



Newsletter

June 2017

I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8: 38,39 ^{NLT}

Painting: Pierre Marcel
Break Through 1995 "Walls break hearts, hearts break walls"

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



But I've got a note!

I don't know how many times as a teacher, my plans to educate my students through practical and outside the classroom experiences, would be thwarted (at least for some), by the phrase; "I don't have to do this, I have a note". For some, the reasons were legitimate, yet for others it was as simple as well-meaning parents, listening to only their child's explanation of the intended activity, providing the means by which their child could avoid the intended activity or excursion. Where it was, in my judgement, the second category of student, I took it as a challenge to encourage and persuade them to participate, even in a small part of the activity, despite the protest; "But I've got a note". More often than not, students would (despite their

best intentions), find that they enjoyed themselves, learned something, and in some cases discovered that they were interested in or good at something that they never knew before. As a teacher, I believed in a 'non-avoidance' approach to learning.

As a minister, I feel the same way about disciple-making. When I look at scripture, and the commission that Jesus gives to his disciples (Matthew 28:16-20), I see a single command for all those who would claim the title of Jesus' disciples; go and make disciples. There's not a lot of wriggle room is there?

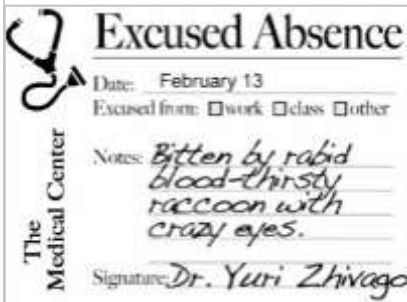
So what are some of the most common notes that we use to avoid this command?

"I don't feel called to be a missionary overseas"

The best response to this note is simple: good, we need missionaries here!! Even here in Launceston and George Town! I think this sort of response comes from a misunderstanding of what Jesus says when he says to go

We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him.

They are the ones God has chosen for his purpose, and he has always known who his chosen ones would be.



into all the world and make disciples. We hear “Go!” as the imperative – that is, we hear that as the primary action – yet the imperative is in fact “make disciples”, and the ‘go’ carries the meaning of ‘leaving this place and going wherever you are going’. Some people are called to cross-cultural mission, but for most of us, it is just as vital that we are ‘local missionaries’, bringing the gospel to our family, our neighbourhood, our sporting clubs, our workplaces and our schools.

“I’m too old”

I want to say ‘piffle’ and simply move one, but there are 2 questions that really need to be asked:

1. Is it ever too late to become a follower of Jesus?

Hopefully you agree with me that the answer to that question is ‘No’. And it seems to me, that if the answer is no, then why would there ever be a time that we could stop making disciples? My experience is that people tend to spend time with people from a similar age bracket to themselves – so

whatever age you are, it is not too late for the people you know to become followers of Jesus. Which leads to the second question.

2. Are all the people that are in your life, followers of Jesus?

If, as I suspect, the answer is no, then why would your age matter? As we look through scripture, it becomes very clear that God uses people of all ages – very young to very very old. He can use you too!

“God can’t use me”

Why can’t God use you? A humble and willing spirit is what God desires. And again, as we look through scripture, we see that he uses;

- Men and women
- Those who have been extraordinarily sinful, even those who persecute the church
- Old and young
- Great orators and those that stumble
- Wise men and Fishermen

There is no limit to the categories of people that God has used in the service of his kingdom – there is no reason why you would be excluded.

He had decided to let them become like his own Son, so that his Son would be the first of many children.

God then accepted the people he had already decided to choose, and he has shared his glory with them.

Romans
8:28-30 ^{CEV}

Swallowing
angry words
is better than
eating crow



By
perseverance
snails
reached
the ark



Salvation
is what we
receive,
not what we
achieve



The road to
heaven is a
one-way
street

“I don’t know what to do”

I could probably write a number of papers pulling this argument to pieces, but let me just say two things:

1.If you don’t know how to share your faith, it really is your responsibility to learn how. There are many fantastic training courses and programs you can take, there are people in our Parish who can help you. Each of us has a story to tell about God’s work in our lives!

2.If the problem is fear – what if I get it wrong, what if I say the wrong thing, what if I get my words jumbled, what if... find comfort in Jesus words also to his disciples on that hillside: ‘Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’. You are not alone as you proclaim the Kingdom of God – just as God has given each of us the responsibility and authority to proclaim his kingdom, so has he given us his Spirit to empower the work.

I’m sure that there are more excuses that we could come up with, but that is all that they are – excuses – and we really need to recognise them for what they are. We are, all of us, called to be disciples of Jesus. We are, all of us, called to make disciples of Jesus. Here and now, where we are.

