



Newsletter

July 2013

Jesus told them,
“Give the Emperor
what belongs to him
and give God
what belongs to God.”
Matthew 22:21 ^{CEV}

Our vision: **“Growing a community of faith
committed to Christ and making him known”**

Linking ministering communities in East Launceston, George Town,
Hillwood, Low Head, Pipers River, Riverside & Trevallyn



Run Away! Run Away!

*I've
learned...*

... that no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

... that you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.

Have you ever noticed the **four great flights in Paul's letters**? There are four places where Paul tells his readers to flee: flee from sexual immorality (1 Cor 6:18); flee from idolatry (1 Cor 10:14); flee these things – conceit, controversy and the love of money (1 Tim 6:11); flee youthful passions (2 Tim 2:22). This is a strong word to use. Paul uses it sparingly. It invites two big questions: what should we flee? And why?

The word that we translate as **'flee'** is the same root word from which we get our word **'fugitive'**. If you've ever seen the movie *The Fugitive*, with **Harrison Ford**, you'll get a picture of the sort of action that Paul is referring to when he tells his readers to flee. **Ford's character** in that movie is charged with the murder of his wife, and he flees, trying desperately to stay free while he clears his name. He recognises that he cannot hope to stand and fight – the forces of the

police are simply too overwhelming for him to have any prospect of overcoming them. He also recognises that he will not flee just the once, but that he will need to flee again and again as the police close in, until he catches the true killer or else is caught himself.

In a similar way, the word **'flee'** in each of these passages carries the idea of constant flight. We will never be finished fleeing these things while we remain in this life! Each of the sins or temptations that Paul warns us of is persistent and overwhelming. Persistent in that we are constantly beset by these snares; overwhelming in that we cannot overcome them in our own strength.



What must we flee from?

The list of things that Paul warns us to flee from brings no real surprises. Take a moment to look over the list in the first paragraph of this article! Alongside sexual immorality and idolatry, the list of things to flee from includes false doctrine, conceit, quarrels, dissention, greed, envy (1 Tim 2:3-10), controversies and youthful passions (2 Tim 2:22). Although this might look at first glance to be an arbitrary grab bag of vices, there is a unifying idea to them all. Understanding this unifying idea is the key to understanding why they are so dangerous that Paul urges us to flee!

Why flee?

The unifying idea behind all these vices is that of idolatry. It is easy in our modern world to shrug off the risk that idolatry poses, because we have a caricatured idea of what idolatry is. We look at idolatry as it is portrayed in the Bible or in popular culture (movies and TV series), and we see primitive people bowing down to stone

statues, praying for good weather, safe travel or abundant crops. We chuckle quietly and congratulate ourselves that we are more enlightened than they are. And then we go and seek our security from the stock market idol, or our happiness from the shopping mall idol, or our satisfaction from the internet pornography idol.

Idolatry is the sin of placing anything – good, bad or indifferent – in the place that God properly occupies. When we seek our life purpose in our own careers or personal ambitions, we are **placing those things in God's place**. When we seek our comfort in food or drink, we **place those things in God's place**. When we elevate our own opinions, understanding or teaching above that of Jesus and the Bible, then we are elbowing ourselves into **God's role!**

Can you see now why the things we should flee are connected in character by idolatry? And can you see why it is so important to flee these things?

Continued next page ...

... that you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

... that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

... that two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different.

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page*

Where there is forgiveness, there is relief where there is forgiveness there is belief

For, when you forgive someone, God will set your heart free and from the pain and hurt He will heal your memory

Deborah Ann Belka

If we shove Jesus out of his proper priority (and remember that Paul is writing to people who identify as Christians!), then we are at risk of rejecting his gift of eternal life.

We risk choosing the lesser gift (food, drink, leisure, job satisfaction, sex, family etc) over the greater gift (Jesus, the Kingdom of God, eternal life!). **For this reason Paul's statement that 'the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God' (1 Cor 6:9) makes sense – those who chase after sex, or wealth, or other religions, or self-aggrandizement are disinheriting themselves.**

If we want a part of God's new creation and perfect Kingdom, then there are things we need to flee. In the words of Monty Python: 'Run away! Run away!'

What are we running to?

But what about God's mercy and forgiveness? Doesn't God promise forgiveness to those who confess and turn back to him? Yes, he does. But do you see just what that involves? It involves confess-

ion – an acknowledgement of the wrongfulness of our idolatry – and it involves turning away from it. It is simply not possible to dally with sexual immorality, or the love of money, or constant controversy, or false teaching, while turning away from it! It is, in fact, nonsensical to say that we **are seeking God's forgiveness** for sin, while we continue to indulge in that sin. Our very act of turning to God and away from sin and temptation is the act of constantly fleeing from the snares laid around us.

