



# Newsletter

## August 2016

The path of the righteous is like the morning sun,  
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

Proverbs 4:18 <sup>NIV</sup>

Photo: Cam Blake Photography from [www.instagram.com/tasmaniagram](http://www.instagram.com/tasmaniagram)

Central Plateau Tasmania

*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 Sweet Life



by Dr David  
Jeremiah

It's always  
springtime in  
the heart that  
loves God



In trying  
times, don't  
quit trying!



Keep the faith  
- but not to  
yourself

It has been said that if you just wait long enough, science will eventually sanction your favourite foods, even those previously put on the no-no list. It looks like that has happened with chocolate. Well, not chocolate per se. It has happened with cocoa, the powder that results from grinding the cacao bean—the lowly seed at the heart of the world's love affair with chocolate.

A Harvard researcher studied the Kuna people of Panama who typically drink 40 cups of cocoa per week. He found that their risk of serious diseases like strokes, heart disease, cancer, and diabetes was 90 percent lower than other populations. Another study reported on the key ingredient in cocoa that is so beneficial: a flavanol called epicatechin. It turns out that epicatechin is as effective as synthetic statin drugs at lowering cholesterol and protecting the inner linings of arteries from damage. A group of smokers was given extended, high doses of epicatechin and saw the

damage to their arteries reversed as long as they continued ingesting epicatechin.

The findings of these long-term studies were so significant that the researchers suggested that epicatechin be classified an essential nutrient for human health—like a vitamin. Can you imagine that? Chocolate as a vitamin? Again, to clarify: the benefit comes from one chemical in the cacao bean, not from consuming lots of chocolate bars. The ingredient is most healthily consumed in dark, semi-sweet chocolates—the higher the percentage of cocoa, and the lower percentage of fat calories, the better. Epicatechin is also found in tea if you prefer to get your daily dose that way.

## *It's So Sweet*

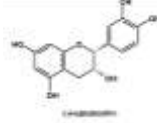
Let's face it: Hundreds of millions of kilos of chocolate are being consumed around the world today, and it's not because people are seeking to increase their intake of epicatechin. We eat chocolate because of the sugar that's usually mixed with it. We eat chocolate

because its SWEET! Truth be told, unsweetened chocolate tastes bitter. Eating it without sugar would make it seem like more of a medicine—like something we have to eat instead of something we want to eat. So sugar will help us eat a bit more chocolate and get the healthy benefits of the cacao bean.

It's great that science is discovering what we should have known all along: that God created this marvellous world as a blessing for us (Genesis 1:29). There are no doubt innumerable medicinal and health benefits in the plant kingdom that are just waiting to be discovered. And here's an interesting fact about obtaining those benefits: the sweeter the taste of the plant, the more of the benefits we consume. Do you have to strong-arm your children into eating more grapes, oranges, apples, bananas, mangos, and other deliciously sweet fruits? Of course not. It's the sweetness that draws us to them.

### ***'Tis So Sweet***

The principle of sweetness also applies to the spiritual life. Did you know the English



word “sweet” appears almost 100 times in the Bible? We don't think of Scripture as talking much about sweetness, but it does. The Hebrew word is sometimes translated (especially in the first five books of the Old Testament) as “pleasing” or “soothing” instead of “sweet”—referring to the pleasing aroma of the sacrifices made to God. But the idea is the same: We are drawn immediately to that which is sweet, pleasing, and soothing.

Why do you think so many people were drawn to Jesus Christ in His short time on earth—and why billions more have been drawn to Him for more than 2,000 years? Can you imagine anyone as sweet—as pleasing, as soothing—as Jesus? From little children to elderly Jewish scholars, from sin-stained and diseased

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, some people must really love church



Have your tools ready and God will supply the work



Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool

*continued  
from  
previous  
page*

But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God.

