



Newsletter

October
2013

“People are like grass;
their beauty is like a flower in the field.
The grass withers and the flower fades.
But the word of the Lord remains forever.”

1 Peter 1: 24,25 ^{NLT}



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

A Mighty Hand and an Outstretched Arm



“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5: 5b-7

NIV

I suffer the disadvantages of being born into a family with short arms. Buying shirts can be frustrating; the collar size may be just right but my hands disappear into the sleeves. Working in a bookshop was fine until I had to rearrange a top shelf.

Sometimes I think it would be useful to be like the cartoon character Inspector Gadget. Remember his Go Go Gadget arms which could stretch out miraculously to any length required.

In the Old Testament there is an expression which occurs over 15 times which goes something like this: “The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm”. (Deuteronomy 5:15)

“So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.” (Deuteronomy 26:8)

On most occasions, the expression refers to God’s rescue of Israel from oppression in Egypt. It is a story of salvation. The picture is one of God reaching out his arms to save his people. However, it is not just a helping hand that God

offers. The mighty hands and outstretched arms are used against the oppressors to defeat them by miraculous means. Israel is set free by God’s mighty hand. (Deuteronomy 26: 7-8)

Can I ask you now to hold a picture in your mind for a few minutes – a picture of God with his outstretched arms bringing salvation.

The Lord’s outstretched arm is not always referred to as a positive thing for Israel. It is also used to illustrate their lack of faith; “Is the Lord’s arm too short?” (Numbers 11:18-23) Having escaped Egypt, the people very soon started grumbling about the lack of variety in their diet and especially the lack of meat.

Moses took their complaint to God although he couldn’t see how God could possibly provide meat for the people for one day, let alone a whole month. God’s response reminded Moses that there is nothing he cannot do, no promise he cannot fulfil. There is nothing that is beyond the reach of His outstretched arms.

Moses, like us was a finite human being. God on the other

hand is infinite and unrestricted. God cannot be limited or restricted in any way, except perhaps by our lack of faith.

The image of God's outstretched arm is also used to portray judgement against Israel. "I will stretch out my hand against them and make the land a desolate waste from the desert to Diblah..." (Ezekiel 6:11-14) Why was God going to stretch out his hand against them? (11) Because of all the wicked and detestable practices of the house of Israel. God's people, Israel had disobeyed him; they had turned to other Gods and worshipped them. So the arm that was once stretched out to destroy their enemies and bring them salvation was now stretched out to destroy them.

These images of God's outstretched arm and mighty hand remind us of our salvation, but they also represent very serious warnings for us. God has provided a way of salvation for us and he has done everything necessary for us to experience that salvation. There is nothing left for us to do. God's offer of salvation is completely free.

But, those who God saves are brought into a covenant relationship with him. God declares:

"I will be their God and they shall be my people". This covenant relationship however, has two basic rules:

Absolute TRUST in God

Total OBEDIENCE to God.

Adam and Eve broke these rules and were banished from God's presence in Eden. Israel broke these rules and lost their inheritance in the Promised Land.

Remember the picture that I asked you to hold in your mind – the picture of God with his outstretched arms offering salvation?

There is a verse (not a biblical verse) that you may have seen or heard and which goes something like this:

"I asked Jesus how much he loved me. He stretched out his arms and died."

Jesus arms were stretched out on the cross:

To overcome the principalities and powers of this dark world

To overcome the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms

To destroy death

To overcome sin

To overcome the power of Satan himself

The Arms of God

I said, God I hurt...
And, God said,
I know...

I said, God I cry
a lot...
And God said,
That is why I give
you tears...
The eyes must
rain so the soul
can grow.

I said, Life is so
hard...
And God said,
That is why I gave
you loved ones...

I said, But my
loved one died...
And God said to
me, so did mine...

I said, It is such
a loss...
And God said,
I saw mine nailed
to a cross!

I said, But you
loved one lives!
And God said,
so does yours!

I said, Where are
they now?
And God said,
Mine is by my side,
and Yours is in
My arms!