Now this starts to make **sense of Paul's words in 2 Timothy 2:22: 'pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.'** **Where do we go** when we flee from overpowering sin and temptation? We run back to the Lord, to his promise of fruitful work, wholeness and abundant life. We run right back to Jesus and into his kingdom.

James

Youth Alpha

During term 2, the youth group at Riverlinks has combined with the youth at **St John's to run the Youth Alpha course. If you've ever been to an Alpha course, you'll be familiar with the idea** – a solid grounding in the Christian faith, and a chance to discuss ideas, express doubts and ask questions in a small group setting.

We've had between 25 and 35 young people from both churches (and from outside the churches) involved over the life of the course. It has been really encouraging to see some young people develop confidence in prayer and in their own faith, and to see one young man take seriously the challenge to read his bible daily. There

have also been many young people open up about their doubts and questions – I find it encouraging to see such honesty, and am privileged to walk alongside these teens as they work out their own faith.

Please continue to pray for our youth and youth leaders – that God would draw people to him, that the Holy Spirit would convict, encourage and equip young people for his service, and that the leaders would continue faithfully in leading young people in the mission of Jesus!

James Oakley

youthalpha.

Age is a very high price to pay for maturity



Riverlinks

July 2013	
1 st Mon	
2 nd Tue	<p><i>(each Tuesday)</i> Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town</p> <p>Home & Study Groups – 1:45pm at Igglesden's home – 7:30pm at Booth's home – 7:30pm at Pedley's home – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's</p>
3 rd Wed	<p><i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's</p> <p>Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's</p> <p>Watoto Children's Choir in Concert – 7:00pm at Door of Hope</p>
4 th Thur	mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
5 th Fri	<p><i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town</p>
6 th Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's Launceston
7 th Sun	Kids' Church – 10:30am at St Oswald's Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
8 th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
9 th Tue	

July 2013	
10 th Wed	
11 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
12 th Fri	
13 th Sat	
14 th Sun	
15 th Mon	
16 th Tue	
17 th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
18 th Thur	Prescare Legana – 10:45am
19 th Fri	
20 th Sat	
21 st Sun	

The deadline for the August Newsletter edition is 22nd July

Calendar

July 2013	
22 nd Mon	
23 rd Tue	
24 th Wed	
25 th Thur	mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Tamar Park – 1:45pm
26 th Fri	Youth Group – 7:30 to 9:30pm at St Aidan's
27 th Sat	
28 th Sun	Preaching Workshop – 2 to 4:00pm CCCGT Service – 6:00pm
29 th Mon	
30 th Tue	
31 st Wed	

August and other dates 2013	
17 th August	Tasmanian Bible Forum at St Aidan's with Rev Adrian Lane
25 th August	Riverlinks Together at St David's with Mark Barry from Bible Society
11 th - 13 th September	Clergy Conference
13 th October	Riverlinks Together at St Aidan's with Bishop John

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
7 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
14 th	10:00 am	Communion	
21 st	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
28 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
7 th	9:00 am	Hillwood	Communion
	9:00 am	Pipers River	Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
14 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Together @ 10.30
21 st	9:00 am	Pipers River	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
28 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
7 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
14 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & worship
	5:00 pm	Trevallyn	Communion
21 st	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
28 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
	5:00 pm	Trevallyn	Evening Prayer
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
14 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
21 st	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
28 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

**"My old dog couldn't hack
the Tasmanian winter so I
got a hardier breed."**



Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office
399 West Tamar, Riverside - 6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au



Next Preaching
Workshop
Sunday 28th July
2 - 4pm
in the Parish office

**Men's Bible
Conference**
will be held on
Saturday 5 October
at the Branch Christian Church
Contact Ben for more details
mens.bible.conf@gmail.com



WHEN
JULY 3, 7PM
WHERE
DOOR OF HOPE
FREE ADMISSION

Tasmanian Bible Forums

Three meaty parables for the
slack, cosy & frightened
with **Revd Adrian Lane**

Saturday 17th August
10.00am - 3.00pm

@ St Aidan's East Launceston

Still only **\$15** (includes morning tea & lunch)

Reserve your place by **today** by contacting the Parish office

News From The Bishop

New Registrar

Mr Robert Wallace has been appointed as the new Registrar for the Diocese of Tasmania.

Robert has strong business acumen, but is also someone who can connect with communities and assist Bishop John in delivering his vision to create *a healthy church ... transforming life*.

The current Registrar The Ven Edwin Lang concluded **his formal Registrar's role on Sunday 16th June** and will conclude employment with the Diocese on 19th July.

Elder abuse on the rise

15th June was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and recent news articles have highlighted this issue. See: tinyurl.com/k75m6nd

Bishop John: "Elder abuse is a tragedy that we must all address through building caring communities. Euthanasia is also a form of elder abuse which must be opposed. Christians contend for palliative care for the suffering and care without fear of abuse of our elderly Tasmanians.

