



# Newsletter

## May 2015

Can a mother forget her nursing child?  
Can she feel no love for the child she has borne?  
But even if that were possible, I would not forget you!  
See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands.

Isaiah 49:15,16 <sup>NLT</sup>



*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



# The Bible – **The world’s least read best seller?**

## Bible Fact Sheet

The Bible was written over a 1600 year period by approx. 40 men. The time of the writing was from 1500 BC to AD 100.

The Bible has been translated into more than 1,200 languages.

Up to 80% of Christians in **Australia don’t read the Bible** regularly according to some sources. Some of us might be surprised by this, even shocked. Many of us have been strongly advised for years that in order to develop and maintain a strong relationship with God we should have a disciplined **“Quiet Time” of regular reading and prayer.** So does **it matter if we don’t read the Bible often?**

**Maybe we’ve had so much of reading it that it’s lost its freshness, or perhaps we just get caught up in what’s happening each day and never get around to it, or maybe we don’t know where or how to start, or perhaps we’ve just go too much on our plate at the moment.** Whatever the reason, **regular Bible reading just isn’t happening for around 80% of believers in this country.**

One can relate to a lot of this. However, using a Bible reading program which encourages systematic reading and includes comments to help the reader understand and appreciate the passage better, can lead to a rewarding and positive experience. I was recently reflecting on some of the readings since January this year in the Scripture Union Bible notes that some of us are familiar with. I was struck by the wisdom in Ecclesiastes, particularly that life can become just a **“chasing after the wind” and fairly empty if God isn’t part of the mix and the reason for us being here.** I found I just **had to keep reading Paul’s exciting, tense and dangerous journey in Acts after he’d appealed to Caesar** because of his unjust treatment by the Jews and as a result, had been transported to Rome by sea

to make this appeal directly. **More recently I've been challenged by Jesus' words in Luke 6** ( the so-called Sermon on the Mount) and the way this confronts our comfortable, possibly conservative and potentially indulgent life styles.

But I was perhaps most taken by some words in Psalm 145. This is a Psalm of praise and exultation as many Psalms are. This one begins with the words

**"I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you"**.

Most of us would have no argument with that. But then **it goes on: "One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts". And that got me thinking.**

The Scripture Union Bible notes I was reading pointed **out that we don't praise God** because of what theologians and scholars have written about him or the particular **God characteristics they've**

**identified. We don't praise God** because of some **theoretical qualities we've** learned from someone else. Rather, as the SU notes go on **to say "We praise God for what WE have found Him to be". In other words, what,** from our own experiences, do we praise God for? What actual, personal stories of His goodness and love in our lives and the lives of our families do we have, for example, that we can pass on to our children, grandchildren and friends?

**There's more in this Psalm to get us thinking !** From the reading notes on Psalm 145, God has shown himself to be slow to anger and full of love (vs 8), faithful (vs 13), and has helped us (vs 14), fed us and satisfied us(vs 16). He is close to us (vs 18) and hears our cry (vs 19) and so on.

The notes conclude by **pointing out that, "God does not demand your worship on the basis of his abstract goodness. He has won your praise by his actual love."**

There were several secular historians who wrote about the events of the New Testament at the same time the Bible was being written. Josephus is the most well-known of them. He was a Jewish historian. Tacitus was a Roman historian who would have no benefit from not telling the truth. Both these men, as well as others, can be used to back up the historical accuracy of the Bible.

*continued  
from  
previous  
page*

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 NIV

It may not be too far from the truth to suggest that if **we're not reading God's word, then we're probably** not doing too much reflecting on what he has done for us and consequently, perhaps not too much praising and thanking. For me, not doing these things has a negative effect on my faith development and practice of kingdom living and as a result, I am more likely to conform to the world around me and its values and ideals. But regular reading of and **attention to, God's word** soon exposes that – **you can't** read Luke 6: 20 – 45, for example, and not be massively confronted by the radical lifestyle that Jesus calls us to . One is soon brought back to the reality of kingdom values!

