



Newsletter

July 2014

Shout praises to the LORD!

Everyone who serves him, come and praise his name.

Let the name of the LORD be praised now and forever.

From dawn until sunset the name of the LORD
deserves to be praised.

Psalm 113: 1 - 3^{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

World Cup Fever



Have you been struck by World Cup fever? My children are amused, because I am watching sport (which I hardly ever do). Once every four years, the Sport bug bites me, and I start to get worked up about 22 men running around a field after a ball on the other side of the world. Suddenly, I'm the family expert on the format for the group stage, the favourite teams, Luis Suarez' latest injury and club career, and the off-side rule. One year I even bought the T-shirt. I really get into the game!

But the truth is that I'm not really all that committed. In the years BC (before children) I would get up in the small hours of the morning to watch the games, but now I catch up on a few games when they're replayed on the internet. (They are still full games – I haven't stooped to highlights. Yet.) The world cup is enjoyable, but it is hardly life-changing.

I can only stand in awe of the truly committed – those fans who bought their tickets to



Brazil, and have spent hours painting their faces, choosing clothing and blowing up their kangaroos. They are the ones there at the sidelines, screaming themselves hoarse. They are *there* to ride the highs of victory, and to plunge into despair as their team fails *yet again* to score a goal off the corner.

But even these devoted fans are not really changed by the game. They invest little, and they reap little. In a couple of months' time, even the inner circle of football followers will have forgotten the World Cup. In a couple of months' time, even



“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.

they will have returned to their everyday lives.

The people who are truly changed by the game are the players. They are the ones who have given up years of their lives to build strength. They have devoted hours of practice to the skills needed to control the ball at speed. They have developed self-control and discipline, giving their bodies what they need to excel, rather than the things they want in the moment. They are the ones who give up part of their individuality, so that they can become part of a winning team. They are the ones who are competing for the prize. They are the ones who are truly getting into the game – I never even touch a ball!

All through the New Testament, sports and athletics are used as a picture of the Christian life. I want to suggest that there are three significant parallels between the World Cup and a life following Jesus. (I don't want to stretch the analogy too much – after all, only one country can win the World Cup, and many will be knocked out

along the way. We're not into 'sudden death' Christianity!)

The first parallel is that both elite soccer and being a disciple of Jesus requires **discipline, and training**. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Elite athletes train and practice constantly. They train rain or shine. They train whether they feel like it or not. They train as they recover from injuries. But the training is not the purpose of their activity – the training is the means by which they prepare their bodies and minds for the competition ahead.

continued next page...

Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1: 7 - 9 NIV

*continued
from
previous
page*

While you're
waiting,
God's working.

Rick Warren

Stop
determining
your worth
and value
by what other
people say.
Be determined
by what the
Word of God
says.
Joyce Meyer

Christians likewise need to train. We need to spend time with God – understanding Him and His word, communicating with him. We need to be train to seek and extend forgiveness. We need to be trained to serve others with love and compassion. We need to be trained to give an account for our hope.

The world cup players have not trained by themselves, but rather as part of a team. In a similar way, our training works best when we are consciously working out our spiritual muscles in community – our churches, our small groups, our families.

What forms of training do you need to undertake to be able to perform at you peak as Jesus' follower?

The second parallel is that commitment means **giving some things up**. The writer to Hebrews wrote in Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,

and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

Elite athletes give up many things that are bad or harmful – excessive eating, alcohol, and smoking. (I had hoped to include drugs in that list, but the Tour de France is coming up soon...). A footballer who drinks excessively or who smokes is unlikely to be able to go the distance over a 90 minute game! Likewise, following Jesus effectively requires us to get rid of 'sin which clings so closely', so that we can run our race with endurance.

But it is not only the bad things that we need to lay aside. There are many good things that elite athletes have to give up, simply so that they have time for their training and competition commitments. Studies, or employment, or family, or relationships might all be passed over so that the athlete can focus on their sport. We followers of Jesus will also need to give up many good things, those good 'weights'. We might be called to give up home and family, employment

opportunities, sporting opportunities, or leisure time, so that we have time to devote to the things of God.

