



riverlinks

Anglican Church

Newsletter

March 2014



For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1^{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 boy's own adventure ...

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him, and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. These twelve Jesus sent out ...

Jesus called twelve of his followers and sent them into the ripe fields. He gave them power to kick out the evil spirits and to tenderly care for the bruised and hurt lives. ...

Jesus sent his twelve harvest hands out with this charge:

“Don’t begin by traveling to some far-off place to convert unbelievers. And don’t try to be dramatic by tackling some public enemy. Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here.

Although the start of this story is pretty spare, it is a story that resonates strongly **with my male soul. No, it’s not an action story.** There is no mystery to solve, no wilderness to explore, no treasure to discover. The **verses that follow (and you’ll find the full story in Matthew 10)** contain a list of marching orders from Jesus to his disciples. They can make for some dry and mystifying reading.

- They must only go to Jewish people. Why is that?
- **They can’t take any provisions for the trip, no money, no spare clothes, not even a bag.** Umm, what sort of advanced preparation is that?
- And if they meet people **who don’t welcome them,**

walk on, shaking the very dust of that place from their shoes as a sign of **God’s judgment.** Seriously!?

And if that weren’t enough, Jesus’ pep talk is hardly likely to get the troops cheering:

- **The people you’re going to** are going to beat you and flog you.
- **They’ll haul you off into court.**
- In fact, you should expect the people you know and trust, your family and friends, to be baying for your blood.
- **Everyone’s going to hate you – oh, and by the way, you’ll be as defenceless as a sheep in the middle of a pack of wolves.**

You can almost hear the deafening silence, as the **disciples are asking: “What have I signed up for?!”**

So why on earth does this story resonate with me?

To really get to the heart of this, it’s necessary to

backtrack a bit. I grew up in churches and youth group. I was part of a church all through my Uni days, a member of a bible study. I hung around with Christians, I tried hard to live a good and moral life. My picture of Christianity was basically a monopoly board – go around and around, stick to the rules, be confident in your **‘get out of jail free’ card**. It was (and is) a pretty uninspiring view of a life following Jesus. In a sentence – get on with life, be as good as you can, get to heaven in the end.

Against that background, **Jesus’ charge to his disciples** bursts in – full of colour, energy, life and the promise of real purpose. What do I love about it?

Firstly, it is an *invitation*. In this story, Jesus calls his **disciples to action**. **‘Don’t just sit around waiting for heaven. Don’t just “let go and let God”. Instead – get working! Get out there! Here’s my authority – go and use it. Free people. Heal people. Tell them that my Kingdom is coming, almost**

here!’ Although he’s saying this to his first disciples, he extends this same call to his modern-day disciples, when he promises that we will be his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Every time I return to this passage, I feel a shiver of awe and excitement down my back: Jesus entrusts his mission to people like you and me. Jesus hands authority *and responsibility* to us. Can you fathom just how incredible it is that the all-powerful God, who created everything and keeps everything going, would entrust the outcome of his mission in Launceston to people like you and me?

Although I know that Jesus’ death for me gives me value, I feel a different order of worth from the fact that he wants me to work on his mission with him. For me, as (I suspect) for most men, the worth that comes from being useful is more meaningful than the worth that comes from being cherished.

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Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables.

Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously. **“Don’t think you** have to put on a fund-raising campaign before you start.

You don’t need a lot of equipment. *You* are the equipment, and all you need to keep that going is three meals a day. Travel light.

...

“Stay alert. This is hazardous **work I’m** assigning you. **You’re going to** be like sheep running through a wolf pack, **so don’t call** attention to yourselves. Be as cunning as a snake, inoffensive as a dove.

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“Don’t be naive. Some people will impugn your motives, others will smear your reputation—just because you believe in me. **Don’t be upset** when they haul you before the civil authorities. Without knowing **it, they’ve done** you—and me—a favor, given you a platform for preaching the kingdom news! **And don’t worry about what you’ll say or how you’ll say it.** The right words will be there; the Spirit of your Father will supply the words. **“When people** realize it is the living God you are presenting and not some idol that makes them feel good, they are going to turn on you, even

Secondly, this story speaks to me of *challenge*. The first disciples faced uncertainty, physical hardship, official persecution, rejection by family and friends. Jesus is upfront – you will be hurt, it will be hard. Some of you will die.

Similarly, our mission is not a matter of going through the motions. I may not come through unscathed – indeed I probably will not. (Although I recognise that, in Australia, our scars are unlikely to be physical!) The outcome is not pre-determined. I may meet and love people who reject me, who reject Jesus. That will hurt. I will face opposition, or ridicule, or scorn.

