



riverlinks

Newsletter

April 2016



God makes everything happen at the right time,
Yet none of us can ever fully understand all he has done,
and he puts questions in our minds about the past and the future.

I know the best thing we can do is to always enjoy life,
because God's gift to us is the happiness we get
from our food and drink and from the work we do.

Everything God has done will last forever;
nothing he does can ever be changed.
God has done all this, so that we will worship him.

Ecclesiastes 3: 11 - 14 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



Exercising power in the way of Jesus

Wise Words

At the heart of sin is the letter “I”

God gives his best to those who leave the choice to Him

Are you too busy acting like a Christian to be one?

Average is as close to the bottom as it is to the top

As I sit down to write, we have just recently heard that our Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, has announced that he will bring the Parliament back to Canberra for an extraordinary session to consider legislation that has already been rejected by the Senate. He has threatened the Senate that, if it fails to pass these bills, he will hold a double-dissolution election on 2 July this year.

This announcement demonstrates to me what we understand, in a worldly sense, of how power works, and how to exercise it. The exercise of power in our society is about being able to clearly articulate what you want, and to push through all the obstacles to get what you want. It is a process that removes people who stand in the way (and could actually hinder your program!), or that ignores opposition that **is powerless to stop you**. I'll add here, of course, that the way in which this power is exercised in our country is usually pretty benign,

compared with some places. Those opposed to the current LNP government and its policies may face the loss of employment or advancement, but are unlikely to face threats to life or limb.

In the world, then, exercising power is about a display of **strength that advances one's own agenda**.

Yet at Easter, what we see is a very different kind of power at work. When we reflect on the work of Jesus on the Cross, it is really important **that we don't buy into the cultural myths about the crucifixion**. The crucifixion is not about what happens when a truly good man is beset by evil. It is not about an example of powerlessness. It is not about weakness turned to strength, or even about defeat turned to victory!

The Cross is about Jesus using power, exercised through *meekness*, for the benefit of those he loves, even while they are his enemies (Romans 5:6-8).

Let's be absolutely clear that Jesus wielded power throughout the experience of Holy week and the crucifixion. He was adored by the crowds when he entered Jerusalem. He challenged the temple authorities about **their misuse of God's house**, and those same authorities were left in impotent anger. He spoke and enacted judgment on Jerusalem, in many of the parables and teachings that he gave in that last week, as well as in the famous cursing of the fig tree. Even at his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus **refers to his power: 'Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen this way?'** (Matt 26:53-54). Jesus was in control – powerful – throughout the whole of this time, including during his trial, torture and death.

But Jesus' power is often overlooked because we confuse his *meekness* with *weakness*. They are not the same thing. We all

understand weakness – it is the absence of strength, the inability to do something, or to bring about a result. But meekness is strength controlled. It is a decision to refrain from using power to advance our own agenda. The word that underlies this idea in the original language is the same one that is used to describe a tamed animal. A horse might be tamed, but we would be foolish to regard it as powerless.

No, Jesus' actions throughout his trial, torture and death were the actions of a powerful man – our powerful God – refraining from exercising his power, because that restraint is what brought about his victory and our salvation. Paul puts it like this in Colossians 2:13-15:

¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

In order to understand God, you must stand under God

Need an expert's opinion?
Pray

Eternity is a long time to think about what you should have done

He who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else

If you think being meek is weak, try being meek for a week

continued
from
previous
page

¹⁵ *He disarmed the rulers
and authorities and made
a public example of them,
triumphing over them in it.*

God and Jesus are active throughout. They are exercising power the whole time, but it is a power that is cloaked in meekness, gentleness and humility.

If money did grow on trees, autumn would be the best season ever!

It's so strange that autumn is so beautiful, but everything is really dying

As we reflect on Jesus' death and resurrection this Easter, and in the weeks following, it is worthwhile reflecting on what we can learn of his ways, and how that might translate into our own way of doing things. The church through history has tried the way of worldly power, and it has consistently drawn her from Jesus' path, and ensnared her in evil, suffering and shame. We do not need to look further back than the recent hearings of the Royal

Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse to see the damage and suffering that worldly power can inflict. In many parts of the world, not least in the US and Australia, the church is again tempted to pursue worldly power – often by motives to defend the family or morality or our Christian western way of life. We should be deeply suspicious of these calls, that would pursue a potentially godly end by worldly means.

As we endeavour to follow our Lord and Saviour more closely, as we try to make his ways our ways, we need to be ever mindful to exercise our own power as he would – through humility, gentleness and meekness.

James



Prison Fellowship

Ray Metcalfe from Prison Fellowship was the guest speaker at the CCCGT service in February.

Ray shared about his ministry which began when his friend was incarcerated in NSW. He began volunteering with Prison Fellowship there and continued when he moved to Tasmania, befriending inmates and witnessing to the Gospel through his life and care for those he met.