What things, good or bad, are getting in the way of your Christian race? What do you need to let go of?

The final parallel between the World Cup and the Christian race is that we are all **striving for a prize**. Paul wrote in Philippians 3:12-14

But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Obviously, elite athletes do not train endlessly for the purpose of training. They train to receive a perishable Cup (if I can paraphrase Paul from 1 Corinthians up above). They put themselves through hours of hard work, and more hours of painful recovery, so that they might win the prize for which they are competing. Likewise all our spiritual discipline has an

end goal – that we might attain the prize that Christ Jesus promises. That is, that we might endure to the end, and would join with Jesus in his resurrection and perfect, restored, eternal life! Our prize includes the joy of seeing others reconciled with Christ – friends, family, children, neighbours, colleagues! This hope of future glory, is the inspiration that sustains us through the slog of training ourselves to become more like Jesus.

If we really want to be ‘changed by the game’, if we are really hungry for the prize, we need put off the hindrances and excuses and get committed to following Jesus.

Isn't it time to get out of the stands and into the arena!?

James



We can be tired, weary and emotionally distraught, but after spending time alone with God, we find that He injects into our bodies energy, power and strength.

Charles F. Stanley

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

C S Lewis

Five ways to model grace-dependence

FAITH

To have faith is to defy logic.

It takes faith to think positively.

It takes faith to believe that there is a loving God who cares deeply about our pain.

To believe in life, the universe, or yourself after numerous failures is to have courage.

→

Helpful tips on showing your kids what relying on Christ looks like

I hope these tips will you model a grace-dependent life to your children. As they imitate you, they in turn will grow more dependent on the same grace in their own lives.

1. Say 'sorry' first

When I get angry with our kids, I can often see very clearly what they need to say sorry for but I can be less willing to admit my own fault. I may not have started it but I may have exacerbated it. Rather than demanding, 'You need to say sorry to me!' it is more helpful to initiate a resolution by apologising for getting angry and shouting.

2. Ask for forgiveness

There's something about saying, 'Would you please forgive me?' that is so much harder to say than 'I'm sorry'. I think it has to do with the loss of power that the request for forgiveness

involves. It's also a question that requires a response. The declaration 'I'm sorry' can end up floating into the air with no particular response required. But to ask, 'Will you forgive me?' needs a yes or no. Either way, the conversation is moving forward.

3. Let your children see you repent and forgive each other

Adults not only sin against children, we also sin against one another. Our fights aren't secret; our repentance and forgiveness shouldn't be either. We don't want to model to our children that fights get resolved by ignoring them and pretending they didn't happen. This doesn't mean we should be holding the reconciliation talk over the dinner table but it may be appropriate to let our children know that we're going off to talk over our disagreement, or to let them know about how we resolved the fight.

4. Let your children see that we depend on God

On the mornings that I win the discipline battle to get out of bed when the alarm goes off, I sit on a chair on our back verandah to read my Bible and pray. Our son wakes up early most mornings and so he often sees me sitting out there. Sometimes he comes out and asks me what I'm doing. Rather than find a place where I won't be disturbed and rather than stopping when he interrupts so I can help him get breakfast, it's a good opportunity to model that I need to listen to God in the Bible and I need to pray.

5. Say 'we' in bedtime prayers of thanks and repentance

Our son learnt the 'teaspoon prayer' model at Sunday

School: tsp = thankyou, sorry, please. Sorry is the part he finds most difficult! Often it's a catch-all 'sorry for all the bad things I've been doing' which makes up in comprehensiveness for what it may lack in sincerity! To help overcome that I've been trying to use the same model using 'we' instead of just 'I'. Using 'we' helps to think about things that he and I have enjoyed together. And by saying sorry for things we have both been involved in (such as, 'We're sorry that we had a fight about clearing the table'), I'm able to help him learn the sort of things that we all need forgiveness for as well as modeling my own need for repentance.

