



Newsletter

August 2014

His Spirit lets us know that together with Christ we will be given what God has promised. We will also share in the glory of Christ, because we have suffered with him.

I am sure that what we are suffering now cannot compare with the glory that will be shown to us.

Romans 8: 17,18 ^{CEV}



A gem cannot be polished without friction

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



From The Enabler

Unbelief in our churches

But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked...Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.

PSALM 73:2, 13-14



In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

One of the many *good* things about painful trials that visit believers is that they are just **that, a trial. But who's on trial?** The enemy would want us to put God on trial in our sufferings, sharply questioning and even accusing God of all manner of sins and ungodlike behaviours. Like Israel in exile, complaining that God **didn't care about their situation and wasn't prepared to help them** (Isa 40:27). The truth is, in trials we are on trial. The genuineness of our faith is being tried **(as Jesus' was – Mt 4:1-11;**

26:36-46). Will our faith be found to be genuine or found wanting? Will it be strong and stable or weak and unstable? Will we allow the trial to refine our faith – adjusting our perception of God and his ways, bringing our hope of the New Creation into greater focus, making God and the gospel the true centre of our lives and prayer life – and will we allow it to change us for the better (trusting God in the dark, waiting on God, joy in **God...see 1 Pet 1:6-9; Heb 12:1-17**)? Trials keep confronting us with the opportunity to renew our trust in God, and to examine the genuineness and quality of our faith: its focus, strength and resilience. Do I *really* believe the gospel? Will I keep trusting and obeying God in this? I invite

you to think about that.

I suspect that there is probably more unbelief in churches than we imagine. Jesus said as much when he envisaged churches consisting of weeds and good plants (Mt 13:24-30, 36-43). Unbelief can be exposed when trials and persecution come (2 Tim 1:15; 4:9-10; 1 Thess 3:1-5); but also when we actually *ask* people what they believe. I sometimes **wonder how many 'good Anglicans' really do believe** our historic Creeds, our doctrine as expressed in the 39 articles, and much of what they hear read and preached from the Bible week by week. If we really did believe this would we be so worldly, so compromised, so self-serving, so reluctant to tell others? What do you think?

I was shocked and saddened to read an article about unbelief in the Church of England in Britain today. According to a survey by Forward in Faith UK, available on their website, approximately *one in four* male clergy in the C of E does not believe in:

- the Trinity
- God the Father who made the world
- the Holy Spirit
- Jesus dying for the sins of the world

It gets worse...almost half don't believe in:

- **Jesus' virgin birth**
- **Jesus' bodily resurrection**
- Jesus being the only way of salvation

The statistics are even worse for female clergy; and many of the least believing, male and female, are in central leadership positions in the church.

A friend of mine recently attended an Anglican funeral in the north of the state. He said that the gospel of Jesus was never mentioned. I find that appalling. Could it be explained by fear or unbelief?

During my Micah preaching series I asked the question: **'Is church for you like going to the cinema? You suspend disbelief while you're here, but then step back out into the *real world*.'** I fear that much so-called Christianity

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1: 6 - 9

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If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches.

is like that. How will we know? Watch how people respond to suffering and trials. Notice how different or the same they are to their unbelieving neighbours (how they speak, drive, spend their money). Ask them what they believe. Is Jesus the transcendent Lord of all (and of them), or a merely a life-coach there to improve and enhance our lives? Is the Father the holy, just and merciful Sovereign God or Walt Disney in a Robe? Is the Holy Spirit the third person of the Trinity who leads us into repentance and personal transformation of character and into mission, or a power **to switch on for 'experiential ticklings'** (to quote Mark Sayers in his excellent book, *The Road Trip that Changed the World*)?