Author unknown

*continued
from
previous
page*

God showed how much he loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful. But there is more!
Now that God has accepted us because Christ sacrificed his life's blood, we will also be kept safe from God's anger.

Romans
5: 8,9 CEV

Jesus stretched out his arms on the cross to bring us salvation

Lord Jesus,

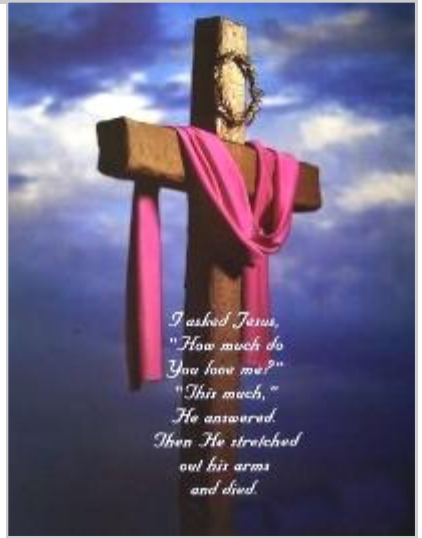
Thank-you for your mighty hand and your outstretched arms that bring us salvation

Thank-you for the victory that you won when your arms were stretched out on the cross for each one of us

Please help us to respond by living lives of trust in you and lives of obedience to you.

Amen

Alistair



Jesus is not afraid of Halloween

Some Christians don't like any mention of Halloween — and they will make sure you know it.

I can certainly understand and I've heard from some readers have told me they don't like it when I post Bible lessons that reference that day.

Christians love to argue about Halloween. I can't solve that dispute here on the blog, but I want to challenge both sides to look at these issues with Gospel-focused eyes.

What is this holiday really about?

Yes, it has a weird history (so

did I before Jesus). Yes, it's mostly about buying stuff (like everything nowadays!). But for most ordinary people it's just a silly holiday where kids have fun and we satirize things that normally make us uncomfortable. Western culture doesn't have any real answer for death or demonic forces. So, Halloween is just one attempt to cope with those fears.

Kids see all this and start asking big questions. What happens when people die? What is my deepest fear? Are evil spirits real? What can keep me safe?

Only the Gospel can answer these questions. Jesus alone has defeated death, fear, and the devil himself. Read this verse from Hebrews 2:14-15 carefully:

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Did you catch all that? Satan has death & fear as his tools to enslave people, but Jesus overcame them both. He has broken the powers of evil and now lives as our champion. Bottom line, Jesus is not afraid of Halloween.

But it gets even better. 2 Timothy 2:10 says Jesus “abolished death” through the Gospel. If you’re a child of God, then death has been made un-true. Ultimately it can’t hurt you anymore. Death is nothing to be feared. In the long run, it’s about as scary as a carved pumpkin.



Halloween is a Door for Gospel Truth

I completely respect Christians who opt-out of the celebrations, but please don’t think Jesus is hiding under his throne. The reality of his Kingdom answers the deepest questions raised by this holiday. As his people, we must be ready to speak that truth instead of complaining about jack-o-lanterns.

This is an awesome opportunity to share about God’s love. Just like Paul used pagan idols to teach about the Creator, we must use every opportunity to speak God’s truth into the confusion of our culture.

I don’t think Halloween is completely harmless, but most of what happens is playful. We’re not talking about devil worship, most families are just dressing up the kids like superheros and getting some candy from grandma. What seems most dangerous is keeping silent when people need answers.

I don’t want to play the Pharisee. Instead of judging all those people, let’s be ready to offer them real hope. Just tell them the truth: Death is a pushover when Jesus gets involved. Evil spirits have always run from his name. Faith in His promises can overcome any fear.



Why do Jack-o-lanterns have stupid smiles on their faces?

You'd have a stupid smile, too, if you had just had all your brains scooped out!

Who won the skeleton beauty contest?