Graham Stanton

From growingfaith.com.au



Faith is an act of courage.

It is choosing to get up in the morning and face our fears and believe that God will help us.

Faith is choosing to believe that even though we may have failed one hundred times before that we can succeed the next time.

Church Mice

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Riverlinks

July 2014	
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>Men's Shed – 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Riverside</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>
4th Fri	<p><i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town</p> <p>Youth Group – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston</p> <p>Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town</p>
5th Sat	<p>Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St Johns L'ton</p>
6th Sun	<p>Kids' Church – 10:30am at St Oswald's</p> <p>Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's</p> <p>Children & Youth Ministry Conference at Camp Clayton</p>
7th Mon	<p>Cadorna – 2:00pm</p> <p>Children & Youth Ministry Conference</p>
8th Tue	<p>Children & Youth Ministry Conference</p>

July 2014	
9th Wed	<p>Children & Youth Ministry Conference</p>
10th Thu	<p>Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's</p> <p>Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm</p>
11th Fri	
12th Sat	
13th Sun	
14th Mon	
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>Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town</p>
19th Sat	
20th Sun	<p>ChildSafe Refresher Training – 1:30pm at St Aidan's</p>

The **deadline** for the August Newsletter edition is **25th July**

Calendar

July 2014	
21 st Mon	Pupil Free Day – 9:00am at St Oswald's
22 nd Tue	
23 rd Wed	
24 th Thur	
25 th Fri	
26 th Sat	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
27 th Sun	Preaching Workshop – 2:00pm in the Parish Office CCCGT – 6:00pm at St MM's Anglican Church
28 th Mon	
29 th Tue	
30 th Wed	
31 st Thur	
1 st Aug Fri	
2 nd Aug Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St Johns L'ton

August and other dates 2014	
9 th August	TBF at St Helens
24 th August	CY&F Ministry Workshop
31 st August	Riverlinks Together at George Town
19 th October	CY&F Ministry Workshop
26 th October	Preaching Workshop
13 th November	Bible Society Public Talk - Mike Raiter
14 th November	Bible Society Preaching Workshop

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
6 th	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
13 th	10:00 am	Communion	
20 th	10:00 am	Café Church	
27 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
6 th	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Morning Prayer Communion
13 th	9:00 am	Low Head George Town	Morning Prayer Together @ 10.30
20 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion
27 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
6 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Kids' Church
13 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & worship
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	Morning Prayer	
20 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
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

Tasmanian Bible Forums

Hearing God's
Word together in
Tasmania



**RSVP for catering
by 5th August
phone: 6376 1144**

**Did you miss the TBF at St Aidan's,
Revelation Unwrapped, with Revd Dr Tim Foster?
Recordings are available to download from the
Riverlinks website, or hear his final presentation:**

Saturday 9th August

10.00am – 3.00pm

**@ St Helens Christian Fellowship
54 Cecilia Street, St Helens**

**\$20 (includes morning tea & lunch)
Bring your Bible and a pen**



Creating faith conversations 2

Part two of a workshop that will help prepare you for your role as a witness to Jesus, whether you're involved in a regular ministry setting or not.



- When:** Sunday 24 August 1:30-3:30 pm
Where: St Aidan's Church Arthur St, East Launceston
What to bring: Bible, paper, pen
More info: James Oakley 6327 3482 or kids_families@riverlinks.net.au



**CHILDSAFE
REFRESHER**



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

Sunday 20 July, 1:30 - 3:30pm

Please register with James by phone (6327 3482) or email (kids_families@riverlinks.net.au) before 17 July

Praying for the work of the Gospel in World Cup countries

Bible Society Australia (BSA) is encouraging Christians around Australia to pick a FIFA World Cup qualifying team and pray as they play for the work of the gospel in that country. It's also partnering with Bible Society in Brazil to distribute millions of Bible portions to soccer fans over the 32-day international sporting event.

