



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Find us on Facebook: **Dunedin Methodist Parish**

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PARISH BULLETIN

27th October 2019

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 3rd November 2019

9.30 am	Mornington	D Poultney
10.00 am	Mosgiel	H Watson White
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

5 November 1.30 pm Mosgiel MWF – in the Church

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 5th NOVEMBER @ 1:30pm in the Church. Our guest speaker will be Mr Max Quinn who has just recently retired from the Natural History Unit Photographer. A not to be missed speaker. ALL VERY WELCOME PLEASE PHONE 489 7663 by the 1st NOVEMBER if you are able to come thank you .

VERY WELCOME NEWCOMERS at Mornington over recent weeks are COREY NISBET and VIKA HANG. They came on transfer from a Christchurch parish where they were held in high regard and were drawn to Dunedin because it seemed a very nice place (we agree!) They are living in Mitchell Ave, and how convenient is that!

Corey has a job in the firewood industry and Vika works in a local coffee shop. Corey is a native of Christchurch and Vika comes from Beijing, China. As we have already discovered, Vika's smile will brighten even the darkest day.



Theology and the Environment (CHTH224/324).

In light of climate change, ocean acidification, and our over-use of plastics, to name a few ecological issues, this timely course investigates what Christian theology has to say about care for the environment. The course invites students to look at how theology can speak to these pressing issues. The will taught by Dr. Andrew Shepherd.

Find out more here:

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/summerschool/study/otago714604.html>

Each Course costs \$20. Please register online at www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation



STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Corrections:

Skills for Dads & Story Reading Dads:

Skills for Dads was run for two hours in the morning for a total of 8 sessions. The revamp of the Skills for Dads Programme has been very successful. We had very positive feedback from the Students and the Staff at OCF.

The content was well received and the new way of delivering was more interesting to the students which in turn created great discussions around new skills in the way that they can be better Dads. Giving them a different way of dealing with all situations was very useful. The students played a game with their children on DVD which was then sent home to the children with the Story Reading Resources. We had some men saying that they thought that they needed more time in this programme, as they were gaining so much from the programme.

In the afternoon of the day we facilitate Skills for Dads, we deliver three hours Story Reading Dads for a total of 8 sessions with the same prison learners. This is a very popular programme with the students. They read a book to their children and then this is recorded on a DVD to be sent out to them. Some of the students played the guitar and sang some songs also. They made amazing resources to send out their children. This is something special that they can do for their children and a lot of thought went into the items that they made them.

Client Support

Jack visited the Toko hub very upset. They had only just moved to Milton due to their recent relationship break.

Jack had not had to deal with W&I for some years and felt unaware of entitlements that they may be able to apply for. They had gone to W&I, but due to their emotional state did not fully understand the support they would receive. Jack did not have access to a computer.

The need for service for Jack was to support them to navigate the W&I system. With support, Jack was able to register and access their My MSD account on line and print off information relating to up and coming payments, information on the use of a green card and how to apply for support for accommodation.

Jack popped back into the Hub a week later and reported that they were now receiving all the entitlements and felt they had confidence to deal with W&I on their own.

If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission



HUMAN RIGHTS MATTER

It seems strange that the Government should enact new rules that will affect skilled migrants already here and

accepted in New Zealand who are wishing to sponsor their parents to join them as migrants. It seems that the higher the salary of the sponsor the easier it is for them to qualify, the lower the income of the sponsor the more difficult it is to reach the requirements, and both sponsors and parents miss out, perhaps this country does as well.

Some are saying this is “something for the elite” as it appears the sponsors on a lower income will be penalised. Some saying this may force them to go back to their ‘home’ country, after having been recruited by the Government as skilled workers and now obtaining permanent residency. They would like their children to experience their grandparents and the grandparents their grandchildren. There are 5900 cases waiting to be considered, of these, it is estimated 85 percent will not be eligible under the new requirements.

It is difficult to fathom the reasoning, after all it has been to the nation’s advantage to have these skilled workers to fill the gaps in the various areas of the workforce, and all should be treated the same.

Question - who in this country is not a migrant or a descendant of a migrant?

Where in the world will we find a country or even a hidden away village where the people there are direct descendants of the original local humans, who have not migrated in as ‘aliens’?

Perhaps there is one or maybe two such villages hidden in jungle where no invading explorer has been, we hear rumours of such occasionally.

Humans/men have invaded/migrated into other’s territory since known history. All right if they migrate peaceably and are accepted peaceably.

But there is a difference between being 'peaceable incomers' and 'invasive incomers', between peaceful settlers coming as equals, and grabbers of land from the 'inferior natives'.

'Humans' – we are all humans 'born in the image of God', born as little gods, born as equals, but born as individuals with built in power – power for creative peace, cherishing our individualisms, our uniqueness, working peaceably together as equals. One person wrote that in awkward situations when dealing with others, in his mind he turned people into trees, appreciating them just the way they are – individuals with unique differences.

Who is it we need most in life? Friends! Is friendship produced through being invasive, through quarrel, through anger? I don't think so. Genuine friendship involves affection, compassion, discussion, with both sides respecting the other.

Human rights are the fundamental rights and freedoms that belong to every single one of us. No one can take these rights and freedoms away from us.

The traumatic events of World War Two highlighted that these rights are not always respected. In 1948, under the guidance of Eleanor Roosevelt, representatives from the 50 member states of the United Nations came together to devise a list of all the rights that everybody across the world should enjoy. Included were representatives of the major religions.

Out of this meeting came the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) - thirty rights and freedoms that belong to all of us that continue to form the basis for all international human rights law.

Article One states that we are all born free. We all have our own thoughts and ideas and we should all be treated the same way. Human

rights are not just about the law. They are also about the decisions we make and situations we experience on a daily basis.

Human rights are:-

Universal – they belong to all of us, to everybody in the world.

Inalienable – they cannot be taken away from us.

Indivisible and interdependent – governments should not be able to pick and choose which are respected.

It has been said by various authors that the Hebrew teaching and the Christian teaching that followed had a large bearing on the forming of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following the disregard for the rights of others by Hitler and Stalin and those whom they had persuaded to follow, it was declared *“that states must be accountable to a higher order. Without some assistance from real power no ideal has ever been able to survive for long. By showing those values are worthy of adoption by others we show them why it is advantageous, and not just the ‘right thing’ to do. A people confused about its direction will miss the opportunity to build a better and more peaceful world. Human rights matter.”*

Greater love has no one than this that they lay down their life for their friends” John 15:13.

The Dalai Lama said, *“Whether people are beautiful and friendly or unattractive and disruptive, ultimately they are human beings, they want happiness and do not want suffering. Now when you recognize that all beings are equal in both their desire for happiness and their right to obtain it, you automatically feel empathy and closeness for them. I believe that at every level of society – familial, tribal, national and international – the key to a happier and more successful world is the growth of compassion.”*

Gordon Abernethy