No body

This article was reproduced from www.ministry-to-children.com

Read more about Christianity and Halloween at www.tinyurl.com/k55vtzc

Riverlinks

October 2013	
1st 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>
2nd 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>
3rd Thur	<p><i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's</p> <p>Card Making – 10:00am at St David's</p>
4th Fri	<p><i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town</p> <p>Youth Group – 6:00 to 7:45pm at St John's</p> <p>Seeing in the Future: all about eye health – 10:30am to 3:00pm at St David's</p>
5th Sat	<p>Men's Bible Conference</p> <p>Saturday Social - Gardens of Ideas – 3:00pm to 4:30pm at St Aidan's</p>
6th Sun	<p>*** Daylight saving begins ***</p> <p>Kids' Church – 10:30am at St Oswald's</p> <p>Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's</p> 
7th Mon	
8th Tue	
9th Wed	

October 2013	
10th Thur	<p>*** Launceston Show Public Holiday***</p> <p>Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's</p> <p>Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm</p>
11th Fri	
12th Sat	<p>23rd Annual Floral Festival – 9:30am to 3:00pm at Holy Trinity Beaconsfield</p>
13th Sun	<p>Riverlinks Together & CTM Graduation – 10:00am at St Aidan's followed by shared lunch</p>
14th Mon	<p>Cadorna – 2:00pm</p> <p>MST Meeting – 6:45pm in the Parish office</p>
15th Tue	
16th Wed	<p>St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm</p> <p>Ainslie Service – 2:15pm</p>
17th Thur	<p>Prescare Legana – 10:45am</p>
18th Fri	<p>Global Leadership Summit @ Door of Hope</p>
19th Sat	<p>Global Leadership Summit</p>
20th Sun	<p>Preaching Workshop – 2:00 to 4:00pm in the Parish office</p>
21st Mon	

The **deadline** for the November Newsletter edition is **21st October**

Calendar

October 2013	
22 nd Tue	
23 rd Wed	
24 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
25 th Fri	Pupil-free Day – 9:00am to 3:00pm at St Oswald's Trevallyn
26 th Sat	Tasmanian Bible Forum – 10:00am to 3:00pm at St Helens Cursillo Diocesan Ultreya at Campbell Town HS
27 th Sun	CCCGT Service – 6:00pm
28 th Mon	Launceston War Widows' Guild Service – 11:00am at St David's Riverside
29 th Tue	
30 th Wed	Would we be better off without Christianity? – 7:30pm at Door of Hope, South Launceston
31 st Thur	Ministry Leaders' Breakfast – 7:30am to 8:45am at Tailrace Centre, Riverside Tamar Park – 1:45pm

Riverlinks Anglican Parish Newsletter is published monthly. 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

November, December & 2014	
2 nd November	Garage Sale Fundraiser for Children, Youth & Young Families Ministry
9 th November	Global Insight
14 th - 17 th November	Bible Storytelling Workshop
3 rd - 25 th January 2014	Anglican Camping Tasmania Summer Camps, Grade 3 to 12



Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
6 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
13 th	10:00 am	Riverlinks Together Communion	
20 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
27 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
6 th	9:00 am	Hillwood	Communion
	9:00 am	Pipers River	Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
13 th	-	No services	
20 th	9:00 am	Pipers River	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
27 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
6 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
	10:30 am	Trevallyn	Kids' Church
13 th	-	No services	
20 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
27 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
13 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
20 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
27 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office

399 West Tamar, Riverside - 6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au



Riverlinks Together & Presentation to CTM Graduates



Sunday 13th October - 10am
at St Aidan's East Launceston

*Bishop Ross Nicholson will be preaching & making
the certificate presentations on behalf of
the Diocese of Tasmania*

*Please bring a plate of finger food to share in
lunch after the service*

Tasmanian Bible Forums 'In the Beginning': Genesis 1-12 with Revd Richard Humphrey

Saturday 26th October

10.00am to 3.00pm (Registration 9.30am)
at St Helens Christian Fellowship, 54 Cecilia Street, St Helens
\$20 (includes morning tea & lunch)

RSVP for catering:
22nd October - 6376 1144



**LAST TBF
FOR 2013**



Community Visitors Scheme

Community Visitors Scheme
An Australian Government Initiative
Proudly supported by Community Care NESB Inc.

NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Community Visitors Scheme volunteers are caring men and women from various backgrounds that visit residents in aged care facilities who don't have regular meaningful visits from family or friends.

The process of becoming a community visitor has a number of steps including an interview, application for a National Police Check and an undertaking to follow policies.

For more information about the Community Visitors Scheme, please feel free to contact:
Luigi Romanelli, CVS Co-ordinator
Community Care NESB Inc.
Ph: 6334 0990 E: luigi.romanelli@ccnesb.org.au

THE RICH FOOL

Pupil Free Day Friday 25th October

at St Oswald's Hall, 34 Bain Tce, Trevallyn
from 9-3 (arrive between 8:30 and 9)

Please register by
Friday 18th October

\$5 per family

**Be quick – only 30 places
available!**

For more information or to register
please call James Oakley
6327 3482 or email
kids_families@riverlinks.net.au

Seniors Week

Seniors Week in Riverlinks

October 1 - 6

Healing servicewith morning tea @ St Oswald's

10am Wednesday 2nd October

Card Making @ St David's 10am Thursday 3rd October

Seeing in the future - all about eye health Seminar

@ St David's (Includes lunch)

10:30am to 3pm Friday 4th October

Would we be better off without Christianity?



Dr John Dickson will be giving a public talk and Q&A session addressing the popular claim that Christianity over the last 2000 years has brought about more harm than good.

Date: Wednesday, 30 October 2013

Time: 7:30pm – 9pm

Venue: Door of Hope Main Auditorium, 50 Glen Dhu Street South Launceston

Cost: Gold coin donation. (Parking is free)

Please heartily encourage your friends, family and neighbours to come along! God-willing, the talk and Q&A time afterwards will encourage Christians in their faith and challenge skeptics to take seriously the claims of Jesus.

Dr John Dickson will also be speaking at a Ministry Leaders' Breakfast on the future of mission in a post-Christian Australia

Date: Thursday, 31 October 2013

Time: 7:30am – 8:45am

Venue: The Tailrace Centre, 1 Waterfront Drive Riverside

Cost: \$15 per person

RSVP: Before 21 October to 1300 242 537 or bsa.tas@biblesociety.org.au



23rd Annual Floral Festival

Saturday 12th October

9:30am to 3pm

at Holy Trinity Beaconsfield



Displays of floral art by community organisations, lots of stalls & art work from Beaconsfield Primary School

Saturday Social - Gardens of Ideas

5th October, 3 - 4:30 pm

at St Aidan's East Launceston

Anne Neale will present an illustrated talk about three great European gardens (*the Villa d'Este in Italy, Versailles in France and Stowe in England*) & the ideas underlying their designs

COFFEE, CAKE & FELLOWSHIP, WITH \$10 DONATION

9 TO SCRIPTURE UNION CHAPLAINCY SUPPORT

The resurrection

- standard hero equipment

Coaching
advice from
some of the
world's best

*You miss
100% of the
shots you
don't take.*

Wayne Gretzky

*The only place
that success
comes before
work is in the
dictionary*

Vince Lombardi

Victory or
defeat is not
determined at
the moment of
crisis,
but rather in
the long and
unspectacular
period of
preparation

Usually the scene involves two figures wrestling desperately near the edge of a menacing cliff, a figure caught in a hail of bullets or maybe a gigantic fireball of an explosion; in the best films, all three. One moment our hero is fighting for salvation; the next second he is gone. “Dead? He’s dead?!” we cry. Then, for the millionth time since Cecil B. DeMille was a boy, the camera focuses in on that lonesome cliff edge ... and a grimy hand struggles back over the edge of the abyss. A moment later, the weary, triumphant face of our hero follows. He—or she, when Sigourney Weaver is involved—is back from the dead.

Welcome to the resurrection, Hollywood style.