Twenty thousand copies of the Gospel of John and four million Bible selections in nine languages as part of the *Fair Play Brazil movement* during the 2014 World Cup, that starts today. The Bible materials have been designed with a special focus on sport and sport lovers, and will be distributed by volunteers from up to 1600 churches and Christian organisations in Brazil in popular meeting points for sports fans over the competition's 32-day period.

"Australia's World Cup campaign may be short-lived with their unlucky draw, in a group with Chile, Netherlands and Spain, but we're encouraging Christians to keep watching, and joining

us in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are faithfully on the streets of Brazil telling people of all tribes and nations about Jesus," said Chris Melville, Bible Society Australia's International Manager.

Bible Society is also asking its supporters to pick a team and pray specifically for the work of Bible Society in that country.

"If you've already got a favourite team, that's great! We've got a prayer point for Bible work in each country, so when you're watching you can also be aware that there are Christians in that part of the world making a difference for the Gospel, and asking God to help them persevere in their work."

As millions of sports fans descend on Rio de Janeiro in this month and the twelve host cities across Brazil, you can also help Bible Society Australia support our Brazilian counterparts financially, by giving generously to the Bible distribution project for the World Cup.



#Prayastheyplay

*Bible Society
News
Kaley Payne
13/06/2014*



Political fight looms over religious versus secular chaplains in schools

Death

&

Taxes

Who makes the best detective - Sherlock Holmes or a tax accountant?

The tax accountant - she make's more deductions

How do you know you've got a good tax accountant?

He's had a loophole named after him

What does a Tax Accountant do to liven up the office party

Not show up

A couple of days into the school chaplain funding debate (round 2) and Labor has landed the first couple of punches.

“Labor does not support restricting chaplains to just religious organisations,” Bill Shorten told Fairfax Media.

Which is clever politics. Labor does not want to be seen to take away chaplains from state schools, it just wants to restore its policy of making sure non-religious chaplains are available for schools who want them.

The Labor policy is an example of putting the minimum change of policy in place to achieve the maximum effect. It positions Labor as still supporting a chaplaincy program of sorts without giving a special place to religion as a criteria for employment.

But it will make the focus of the debate religion rather than the provision of welfare for students.

Importantly, the South Australian and ACT education ministers backed Shorten,

and they were joined by the Victorian Opposition. Victoria faces an election later this year and Labor is in a good position in the polls.

Shorten and his state colleagues may have sunk the Federal Government’s best option of continuing the school chaplaincy program that the High Court has now ruled twice as unlawfully funded under the Federal Government’s Constitutional powers.

The former Federal Labor Government had made a change to the arrangements for chaplains in 2011, with schools getting the chance to appoint a “secular student well-being officer”. In 2013, 3541 schools participated in the program with 2851 chaplains employed, and 512 secular workers.

The chaplaincy program’s



Image: SU Queensland

religious chaplains are overwhelmingly Christian, with small numbers of Buddhist, Muslim and Jewish chaplains. The first two groups are under-represented among chaplains in relation to their proportion of Australia's population.

The Federal Government is understood to be investigating the best way to continue the chaplaincy program. They may find a way forward that does not need the states to handle the funding—which would undercut the force of Labor's policy.

Given the nature of the debate, the Labor option will result in a decline in the proportion of religious chaplains. It will only take a small, determined group in some schools to convince a Principal not to use a Christian provider.

On the other hand, many readers will know of chaplains who have done such a wonderful job that the whole school community holds them in high regard.

Eternity knows one chaplain in a very multicultural school who first came to Australia as a missionary. Her first

involvement at the school was as a volunteer in the uniform shop, which she followed up serving on the Parents and Citizen's Committee before becoming a chaplain. She has worked so well and winsomely that "broad consultation" with the community groups at her school led to the school council endorsing her position.

After a breast cancer diagnosis she found out how much the school valued her.

"When I was diagnosed I didn't want to see a lot of people," she told the local paper.