Hardship in my day-to-day work can be a sign that what I am doing makes a difference. When I worked for legal aid, I often had to appear for juvenile clients in bail applications. Often there **wasn’t anything to them** – the police agreed that the client should be bailed, there were good supports in place for the young person, and the outcome was practically

certain. The process was a formality, and frankly it **wouldn’t have mattered if I** was there or not. Other times, the police would oppose bail for a variety of reasons. The process of working through those and addressing them – finding accommodation, finding people to support the young man in the cells, arguing the case before a magistrate – was all hard work. There were frequent rejections of help. There were many dead ends. It was often infuriating. But, whatever the outcome, I knew that my work had been **important. If I hadn’t been** there, the process and outcome would have been very different for the young person involved.

While I know that what Jesus calls us to matters, this story reminds me that *our contribution* to that work **matters too. We’re not** engaged in a church version of Year 10 work experience – **Jesus doesn’t invite us just to** watch and do the photocopying. Jesus gives us a real task with some real dangers and challenges attached – and

that makes me value the task all the more.

Finally, the story is one of *comfort*. We are not sent alone into the world, like a spiritual version of the World War I flying aces. These men were sent up with minimal training and preparation, and with a short life-expectancy as a result. This story reminds me that Jesus has our back. His Spirit speaks through us. Those who endure to the end will be saved. Our heavenly Father numbers the hairs of our heads. Jesus promises that he will acknowledge us before the Father, as we have acknowledged Him before people.

So there you have it – a story that promises a job to complete, challenges to overcome, and the support of the King of Kings. And it turns out I was wrong in my opening – it is an action story. And it promises to unveil the mystery of our **purpose in God's people**; it promises to take us into unexplored territory; and it promises us the treasure of seeing lost people brought back to Jesus.

What more can a man ask for?

James

people in your own family. There is a great irony here: proclaiming so much love, experiencing so much hate!

But don't quit. Don't cave in.

It is all well worth it in the end.

It is not success you are after in such times but survival.

Be survivors!

Before you've run out of options, the Son of Man will have arrived.

"A student doesn't get a better desk than her teacher.

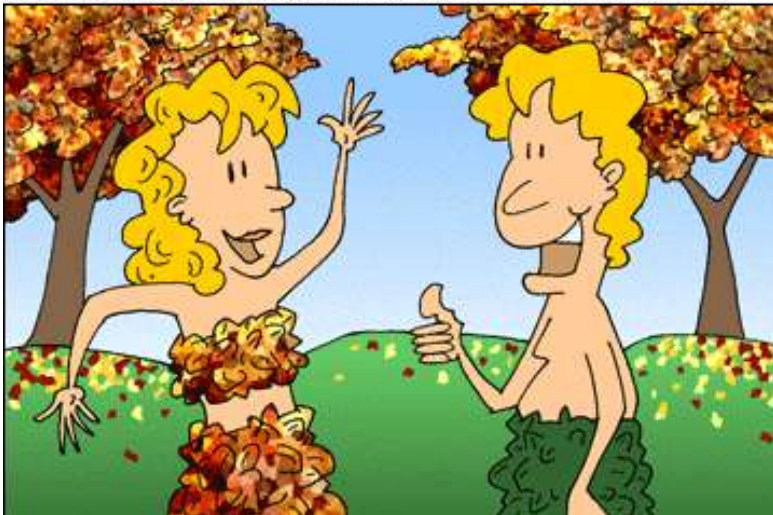
A laborer doesn't make more money than his boss. Be content—

pleased, even—when you, my students, my harvest hands, get the same treatment I get. If they call me, the Master, **'Dungface,'** what can the workers expect?

Matthew 10:1-25

(The Message)

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EVE DISPLAYS THE NEW FALL LINE

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Riverlinks

March 2014	
1 st Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St Johns L'ton MST & PC Retreat – 9:00am at 'Moana'
2 nd Sun	Kids' Church – 10:30am at St Oswald's Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
3 rd Mon	
4 th Tue	<i>(each Tuesday)</i> Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town 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
5 th Wed	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's
6 th Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
7 th Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Youth Group – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston
8 th Sat	Bible Society 2014 Project Launch – 2:30pm at St John's Parish Centre Launceston
9 th Sun	

March 2014	
10 th Mon	8 Hours Day Public Holiday
11 th Tue	
12 th Wed	
13 th Thur	Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
14 th Fri	
15 th Sat	
16 th Sun	School Sunday
17 th Mon	
18 th Tue	ABM Auxiliary Annual Luncheon – 12:00 noon at St Anne's Lutana
19 th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
20 th Thur	Prescare Legana – 10:45am
21 st Fri	
22 nd Sat	

