



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

22nd March 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 29th March

9.30 am	Mornington	Combined at Wesley
9.30 am	Mosgiel	Combined at Wesley
11.00 am	Glenaven	Combined at Wesley
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	Combined at Wesley

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMENS FELLOWSHIP - Wednesday March 25th at 2pm. Together We Can. Diabetes Youth N.Z .Speaker Noeline Wedlock. Neythal South India. Protecting the Environment & Livelihood. ALL WELCOME.

EXPLORERS GROUP: Next meeting Sunday 29 March, 4.30 pm at Mornington.

PRAYER FOR VANUATU - Please pray for the people of Vanuatu as they struggle to rebuild their nation after cyclone Pam destroyed their nation. Consider as well to support them whatever way you can.

THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP



The TPP National Day of Action Last Saturday drew large crowds from all around New Zealand. People do not want multinational companies suing our government if we put in place laws to protect health, rivers, intellectual property and food labelling. This can happen if a company thinks it reduces their profits. Australia is a being sued because of increasing their health warnings on cigarette packets.

What is our respons-ability as Church for this? Methodism Is committed to

Stewardship - the responsible use of money and resources

Social Justice - avoiding social harm

Human Wellbeing - promoting positive development

A Good Creation - sustaining the planet

How do these principles apply to this aspect of the TPP? Google 'Its Our Future' to be involved.

VANUATU CYCLONE APPEAL - Along with most other major aid agencies, our own CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE has opened an EMERGENCY APPEAL for funds to send urgently needed help to VANUATU. Houses were flattened, trees toppled, crops and water supplies destroyed by Cyclone Pam. Families have been left with little OR NOTHING. Tv footage has shown the condition of the people as dire. They need food, water, shelter and healthcare. Local people are already picking up the pieces but will need more help to rebuild their homes and livelihoods.

CWS is asking for your support. We are working with ACT Alliance members, and the Presbyterian and Anglican churches to make sure help gets to those who need it most and in remote communities. (ACT Alliance is a network of more than 140 member organisations working together in 140 countries.) We have been assured by CWS that monies given now will be immediately remitted to the points of greatest need in the stricken islands of Vanuatu. **Will you help?**

Families need all the help they can get.

Please donate now. Vanuatu Appeal

>> **Credit card:** phone 0800 74 73 72 or online:

www.cws.org.nz/donate

>> **Direct Deposit:** Name of Account: Christian World Service

Account number: 06 0817 0318646 00, Reference: Vanuatu

Email postal details to cws@cws.org.nz for a tax receipt.

>> **Post:** Christian World Service PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140

Christian World Service is a registered charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005 #CC22288 and a member of the global ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together).

YEAR NINE is an important one for NZ kids - it's the first year at high school, of course. It's been the custom for [Y@M](#) kids to be given a significant book to mark the occasion, and true to form, leader Ginny Kitchingman presented books to three of the younger members of [Y@M](#) - from left Lachlan Jones, David Cannon and Evie Freeth. Well done everyone!!!!



EASTER SUNDAY DAWN SERVICE, 5 April, 7am at Broad Bay Beach. After the service, enjoy a fish breakfast at Olive Bain's home, 8A Waikana Street, Broad Bay (5 minutes walk from the beach). Cost \$5. For catering purposes, please let Jenny Winter know if you are coming, by 30 March, by phone or email (total numbers from each congregation is fine), phone 478 0491, mob 021 168 9272, email mcleanwinter@clear.net.nz.

LAND of MILK and HONEY??

Not for too many of New Zealand's children.

The first Open Education session for the year brought Dr Justine Cornwall, New Zealand's Deputy Commissioner for Children, to speak to an almost full Mornington Church



audience. With personal stories, compelling pictures, quotes from children themselves and disturbing graphs, she outlined the appalling conditions in which 24% of our children (one in every four) live in our 'land of milk and honey.' And at the bottom of the heap, in every statistic, Maori and Pacifica children. As she made clear, the causes are complex—from unemployment to cold, rotting homes—and the effects range from sleep deprivation, and actual hunger to disease and illiteracy. Her Commission both advocates for these children and sets out ideas for social action to change such shameful conditions. The meal and presentation raised over \$500, which will go to the Mission's Hub, but so much more might be done. Go to the Commission's website (www.occ.org.nz), and look up its Giving 2 Kids programmes and pamphlets. Thank you, Justine, for a hugely challenging



presentation delivered with clarity and real moral force.

Pictures show: Dr Justine Cornwall with meeting organiser, Prof. Colin Gibson, and alongside her opening picture LAND OF MILK & HONEY??

DUNEDIN HOSPITAL'S VOLUNTARY CHAPLAINCY ASSISTANTS' TRAINING COURSE 2015

Voluntary Chaplaincy Assistants have a vital role in working alongside our paid chaplains for four hours a week on a specific ward in Dunedin and Wakari Hospitals. The Otago Healthcare Chaplaincy Support Trust is now in need of additional ecumenical VCA's, and is offering a training course commencing in April of this year.