"People kept sending me cards and photos and keeping me connected. This made it easier for me to go back to the school." This year she was awarded the local council's International Women's Day award.

This sort of chaplain will be around for a long time.

John Sandeman
From Eternity Newspaper
24/06/14

*There are currently
82 Chaplains in
101 Tasmanian schools*

Of life's two certainties, tax is the only one for which you can get an extension

People who complain about taxes can be divided into two categories: men and women

There's nothing wrong with the younger generation that becoming taxpayers won't cure

Media Release

from Bishop

John's blog,

posted on

June 11.

imaginary

diocese.org/

bishopjohn/

Manus spend or Tassie spend?

Billions spent on Manus & Nauru better spent in Tasmania

Anglican Bishop John Harrower and CEO of the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce, Ms Misha Coleman will bring attention to the billions of dollars wasted on the Abbott Government's offshore detention facilities when they meet with state and federal politicians in Tasmania this week. Ms Coleman said:

"The Taskforce estimates it's costing Australian taxpayers \$3,744 per day for each man, woman and child held in offshore detention centres."

She said the billions spent on offshore detention could not be justified when the Federal Government is cutting on funding on health and education to the states.

"The Tasmanian Government estimates it will be \$2.1 billion worse off over the next decade as a direct result of the Federal Budget. When contrasted with the \$4.2 billion Canberra is planning to spend on offshore detention over the next four years,

Tasmanians are entitled to question the Federal Government's priorities.

Ms Coleman said the Abbott Government's own Commission of Audit acknowledged offshore detention was the fastest growing area of expenditure in the Federal Budget.

"We're the only country in the world that wastes money in this way. While we're sinking billions into two other islands – Nauru and Manus Island – we're slashing the budget of our own island state, Tasmania".

Ms Coleman said processing and accommodating asylum seekers in Tasmania would be significantly cheaper than the costs associated with Manus and Nauru.

"The money saved could be used to fund State health and education needs instead."



Manus Island regional processing facility
Photo Courtesy: DIBP images

Ms Coleman said the Taskforce was aware that people with fulltime jobs in Australia are working at the offshore centres during their holidays, because the wages on Manus and Nauru for expatriate detention staff is so high.

“We could be employing Tasmanians in Tasmania instead. The Taskforce has estimated that thousands of jobs could be created by processing asylum seekers in Tasmania – without the inhumane conditions that have led to suicide attempts and violence in the offshore centres.”

The Anglican Bishop of Tasmania John Harrower, Patron of the Taskforce, said;

“With a projected cut of \$27million in state health spending over the next year as a result of the Federal Budget, Tasmania faces the loss of 59 hospital beds. The Churches are asking the Federal Government whether the blank cheque it’s written to deter asylum seekers can be justified?”.

“I believe we have a responsibility to demand the proper stewardship of taxpayers’ funds, especially at a time when Tasmanians

are being further disadvantaged by the proposed cuts to our essential services. Spending money on the care of asylum seekers in Tasmania, instead of Nauru and Manus Island, would stimulate economic growth and provide jobs in Tasmania. And based on Tasmania’s record of caring for asylum seekers and refugees, we’d get a more ethical, humane and legal approach to the care of asylum seekers, as opposed to the cruelty that is being inflicted in the offshore camps”.

Bishop Harrower said Australia’s national spending priorities are “a reflection of its values as a society”.

Bishop John Harrower hosted the Premier, Lord Mayor of Hobart Damon Thomas, the Mayor of Glenorchy and other Senators, Members of Parliament and dignitaries, prior to a Forum to discuss alternatives to the current policy framework as part of the 2014 Refugee Week celebrations in Tasmania.

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalm
82:3,4 NIV



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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

34 Bain Tce
Trevallyn
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399 West Tamar Hwy
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Left & below:

Q&A with
Rene DuPlessis
at St Oswald's



**Every Weakness
you have is an opportunity
for God to show
His strength in your life.**

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Riverlinks Anglican Parish
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the clergy or the Anglican
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otherwise stated

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