The deadline for the April Newsletter edition is 23rd March

Calendar

March 2014	
23rd Sun	ChidSafe Refresher – 1:30 to 3:30pm at St Aidan's CCCGT Service – 6:00pm at the Baptist Church
24th Mon	
25th Tue	
26th Wed	
27th Thur	
28th Fri	
29th Sat	Tasmanian Women's Bible Conference – 9:30am at The Branch, Kings Meadows
30th Sun	Riverlinks Together – 10:00am at St Aidan's with Cross-cultural workers Tim & Emma
31st Mon	Dr Patrick Sookhdeo – 7:30pm at St Andrew's Presbyterian, Launceston

April and other dates 2014	
1st April	Dr Patrick Sookhdeo – 7:30am Breakfast at St John's Launceston
18th April	Dr Hugh Ross – 7:00pm at the Albert Hall
20th April	Easter Day
11th May	Preaching Workshop
23rd- 24th May	SYNOD
24th May	CMN Conference
21st June	TBF at St Aidan's

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
2nd	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
9th	10:00 am	Communion	
16th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
23rd	10:00 am	Communion	
30th	10:00 am	Riverlinks Together meet Tim & Emma	
George Town			
2nd	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Morning Prayer Communion
9th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Baptism Together @ 10.30
16th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion
23rd	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
30th	-	No services	
Riverside & Trevallyn			
2nd	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Kids' Church
9th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & worship
16th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
23rd	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
30th	-	No services	
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
9th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
16th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
23rd	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

Get the Word Out China Launch

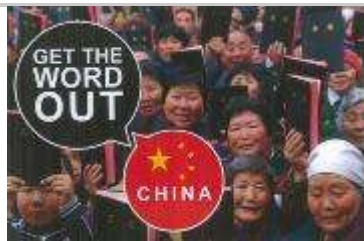
2:30-4pm | Saturday 8th March

St John's Anglican Church Parish Centre
(157 St John St)

The Bible Society is giving a helping hand to our brothers and sisters in Christ in rural China this year, by providing Bibles and literacy training.

Please join us to learn more about the culture, taste some of its food and hear about how we can 'get the Word out' to this spiritually-hungry country!

For any queries please call Bible Society on 63310248, to see more about the project go to: www.biblesociety.org.au/events/gtwochina



Riverlinks Together

Sunday 30th March

10am at St Aidan's

East Launceston

With guests Cross-cultural
workers Tim & Emma

ALSO: Commissioning
at Wellspring Anglican in Sandy Bay
for Tim & Emma,

Saturday April 12th



REVELATION SERIES

David Rogers-Smith's sermons from the Revelation preaching series are now available to download or stream from the Parish website.

To refresh, revisit, or hear any you may have missed visit: www.riverlinks.net.au and click on the preaching link



barnabasfund
Partnership for the Persecuted Church

Dr Patrick Sookhdeo,
International
Director of the

Barnabas Fund, will be visiting
Launceston at the end of March.

St John's Anglican will host a
**Breakfast on Tuesday April 1st,
7:30-9am.**

Dr Sookhdeo will also speak at a
meeting at St Andrews
Launceston, **7:30pm March 31st**

ChildSafeTM
safe people • safe programs



CHILDSAFE REFRESHER

Riverlinks is hosting training for those who need to update their ChildSafe endorsement in 2014.

Where: **St Aidan's Church**
Arthur St, East Launceston

When: Sunday 23 March
1:30-3:30pm

What to bring: Pen and notebook,
Team member's pocket guide

RSVP: Register by phone 6327 4742
or email office@riverlinks.net.au
by Friday 21 March

Please contact James Oakley on 6327 3482 or
via email at kids_families@riverlinks.net.au
if you have any questions

EASTER FESTIVAL

One of the world's leading Astronomers and Cosmologists is coming to Launceston with something to say.

Dr Hugh Ross
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF REASONS TO BELIEVE

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18th 7:00PM, 2014
THE ALBERT HALL

www.bibleworldherald.com



You are invited to the
ABM Auxiliary's Annual Luncheon
to be held at **St Anne's Lutana**
on **Tuesday 18 March at 12 noon**

Guest speaker is **Rowena Clark-Hansen, Tasmania's ABM Youth Ambassador** speaking on her experience as part of last year's **Modawa Pilgrimage, PNG**

WALK IN THE GOSPEL

Tasmanian Women's Bible Conference

"A day conference for women whose desire is to have their minds, hearts and lives shaped by the Bible."