Prison Fellowship volunteers minister to inmates by caring, visiting & praying for and with them as requested. They are helping to transform, restore and reconcile lives in our community.

Prison Fellowship not only cares for inmates, but also ex-offenders & their families throughout the State.

Offering of \$163 on the day was donated to Prison Fellowship for their Camp For Kids programme.

You can participate in this ministry by:

Volunteering - join Prison Fellowship's ministry to inmates, ex-inmates, and victims of crime. For more info go to www.prisonfellowship.org.au

Praying - commit to uphold prison ministry in your prayers

Donating - enable prison ministry by providing much needed funds



Autumn is a season for big decisions - like whether or not it's too late to start spring cleaning

Autumn - time to drag out your winter clothes and see what kind of summer fun the moths had

I got tired of looking at all those leaves in my yard, so I got up off the couch and went into action. I closed the curtains

Riverlinks

April 2016	
1st 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 – 6:00pm at George Town
2nd Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton Mission-Shaped Ministry Taster – 10:00am at St Aidan's
3rd Sun	Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
4th Mon	<i>(each Monday)</i> Child's Play – 9:30am at St O's
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 in the Parish office – 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	
9th Sat	

April 2016	
9th Sat	
10th Sun	
11th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
12th Tue	
13th Wed	
14th Thur	Understanding Yourself, Understanding Others – 7:00pm at St O's (Week 1 of 3) Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
15th Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town
16th Sat	
17th Sun	
18th Mon	
19th Tue	
20th Wed	Ainslie Service – 2:15pm

The deadline for the May Newsletter edition is 25th April

Calendar

April 2016	
21 st Thur	PresCare Legana – 10:45am Understanding Yourself, Understanding Others – 7:00pm at St O's
22 nd Fri	
23 rd Sat	
24 th Sun	CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at the Baptist Church
25 th Mon	*** ANZAC Day ***
26 th Tue	
27 th Wed	
28 th Thur	Understanding Yourself, Understanding Others – 7:00pm at St O's
29 th Fri	
30 th Sat	

May and other dates 2016	
29 th May	Riverlinks Together at George Town
3 rd & 4 th June	SYNOD at Tailrace Centre, Riverside

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
3 rd	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
10 th	10:00 am	Communion	
17 th	10:00 am	All In Service	
24 th	9:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
3 rd	9:00 am	Hillwood	Communion
	9:00 am	Pipers River	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
10 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Baptism
17 th	9:00 am	Pipers River	Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	ABU Service	Uniting Church
24 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
3 rd	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
	10:30 am	Trevallyn	10.30 Worship @ St O's
10 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
	10:30 am	Trevallyn	10.30 Oikos @ St O's
17 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
	10:30 am	Trevallyn	10.30 Oikos @ St O's
24 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
	10:30 am	Trevallyn	10.30 Worship @ St O's
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
10 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
17 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
24 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
25 th	10:00 am	ANZAC Day Memorial Service	



He is
Risen!
HE IS RISEN
INDEED!

Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office
399 West Tamar Hwy, Riverside - 6324 0039 office@riverlinks.net.au

Understanding Yourself



Understanding Others

Based on the MBTI® this short course will help you to value your uniqueness and better understand your strengths and weaknesses. It will assist you in communicating more effectively with many different types of people.

7pm Thurs 14th /21st /28th April at St Oswald's Hall

Cost: \$15

Further details contact Cathy or Norman Lawrence:
Ph 6334 1130 or norman.lawrence@hotmail.com

Pete Woodcock is coming all the way from the UK to speak at this year's **Men's Bible Conference** which will be held on Saturday 16 July at the Branch

SAVE THE DATE and start inviting your friends to this year's conference because you won't want to miss it!

Grief to Grace will be having their national conference in Hobart from 30th - 31st May



The conference will be looking at abuse, trauma, and how they affect the brain.

For more details contact info@griegtogracesaus.org.au or contact the Parish office for a registration brochure

mission-shaped ministry taster

@ St Aidan's
21 Arthur Street
East Launceston



2nd April

9:30 for 10am - 4pm

- worship
- presentations
- interaction
- lunch
- good coffee (& tea!)

- Meet the Northern Ministry Network Team
- Get a feel for what's possible
- Set some priorities for your Parish
- Bring a team to meet the team

ANZAC Day Memorial Service
10:00am
Monday 25th April
at Peace Haven, Norwood



New Bishop told, “You need a Bible”

Celebrating the arrival of a new church leader is usually an occasion for politeness. But when Tasmanian Anglicans got a new Bishop (regional leader) this week, he was given a very direct set of instructions. They are worth reading by Christians in all parts of Australia, and whatever brand of Christianity you follow.