Worship:
not to
scrutinize
God
but to let
our eyes
be dazzled
by God

Keep up to date with Bishop John on Facebook or his blog
imaginarydiocese.org

Ten Ways To Love

1. Listen without interrupting - Proverbs 18:13
2. Speak without accusing - James 1:19
3. Give without sparing - Proverbs 21:26
4. Pray without ceasing - Colossians 1:9
5. Answer without arguing - Proverbs 17:1
6. Share without pretending - Ephesians 4:15
7. Enjoy without complaint - Philippians 2:14
8. Trust without wavering - 1 Corinthians 13:7
9. Forgive without punishing - Colossians 3:13
10. Promise without forgetting - Proverbs 13:12



Extract from an article in
Eternity Newspaper.
For the full article go to
www.biblesociety.org.au

Slow-cooked prayer is the best kind

Grace is
when God
gives us
what we don't
deserve;
Mercy is
when God
doesn't give
us what we
do deserve

Blessed are
they who can
laugh at
themselves
for they shall
never cease
to be amused

When my children were really young, my wife and I became used to eating our meals at a very fast rate. Looking after four active, young children, we had to! But when we were able to arrange a childless dinner night for the two of us we found an interesting development transpired. We discovered that we were able to travel, sit down, order, eat, chat and be ready to go home again in all of about an hour. No, we did not dislike **each other's company** and no, the restaurant food and environment were not bad, and no, we were not the type of parents who were so concerned and overly possessive of our children that we needed to go back home quickly. Rather, we had become so used to eating our meals at such a fast pace that when given the space and opportunity to eat at a slow and uninterrupted speed we failed to slow down. We then missed the enjoyment of a more contemplative and delectable time of eating and enjoying **each other's company**.

Taking this situation and applying it to our prayer lives,

we can sometimes see a correlation with allowing our fast-paced lives to pattern our engagement in this way with God. We sit down with God, maybe quickly read a passage of Scripture and present a speedy prayer, and then we are off again. Failing to ensure space to ponder **over God's word in prayer, to** revel in his company and to delight in our relationship with him means we short-change our spiritual lives. We need to see our prayer life in relationship to God more like a slow cooker or crockpot, where the **flavours of God's Holy Spirit** seep into our souls, rather than an instantaneous, frozen, microwave meal. As the apostle Paul demonstrates, the Christian faith is more like a marathon than a sprint (1 Corinthians 9:24–26; also Hebrews 12:1). The Bible calls this slow encounter of solitude and **connection 'meditation'**. (Psalm 48:9; Psalm 199:15, 23, 27, 48). Meditation, in a Christian and scriptural sense, is the time when we **reflect on God's word and** engage in relational connection with God through

prayer. This image of meditation is particularly captured in the first few verses of Psalm 1, where we **see meditation on God's** word giving sustenance, root structure, and growth to the person of faith.

Prayer with God is understanding that we are in a relationship with the safest, most caring, most grace-full and powerful person in the whole universe, who wants us to connect with him.

Prayer is not complicated per se. It is simple in many respects because it is about conversation with God and a developing awareness of his presence with us (1 Thess 5:17).

Keith Mitchell



The child comes home from his first day at school. Mother asks, "What did you learn today?"

The kid replies, "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."

Mission Giving 2012-2013

	Budget	Actual
Youth Intern	2000	2749
CMS - General	3000	3000
Anglican Board of Mission	2000	2170
Bush Church Aid Society	2000	2364
Barnabas Fund	1400	1450
Bible Society Australia	1000	1000
Scripture Union - Riverside HS Chaplaincy	2500	2500
Scripture Union - George Town Chaplaincy	800	800
Scripture Union - Staff support Tasmania	800	800
WAY-FM	500	500
World Vision - Sponsor child	516	523
Samaritan's Purse		450
Leprosy Mission		164
AH&W Bushfire Appeal		50
City Mission		80
SU - Riverside Primary School Chaplaincy		400
<i>Funds given for specific missions</i>	1927	
	<u>18443</u>	<u>19000</u>

A student taking a philosophy class had a single question on his final exam: "What is courage?"

The student wrote: "This", signed it, and turned it in.

East Launceston
21-23 Arthur St
East Launceston
0438 378 233

George Town
3 Anne St
George Town
0439 821 038

Hillwood
Hall - Jetty Rd
Hillwood

Low Head
Low Head Rd
Low Head

Peacehaven
185 Penquite Rd
Norwood

Pipers River
School Rd
Pipers River

Riverside
399 West Tamar Hwy
Riverside

Trevallyn
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Opinions expressed in this
publication do not
necessarily reflect those of
the clergy or the Anglican
Church.

Newsletter deadline for
photos, articles, etc. is 20th
of each month unless
otherwise stated



Above:
Youth Alpha Day Away

Right & Below:
Fellowship over lunch



Contact us:

Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au

Children & Young Families Ministry

6327 3482 kids_families@riverlinks.net.au

Website

www.riverlinks.net.au