Saturday 29th March 2014
9.30 am for 10 am start, The Branch Christian Church

SBMC Lecturer **Jenny Salt** is speaking on **Colossians**
\$20 per person
Register with **Louise Clifford** 0422 926 053
by **22nd March** (Late rego accepted \$25)



...as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him." Colossians 2:6



Tasmanian Women's Bible Conference
TWBC 2014

Church mice

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IF PRAYER IS A CONVERSATION,
A CHANCE FOR ME TO VISIT
WITH YOU PERSONALLY, LORD...



... WHY DOES IT ALWAYS FEEL
LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE OF US
WHO'S DOING ANY TALKING ?



Maybe it's because I'm
the only one of us who's
doing any listening!



Jonathan Holt suggests a new question to ask after the fight is over

Peacekeeping Questions

There are plenty of times when I feel like a UN peacekeeping force working in the troubled area of **my children’s relationships with** each other. Sometimes there is a de-militarised zone, sanctions are imposed (often economic!), and usually a peace treaty is signed.

When entering into the war-zone to begin treaty negotiations, we try hard to be impartial and to settle the grievances. We aim to resolve the dispute and return the children to harmonious relationships.

Only recently have I been introduced to a very good question that will help get the peace treaty ratified by all sides. **First let’s notice the good** groundwork laid by the questions I already knew to ask.

Common questions in the peacekeeping process

Typically, when I wade into the fray, I try to get all sides to lay down their weapons. With younger kids, this may mean putting down the stick they were about to hit their sister with, or the ball they were about to throw at their brother. As children get older, they somehow learn that words are more powerful weapons, and so we require them to stop saying (or repeating) the spiteful or sarcastic comments. This is the cease-fire.

Next, I often try to find out how it started, using questions such as:

- What was happening?
- Who escalated the tensions?
- Was this payback for something?
- Did anyone use their superior power to gain an advantage (this can be bigger muscle, or more articulate arguments)?

All of this investigation is designed to uncover the problems and give the warring factions an idea of what they will shortly be saying sorry for.

Other strategies

A common strategy when helping children understand the consequences of their actions is to ask how they would feel if they were on the receiving end **instead. I’m not always sure that** this is the best way to go, especially if the conflict is still fresh. In the middle of the fight, the urge for self-protection is pretty strong. Knowing that the question is leading to self-incrimination, my children have been known to say they would not mind at all when pinched, hit or stolen from.

PRAYER

Prayer is not a cheque request asking for things from God. It is a deposit slip – a way of depositing **God’s character** into our bankrupt souls.

Dutch Sheets

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

There is a mighty lot of difference between saying prayers and praying.

John G. Lake



Perhaps a better angle is to tell a story, maybe involving yourself, but clearly made up. In this story, one character does something similar, so that your child has the chance to identify the wrong action elsewhere, before being asked if what they have just done is similar. However, asking this question can still cause the self-incrimination reflex to kick in, **so don't think it is a never-fail solution.**

A new question

Let's talk about the other half of the peace treaty negotiations, the half I have recently been working on. The question I have begun asking is: **"What would you have liked your bother/sister to do instead?"** This question is about laying some groundwork so that the peace treaty will hold for a little bit longer next time.

I like this question for three reasons:

1. It is designed to help my children articulate their expectations. Some of the time, conflict comes because we have different expectations of what will happen. We may not even realise what our expectations are until they are not met. But as **soon as our expectations aren't met**, our disappointment or hurt can quickly fuel anger.

It is important to be clear that simply asking for something different is not a guarantee it will happen. The value in saying it is for the person doing the talking, so they take their attention off

the offence and think about where a resolution may be found.

2. The question helps the person listening to the answer. As they listen, they learn something about the other party. Many times, the war has started over something small, something that could have been done differently.

A good follow up question to ask the listener is whether they think they could actually do what is being asked of them. To turn the reporting of offences into a dialogue about a solution, we may sometimes need to ask leading questions like this.

3. It puts a stop to the rehashing of past troubles. One common weapon that gets a workout is the history lesson of past failures and hurts. When this becomes the strongest story about a relationship, it will be hard to move past the conflict.

This new question is asking for a positive future action. It places the activity in the context of the **relationship: "What I would have liked you to do ..."** This avoids the dangerous world of absolutes **(you never give me a turn ... he always starts it ... she only thinks about herself...).**

I think this is a good question to add to your skilful, post-fight negotiations. Asking this question might turn an unpleasant conflict into a moment where the children grow in their understanding of themselves, of each other, and how their relationship works.

You may pray for an hour and still not pray. You may meet God for a moment and then be in touch with Him all day

Fredrik Wisloff

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden

Corrie Ten Boom

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Work as if you were to live a hundred years, pray as if you were to die tomorrow

Benjamin Franklin

Cursillo Diocesan Ultreya at St Aidan's

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
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photos, articles, etc. is 20th
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otherwise stated

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