



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

14th August 2011

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 21st AUGUST 2011

9.30am	Mornington	G Hughson
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	G Hughson
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
4.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

MINISTRY TRAINING SEMINAR

The parish will run a ministry training seminar for all the lay people of the parish on Friday the 2nd 7.00pm-9.00pm and Saturday the 3rd of September 9.00am-2.30pm at the Methodist Mission Conference Room. Val Nicholls from Trinity College will lead this training seminar with assistance from the leaders of the parish. This is obviously an opportunity for those in the wider parish who would like to involve in a more active role in leading worship to attend.

OPEN EDUCATION:

On Wednesday 17 August, at Mornington Methodist Church starting at 7.30pm, the Open Education programme will bring the Reverend Greg Hughson to tell us about his participation in the Ecumenical Peace Convocation, arranged by the World Council of Churches in Kingston, Jamaica, this year. Greg was the sole New Zealander among a family of

nations: he has pictures to show and songs for us to sing. Join us to help celebrate and affirm peace and non-violence in the world.

As usual, Judy Russell will provide a delicious pre-session dinner starting at 6pm. Ring her to book your place (455 3727). The charge for the meal is \$15, for Greg's talk \$5.

GLOBE THEATRE (104 London St) features 18-28 August Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, with the well-tryed team of John Watson and Harry Love (*Home and All's Well that Ends*) in the leading roles. The cheapest seats for non-members are \$10 on the first night. Ring the Globe, 477 3274, for bookings / information. There are 2pm matinees on both Sundays, otherwise it's 7.30pm.

DISTRICT SYNOD - St Kilda Tongan Youth Group made a moving contribution to District Synod last Saturday when they led opening devotions with a dance, an action song and a prayer. Everything gave evidence of much time spent in preparation and practice. THANKS to you all. WELL DONE





Truth is marching on

Eat your hearts out, Facebook and Twitter. By snail mail, voice mail and email, I received eight responses to my questionnaire in the Bulletin for 17 July ('They wrote; I quote; and you can vote'). A few smoke signals also showed up but with less than 140 particles each they were too difficult to decipher.

Someone remarked on not being aware that responses to Connections articles were at all in order, so the exercise was worth it just to clear that up. Then again, if it got out of hand, perhaps we could introduce the tweet limit of 140 characters. Over to the editor and the convener of the Connections column on that idea.

Now to the survey results. Astonishingly, the resonating 'winner', with six unopposed votes, was Quote no.11: 'Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.' Might the name Albert Einstein have had anything to do with it? Or might some current affairs have had an influence?

Next came: "Say not, 'I have found the truth', but rather, 'I have found a truth.'", by Kahlil Gibran. Someone added the thought: 'Searching for God as a way of harmony in one's life is a bit like an inverted spiral – the more one seeks, the tighter the spiral becomes as we seek the truth.'

Then came the sayings attributed to Jesus in John's Gospel: 'You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free ... I am the way, and the truth, and the life.' One of the respondents added: 'I find this to be true in a spiritual sense... The experience of this sort of truth comes through relationship, rather than cognitive logical deductions.'

As for quotations which resonated *least* with the respondents, there was also a clear choice. Four were unimpressed with Oscar Wilde's: 'Truth, in matters of religion, is simply the opinion that has survived.' That result may have been salutary for my way of thinking, but I was struck by a comment added by one of the voters who was 'not happy that religion is singled out'. Fair enough, I thought.

Judging by the next least favoured quote, it would seem that John Keats was far too sweeping in his claim that all you need to know on earth is that beauty is truth, and truth beauty.

So, thanks to my helpers, here are some of their own favourite 'truth' quotes:

- All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them. ([Galileo Galilei](#))

- It's a basic truth of the human condition that everybody lies. The only variable is about what. (David Shore)
- Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened. ([Winston Churchill](#))
- The door of truth never opens to the key of prejudice. (Henry Frederick Cope)
- The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear. (Herbert Agar)
- Truth offered before its time is always dangerous. (Mencius)

And now for good measure, from my own leftover list, is another half dozen thoughts on truth:

- Convictions are more dangerous enemies of truth than lies. (Friedrich Nietzsche)
- God forbid that Truth should be confined to Mathematical Demonstration! (William Blake)
- He who begins by loving Christianity better than Truth will proceed by loving his own sect of the church better than Christianity, and end by loving himself better than all. (Samuel Taylor Coleridge)
- It is the certainty that they possess the truth that makes men cruel. (Anatole France)
- When others asked the truth of me, I was convinced it was not the truth they wanted, but an illusion they could bear to live with. (Anais Nin)
- When truth is replaced by silence, the silence is a lie. (Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Russian dissident poet)

Finally, Jo (Sorry I didn't say hello at the beginning – I got carried away with Facebook and Twitter), you probably noticed that my heading is itself a quote, from Julia Ward Howe (WOV 205), but slightly truncated. You'll have your own theories on why.

David Kitchingman