



Newsletter

July 2015

The heavens proclaim the glory of God.
The skies display his craftsmanship.

Psalm 19:1 NLT

Original photo: Jason Stephens

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



Greg Clarke
on breathtaking milestones

Prayers for changes within the Tasmanian Diocese

O God, our heavenly Father, who raised up your faithful servant John Harrower to be a bishop in your Church and to feed your flock: give abundantly to all bishops and other pastors the gifts of your Holy Spirit, so that they may minister in your household as true servants of Christ and stewards of your holy mysteries;

Things Really Do Change, Big Things

When I was a boy, I found it hard to imagine that anything much would change. Big things, I mean. It seemed that life carried on, one week to the next, with most elements remaining as they were. The cricket always returned in the summer; the footy in the winter. As it was, **so it ever shall be. I wasn't** fatalistic; I just felt that not much would change.

In part, this came from good Sunday Schooling. I had been taught well from the Bible that this world was passing, that the things that endure are invisible now, and Christian living is about **waiting on the Lord's return.** This world would continue on its godless journey, and eventually, eventually, God would renew all things. Then things would change.

But I only had half the story - perhaps even less than half of the biblical story.

In my teens and early twenties, I start to notice big changes happening. In 1983,

an Australian boat won the **America's Cup yacht race** - unthinkable! But rather more significant changes were afoot. In 1989 the Berlin Wall came down. I had stood at the wall in 1985 and **couldn't imagine how such a** division might be overcome. But it was. My TV showed me images of the hammers being taken to the wall. And, later, parts of it being sold on eBay.

In 1990, Nelson Mandela was released and, again on TV, I witnessed the beginning of the end of apartheid. Watching Mandela walk to freedom was like a dream. How could such a world view, with all of its political implications, be dismantled? Big change had happened.

Then in 2004, a ban was placed on smoking in Australian pubs. Again, unthinkable!

During this period my theology was catching up with my fresh observations of the world around me. I

started to understand the Bible's teaching on "the kingdom of God" a little better. I started to realise that the kingdom was advancing, which meant God was already at work changing things, preparing things, and we were part of that. Like second-time-round John the Baptists, we are preparing the way for the Lord's return. I started to say the Lord's Prayer differently, noticing that we prayed for God's will to be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Our prayer is that heaven would be brought to earth - and what a huge change that will make. And can make. And is making.

When I took up my post with the Bible Society in 2010, I saw more of these big things that God is doing. In my first week, someone said to me that they could imagine the Great Commission being fulfilled in their lifetime. In my cynicism, I took this as hyperbole, a way of encouraging me to think big and get on with things. But my encourager was just stating facts: he could really

see how every tribe and every nation would receive the food news.

Technology was making it happen faster, leaping over political and geographical boundaries. Global Bible agencies were overcoming their small internal concerns and working together to see **God's word spread. The was** Wycliffe Bible Translators state it is that by 2025 every language will have a Bible **translation underway. That's** breathtaking, and world changing.

And another big change impressed itself upon me. While the West agonises over scripture in public schools and the Ten Commandments on the walls of courts of law, the two-thirds world embraces the Scriptures and eagerly demands its input in all walks of life. In Africa, Asia and South America, enormous numbers of people are turning to Christ. Churches are exploding. Governments are affected. The Asian century might also be a Christian century.

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people.

Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth.

So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*continued
from
previous
page*

A Prayer for
those suffering
abuse

Loving God,
whose Son was
both victim
and victor,
we cry to you
for those who
suffer abuse,
especially ...

Be with them in
confusion and
pain. Heal the
wounds of body
and mind;
break open the
prisons of fear,
self-doubt and
despair;
and strengthen
them to face the
future with faith,
hope and
courage.

Enable us to
listen, to believe
and to love.
Reach out to
them with your
love,
that they may

It's not for me to be
prescriptive about how the
kingdom of God is advancing
except to say that, from my
limited vantage point, I can
see it in several areas. You
can probably see more from
where you stand.

But it has changed my mind
to believe that big things
change. Nations rise and fall;
hearts are transformed;

injustices can be overturned;
the Spirit of the Lord blows
where he will. And now is
the time of that change - not
just as we look for the Day,
but today.

Greg Clarke

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Doing More To Stop Domestic Violence

Today the burden of the
horror and tragedy of abuse,
especially child sexual abuse,
and domestic/ family
violence have descended
upon me. How I yearn for a
healthy Australia.

