, the only thing that can comprehensively answer high rates of unemployment.

But at least it is now clear how it is that New Zealanders might support such moves: sometimes it's easier to believe the myths than confront the reality.

If you want to read more, take a look at:

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Truth-And-Lies-Report-smaller.pdf>

Laura Black