But this fragrance is

outcasts to wealthy leaders, people were drawn to Jesus. There was something about Him that said peace, safety, wisdom, and truth. People were drawn to Jesus like those who were starving for a nutritious meal—and they found it in Him.

Louisa Stead, born around 1850 in England, felt God's call on her life to missionary service. While living with her husband and young daughter in America, they journeyed to the seashore one day for a picnic. Hearing a scream and seeing a boy fighting for his life in the waves, Mr. Stead rushed into the water to save him. But the struggling boy pulled his rescuer under and they both were lost. Louisa Stead and her daughter watched helplessly as their husband and father disappeared.

With no resources, the mother and daughter endured dire poverty. The story goes that one day, when they were without food or money, someone left a package containing both on their doorstep. In response to God's faithfulness Louisa Stead composed the words of the hymn, "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

Not only is Jesus himself sweet and soothing, the experience of trusting Him becomes a sweet experience for those who do. The words of the first verse of Louisa Stead's hymn explain the sweetness of knowing Him and what it means to trust Him:

*'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take Him at His word,  
Just to rest upon His promise,  
Just to know, "Thus said the  
Lord."*

And the chorus describes those who have learned to trust Him. Like those who are drawn to a second and third piece of sweet chocolate, so those who trust Jesus are drawn to trust Him more and more:

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and  
o'er!*

*Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust Him more!*

### **What's So Sweet?**

Perhaps Louisa Stead got it right when she named trust as the sweetness factor in our relationship with Jesus—that which draws us to Him more and more.

Think about your relationship with other people—to whom

are you drawn “more and more?” Isn’t it the people whom you know you can trust? The people who have proven their faithfulness and loyalty to you year in and year out? It is for me. And what happens to turn a sweet relationship into a sour or bitter one? Isn’t it often some expression of broken trust or disloyalty? Once a person has lied or been otherwise unfaithful, it takes a long, long time for trust to be restored.

Has Jesus ever been unfaithful to you? I can say without hesitation, “No, He hasn’t.” Even if He didn’t answer a prayer or meet your need in the way you expected, or allowed a bad thing to happen in your life, those experiences are not evidence of His unfaithfulness. It is the attributes of God that define His character, not our interpretation of His actions. Nowhere in the Bible is there evidence of “unfaithfulness” being one of the attributes of Christ.

When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure from earth, He told them, *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in [you*

*trust, have faith in] God, believe [trust, have faith in] also in Me” (John 14:1).*

These words came after three years of proving His trustworthiness to His disciples. Do you think they would have given their lives for Him if they hadn’t agreed with the sentiments of Louisa Stead—if it wasn’t “so sweet to trust in Jesus?”

We are learning that the chemicals in chocolate are beneficial in many physical ways. It’s good for your cholesterol and your arteries and therefore for all your cardiovascular system. The caffeine in chocolate even gives us a little boost of energy. And we know that trusting in Jesus has parallel benefits in the spiritual realm: Our heart is helped, our spiritual “blood pressure” is lowered, we enjoy peace and calm—and also the power and energy of His indwelling Spirit.

It is indeed so sweet to trust in Jesus. I hope you are learning to trust Him more and more.

This article was first published in *Turning Points Magazine & Devotional.*

Available at: [www.davidjeremiah.org](http://www.davidjeremiah.org)

perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.

To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume.

2 Corinthians  
2:14-16 NLT



# Riverlinks

August 2016	
1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	<i>(each Monday)</i> <b>Child's Play – 9:30am at St O's</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 Pedley's group at St David's – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St David's <b>Men's Shed – 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Riverside</b> Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's
4 <sup>th</sup> Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
5 <sup>th</sup> 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  City Mission Beanie Day – part of National Homelessness Prevention Week
6 <sup>th</sup> Sat	<b>Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
8 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
9 <sup>th</sup> Tue	