In my despair, I turn to the
God of Life who in the words
of this morning's collect is
the One who in love yearns
for us that we might live in
love for one another.

Words are so inadequate to
capture the heart, yet my
heart and mind crave to form
the turmoil and pain
and speak it out in plea and
passion to God while
straining for even the
barest glimmer of hope in
this darkness.

I turn to my prayer book and
ask, however inarticulately,
God to hear the deep
sentiments of my heart,
sentiments so embedded in
the prayer for abuse victims
from APBA.

In times of turmoil, I also turn
for words to express
something of my heart, to
Archbishop Oscar Romero's
prayer/ poem, *A Future Not
Our Own (also known as
'The Long View')*.
See www.bit.ly/1fCUHCW



Family Violence & Domestic Abuse Synod Motion:

Domestic Abuse/ Family Violence

That this Synod,

1. deploras the horrific levels of family violence in the Tasmanian Community,

2. grieves with those who have suffered the pain and trauma of any form of domestic abuse,

3. recognises that such abuse occurs within the Christian community and the congregations of the Diocese of Tasmania,

4. maintains that family violence is absolutely unacceptable in any circumstance, and

5. commits the Diocese of Tasmania to work to changing community values from those which allow this abuse to occur to those which foster respectful and safe relationships.

Further this Synod urges the Bishop to

1. further use the Office of the Bishop to raise awareness of family violence and all forms of domestic abuse,

2. ensure that copies of “Responding to domestic

abuse: Guidelines for those with pastoral responsibilities”, (Church of England, 2006*) and other suitable materials are made available to Anglican organisations and parishes (clergy, pastoral workers and members of Parish Council) within the Diocese of Tasmania to facilitate a culture of awareness in organisations, parishes and parish leadership, and seek responses from Anglican organisations and parishes on this material so that within 12 months a resource for the Tasmanian Church can be prepared thereby a) ensuring that clergy and pastoral workers are adequately equipped and resourced to respond to family violence and all forms of domestic abuse, b) implementing protocols and standards for pastoral, parochial and organisational responses to family violence and all forms of domestic abuse.

Find links to “Responding to domestic abuse: Guidelines for those with pastoral responsibilities (Church of England, 2006)”, as well as speeches by The Very Revd Richard Humphrey and the Governor of Tasmania at www.imaginarydiocese.org

be made whole in body, mind and spirit, through the healing touch of the suffering Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for those who abuse

Judge of all the earth,
God of justice,
we bring before you all who abuse others.
Turn the hearts of the violent from the way of evil.

Fill them with a hatred of the damage they do, so bringing them to true repentance and amendment of their lives, for Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen.

(From A Prayer Book for Australia, The Anglican Church of Australia 1995.)

Riverlinks

July 2015	
1st 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
2nd Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
3rd Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Re:Fuel – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town
4th Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton
5th Sun	Sea Sunday service – 2:30pm at GT Baptist Church Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
6th Mon	<i>(each Monday)</i> Child's Play at St O's
7th 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 in the Parish office (<i>recess 7th & 14th</i>) – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's
8th Wed	IRL Day Camp – 9:00am at George Town
9th Thur	IRL Day Camp – 9:00am at George Town Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm

July 2015	
10th Fri	Community Festival for Peace
11th Sat	OCC Launch – 10:00am at Punchbowl CC
12th Sun	Community Festival for Peace
13th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
14th Tue	
15th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
16th Thur	PresCare Legana – 10:45am Chaplaincy Luncheon – 12:00pm at St MM's George Town
17th Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town
18th Sat	Bishop John's Christian Voices in Public Places Seminar – 9:30am at St Aidan's
19th Sun	
20th Mon	
21st Tue	Bishop's Q&A evening – 7:30pm at St Oswald's

The deadline for the August Newsletter edition is 27th July

Calendar

July 2015	
22 nd Wed	
23 rd Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
24 th Fri	
25 th Sat	Tasmanian Bible Forum – 9:30am at St George's, Battery Point
26 th Sun	CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at Baptist Church
27 th Mon	
28 th Tue	
29 th Wed	
30 th Thur	
31 st Fri	
1 st Aug Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton



SORRY, SON... THERE'S NO APP FOR THAT

August and other dates 2015	
30 th August	Riverlinks Together @ St Aidan's
12 th - 18 th October	Seniors Week in Riverlinks 14 October: Healing service, lunch and Minds Matter Q&A with Dr George Razay 15 October: Card Making demonstration 16 October: Information on Dementia - don't forget to come! (lunch included)
14 th - 16 th October	Clergy Conference