You are truly unique – there is not a single person who has had all of the experiences that you have had, that has all the friends you have, that enjoys all the activities you enjoy, that thinks or speaks the way that you do. God has made you, you. And God has called you, to be a disciple of Jesus who makes disciples of Jesus.

What opportunities already exist in your life?

Who is God bringing to mind, or across your path?

What are you waiting for?

Josh Skeat



The Tim Tam Cheesecake: Proof that God loves us

Over the holidays, my wife and I baked a Tim Tam Cheesecake, not once, not twice, but three times!

The Tim Tam Cheesecake takes the conventional cheesecake recipe and somehow manages to incorporate two packets worth of Tim Tams into the cheesecake as the base, filling, and topping!

The Tim Tam Cheesecake showpieces everything that's good about humanity. As a species, we know how to take a good thing, and make it even better.

We long for *luxury* - even in one of our most basic needs - i.e., *food*. Food doesn't merely sustain us. Food also looks good, tastes good, and pushes the boundaries.

That's why God uses food as one of the chief metaphors for his blessings to us.

We're told that being right with God is like dining at a luxurious banquet with God - where God hosts, serves

outrageous food, and foots the bill.

There is luxury even in our most basic need to be at peace with God. Yes, there's salvation and forgiveness of sins, but there's so much more.

There's also the promise of a warm, personal relationship with a God who adopts us to be one of his children. We are *family* with God. Eating at God's *family* meal ...

... with Tim Tam Cheesecake served as the dessert, of course.

Find the recipe at Best Recipes
tinyurl.com/mkbbqfyw



by Sam Chan
www.espresso-theology.com
YOUR WORLD
TO JESUS IN 60
SECONDS

Sin: commit to
not commit



Don't confuse
your wishbone
and
backbone



Strength
in prayer
is better
than length
in prayer

Riverlinks

| June 2017 | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 st Thur | <i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's |
| 2 nd Fri | <i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Good News Club – 3:30pmat St David's Riverside Youth Group – 5:00pm at St John's Launceston Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town SYNOD at the Tailrace Centre, Riverside |
| 3 rd Sat | Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's Launceston Women's Clothing Sale Missions Fundraiser – 9:30am to 4pm at St John's Rectory Launceston SYNOD at the Tailrace Centre, Riverside |
| 4 th Sun | Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's |
| 5 th Mon | <i>(each Monday)</i> Child's Play – 9:30am at St O's |
| 6 th Tue | <i>(each Tuesday)</i> Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town Home & Study Groups – 1:30pm at Collings' home – 1:45pm at Igglesden's home – 7:30pm at Booth's home – 7:30pm at Pedley's home – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's |
| 7 th 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 Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's Launceston |

| June 2017 | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 8 th Thur | Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's PresCare Legana – 10:45am Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm |
| 9 th Fri | |
| 10 th Sat | |
| 11 th Sun | |
| 12 th Mon | *** Queen's Birthday Holiday *** Cadorna – 2:00pm |
| 13 th Tue | |
| 14 th Wed | |
| 15 th Thur | PresCare – 10:45pm |
| 16 th Fri | Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town |
| 17 th Sat | |
| 18 th Sun | |
| 19 th Mon | |

The deadline for the July Newsletter edition is 26th June

Calendar

| June 2017 | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 20 th Tue | |
| 21 st Wed | St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm |
| 22 nd Thur | Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's |
| 23 rd Fri | |
| 24 th Sat | Cursillo Regional Ultreya – 12:00pm at St Mark's, Deloraine |
| 25 th Sun | CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at the Baptist Church |
| 26 th Mon | |
| 27 th Tue | |
| 28 th Wed | Understanding Dementia – 2:00pm at Aldersgate, 12-22 Hobart Rd, Kings Meadows |
| 29 th Thur | |
| 30 th Fri | |
| 1 st July Sat | |

| July and other dates 2017 | |
|--|---|
| 8 th July | Bible Society Morning Tea |
| 30 th July | Riverlinks Together @ St David's |
| 17 th - 20 th July | Leaders in Training Camp |
| 5 th August | Messy Meet Up |
| 19 th August | Tasmanian Bible Forum @ St Aidan's with Bp Richard Condie |
| 27 th August | Riverlinks Together @ St MM's G/Town |
| 9 th September | Men's Bible Conference |
| 12 th -15 th October | The Second Coming Convention |

Service Times For Worship Centres

| East Launceston | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 4 th | 10:00 am 4:30 pm | Morning Prayer Messy Church | |
| 11 th | 10:00 am | Communion | |
| 18 th | 10:00 am | All In Service | |
| 25 th | 10:00 am | Communion | |
| George Town | | | |
| 7 th | 9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am | Hillwood Pipers River George Town | Communion Communion Communion |
| 14 th | 9:00 am 10:30 am | Low Head George Town | Communion Together @ 10.30 |
| 21 st | 9:00 am 10:30 am | Pipers River George Town | Communion ABU Uniting |
| 28 th | 9:00 am 10:30 am | Low Head George Town | Communion Communion |
| Riverside & Trevallyn | | | |
| 7 th | 10:00 am | Riverside | Communion |
| 14 th | 10:00 am | Riverside | Praise & Worship |
| 21 st | 10:00 am | Riverside | Communion |
| 28 th | 10:00 am | Riverside | Communion |
| Each Wed | 10:00am | Trevallyn | Healing Service & HC |
| Peace Haven | | | |
| 21 st | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer | |
| 28 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