So, if only around 20% of believers in this country are **reading God's word regularly** and being challenged by it, one has to wonder how much **"salt" and "light"** (Matthew 5: 13-16) the community

around us is being exposed to. Certainly more **"salt" and "light"** are likely to be evident if those who know God's word, and read it regularly are moved to put it into practice.

Regular Bible reading takes about 10 minutes a day, which is not a big ask, especially as the Bible is a means through which **"---God wants to communicate with the people He created and loves"** (Essential 100 notes). If you'd like more information on how to get started, talk to your Scripture Union rep, or contact the Bible Society or a member of the LMST.

Mike



# Community Feast @ St Oswald's



## A Wise Mum 'Gets' Unconditional Love

Kids will be kids, and sometimes they test our patience.

How do we let them know our love is unconditional?

By Sarah Condie

from  
www.growingfaith.com.au

How do we show our children we love them?

How do they know we *unconditionally* love them? Do they feel loved only when they have pleased us? When they have been good? Do we love our children in the same manner that God loves us? Unconditionally. Without reservation.

To be perfectly honest, this is one of the hardest jobs I have ever been asked to do. I think it would be easier to go bungee jumping and sky diving than to love my children in the same manner God loves me.

If unconditional love was not modelled to you as a child, then it is even more difficult. It is easy to leave home, go to bible study, church or play group and put on a bright friendly smile, race around like a headless chook and come home totally exhausted to our children with no reserves left to deal with their needs and demands. Our children need more than us *telling them* with words that we love them and apologies for our tiredness and grumpiness – yet again.

How much does God love us?

I am always challenged by how much God loves me:

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! (1 John 3:1)

Take a look at Psalm 103, in which the love of God for his people is expressed clearly. This is our role model, and we can pray that God will fill us with this love for our children day in and day out.

If you are struggling with loving your children, take time **to remind yourself of God's** deep and unconditional love for you by pondering the words of this Psalm.

**In Paul's letters to the Corinthians**, he says something to his readers that is rather interesting. He is clearly frustrated by their behaviour, and is strongly rebuking them and he then says: *"What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a gentle spirit?"* (1 Cor 4:21.) Our children are children, and by definition will behave childishly, irritatingly and annoyingly – constantly. The challenge is to *not* meet this with aggression, anger and harshness, but with love and a **gentle spirit**. I don't know about you, but I find this a hard call.





Showing your children they are loved unconditionally

**You know what? It doesn't get** easier as your children grow older. Their behaviour changes, and what will drive you crazy will change, but it is still a challenge. Do they feel loved only when they do what you want (i.e. their hair is neatly brushed, their rooms are clean and sparkly and they are dating a Christian)? What message do we communicate to our children with the words we say to them – especially when we are disappointed with their choices and actions. My husband Keith often says to me **“Sarah, take a deep breath and keep your mouth shut”**. Sounds easy? It isn't – let me tell you.

One of the wisest parenting gurus I know is Ross Campbell, and he has written a number of books that explain in practical ways how to love our children with unconditional love. I was given a copy of his book *How to really love your child* when Michael was four weeks old. It is short, easy to read and I finished it in one sitting, then returned to the beginning and read it more slowly. Amazingly, it provided me with the tools and strategies to show my tiny baby that I loved him, and

amazingly, he is now almost 24 and it still provides me with the tools and strategies to show him, now a fine young **man that I love him. I don't** know of many parenting books that last this time span.

There are three ways we can demonstrate to our children that they are loved.

1. Eye contact - looking **directly into our children's** eyes, and not just when we are cross with them.

2. Physical contact – which will vary depending on age. It could be cuddles, hand on shoulder, ruffled hair, back massage etc.

3. Focused attention – time alone with each child in which you do something just with them and you give them your undivided attention. Your mobile phone will need to be switched off, because you are not giving them continual partial attention, but your FULL attention.

Doing these things regularly with each of our children fills their emotional tanks and communicates that we love them.

A good place to start might **be to reflect on God's deep** love for you and remember all the times he does overlook our flaws and disappointments and failures.

Loving God, we thank you for the love of the mothers you have given us, whose love is so precious that it can never be measured, whose patience seems to have no end.

May we see your loving hand behind them and guiding them.