**I believe. Help me
overcome my unbelief!**

There's another form of unbelief that we're all guilty of: practical unbelief; the gap between what we believe in theory and do in practice. Yes, we believe that God is sovereign and in control of

everything, but when things go wrong we get angry or fearful or melancholy. We worry and complain and feel sorry for ourselves. We seek to be in control (of our own lives & others). Yes, we believe that we are justified **by God on the basis of Jesus' death**, but still have to prove or justify ourselves to God and others, in overwork, self-defensiveness, the need to win every argument, to impress, be liked by everyone. In his book, *You Can Change*, Tim Chester **defines sanctification as 'the progressive narrowing of the gap between confessional faith and functional faith'**. **I think that's pretty right.** What do you think? What are the obvious gaps for you that need attention? For example, if you believe that God is in control (that is, God is 'great'), **how is that not lived out in your daily life?** The question could take the same form for God being good, glorious and gracious. Is this sort of unbelief illustrated by the father who begged Jesus to save his son from a demon? Who perhaps believed in his head that Jesus could help but in the heat and horror of the

moment, with his son totally overwhelmed by the spirit, cried out to Jesus in a **moment of raw honesty: 'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief' (Mk 9:24)!**

Unbelief is a tragedy. Paul said that God broke off Israel **'because of unbelief' and the Gentiles were subsequently grafted in to the tree (Rom 11:19-20).** He said to **believing Gentiles: 'You stand by faith.** Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare **you either' (11:20b-21).** How precious is our faith in Jesus as Lord! How serious a thing it is that we watch over ourselves and others, encouraging and exhorting one another to keep repenting and believing, **striving with God's help to narrow the gap between our confessional faith and practical faith.** The writer of Hebrews chillingly cites the **Exodus generation 'whose bodies fell in the desert...'** to **whom God swore 'that they would never enter his rest...'** those who disobeyed. So we see that they were not able to enter, *because of their unbelief'* (Heb 3:18-19).

What does the writer say that we must do to prevent this from happening to us?

'See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first' (3:12-14).

'Seeing to it' includes asking one another what we believe, if we believe, what help we need in narrowing the sanctification gap. As Christians we have responsibility not only for our own faith but also for that of one another. Encourage and exhort one another to resist the lies of the enemy; to keep trusting and obeying God; to think biblically about God, his ways, his gospel, his mission, his call on our lives.

'See to it, brothers and sisters...'

Warmly,

David

If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, **"Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in."** Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

Romans 11: 17 - 21

Sea Sunday

A prayer for seafarers

Heavenly Father,
we commend to you all seafarers.

Guard and protect them in danger and temptation; sustain them in loneliness; and support them in sickness and anxiety.

Bless all who minister to them.

Watch over those who are near and dear to them, and grant them the blessing of your presence.

These things we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Bell Bay Seafarer's Mission Sea Sunday service, led by Peter Cox, was held at St Mary Magdalene's George Town on 13th July.

The Combined Christian Churches of George Town were all involved in one way or another, including a time of prayer for Seafarers and

the Mission.

James Oakley and the children shared the story of Jonah.

Rev Warwick Cuthbertson spoke about his first hand experience as a Chaplain both on board an Australian Naval ship and at the Seafarer's Mission in Burnie.

Captain Jim Brownbill also shared some anecdotes from his time as a pilot on the Tamar River.



Riverlinks Together



The next Riverlinks Together service will be on Sunday 31st August 10:30am @ St Mary Magdalene's George Town & planned to be followed by the Parish Annual Meeting. *Please bring a plate of finger food to share in lunch together afterwards*

Riverlinks

August 2014	
1st Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Youth Group – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town
2nd Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St Johns L'ton
3rd Sun	Kids' Church – 10:30am at St Oswald's Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
4th Mon	Ministry Support Team Meeting – 6:45pm
5th 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
6th Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's Men's Shed – 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Riverside Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's
7th Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
8th Fri	Creation Research Public Meeting – 7:00pm at Trevallyn Life Church

August 2014	
9th Sat	Tasmanian Bible Forum at St Helens Creation Research Seminar – 1:00pm to 5:30pm at Longford Baptist Church
10th Sun	
11th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
12th Tue	
13th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
14th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
15th Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town
16th Sat	Global Challenge Conference at Punchbowl Christian Centre
17th Sun	
18th Mon	
19th Tue	
20th Wed	

The deadline for the September Newsletter edition is 25th August

Calendar

August 2014	
21 st Thur	Prescare Legana – 10:45am
22 nd Fri	
23 rd Sat	
24 th Sun	Children & Families Ministry Workshop: Creating Faith Conversations 2 – 1:30pm at St Aidan's East Launceston CCCGT Messy Church – 4:30pm at Uniting Church
25 th Mon	
26 th Tue	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
27 th Wed	
28 th Thur	
29 th Fri	
30 th Sat	
31 st Sun	Riverlinks Together – 10:30am at George Town <i>followed by the Parish Annual Meeting & a shared lunch together</i>