August 2016	
10 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
11 <sup>th</sup> Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
12 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
13 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Project SAM Fundraising Morning Tea – 10:00am at St Aidan's  Risen: The Movie – 6:00pm at Door of Hope, South Launceston
14 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
15 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
16 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
17 <sup>th</sup> Wed	<b>St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm</b> Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
18 <sup>th</sup> Thur	PresCare Legana – 10:45am <b>'Jesus the game changer' Launch – 6:30pm</b> at Tailrace Centre
19 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town
20 <sup>th</sup> Sat	

The deadline for the September Newsletter edition is 22<sup>nd</sup> August

# Calendar

August 2016	
21 <sup>st</sup> Sun	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	
24 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
25 <sup>th</sup> Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Chaplaincy Lunch – 12:00pm at St MM's G'Town
26 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
27 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Project SAM Fundraising Dinner – 6:00pm at St John's Parish Centre
28 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Riverlinks Together – 10:00am at St David's, Riverside CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at Uniting Church
29 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
30 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
31 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Doubting the Bible: John Dickson – 7:00pm at Door of Hope, South Launceston
1 <sup>st</sup> Sept Thur	What is True Islam, and who is my Muslim neighbour? – 7:00pm at Riverbank Church

September and other dates 2016	
8 <sup>th</sup> October	Tasmanian Bible Forum (North)
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Riverlinks Together at George Town with Bp Richard Condie
12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> October	Clergy Conference



## Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
21 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am	All In Service	
28 <sup>th</sup>	-	No services	
George Town			
7 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Morning Prayer Communion
14 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
21 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion ABU Service
28 <sup>th</sup>	-	No services	
Riverside & Trevallyn			
7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 Worship @ St O's
14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Praise & Worship 10.30 Oikos @ St O's
21 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 Conversations Café @ St O's
28 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Riverlinks Together
Each Wed	10:00am	Riverside	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
14 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
21 <sup>st</sup>	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
28 <sup>th</sup>	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](mailto:office@riverlinks.net.au)

# Doubting the Bible

A PUBLIC TALK BY **Dr JOHN DICKSON**

Wednesday 31 August 2016, 7pm – 8:30pm

Door of Hope Christian Church

50 Glen Dhu Street, South Launceston

The Bible continues to be the world's bestselling book – but it isn't the easiest book to just dive into and most people have some doubts about it.

Hear **Dr John Dickson** from the Centre for Public Christianity (CPX) speak about why people doubt the Bible and how both believers and sceptics can look clearly at the world through the lens of the Bible. After his talk, Dr Dickson will host a Q&A session.



**Dr John Dickson** is a Director of the Centre for Public Christianity ([publicchristiansity.org](http://publicchristiansity.org)) who writes regularly for mainstream newspapers and appears on the media operating throughout Christianity, not to the pleasure of his chief Executive (discussing his personal testimony). He is the author of a dozen books, including most recently, *A Doubter's Guide to the Bible*. He is also an Honorary Fellow of the Department of Ancient History at Macquarie University. He has written a column on the religious issues for *Spokes* in Sydney's *The Sydney Morning Herald*. He has written for the *ABC* and *the Sydney Morning Herald*, where he also serves as a special opinion columnist.

No RSVP is required. A gold coin donation would be appreciated to help cover costs. For more information, please call 1300 943 337 or email [isa.tas@bibleandsociety.org.au](mailto:isa.tas@bibleandsociety.org.au)



# What is True Islam, and who is my Muslim neighbour?

A PUBLIC TALK BY

**RICHARD SHUMACK**

Thursday 1 September 2016, 7pm – 8:30pm

Riverbank Christian Church, Riverbank Place, Riverside

Islam is no longer "out there" but right next door. Many of us have Muslim friends, neighbours and colleagues. But what do they believe?

Come and hear Richard clear up confusion about the diversity of Muslim beliefs and explain why there's no need to be scared of talking to Muslims about Jesus.



**Richard** is a Christian philosopher, a research fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity (CPX) and the Director of Melbourne School of Theology's Islamic studies programme. He lives in Sydney with wife Judy and their four boys. He loves sailing, camping and watching AFL, and both boys and horses gallop.