We pray for those mothers who fear they will run out of love or time or patience.

We ask you to bless them with your own special love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and our brother.

Amen.



# Riverlinks

May 2015	
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	Talking Sport for Mental Health – 7:00pm at Trevallyn Bowls Club.
3rd Sun	Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
4th Mon	
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 <b>Men's Shed</b> – 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	
9th Sat	<b>Mother's Day Eve Breakfast</b> – 8:30am at St Mary Magdalene's George Town

May 2015	
10th Sun	<b>*** Mother's Day ***</b>
11th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
12th Tue	
13th Wed	
14th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
15th Fri	Garage Sale donations drop off – 9:00am to 3:00pm at St David's Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town
16th Sat	Garage Sale for CY&FM – 8:00am to 2:00pm at St David's
17th Sun	
18th Mon	
19th Tue	
20th Wed	<b>St Oswald's Fellowship Group</b> – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
21st Thur	PresCare Legana – 10:45am

The deadline for the June Newsletter edition is 25<sup>th</sup> May



# Calendar

May 2015	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
24 <sup>th</sup> Sun	CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at Cornerstone
25 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
26 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
27 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
28 <sup>th</sup> Thur	
29 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
30 <sup>th</sup> Sat	National Day of Thanksgiving Mission-shaped Ministry Taster Day – 10:00am to 4:00pm
31 <sup>st</sup> Sun	Riverlinks Together – 10:30am at St MM's George Town

June and other dates 2015	
12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> June	SYNOD
18 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Bishop's Workshop @ St Aidan's</b> Christian Voices in Public Places
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Bishop John @ St Aidan's

## Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Inclusive Service	
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
31 <sup>st</sup>	-	No service	
George Town			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River Baptist Church	Communion ABU Comb Service
24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
31 <sup>st</sup>	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Family Gathering
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
31 <sup>st</sup>	-	No services	
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

This year we decided not to make you breakfast in bed and keep your kitchen nice and clean ...  
**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!**



Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office  
399 West Tamar Hwy, Riverside - 6327 4742 [office@riverlinks.net.au](mailto:office@riverlinks.net.au)

# MOTHER'S DAY EVE BREAKFAST

Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>,  
8.30am

\$15 per person

at the Anglican Church,  
Anne Street, George Town

More info and bookings:

Louise 0474 508 164  
or Trish 0400 675 362



FUNDRAISING  
FOR  
LENNIE'S LEGENDS  
RELAY FOR LIFE  
TEAM



You are invited to come and hear

## Mukta & Saroj

from MUKTI MISSION INDIA



COME ALONG  
& BRING  
OTHERS!



Monday  
18 May



Don't miss out on hearing this wonderful testimony.

at Punchbowl Christian Centre,  
100 Punchbowl Rd, Punchbowl

An evening with Mukti Mission India. Mukti supports the needs of women and girls in India. During the evening you will hear from Mukta, a rescued girl and Saroj, a senior social worker. There will be an opportunity during the evening to give to the work of Mukti, coffee & cake provided. Contact Kesni Burton 0400 701 034 for more info



Children, Youth & Families  
Ministry Fundraiser  
Garage Sale  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
8am to 2pm

Donations gratefully accepted,  
between 9am and 3pm on  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

## Talking Sport for Mental Health

Proceeds to Mental  
Health LGH  
Northside

Trevallyn Bowls  
club

Contact Ian 63311512

SATURDAY MAY 2  
7PM

\$15 double  
\$10 single  
Raffle

DUTCH AUCTION



MC ABC TV's Peter Gee

SPEAK UP! Stay ChatTY  
Mitch McPherson

Southern Cross Sports Editor  
Michael Maney

World Velodrome Cycling  
Champion Lauren Perry

Australian U18 Lawn Bowls  
Champion Michael Sims

TASTY SUPPER!

# St Oswald's Project



Over the years of our formation, Naomi and I have come to understand that God has shaped us to be people that are passionate about community – genuine and deep connectedness; a full sharing of life, expressed in shared meals, holidays, conversations and experiences. This is how we **understand God's love to be** expressed in and through his people – the people that through his Son, and by his Spirit are adopted as sons and daughters of God. In short, the people of God are the family of God, and it matters how we express our life together as that family, in all areas of life.

