



Newsletter

June 2016

I will bless my people and their
homes around my holy hill.
And in the proper season I will send
the showers they need.
There will be showers of blessing.

Ezekiel 34:26 ^{NLT}

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



A life on display, but not on the shelf

As a younger man, it might shock you to hear this, but I thought I knew it all. I thought that I had figured out what my life would look like, how many kids I'd have, what job I'd spend my life doing, when I'd retire and in what manner I would become accustomed to living. And like so many first time parents, when my eldest first came along I was absolutely certain that I didn't just know what *sort* of parent I wanted to be. I knew exactly how I was going to raise **my** child. And, like any young married couple, my wife and I had been given, had bought, and had inherited some nice things, precious things, things that held value to us which we of course displayed and used and had all over the house.

Now when a baby is first born, they don't really do much. They sort of lie there and look at you, they eat and they go to sleep. Then they start to interact a bit, maybe play with some toys, giggle, gurgle, eat and sleep. Then they start to move... rolling, shuffling, crawling... and it was at about this point that

friends or maybe our parents would look at the house and say: "You're going to have to move some of these things", "It won't be long until she's reaching up for them", "You're going to need to move these precious things to a higher shelf".

Of course, being wise, and knowing all there was to know about parenting we replied with the obvious: well, yes, that's one way of dealing with things, but you know, another way is to teach her the boundaries and what she can and can't touch. How long do you reckon it was before we started to move things to higher shelves? I don't think we even lasted a week once she started moving.

At one level this was just wisdom, those precious trinkets, photos gifts that



Wise Words

The only person you should try to be better than is the person you were yesterday



Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps if **you're not** willing to move your feet

held sentimental value, well they could all go up there on the shelf, on display, but out of reach. But there were other things that didn't belong on the shelf: things that only had value when they were accessible, when they were able to be touched, smelt, or used as they were intended to be. Up on the shelf they might look good, but in reality they didn't get us anywhere.

The same is meant to be true of our faith, and our life as Jesus disciples. It is something that is meant to be special to us, valued and treasured. It is meant to be visible, on display and seen, but it's not meant to be put up on the shelf out of the way. As disciples of Jesus our life, our faith, what Jesus means to us, what his life means in us is meant to be tangible, touchable, close enough to be seen, tasted and imitated.

In the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 5 as Jesus is teaching his disciples what it means to be a disciple, and what life in the kingdom of God looks like, he tells them that they are to be Salt and Light. Jesus uses salt as an illustration, and we don't



have to work the image very hard to see why. For centuries salt has been used to preserve, and to preserve means to prevent corruption. Salty disciples will work to make the earth purer, they will work against the corruption of our nature, and of our flesh, they will work against the decay of sin.

Another thing that salt does is give flavour. Now whether you prefer just a pinch, or a little pile on your plate salt has a way of bringing out the best in food - it makes things more palatable, more vibrant. Salt used well TRANSFORMS the bland into something special.

For us as disciples that means we are not meant to be drab or insipid in our following of Christ. We should sparkle, we should be obvious, we should transform the world around us, not out of anything that is "us", but

Love is the only thing that can be divided without being diminished



Courage is fear that has said its prayers



Make others happy wherever you go, not whenever you go



Better saved than sorry



Be the labour great or small, do it well or not at all

*continued
from
previous
page*

Temper gets
you into
trouble.

Pride keeps
you there



*Do you take
after your
Father?*



*There is no
right way to
do a wrong
thing*



Do your best
and let Jesus
do the rest

because we have something amazing and special to share!

Finally, salt is a metaphor for wisdom and in the original Greek: the term “to lose its flavour” was an idiom that meant to become foolish. The greatest wisdom, the greatest and most fabulous truth has been revealed to us. It is ours to share: the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. If we change it, if we forget it, if we lose it, we lose our saltiness – we become foolish. And a foolish disciple will have no influence on the world.

Jesus also says, you are the light of the world. Light can be a warning: like the light in a lighthouse. Light can bring hope and security: like the warm glow of a campfire in a dark wood or the light of the windows of home through a foggy street. Light can be an attraction: like a neon sign, or perhaps even a bug zapper. Light can be a guide: light a torch on a path, or a

streetlight on the road, or a flare when seeking someone that is lost.