No RSVP is required. A gold coin donation would be appreciated to help cover costs. For more information, please call 1300 943 337 or email [isa.tas@bibleandsociety.org.au](mailto:isa.tas@bibleandsociety.org.au)



## Share Jesus Without Fear

Ever wish you had an easy way to express to others the joy you've found in Christ?

Ever regret not sharing the simple truths because you were afraid?

- In response to Bishop Richard's encouragement to engage in evangelism we are running this very practical course.
- You will learn and practice a few simple, non-threatening questions to ask people.
- It gives you some easy "tools" to use when talking to friends and colleagues.
- We will take time to rehearse with each other so that you become more comfortable in sharing.

Bible based it is open to all in Riverlinks and any other interested Christian brothers and sisters.

7pm-9pm - Tues 9<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> August, St Oswald's Hall

Enroll by contacting Anne: 6324 0039 or [office@riverlinks.net.au](mailto:office@riverlinks.net.au)

Further details contact Norman or Cathy Lawrence:

6334 1130 or [norman.lawrence@hotmail.com](mailto:norman.lawrence@hotmail.com)



Beanie Day is part of Homelessness Prevention Week for Launceston City Mission.

Wear your favourite beanie and make a gold coin donation to help the homeless in our communities.

It's not just about beanies, feel free to wear a scarf or gloves for the cause.

FRIDAY 5 AUGUST



REGISTER TODAY:  
Launceston City Mission  
P: 6335 3000  
E: [office@citymission.org.au](mailto:office@citymission.org.au)  
[www.citymission.org.au](http://www.citymission.org.au)







## Fundraising Dinner—27<sup>th</sup> August 2016

### Project SAM - Thailand

Proceeds to: Riverlinks/St Johns English Language mission trip

Venue: St Johns Parish Centre - 6 for 6.30pm

*Hear how God is working in Thailand and how youth from churches in Northern Tasmania are engaging in mission.*

Includes \* Silent Auction \* Dessert Auction \* Guest Panel

David Skeat from Australian Mercy  
with Corina, Mae La's Children's Educator

#### TICKETS

**\$45**

Contact Anne Godman Riverlinks Parish Office  
Email: office@riverlinks.net.au St David's Anglican Church  
Phone: 63240039 399 West Tamar Hwy,  
Riverside 7250

The food will be modest and nourishing, a 'refugee camp dinner' prepared and served by those whose lives have been transformed by God's love. The presentations will be inspiring. I hope you find a wonderful bargain at the auction.

Receipted ticket sales from 20<sup>th</sup> July. Tables of 6 to 8 or single tickets. No BYO.

## Jesus the game changer – event invite!



Jesus' life and teaching changed history – and created the world we enjoy today.

Join award-winning series creator and CEO of Olive Tree Media, Karl Faase, for the local launch of this exciting 10 part documentary series.

An ideal and timely resource – helping restore confidence in the importance and relevance of Jesus to us today; changing countless lives, communities and impacting all areas of life.

**HOW THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF JESUS CHANGED THE WORLD - AND WHY IT MATTERS**

#### Hobart launch:

Reception room,  
Parliament House, Hobart  
Wed 17 Aug 2016, 6.30 - 8 pm

#### Launceston launch:

Tallrace centre,  
1 Waterfront Drive, Riverside  
Thurs 18 Aug 2016, 6.30 - 8 pm

These free events will be followed by light supper. Please RSVP by Fri 12 August.