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
5 th	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
12 th	10:00 am	Communion	
19 th	10:00 am	Inclusive Service with Bishop John	
26 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
5 th	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Morning Prayer Communion
12 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
19 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion ABU Comb Service
26 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
5 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 @ St O's
12 th	10:00 am 11:00 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Praise & Worship Contact Josh 0438 681404
19 th	10:00 am 11:00 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Contact Josh 0438 681404
26 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 @ St O's
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
12 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
19 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
26 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

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

Bishop John's
Christian Voices in
Public Places Seminar



Saturday 18 July
St Aidan's Church,

East Launceston
9.30am to 3.30pm

Please bring your lunch

Chaplaincy Lunch

Thursday July 16th, 12 noon

St Mary Magdalene's Church
George Town

\$10 per head

Funds raised for School Chaplaincy
in George Town

*Help with catering and on the day
would be appreciated*

Contact Trish 0400 675362

**OPERATION
CHRISTMAS
CHILD**



LAUNCESTON & MEANDER VALLEY

Launch 2015

Saturday 11 July
10:00 - 11:00am

Punchbowl Christian Centre

RSVP to Josie 6334 1852 or
markandjosie@internode.on.net
by 8 July

A playgroup for parents
& caregivers of children
birth - 5 years



Mondays 9.30-11am

@ St Oswald's Church Hall
Bain Terrace, Trevallyn

\$2 per family per week



Further information contact
Naomi - 0417681022



Q&A @ St O's with Bishop John

Tuesday 21 July
from 7:30pm
with coffee & cake

@ St Oswald's Hall
Bain Tce, Trevallyn

Jesus said: I have come to give life ...

what if there's more to life than this...?

Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th July
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Anglican Church in George Town
(3 Anne St, George Town)

Lots of real life creative activities and games
Free BBQ lunch on Thursday from 1:00-2:00
Cost for the day camp - Free!
Bring your own morning tea each day
Call 8327 4742 to register

IRL

Pray Through Ramadan



The month of Ramadan (18 June - 17 July 2015) Every year, Muslims around the world fast and pray throughout the month of Ramadan - the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.

While Islamic Extremism is one of the key drivers of persecution for Christians around the world, the church is growing in countries with predominately Muslim populations.

As Muslims all around the world observe Ramadan, let us pray that the Christians living in these countries would be strengthened and encouraged.

Let us also thank God for bringing so many Muslims to Christ, and pray that during Ramadan this year, many Muslims would find Jesus.

Each day of Ramadan, we are urging Christians to pray

During this season, we can be praying for two things:

1. Strength for Christians living in Muslim countries

Pray for Christians in Muslim

countries at this time of increased pressure and persecution. During Ramadan, pray for strength, encouragement, wisdom and protection for our brothers and sisters who confess Jesus as Lord.

2. During this time Jesus will reveal himself to many Muslims

For Muslims at this time of truth seeking and commitment to devotion. Pray that God will continue to reveal himself to Muslims through visions, dreams, miracles and Christian witness; that they may come to know Christ as the only way to eternal life.

A free prayer calendar with specific prayer points is available from the Parish office or download a copy from **Open Doors'** website.

May prayer to us be a necessity

May prayer be the very air we breathe

May prayer be a delight

May prayer become as necessary and natural to us as it did to Jesus!





Helping Children Benefit From The Sermon

Erik Raymond is the senior pastor of Emmaus Bible Church in Omaha, Nebraska USA. He and his wife Christie have six children

This article first appeared at www.thegospelcoalition.org



Who makes the best detective - Sherlock Holmes or a tax accountant? The tax accountant - they make more deductions

As a pastor I often get the question, **“Do you have any advice for helping my kids to benefit from the sermon?”**

This is a question that I really appreciate because it recognizes the importance of the preaching of the Word of God and our reception of it. It recognizes that even the children are to hear, and to best of their ability, understand what is being preached.

What follows are some things that I have done as a Dad and also as a pastor.

Parents before the Sermon

Read the Passage as a family before Sunday morning. This is easy and so very important. They hear the passage read by Dad or Mom and see your commitment to the Word of God. This goes further than you can imagine.

- Ask and answer questions about the passage. As you read it ask questions that help them to see connections and other important features
- Highlight key theme
- Make particular notes about the context. A good study Bible is helpful here

Pray for the pastor and those who will gather in the morning. After reading take some time to pray for the pastor and the service. Beg God to showcase the beauty of Christ and strengthen **people’s confidence in the Bible.**

Ask the kids (especially the little one) to *listen for one key point.* If they can hear one thing and really get it then you are winning.