These are powerful and evocative images. It doesn't take too much imagination to be able to connect dots and see the life of a disciple: speaking warning, bringing hope, being attractive, guiding.

Far more fundamentally though, at its most basic, what light does is stand out from the darkness. It is visibly different from what is around it, and it effects its immediate environment by being distinctive from it. Disciples of Jesus are called to be visibly different from the darkness AND influence the darkness: clear the darkness, transform the darkness, by shining our light. A secret disciple, one that nobody knows is a disciple of Jesus, who is no different from anybody else around them, who lives, thinks, talks, acts, responds, worries, fights, just like everybody else is useless. It's like a torch under a bowl. The imperative that Jesus places on his disciples here is to shine: let your light shine before others, and we can



only do that when we are first illuminated by him. The gospel of John tells us that Jesus is the light of the world, in him there is no darkness and in Acts 13 we read that this was gifted to the disciples when Jesus said to them: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

As we are transformed by his Spirit, as we live the lives that he has called us to, then we can reflect the light of Christ into our world and we will stand out. As I’ve already said, this isn’t just about being visible and up on the shelf. Our faith is meant to be public, and really importantly, it is meant to be imitate-able. And this is something that the Apostle Paul talks about often in his writings:

1 Cor. 11:1: “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

Phil. 3:17: “Brothers, join in imitating me. . . .”

Phil 4:9: “What you have learned and received and heard and seen *in me*—practice these things.”

2 Thess. 3:7-9: “For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us.”

In 1 Corinthians, we read: “For though you have countless guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. *I urge you, then, be imitators of me.*”

In this passage, Paul makes intentional use of the terms guardians in Christ, juxtaposed against “Fathers in Christ”. Because in the culture of the day what happened was this: Children, as they grew up, would be sent to school, given to guardians or pedagogues and they would be educated in the classics, taught the essential basics of life, art, literacy, etc. Then, when they reached age, they would be apprenticed. For the rich ones, this would be a matter of choice, but for the vast majority of children, they would be apprenticed to their parents. Daughters would receive a domestic education from their mothers and boys would receive it from their fathers. They would do this, by literally standing at the shoulders of their parents. Where they went, what they did, who they spoke to, how they

Too much complaining leaves little time for doing



A Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't



A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on



Few burdens are heavy when everybody lifts

You are like salt for everyone on earth. But if salt no longer tastes like salt, how can it make food salty? All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on.

You are like light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lampstand, where it can give light to everyone in the house.

Matthew
5:13-15 CEV

spoke, how much time they dedicated to tasks, the list is really endless. The child would see *exactly* what the parent's pattern of life was.

Paul says: you've had these *guardians*, these pedagogues in the faith. They have been able to teach you about the faith and give you information. But what you need is a *parent* in the faith. You need someone whose shoulder you can stand at, who you can imitate in their Christian walk - Eat, drink, sleep, walk, talk with, pray with, see how they make their decisions, how they completely live their life as disciples of Jesus.

Interestingly Paul doesn't say, "So I'll be there next week, pick me up at the station". Instead, he says to the Corinthian church, "I'm sending Timothy to you", because Paul knew that Timothy had stood at his shoulder long enough, to see what Paul's whole life as a disciple looked like. Paul trusted that whatever it was Timothy modelled to the Corinthians it would be consistent with Paul's life, and his teachings about the Christian life.

Who is close enough to you to see your life in this way? And, what is it that they see?

This was brought home very strongly to me just recently as I took Lachlan to see the football. It may shock you to hear that I am a vocal and passionate person, and at the football, believe me when I tell you, this is *very* evident. In fact it is so evident that my wife flat out refuses to go to the football with me because apparently I'm quite embarrassing. Now for many years, this passion and vocalising at the football looked pretty much like what you see in every other supporter. Swearing, abusing, screaming... in hindsight, I guess I can see Naomi's point. But taking Lachlan the other week, I was very conscious and asking myself: *what is it that Lachlan is seeing in my behaviour? What am I modelling for him? What do those in the seats around me see? Do they see*



Jesus in me, or just some other lout at the footy who thinks the whole world needs to hear his opinions on the veracity of various umpiring decisions, and individual umpires capacities to truly understand the nuance of the game?