So as with my role here in the Parish of Riverlinks, working with a team, and with a specific task related to Ministry Development of a **family church at St Oswald's**, our heart has been to grow a community that is an expression of this idea – the family of God, deeply connected to each other, deeply committed to each other, and growing together.

**This community will be 'High Invitation'** – that is, with a deep sense of belonging, welcoming and commitment – **as well as 'High Challenge'** – a place of growth, discipleship, stretching and mission.

Creating a space to honestly address questions of faith

Every family has a comfortable space in their home where family, friends and guests alike can sit and talk, exploring both everyday normality, and the richness and complexity of life. If you **haven't been up to St Oswald's in the last little** while, you may not have seen the transformation that has taken place in the top end of the Hall. The carpeted area has been filled with couches and comfortable seating, as well as the addition of a **children's corner**. Our goal with this area is to create a space that feels welcoming and comfortable.

A place where conversation is both normalised and natural.



Riverlinks  
Together

Sunday  
30<sup>th</sup> May

10:30am

@ St MM's  
George Town



They worshiped together ... and shared their meals with great joy and generosity, all the while praising God

Acts 2:46,47a NLT



Support the Freedom Bells For Asylum Seekers campaign in Australia by joining the community on Facebook



While it is absolutely true that it will take more than a few couches and some decent coffee to make this space a place where the sort of conversation that we hope for will take place, we are excited by the possibilities that this space invites. The feedback that we have received from both church members and the wider community has been very positive and we look forward to using this space to begin **our 'family' church.**

**You've been here a while now, what's been happening so far?**

Apart from the normal 'finding our feet', 'meeting new people' and 'getting our head around the life of Riverlinks Parish', **there have been a number of events that we have run through St Oswald's.**

**St Oswald's has joined the Freedom Bells Campaign, ringing our bell at 3:30pm on a Monday for ten minutes, joining with other churches to protest the Government's treatment of asylum seekers. It may not seem like much, however there has been**

positive feedback both in conversation with locals, and with a surprise message left on the blackboard in our hall. People appreciate that the church has a view on this matter and is participating in the public debate.

In the week leading up to Easter, we held a Passover style community feast. Here 50 people shared together in a meal, reflecting on the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples as recorded in the Gospels, and the institution of Communion. For the **St Oswald's team, this meal** showed us what is possible in terms of catering, bringing people together around food, working together as a team. We were very encouraged by the support we received, and the celebration that was enjoyed together. We also are now considering the place of community meals in our growth together as family, and how we can use them as a vehicle to reach into the community of Trevallyn.

On Easter Sunday we shared the story of Easter through

live storytelling and focused discussion, . Here 31 people shared together, discussed what the events of Easter were, what they meant, and began to reflect on what application this might have on our lives in 2015. While the numbers were small, the conversation was rich and the team were all greatly encouraged by what we saw and heard in the discussion groups.

On April 18, Naomi conducted a 'Crochet for a Cause' workshop, teaching a group of ladies how to crochet, and raising money for the Hamlin-Fistula organisation. This was the first workshop of its kind in Tasmania, the participants were excited by the space in which to learn, and expressed a desire for other c r o c h e t learning opportunities. Naomi has also been asked to run further workshops later in the year. As one friend commented to us, it is such a great way to bring people through the doors, in a way that is non-threatening, and invites them to view 'church' differently from how they may have previously done so.

Importantly, we have also been meeting as a team, to explore what our public gatherings will look like, to pray and worship together, to grow together as a team, and to ask the fundamental questions that will drive the shape of our community: What is God saying to us? And what are we going to do about it?

What is on the Horizon?

Leading up to Easter we advertised throughout Trevallyn that I was available for coffee and conversation for anyone who wanted to discuss questions of life and **faith. I will be at St Oswald's Hall every week from 1-4pm on a Monday and 9am-12pm on a Wednesday, and available should anyone want to meet and have a conversation over a good coffee.**

One of the opportunities that I was both keen to explore, and strongly encouraged by the team to put time and energy into, was connecting to Trevallyn Primary School. As of term 2, I will be working as a volunteer in the school

## Thoughts on Mothers

Mother is a verb, not a noun.