“But Richard, at this point, you are here to listen, and what fun it is to be able to preach to you, when you are not allowed to interrupt, object, or walk out!” said Peter Adam, who used to run Melbourne’s Ridley College, to Richard Condie, stepping up to lead Tasmania’s Anglicans. **“It is a rare and thoroughly enjoyable treat.”**

As at most services for new church leaders, there is a heap of promises to be made. Adam summarised them in one line: **“A Bishop without a Bible is no Bishop at all.”** But added: **“And it is not enough to use the Bible in the liturgy, if you don’t preach from it. It is not enough to have learnt the message of the Bible, and not continue to study and learn from it. It should be a book**

which is old, but always new; familiar but always strange; known, but always giving us new and deeper revelations **of God and his ways.”**

Adam promised to pursue Condie throughout his ministry with some key questions of his own.

“Questions I will ask you at regular intervals for the rest of your ministry:

- Do you still trust the Scriptures?
- Are you still studying the Scriptures, and learning at ever deeper levels as you study?
- How long is it since your reading of the Scriptures changed the way you live or do your ministry?
- Are you using the Scriptures in your preaching, not merely as a launching pad for the rocket of your own ideas, but as the substance, content and purpose of your preaching and for the substance of your application?
- Are you using the Scriptures in all other parts of your ministry: in counselling, evangelism, in pastoral conversations, and as the guide to your leadership and wider ministries?
- Are you giving God the microphone in your teaching and preaching, by projecting **God’s eloquent words in the Bible?**



To read the full article visit www.biblesociety.org.au/eternitynews

John Sandeman - Bible Society 22/03/16

Claire VanRyn

*First published
in The
Examiner
Newspaper for
Keeping the
Faith column*

The LORD is
King!
Tell the earth to
celebrate
and all islands
to shout.

Dark clouds
surround him,
and his throne
is supported
by justice and
fairness.

Psalm
97: 1,2 CEV

Look at the Beautiful Clouds

Have you noticed the clouds? **Seems they've been** particularly spectacular of late.

Were you a neighbour you might have seen me standing precariously on a rickety bench seat on the deck, neck craned to watch the cloud formations as they balloon and morph in a moody panorama.

There are those sweet little fluffy white ones, the kind in **children's books, harmless as** a bunny loping in the sun.

There are the clouds that multiply into an expansive pattern, repeated like ripples in sand stretching out ad infinitum.

And (my favourite), there are the clouds that growl. They have steely edges and are backlit to give the illusion of added dimensions. Crispest white is contrasted with rumbling grey, deep and violent against a passive blue backdrop. Can you picture them? Billowing, curling like meringue, and dramatic as the stage makeup for a Broadway show.

I balance there, watching the performance, snapping a few pics with my SLR even while sensing the impending disappointment – because my awe always outstrips my technical know-how with a camera.

I learnt that there is such a thing as the Cloud Appreciation Society with a membership approaching 40,000 people who believe **that, "clouds are unjustly maligned."** **"We pledge to fight 'Blue-Sky Thinking' wherever we find it.** Life would be dull if we had to look up at cloudless **monotony day after day," the society's manifesto reads.**

You had no idea that such strong sentiment existed for a bit of cumulous, right? Me too, but I found myself agreeing, especially about the Blue-Sky Thinking bit.

BST exists beyond the atmospheric. Like every time **I'm miffed when something** clouds my tidy plans. When **I'm frustrated by delays,** inconvenience, setbacks, hurdles and so on. I mean, **doesn't God have my script?**

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 gives some perspective to BST:

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

A relationship with God is not a free pass to a blue sky life. **God doesn't make promises** to smooth out our future, to ensure an easy ride. **Life's** tough. Rarely is there a completely cloud-free day. Always, little wafts of discontent thread into the blue and threaten to boil into a full-blown storm. And **sometimes it's completely** out of our control.

Yet, such beauty.

Give me a moody, cloud-pocked sky over the idyllic flatness of blue any day. As in nature, so in



humanity, the clouds – the tough, traumatic, heartbreaking times – create an inexplicable beauty. Beauty wrought through pain.

A few weeks ago I sat in the hospital beside my grandmother. She was dying, we both knew it.

Our hands were clasped and she rocked my hand in her timeworn one, the stories of a lifetime etched there. As I sat in the quiet, it hurt to see my robust Ma so reduced. This was Ma, whose suffocating bear hugs were legendary amongst us cousins, who taught us to dunk our Vegemite toast in our tea and whose faith was a legacy recognised by organisations including Gideons and Scripture Union.

The room was perfumed with flowers for her birthday the day before, and she rocked my hand and tried to speak.

“I love you, I love you, I love you,” Ma said, before I slipped out of the ward. The last words she said to me.

See, aren't the clouds exquisite?

God gathers moisture into the clouds and supplies us with rain.

Who can understand how God scatters the clouds and speaks from his home in the thunderstorm?

And when God sends lightning, it can be seen at the bottom of the sea.

By producing such rainstorms, God rules the world and provides us with food.

Job
36:27-31 CEV

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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

Peace Haven
185 Penquite Rd
Norwood

Pipers River
School Rd
Pipers River

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