Each of us as disciples of Jesus, are called to be salt and light. We are not meant to blend in and lose our saltiness and we're not meant to hide our light so we don't offend anybody. As disciples of Jesus we are called to be tasted and to be seen in our world we are meant to be distinctive and we are meant to stand out. We are called to work to transform our world with the gospel, with the light of Christ, to stand out, to be different, to live differently and make a difference.

Our faith should be personal, public, and present. Not up on the shelf out of reach but available. Close enough that people can truly see what a difference Jesus makes in our lives, and not just as we meet together on a weekend, but completely, in all areas of our lives.

You are the salt of the earth.

You are the light of the world.

You are called to live your life on display, to invite others to imitate you as you imitate Christ.

So I exhort you, as Jesus did let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Josh



Each Monday Bishop Richard Condie emails prayer and praise points to the Parishes. If you would like to receive these updates please contact the Parish office and Anne will arrange for them to be forwarded to you

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



Riverlinks

June 2016	
1 st Wed	<p><i>(each Wednesday)</i> Men's Shed – 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Riverside Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's</p> <p>Leprosy Mission Lunch – 11:30am at All Saints Exeter <i>(no Healing service today)</i></p>
2 nd Thur	<p><i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's</p>
3 rd Fri	<p><i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Re:Fuel – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston</p> <p>Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town SYNOD – 9:45am at Tailrace Centre, Riverside</p>
4 th Sat	<p>Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton SYNOD – 8:30am at Tailrace Centre, Riverside</p>
5 th Sun	<p>Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's</p>
6 th Mon	<p><i>(each Monday)</i> Child's Play – 9:30am at St O's Cadorna – 2:00pm</p>
7 th Tue	<p><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</p>
8 th Wed	<p><i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St David's</p>

June 2016	
9 th Thur	<p>Bass/Lyons Electorate Forum – 7:00pm in the Launceston Town Hall Reception Room</p>
10 th Fri	<p>Share Jesus Without Fear training sessions – 7:00pm at Gateway Baptist over 4 weeks</p>
11 th Sat	<p>Share Jesus Without Fear training sessions – 9:30am at Gateway Baptist over 4 weeks</p>
12 th Sun	<p>Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm</p>
13 th Mon	<p>*** Queen's Birthday Holiday ***</p>
14 th Tue	
15 th Wed	<p>St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm</p>
16 th Thur	<p>PresCare Legana – 10:45am</p>
17 th Fri	<p>Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town</p>
18 th Sat	<p>LMST & PC Retreat</p>
19 th Sun	
20 th Mon	

The deadline for the July Newsletter edition is 27th June

Calendar

June 2016	
21 st Tue	
22 nd Wed	
23 rd Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Chaplaincy Lunch – 12:00pm at St MM's G'Town
24 th Fri	
25 th Sat	
26 th Sun	CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at Cornerstone Church
27 th Mon	
28 th Tue	
29 th Wed	
30 th Thur	
1 st July Fri	
2 nd July Sat	Federal Election Polling Day

July and other dates 2016	
10 th July	Sea Sunday Service – 2:30pm at the Catholic Church, George Town
16 th July	Mens Bible Conference at the Branch
31 st July	Riverlinks Together – 10:00am at St Aidan's, East Launceston

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
5 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
12 th	10:00 am	Communion	
19 th	10:00 am	All In Service	
26 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
5 th	9:00 am	Hillwood	Communion
	9:00 am	Pipers River	Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
12 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
19 th	9:00 am	Pipers River	Communion
	10:30 am	ABU Service	Baptist Church
26 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
5 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
	10:30 am	Trevallyn	10.30 Worship @ St O's
12 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
	10:30 am	Trevallyn	10.30 Oikos @ St O's
19 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
	10:30 am	Trevallyn	10.30 Conversations Café @ St O's
26 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			
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 - 6324 0039 office@riverlinks.net.au

Sewing Day

The annual sewing day was held at St Mary Magdalene's in George Town on Saturday 30th April.