Proverb

If evolution really worked, how come mothers only have two hands?

Milton Berle

A mother is not a person to lean on, but a person to make leaning unnecessary.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

You can fool some of the people some of the time, **but you can't fool mum.**

Anon



A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He answered, 'Call for backup.'

Mother to daughter advice:  
Cook a man a fish and you feed him for a day.  
But teach a man to fish and you get rid of him for the whole weekend.

every Thursday, assisting in various programs such as Lego Robotics, and Drama. The timing of this opportunity has been simply amazing and I know an answer to a long term prayer investment. It is such a blessing to be able to connect with the school, and the families in the community through the school, and we are excited to see what God will do through this! We also hope through this connection to encourage the school to partner with us in Kids Hope Mentoring.

In the near future, every Monday morning there will be a playgroup run in the hall, with some directed craft activities, as well as free play and opportunity for parents and care givers to connect with each other and the members of our Parish who will be running things. There is already a small group of parents committed to being part of this and we are really excited to see what grows from it.

Launching a public Sunday gathering

One of the things that we have been committed to,

from the beginning of the process, is launching a regular Sunday gathering, reaching out to the community of Trevallyn, **through which the 'family' community we spoke of earlier might grow.** It's exciting to be able to share that these gatherings will begin on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May @ **10:30 am in the St Oswald's Hall.**

The shape of this gathering will, without doubt, solidify over time, but will include 3 key components:

A time of focus on God: Stepping out of the week that we have had and forgetting the week to come. In music, prayer, confession and sacrament, we will recognise our need of God, praise him for what he has done for us in Jesus Christ, and be still in his presence, as we worship and glorify our King.

A time of response to God: Declaring his praise, sharing stories of God at work in our lives and bringing before him our prayers, for each other, our community, the church and the world.

A time of listening to what

God is saying to us and asking what are we going to do about it: This time will look and feel different each week – it may involve direct preaching, bible study, discussion groups, drama or visual presentations. It may involve being active in mission together, or planning for and reflecting on missional opportunities as they present.

We are really excited to be opening the doors to a new season of worship gatherings **in St Oswald's and we look forward to seeing what God will do, in and through us in this community.** Please do share about this with people that you know, and invite them to either join with us on a Sunday morning, or to get to know some of the team as **St Oswald's.**

Josh

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I'VE REALLY ENJOYED OUR TIME TOGETHER TODAY ... WANNA MAKE THIS A REGULAR WEEKLY THING?

How you can pray for us:

- ❖ It has been a time of stretching and growth already for the team at **St Oswald's, and we know that God has only just begun this work in us for this season.** Pray for us as we take on new roles, as we step out of our comfort zones and as **we follow God's lead.** Pray for patience, for grace, for courage, and for wisdom
- ❖ Praise God for the opportunities that we have already shared together in, and pray that the seeds that have been planted in hearts and minds through those opportunities would sprout and grow
- ❖ **Pray for Josh's work with Trevallyn Primary** – that it will be fruitful and provide deep connection to the local community, as well as opening opportunities to share the love of God in Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Pray for the playgroup as it begins, especially that local families will connect with each other and us, and strong relationships will begin to form

If it's true that girls are inclined to marry men like their fathers, it is understandable why so many mothers cry at weddings

A six-year-old boy called his mother from his friend Charlie's house and confessed he had broken a lamp when he threw a football in their living room. "But, Mom," he said, brightening, "you don't have to worry about buying another one. Charlie's mother said it was irreplaceable."



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

George Town  
3 Anne St  
George Town  
0439 821 038

Hillwood  
Hall - Jetty Rd  
Hillwood

Low Head  
Low Head Rd  
Low Head

Peacehaven  
185 Penquite Rd  
Norwood

Pipers River  
School Rd  
Pipers River

Riverside  
399 West Tamar Hwy  
Riverside

Trevallyn  
34 Bain Tce  
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0409 799 419

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the clergy or the Anglican  
Church.

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



## Community Feast @ St O's



### 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