September and other dates 2014	
21 st September	First George Town combined morning service at St MM's
10 th - 12 th October	Tasmanian Youth Convention at Bicheno
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
30 th November	Riverlinks Together 10 th Birthday with Bishop John

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
3 rd	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
10 th	10:00 am	Communion	
17 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
24 th	10:00 am	Communion	
31 st	-	No service	
George Town			
3 rd	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion Communion
10 th	9:00 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Together @ 10.30
17 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion
24 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
31 st	10:30 am	George Town	Riverlinks Together
Riverside & Trevallyn			
3 rd	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Kids' Church
10 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & worship
17 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
24 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
31 st	-	No services	
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	

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



Creation Research in Tasmania Back To Genesis - Back To Jesus Tour

Friday 8th August 7pm Public Meeting
Trevallyn Life Church, 34 Pitt Ave Trevallyn
Speakers: John Mackay and Creation Research members
Contact: Pastor Matiu Chamberlain 6327 2943
Topic: **"SIX DAYS OF CREATION (The Bible & the age of the earth)"**



Saturday 9th August 1pm to 5:30pm Seminar Series
Longford Baptist Church, 159 Wellington Street Longford
Hosted by the Baptist and Anglican Churches Longford
Speakers: John Mackay & Craig Hawkins, plus electives with Artist Steve
Cardno, Dianne Eager, John Osgood
Contact: Pastor Edrick Corban-Banks 6391 2982 / 0400 296777

Exciting new way to learn the Bible together!

The diocesan Certificate in Theology & Ministry now has a great new way to learn the Bible & some ministry skills in home and study groups through a new partnership with Ridley College, Melbourne.

- ★ All learning done by video lessons streamed online (your group would need a broadband internet connection) – each subject can be completed in six or 12 weeks. Lesson handouts with reflection / discussion questions provided
- ★ All new subjects to choose from – Bible Overview with Mike Raiter, Understanding Your Bible, Gospel & Life, Knowing God, Journey through the Psalms, Isaiah, 1 Corinthians, Revelation, Ministry Skills, Worship, Leading Youth, Ethics
- ★ No set terms – follow the school term or just start a subject whenever it suits
- ★ Discounts apply to all Tasmanians who enrol through the Certificate in Theology & Ministry with Riverlinks
- ★ Group facilitators / leaders have free access to the study material

See all the details on the Riverlinks website www.riverlinks.net.au or ask Anne Godman for them.

David Rogers-Smith

Michael Raiter will be speaking this November on the topic of **“A hunger for God: how the Bible is good for your soul”**, as well as a half-day preaching workshop, **“Preaching that connects - bringing God’s Word into people’s lives.”**



Thursday, 13 November (7:30-9pm)

- Public talk at the Door of Hope Main Auditorium

Friday 14, November (9am-1pm)

- Preaching workshop at St Aidan’s East L’ton



You can find out more at www.biblesociety.org.au/events or contact the Bible Society

1300 242 537



Global
Challenge
Conference

Saturday
August 16th
'By All
Means
Possible'
at
Punchbowl
Christian
Centre.

Register at
[wec.com.au/
content/
GCC2014](http://wec.com.au/content/GCC2014)

Contact Rod
Vardy at
Worldview
for more
info
63370444

Messy Church

Hold That Thought ...

There are three ways to get something done: do it yourself, hire someone, or forbid your kids to do it

We have enough youth - how about a fountain of smart?

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research



Pray for peace in the Bible lands

The war between Gaza and Israel is intensifying, bringing death and destruction. Extremism and hatred between Jews and Arabs is growing and reflects itself in demonstrations both in Israel and the West Bank. The three Bible Societies serving the Israeli, Arab Israeli and Palestinian communities earnestly ask you to join them in praying:

- ✚ That the war and bloodshed will stop in Israel and the Gaza Strip and a peaceful settlement can be negotiated urgently
- ✚ That demonstrations will **be peaceful and won't led to violence and further loss of life**
- ✚ Pray for God to comfort all those suffering the pain of losing loved ones – especially children

- ✚ For the Israeli & Palestinian leaders – that they will have wisdom and integrity to act in the best interests of their people
- ✚ Pray for all Christians to be salt and light in their communities. That God will protect them physically and spiritually **with God's love and peace**
- ✚ Pray for reconciliation and peace between different communities
- ✚ Pray for the three Bibles Societies that they will have wisdom in serving their people at this testing time.

Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand.

Mark Twain



You may as well quit reading and hearing the Word of God, and give it to the devil, if you do not desire to live according to it.

Martin Luther

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



Prayer Power



Ask, and you will receive.
Search, and you will find.
Knock, and the door will be opened for you.
Matthew 7:7

If you have faith when you pray, you will be given whatever you ask for.
Matthew 21:22

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
John 14:13-14

The Book of Revelation describes the prayers of the saints (namely, the people of God) as incense laid upon the **golden altar before God's throne** (5:8; 8:3-4).

It is an arresting image of the significance and sacred nature of our prayers. That the sovereign Lord should bid his people to pray is not only a great wonder but also an enormous privilege. Yet in his divine providence he delights in our prayers and yearns for us to pray. For through our prayers God brings about his purposes.

It was not surprising then that Thomas Cranmer entitled his first English liturgy as a book of **"Common Prayer"**. It was not only **"common"** in that the words were in the common tongue of the English, but it was also **"common"** in that the people themselves joined in with the minister in saying their prayers. One of the virtues of Anglican liturgy is the opportunity that the people

have in joining in prayer together, rather than merely being an audience for the **minister's prayers alone**. Cranmer's saturation of the text of his liturgy with the teaching of the Bible also contained the response of **our prayers to God's revelatory word**. His collects **"collected" the themes of the Bible passages** for a given Sunday or feast day and expressed them in prayer to God.

The heart of prayer is petition, which together with thanksgiving expresses our **heart's desire before the throne of grace**. It is an essential part of the Christian life and ought to be part of our daily routine, and not just when we gather for **"common prayer"**. The traditional concept of a quiet time has proved to be an



effective discipline for Christians as they either start or finish the day in Bible reading and prayer. In the Bible, God speaks to us; in our prayers, we speak to God.

Yet in my experience, prayer can be a difficult discipline for Christians, even for ministers. There are, of course, a myriad of resources in Christian bookshops for practising prayer, but what we need most of all is a theological understanding of prayer. Why do we pray?

Does prayer change God's mind? Do our prayers have any real effect on a God who orders all things according to the counsel of his own will? These are important questions to understand, which will both enlighten and enrich our prayer life. John **Calvin's superb exposition** of prayer (Institutes III.20) describes prayer as the chief exercise of faith and answers many of these questions. A more contemporary and equally excellent resource for a biblical theological understanding of prayer is

Graeme Goldsworthy's *Prayer and the Knowledge of God* (IVP, 2003).

Prayer is an expression of our dependence upon God, and an opportunity to express our needs and desires in accordance with his revealed will. As an exercise of faith, it seeks first and foremost to glorify God, hence the opening petitions of the **Lord's Prayer are: "Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done"**. Our concern is to glorify God and pray that he might use us, and our prayers, to further his kingdom.

Ungodly lives can hinder our prayers (1 Peter 3:7), but the prayer of faith, the prayer of a righteous man or woman, has great power in its effects (James 5:16).

Dr Glenn Davies

Archbishop of Sydney

*This article first appeared at
sydneyanglicans.net 22nd July 2014*

Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. Stay alert and keep praying for **God's people.**

Ephesians 6:18

Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.

Philippians 4:6-7

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0438 378 233

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3 Anne St
George Town
0439 821 038

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Hall - Jetty Rd
Hillwood

Low Head
Low Head Rd
Low Head

Peacehaven
185 Penquite Rd
Norwood

Pipers River
School Rd
Pipers River

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necessarily reflect those of
the clergy or the Anglican
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Newsletter deadline for
photos, articles, etc. is 20th
of each month unless
otherwise stated



Above:
Sea Sunday



Left:
Messy Church



Below:
Pupil Free Day

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