The purpose of this yearly event is to sew drainage bags for Cancer patients at both Launceston General and St Vincent's hospitals. These bags add to the comfort of the ladies and compassion in knowing others care for them.

We make 3 different styles - single, double and a larger flat bag for different needs on the wards. We add a few men's colours too as these are also used for men at LGH who may require drainage bags.

This year we had 10 ladies sewing and 1 folding the bags and inserting little gift tags. 3 of the ladies represented the local Lions Club whilst others are friends, most ex Chat'n'Do.

On Saturday we completed 262 bags, this really amazed me as I didn't expect we would get through so many...3 friends help me cut out the bags and make the straps and loops in the

month prior to our sewing day so that when we all get together for a day of sewing and fellowship it makes for easy, productive sewing.

This week I will deliver 330 bags between both hospitals and I know that they will be overwhelmed and happy to receive them on behalf of the patients. I would love to think that they were not needed but unfortunately the demand is so large.

Our love and prayers to all the recipients.

Helen Ackerly

262
drainage
bags were
made for
LGH &
St Vincents
cancer
patients.
Great job
ladies!



By Shane
Pruitt

March 30, 2016

www.relevant
magazine.com

My friends,
be glad,
even if you
have a lot of
trouble.

You know
that you
learn to
endure by
having your
faith
tested. But
you must
learn to
endure
everything,
so that you
will be
completely

7 Unbiblical Statements Many Christians Believe

The common misconceptions about what the Bible actually says.

We don't often stop to consider the magnitude of what the Bible represents. It is literally God revealing Himself and communicating Himself to mankind in written word.

Orthodox Christianity teaches that the Bible was inspired and authored by the Holy Spirit of God using human instruments. And many Christians believe that—in its original languages of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic—it is without error and fault.

However, there are many things that Jesus-following, Church-going, Bible-believing Christians believe that are completely unbiblical. How does this happen? Often, we'll hear someone quote a statement that sounds nice to us, and we'll begin repeating it as though it's biblical truth without ever researching it in Scripture.

Several of these unbiblical statements have gained enough traction that many people believe they're actually Bible verses. Not

only are the statements unbiblical; some of them teach the opposite of what the Bible teaches.

Here are some popular unbiblical statements that Bible-loving Christians tend to believe:

1. God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

This statement is actually anti-Gospel. Obviously God gave us gifts and talents that we're supposed to use, but self-reliance and self-righteousness, or the attitude of trying harder and doing better actually gets in the way of the work of God.

In reality, Jesus saves those who *die* to themselves: "Then Jesus told His disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me'" (Matthew 16:24).

2. God Wants Me to Be Happy

It's a common belief that God exists to be our "personal genie" waiting to give us our every wish. It's amazing how we will justify our sinful actions by saying, "God just wants me to be happy."

Happiness is tied to feelings

and emotions that are often based on circumstances, and those change all the time. God wants us to be obedient to Him, trust Him and know that everything He does is for our good, even if it doesn't make us feel "happy" in that moment.

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

3. We're All God's Children

Although God has created everyone, not everyone *relationally* belongs to Him. Only those who have repented of sin, placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and possess the Holy Spirit of God inside of them can claim Him as their Father:

"But you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father! *The Spirit himself* bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Romans 8:15-16).

"So *in Christ Jesus* you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ ... *If you belong to Christ*, then you are

Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" Galatians 3:26-29, emphasis mine in both verses).

4. Cleanliness Is Next to Godliness

The people around you may appreciate you staying clean, but this is not Scripture. Parents may use this to motivate their kids to clean their rooms. However, I'd suggest using an actual biblical statement: "Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12). (I can't guarantee that will make your children want to clean up either, though).

5. God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle

Actually, all of life is more than we can handle. The point of living in a fallen world is not for us to try really hard to carry our heavy burden, but rather realize we can't do it alone and surrender to God instead. That's what faith is all about.

Everything is more than I can handle, but not more than Jesus can handle:

"For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the

mature and not lacking in anything.

If any of you need wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you.

God is generous and won't correct you for asking.