Pray before you leave the car. After driving to church take a brief moment to pray as a family. Pray that you would hear, heed and love **God’s Word.**

Parents during the Sermon

It is very important to not only train your kids to sit **“still and quiet”** but also to be attentive to the preaching of the Bible. As parents we **don’t simply want well** behaved quiet kids but rather Bible loving, gospel saturated, promise claiming, world changing, kids. This starts with preaching.

- Provide the kids with paper, pencil, and a Bible.
- Restate important things during the sermon.

- Point to verses in their Bible.
- Smile **–don't just give them the stink-eye, it's not a root-canal!**
- Be engaged yourself. You undo all of your work if you are nodding off, checking Facebook, or the scores of the game.

Parents after the Sermon

- Look at their notes (or doodles).
- Ask follow-up questions.
- Help to make personal application.
- Pray for gospel growth.

Pastors before the Sermon

- Provide the sermon text a few days in advance. I know this is extra work, but I have found it to be very much worth it. We post the outline and text a few days before Sunday and encourage folks to read and prepare (here is an e.g.: bit.ly/1QQVRLG).
- Provide the sermon outline in advance. See above.
- **Highlight some “words for kids.” In one sermon you might note: “Holiness, Endure, Discipline” in another it may be “Grace, Sin, Faith.” You get the picture.**
- Pray for the children and

young people in your church.

Pastors during the sermon

- Remember that you are preaching to a wide variety of people, including young people. This helps in preparation and prayer.
- Address them. Recently I tried to make a point that all of the promises of God are fulfilled in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20). I talked about how they were tied to his finger so to speak. I used the example of Curious George having all of the balloons on his finger and all of the promises, like balloons are connected to Christ. As he goes so go the promises. Adults may laugh but kids seemed to get it.
- Try to make big points sticky. We can say things a lot of different ways. If you can put your point on something they already do (Lego, Elsa, sports, heroes, etc) then you are helping them to understand.

There are many other things you could do, but this is just a list of items that we have found helpful in our family and church.

Erik Raymond

A man was driving along the road when all of a sudden he has to swerve to avoid a box falling off the lorry in front. Seconds later a policeman pulled him over for reckless driving. As the policeman starting writing the ticket he noticed the box was full of nails and tacks. "I had to serve or I'd have run over those and blown my tyres!" protested the driver. "OK", replied the officer, ripping up the ticket, "but I'm still bringing you in." "What for?!" retorted the man "Tacks evasion", answered the policeman.



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21-23 Arthur St
East Launceston
0438 378 233

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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

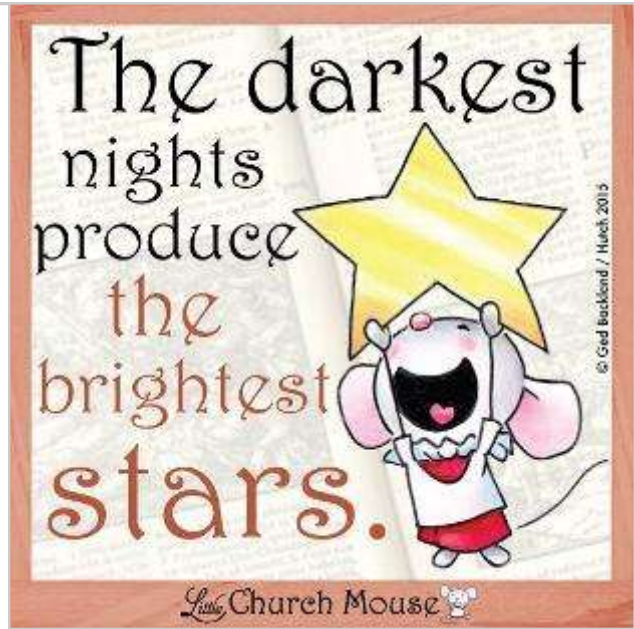
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Thanks to Anonymous

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OF COURSE MY SHAMPOOS, CONDITIONERS,
LOTIONS, STYLINGS, AND SCALP MASSAGES
ARE LEGIT DEDUCTIONS ... I'M SAMSON!

Contact us:

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6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au

Children & Young Families Ministry

6327 3482 kids_families@riverlinks.net.au

Website

www.riverlinks.net.au