The course will run from April 20 for 11 weeks on Wednesday afternoons 2pm – 5pm. It will include training in –

- Understanding of pastoral ministry & preparation for hospital chaplaincy
- Communication and listening skills
- Grief and loss
- Understanding the hospital environment / confidentiality / privacy legislation, Hospital standards and policies / keeping statistics for Ministry of Health
- Written reflection on pastoral encounters experienced

Supervision and support during the course will be provided by our chaplains. Following the course, trainees will be allocated a ward on a trial basis, and will receive support through group work and supervision.

Key dates are:

- Applications close on Friday, March 27
- Short-listed applicants will be interviewed in early April
- Course starts on Wednesday, April 20

**For further information and application packs, please contact:
Frances O'Connell - Chaplaincy Administrator, Dunedin Hospital
201 Great King Street, Dunedin
Phone 474-0999 ext 8130,
Email frances.o'connell@southerndhb.govt.nz**

NOTE THESE COMBINED MORNINGTON ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES COMING UP:

In 2015, **3rd April** our Good Friday Procession will **start** at St. Francis Xavier Church at 9.30 am, heading then to the Presbyterians, then to the Anglicans and will finish at the Methodists with worship and morning tea.

Also the first of our combined evening services on the 5th Sunday of the month, **29th March**, Palm Sunday, at Mornington Presbyterian, 16 Maryhill Terrace, at 6.30. We would appreciate it if those attending could please bring a palm (or similar) branch to wave with them. Thank you.

PARISH COMBINED SERVICE - Our first combined service is Sunday 29th March, 10am, at Wesley Church. Please bring a plate to share after the service. We also need people to help in the kitchen.



LIVING WITH UNCERTAINTY,

Five recent events came together for me in the word *uncertainty*.

1. One was Ginny Kitchingman's presentation of books to young people on their entering Year 9 -- a transition point in their lives. Choosing books of everyday wisdom, she added a few thoughts of her own. Faith, she said, is not about *certainty*. However there is one certainty you do carry with you, and that is the love and support you have from the family and community behind you.
2. Then there was a recognition brought me by an old friend, a former member of the Mental Health Commission. I'd once referred to a new friend by her condition, calling her a "bipolar" person -- as if that defined her -- and she pulled me up on that, saying that the proper phrase is "living with bipolar". I found just how wrong that sort of labelling can be, when the new friend revealed she'd been mis-diagnosed as bipolar and given inappropriate drugs that made her more ill. The label had had such a destructive effect she asked

that all reference to it be expunged from her hospital records. This kind of certainty benefitted only the drug companies.

3. John Spong's 1998 book, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die* begins with the idea of "Saying the Christian Creed with Honesty" -- always an issue for me. I was grateful that when I returned to church after a big gap, in 1987, the opening of the creed had changed from "We believe" to "I believe". This seemed to indicate that the church holds certain beliefs which an individual may not agree with in every particular. Even now, I'm not altogether *certain* what I believe. Spong, however, defines himself as a believer. (Incidentally, that's different from someone else putting the label on you). Does that mean he's certain about everything he believes? He writes:

"I am indeed a passionate believer. God is the ultimate reality in my life. I live in a constant and almost mystical awareness of the divine presence. I sometimes think of myself as one who breathes the very air of God or, to borrow an image from the East, as one who swims in the infinite depths of the sea of God. Like the psalmist of old, I have the sense of God's inescapableness. [Psalm 139] I am what I would call a God-intoxicated human being. Yet, when I seek to put my understanding of this God into human words, my certainty all but disappears. Human words always contract and diminish my God awareness. They never expand it." (Interesting, that last bit, when his previous words, and the Psalm, did in fact enlarge my sense of a divine dimension.) He continues: "The God I know is not concrete or specific. This God is rather shrouded in mystery, wonder, and awe. The deeper I journey into this divine presence, the less any literalized phrases, including the phrases of the Christian creed, seem relevant. The God I know can only be pointed to..."

I'd like to add, though, that the presence of mystery doesn't preclude certainty. It's a confidence, a faith different from that

which wants to nail down every detail. Faith and belief(s) are not the same thing...

4. Back to earth. Last weekend saw a sizeable protest by concerned citizens about the zero-hour contracts offered by some employers in the fast-food industry. These, says March 14 ODT, are “agreements that do not guarantee the worker a set number of hours a week (or any hours at all, necessarily), but usually make it difficult or impossible for workers to seek alternative employment.” The advantage for the government is that people floating around “on call” thus enter the statistics for “employed” and leave the dreaded unemployment list, the length of which no authority wants to admit to. A worker with no certain income is tied to the only employer who has the power to give them one. An anomaly that one critic calls a “permanent casual relationship”, means that while employers “have their cake and eat it too”, workers have no guarantee of BREAD.
5. In George Davis’s Connections article last week, he wrote of the work of Mornington’s Dr Henry McKinlay “in far-flung reaches of the world for humanitarian aid organizations”. Always when there are disasters such as Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, there’s a photo of someone like Doug Clark in Monday’s ODT ready to drop everything and go to help manage the emergency. There was uncertainty all over Oceania about which islands would be worst affected, but then there was also -- immediately -- the certainty that help would come.

On the BREAD theme: at Dr McKinlay’s funeral, George got to sing one of his favourite hymns, Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, which talks about the “bread of heaven.” That is the bread of certainty, the bread – both physical and spiritual – that mysteriously appears when most needed. Will it be enough? As the human family behind those people, we are part of the answer to that uncertainty.

-- Helen Watson White