But when you ask for something, you must have faith and not doubt.

James
1:2-6 CEV

*continued
from
previous
page*

As a
scarecrow,
people say I'm
outstanding in
my field.

But hay, it's in
my jeans



I bought the
world's worst
thesaurus
yesterday.

Not only is it
terrible, it's
terrible

LOL



affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself" (2 Corinthians 1:8).

"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

6. Bad Things Happen to Good People

The sentiment of this makes sense, but if we follow it all the way through, the idea of a good person is very subjective. Often, we place ourselves in the judgment seat of what is *good* and *bad*, or *who* is good and bad.

The most popular way to make that judgment is by comparison. For example, Bob is a good guy, because he is not as bad as Sam. However, according to the Bible we're all on equal ground because none of us is inherently good: "as it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one'" (Romans 3:10).

7. When You Die, God Gains Another Angel

Plain and simple. Humans are humans, and angels are angels. This remains so even in eternity. In fact, angels are intrigued by the interaction between God and His "image-bearing" humans: "It was

revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look" . (1 Peter 1:12).

The fact that many Christians believe these unbiblical statements shows our unfortunate overall biblical illiteracy. Instead of swallowing popular statements hook-line-and-sinker, may we be like the Bereans in the Book of Acts. When they heard Paul preach, they wanted to research the Scriptures themselves to authenticate what he was saying: "They received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:10-11).

Shane Pruitt



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Courting the Christian Vote

With a budget and election so close, Australians are being asked to pass judgment on a wide range of issues. In the past, politics often seemed to be a simple left-right contest with the main parties competing for the middle ground. But today, politicians often treat voters less like citizens and more like consumers, offering products specially designed to appeal to particular market segments. Christians are one of those segments.

Many question whether there is really such a thing as the Christian vote, and whether it can be won over by any single set of political offerings. Quite obviously Australian Christians are politically diverse and sophisticated, and they don't fall neatly into any camp. Kevin Rudd often observed that no political party owned faith, and that Jesus was never the Liberal member for Jerusalem West or the Labor member for Bethlehem.

People of firm faith, and complete goodwill, are perfectly capable of forming differing political views. But what we do bring to our political thinking, whether we be of progressive or conservative bent, is a distinctly Christian faculty – conscience.

Conscience means that political participation, whether voting or advocacy or even

civil disobedience, is not something to be taken lightly. It is not an area where Christians should choose easy options, nor should we conform to political norms or pressures when our thoughtful, prayerful deliberations lead us otherwise.

Martin Luther King observed that budgets are moral documents, not just financial ones. He was echoing the words of Jesus who said that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:21). So a public budget reflects our collective heart, or at least a government's interpretation of it. It says whose thriving we care about, and whose we care about less.

Last month the leaders of 15 Australian Christian denominations issued a joint call for a pause in the cuts to the Australian aid programme, a call I strongly support. As Christians we need not conform to the radical individualist mindset that puts self-interest ahead of the common good. We should apply the test of conscience.

This does not mean we only accept absolute rights and wrongs. But it does mean taking the time and trouble to think hard about how we best help bend the arc of the moral universe that little bit further towards justice.

Tim
Costello

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Magazine #69*
May 2016

Why aren't
koalas actual
bears?

They don't
meet the
koalafications



What's a
pirates
favorite
letter?

You think
it's R but it
be the C



I intend to live
forever.

So far, so good

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

Peace Haven
185 Penquite Rd
Norwood

Pipers River
School Rd
Pipers River

Riverside
399 West Tamar Hwy
Riverside

Trevallyn
34 Bain Tce
Trevallyn
0409 799 419

Parish office
399 West Tamar Hwy
Riverside
6324 0039
office@riverlinks.net.au

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the clergy or the Anglican
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photos, articles, etc. is 20th
of each month unless
otherwise stated



Above & Left:
Sewing Day



Left:
ABU Pentecost



Left & Below:
Relay For Life
Dessert Night



Contact us:

Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

6324 0039 office@riverlinks.net.au

Children & Young Families Ministry

6327 3482 kids_families@riverlinks.net.au

Website

www.riverlinks.net.au