Spoiler alert! The release of the latest X-Men installment The Wolverine has introduced us once again to this script staple. In the lead up to the film’s climax, Hugh Jackman’s Logan finds himself laid out in a medical facility, reaching into his own chest cavity to tear out a metallic bug that’s attached itself to his heart. He manages to kill the creature but the flatline on a monitor informs us his heart is no longer in the job. But there are still 30 minutes

left in the film, so you can imagine what happens next. The twitch of a finger; the bleep of a machine. Just when all hope seems lost Logan is back in the fight, better and badder than ever. It’s hardly surprising, because even though we come from a wide range of ethnicities and backgrounds, human beings have always longed for a hero who knows how to defeat death.

Death is Hollywood’s greatest villain, giving the measure to its heroes and appearing in a dozen guises every time we go to the cinemas. He could be President Snow trying to kill Katniss Everdeen in The Hunger Games, the virus that sweeps the planet in World War Z, or even the classic cowled figure who stalks teenagers in Final Destination. Whatever Death figure the hero confronts, it will represent the end of a way of life, happiness, and hope. Death is the ultimate villain because Death is the ultimate full stop.



Image from White House Down

But have you ever wondered why as a species we're not content to leave it there? Hollywood tried to make Death attractive in the evolution-driven movie *Creation* but it was a flop. We can't accept that the final curtain should come down with the hero in the grave; that's why trendy anti-endings are so disturbing. We hunger for a resurrection moment, and most films oblige. Sherlock Holmes reappears just when we thought he'd joined Moriarty in a watery grave. Harry Potter stands up just when we thought Voldemort's curse had done him in. This month Channing Tatum will emerge from White House Down's biggest explosion, and Ryan Reynolds won't let a little thing like a bullet to the head get in the way of solving crimes for RIPD. The same reason accounts for all of these: the true hero always finds a way of evading Death. This is the resurrection moment, and the best ones offered by the big screen don't just benefit the hero. Indiana Jones climbs back over the cliff to save Willie Scott; Gandalf returns from the beyond to rescue Middle Earth. It's not enough for the hero to defeat Death. We expect their return will have life-giving implications for everyone associated with them.

Sound familiar?

The stories we entertain

ourselves with aren't just ways to wile away the hours. For millennia the humble story has been the preferred method for passing on truths that undercut ethnic and cultural differences. These story truths resonate with audiences all over the planet because they reflect the God who designed us to be part of a much larger tale. If you like, the best elements of the stories we tell each other today are the thousand fractured pieces of a mirror that reflects the greatest story every told—not the George Stevens classic, but the great story of God's redemption of the world through Jesus Christ.

If all creation, '... waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed,' and longs for its liberation '...from its bondage to decay' (Rom 8:19-21), is it any wonder that all culture in some way echoes that resurrection longing?

Admittedly Wolverine rising to save his partner Yukio from death is a pretty dull reflection of the life offered to the world through Jesus' resurrection. But the real wonder is not that we regularly see Hollywood's heroes rising to defeat Death. It's that in the wake of that one history-changing event we still refuse to see they're pointing us back to the real hero.

Mark Hadley - *Culture*

Reproduced from Eternity Newspaper

***It's what
you learn,
after you
know it all,
that counts***

John Wooden

**Attitudes are
contagious.
Are yours
worth
catching?**

**An acre of
performance
is worth a
whole world
of promise**

Red Auerbach

**Nothing great
was ever
achieved
without
enthusiasm**

Bobby Knight

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(Monday to Friday

9am to 5pm)

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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

34 Bain Tce

Trevallyn

0409 799 419



**Fundraiser
for
Children's,
Youth &
Young
Families
Ministry**

Saturday 2nd November

8am to 12 noon

**in St David's Hall,
399 West Tamar Rd,
Riverside**

Time to clean out the 'attic'? All suitable items for a garage sale very much appreciated & can be left at the Parish office. Contact Ian Morley 63271191 if you are able to help on the day



**Anglican Camping
Tasmania
Summer Camps 2014**

*Camps for Grades 3-6, 4-6, 7-9,
9-12 & 10-12*

Early bird - pay before 15 November \$245
or \$265 after 15 November

Info available from James or Job, Parish office, or online
@ www.anglicancampingtasmania.org

SPRING CLEANING TIME



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