



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

30th JUNE 2013

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 7th JULY 2013

9.30am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00pm	St Kilda	Comb. Wesley
4.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

WELCOME

The parish is glad to welcome Rod and Sarah Mitchell and the family to be part of the Dunedin Methodist Parish family. Your Commissioning Service today Rod marks a significant step in the ministry of this parish. We are looking forward to working with you as equal partners in the service of God. May God bless you and your family in this new ministry.

EXPLORERS GROUP

Meets on **Sunday June 30 at 4-30** in the Mornington Church Lounge, all interested people most welcome to attend.

BULLETIN NOTICES FOR 7th JULY

As I will be on leave from Friday 5th July – Wednesday 10th July, it would be appreciated if all notices for the 7th July Bulletin can be in to the Mission Office (phone 466 4600 or sarahc@dmm.org.nz) by 3.00pm on Wednesday 26th June. Thank you. – Sarah Campbell.

**OTAGO DISTRICT METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held in the Mosgiel Methodist Church
Saturday 13 July 2013



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| 10:30 | Welcome and cup of tea |
| 11:00 | AGM |
| 12:30 | Lunch - Finger Food lunch. Tea/coffee provided.
Soup provided for a small donation |
| 1:15 | Speaker - Andrea Mosley |

Collection for Social Services - going to the Family Support Fund

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Over the last month it is pleasing to report that some of our wonderful new volunteers have been helping out with activities around the different Mission sites. Three volunteers have been working up at Approach providing students with some additional 1-1 reader-writer support. An elderly client has enjoyed and benefited from having a volunteer go walking with her weekly and another volunteer has been out and about in the community circulating brochures for the Mission new donor campaign. Out at the Arahina After School Programme a volunteer shows up religiously three afternoons to help out with the children as does another dependable volunteer help out at The HUB leading the 'Music and Movement' activities with parents and small children.

All our volunteers are keen supporters of the Mission's work and are waving their hands up to help out more, so please keep thinking how volunteering might assist in our day to day work or with any new initiatives and projects. Volunteers don't necessarily have to be on site, they can work in the community or from their home.



**CREATION STORY FROM A TONGAN
PERSPECTIVE**

I read recently a small booklet written by Keith Rowe, entitled *Charles Darwin – Secular Saint*. In that booklet, Keith Rowe suggests that Christians should value the contribution of scientists in our search for truth. He claimed that Charles Darwin is one of those scientists who opened a new way of understanding

and thinking about creation. He was among the first to suggest that life had evolved as a natural process without the interference of all-powerful, controlling deity. Charles Darwin's work is known as *The Origin of Species* was controversial in the life of the church in the 19th century but was able to bring another dimension to our understanding of the creation story. I suppose we all have that instinct of constantly looking for the truth. We continue to explore until we find the truth about God and his creation. As a Tongan, I have my own story of creation, which I would like to share with you. In this story you can realise that the creation of the human race was a combination of a deity involvement and also a process of evolution. This story can be called *The Tongan Legend of the Creation of the First Human Beings*. This story is translated from a book written in Tongan language by Masiu Moala, entitled, *'Efinanga*.

This is the version of the creation story from a Tongan perspective. The whole land was covered with green vegetation and they were grown in multitude that they scattered everywhere. *Tangaloa Tufunga* (god of the sky) told *Tangaloa 'Atulongolongo* (god of the land) to wonder around and to look for the island of *'Ata* (*one of the islands in the eastern side of Tongatapu, the main Island*) for there is a big *fue* (a type of creeper plant) grown up in there. *Tangaloa 'Atulongolongo* (god of the land) asked *Tangaloa Tufunga* (god of the sky) of what he would do if he would be able to find the *fue* plant. *Tangaloa Tufunga* responded, "You cut/peck one of the branches, and left it there to be rotten. Out of that rotten branch of the *fue* plant would come a huge *'uanga* (worm) and you have to cut/peck it into three pieces and from them there will be three living persons who would come out and you will name them, *Kohai* (What), *Koau* (I am), and *Momo* (Crumbs)." These are the first human beings that were created, multiplied, and also scattered on the land, who became the origin of the Tongan people. There are significant aspects that came out of this story, which are; the involvement of a deity in the creation, and also the evolving of different species to create other species, which obviously part of the creation process. This process of creation has a combination of pain and also of new life. A branch was cut from the *fue* plant and left to be rotten and out of that a new life began of a big worm. That new life was cut into three pieces and out of these three pieces came out three human beings. Life was not the same for it evolves and certainly there is a connection with Darwin's theory of evolution.

We have in Genesis chapter 1 and 2 a different version of another creation story. It is a story that was told from a Hebrew perspective. This

story starts with God created the universe (cosmos) from nothing (*exnihilo*) by his words. He brought life out from chaos and from disorder into order. Every day God created certain thing according to his plan and he saw each one of them is very good. He created the first human being from the dust of the earth in his image and he called him Adam. He put Adam into a deep sleep and took out one of his ribs and created a woman and Adam named her Eve. Obviously, a deity was in control in this creation story and the whole purpose was to bring harmony and order into the creation. This harmony was short lived when Adam and Eve abused their power to look after God's creation with love and care. They have been given the power to be good stewards of God's creation but they violated that right for their own personal gain. Their action was resulted in their expelling from the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve gave birth to their children, which result in the growth of the human race. Life was not the same for it evolves, develops and growth.

Those two creation accounts prove to us that there was a deity involved in the creation of our world and that life cannot be the same for it evolves. Change, development, and progress are parts of the created world we live in. We are created to be part of this global household. Life is like a journey, filled with surprises, pleasures and tragedy. Through that journey we evolve and transform by the contexts where we located ourselves. These changes can possibly be for good or for bad depending in the intention of the changes that happened. Last Sunday was the World Refugee Sunday and the reminder for us of our role in this global household toward the refugees and those who have no place to live. People have fled their homes and countries for fear of their lives. The wars, persecution, oppression, and prejudice have forced people to move away from their world that God created for them to live and enjoy life. I believe when we divorced God from the world, we will act in an ungodly manner toward our fellow human beings. But when we saw God is within the creation and take part in the evolution process we would understand that we have a responsibility toward our fellow human beings and the rest of the creation. The Creator God calls us to treat each other with love, care, respect, and with compassion. God created us in his own image and would love to see us treating each other and whole of creation in the way that he treats each of us. Although changes are inevitable but we have a mission to see others as people who are created in the image of God who loves us all.

Siosifa Pole