RSVP online: [shop.fava.org.au/fas](http://shop.fava.org.au/fas) or phone: 1300 365 965

For more information:  
p:0438 255 264 | e: [info@fava.org.au](mailto:info@fava.org.au)



## Morning Tea 13<sup>th</sup> August 10am

Project SAM  
Thailand  
Fundraising  
Event  
**Cost \$10.00**  
at St Aidan's  
East Launceston

- ★ Coffee & Cake
- ★ Q&A with those going
- ★ Car Wash

RSVP by  
10<sup>th</sup> August  
to the Parish  
office 63240039



**Riverlinks  
Together**  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>  
August  
10:00am  
at St David's  
Riverside

Please bring a plate  
of food to share in  
lunch together after  
the service

It is anticipated that  
the Parish Annual  
Meeting will also be  
held on this day

# When life wrecks your plans



by Dave Willis  
[www.davewillis.org](http://www.davewillis.org)

It's always darkest before the dawn. So, if you're going to steal the neighbour's newspaper, that's the time to do it



No one is listening until you make a mistake



Always remember you're unique - just like everyone else



One of my biggest character flaws is my lack of flexibility. I don't mean physical flexibility (although I've never even attempted a Yoga pose). I'm talking about my rigidity when it comes to my own plans and my own agenda. I like to mentally chart out a course for how everything should go and when my plans get interrupted or altered in any way, I pout like a Kindergartener who lost his favourite toy. This lack of flexibility has caused me a lot of unnecessary frustration and indigestion, but I'm happy to report that I'm finally learning a lesson that is changing my perspective.

This lesson started on a walk. My wife Ashley and I love to go on walks. We've found that walking is a great way to spark conversation, reconnect, get a bit of exercise and enjoy some quality time together. Most of our "date nights" include a walk and the thousands of miles we have walked together in our fifteen years of marriage have done wonders to bring us closer.

On one of our walks, we started feeling some rain drops hitting our heads. It was night time, so we hadn't even noticed the rain clouds rolling in. We were at least a mile from our car when the heavens opened up with a deluge and we were instantly soaked. **This was not part of my plan.** My well-designed schedule for the rest of the evening was built on an assumption of dryness. I started to stomp around in the puddles as my plans melted like the Wicked Witch of the West when she got doused with a bucket of water.

**I stopped in my tracks when I heard my favourite sound in the world...**it was Ashley laughing. She was giggling with delight as if each raindrop was tickling her nose. My sour grimace melted into a smile as I watched her dance in the rain. As much as I wanted to be mad, an involuntary laugh came out of my mouth. And then another one. Before I knew it, we were laughing and skipping and dancing in the rain.



A car drove past us, and the driver had pity on these poor wet souls caught without their umbrellas, so he stopped and offered us a ride back to our car. We politely declined the offer and we continued on our journey enjoying every soggy step. That was several years ago, and it's still one of my favourite memories and possibly my all-time favourite date.

**So, what's the point?** Well, if you're like me, a forced change in plans can be a tough pill to swallow. Life can throw some curveballs and they're often much more uncomfortable than some unexpected rain. **When those moments happen, you have an important choice to make.** Will you allow this situation to make your better or make your bitter? Will you stomp and pout or will you look for the unexpected blessings?

## Will you shake your fist towards heaven or will you dance in the rain?

As a recovering control freak, I encourage you to spare yourself any unnecessary indigestion by letting go of what you can't control so you can embrace the unexpected blessings God puts in our paths each new day. As you learn to dance in the rain, you might discover that many of life's greatest blessings come when we discover that God's plans always have a way of working out much better than our own plans ever could. Enjoy every moment of the journey!

"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord. They are plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



It may be your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others



If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments



If you lend someone \$10, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it



Never ask a barber if he thinks you need a hair cut

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

Riverlinks Anglican Parish  
Newsletter is published  
monthly.

Opinions expressed in this  
publication do not  
necessarily reflect those of  
the clergy or the Anglican  
Church.

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



Left:  
Tommy  
MacQueen,  
Riverside High  
School Chaplain,  
& his wife Ally.  
Tommy recently  
shared about his work  
at RHS with the St  
David's congregation

Below: St Aidan's girls birthday  
celebration over lunch



### 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