Secondhand
WOMENS CLOTHING
Missions Fundraiser

Saturday 3 June

From 9:30am to 4pm
At St John's Rectory
157 St John Street, Launceston

Understanding Dementia

A free community information session

Saturday 28th June
2pm to 4pm

at Aldersgate,
12-22 Hobart Rd, Kings Meadows

Speakers:

Kim Curley, Alzheimer's Australia
& Kerry Whitlock, Palliative Care specialist with Uniting AgeWell

These free community information sessions are presented by Uniting AgeWell to help you plan ahead. Held on the last Wednesday of each month from 2pm to 4pm



ENROL NOW 2018

LAUNCESTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The Bible in China
from banned book to bestseller!

Launceston Morning Tea with Wee Seng Kua
Director of the UBS China Partnership

BIBLE SOCIETY
1817-2017

Saturday 8 July
10am - 12noon
Tailrace Centre
Riverside



Are you involved in a Messy Church? Have you wondered what Messy Church is all about? This

Messy Meet Up

is for you!

Date: 5 August 2017

Time: 3pm - 7:30pm

Venue: Uniting Church, North Launceston
128-132 George Town Rd, Newnham

Cost: \$6 p.p. to offset cost of food



'Leaders in Training'

Camp
July 17th - 20th



www.eventbrite.com/e/messy-meet-up-registration-34346252566
More Info: James Oakley 0407 325 275 / kids.families@riverlinks.net.au

Financial Position

| OFFERTORY | <u>Income</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Year To Date 30APR17 | 130,652 | 137,500 |
| MTD May 2017 | <u>10,964</u> | <u>13,750</u> |
| TOTAL | 141,616 | 151,250 |
| Profit/Loss Year To Date | | <u>- 9,634</u> |

Direct deposit account details for your Parish offertory contributions:

BSB 067 021
 Account # 1000 6848
 Name: Riverlinks Anglican Church

Always be joyful.
 Never stop praying.
 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NLT

Attitude

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill.

It will make or break a company... a church... a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way... we cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our attitudes.

Charles Swindoll



BY ANNE LIM
MAY 17TH,
2017

Read the full
article at
[www.ETERNITY
NEWS.COM.AU](http://www.ETERNITYNEWS.COM.AU)

Gaby Kobrossi, came to Australia with his Syrian wife from Lebanon in 2007. He spent 20 years travelling around the Middle East and working for Bible Society



Refugees don't want a handout, they want friends

Led by its minister, Gaby Kobrossi, Bankstown District Uniting church is extending the hand of friendship to the new permanent residents and offering practical help with everything from learning English to seeing the sights.

Being unemployed is a source of anxiety and stress for most of the people Kobrossi insists on calling newcomers. He says they stop being refugees or asylum-seekers as soon as they arrive in Australia, when they become permanent residents. "They feel like prisoners in their houses, afraid to go out because they can't speak the language." So finding work is a top priority if they want to lead a better life than the one they fled. While the new arrivals receive income support from Centrelink, they prefer to work and contribute to their new country, he says. "We use our connections, we use our friends here and we try to tell them 'please can you find a job for us or at least volunteer work so these people can have experience to add to their CV?'"

"When they are able to find jobs and a good income they now stop getting the funds from Centrelink because they want to be independent. So when they find a job, when they are independent, they can really live a better life."

"To be honest with you, we are offering nothing. We are offering our time. We're not offering food or furniture or money, we are offering our welcome, we are offering the word of God ... and when we go back to the word of God we can see that this is the force of God to welcome everyone," he says.

"Abraham was a refugee, Jesus was the first one in the New Testament who became a refugee or asylum-seeker. We give thanks to Australia and to the Australian people, they are wonderful people, very humble people. They welcome these people with open arms and wonderful smiles. In our church we encourage people not to give donation – we don't want their money, we just want their time."

Retired car dealer Alan King is one of about 30 church members who commit to helping the newcomers in any way they can.

“What concerns me is the misconception about these people coming to the country. The media are putting forward something that is completely wrong. They say they’re coming here accepting the dole and don’t want to work. I’ve had friends say that and I’ve had to put them straight. They do not want a handout from the government – they want to work. They are so grateful that a country has accepted them and they want to pay back, like the immigrants from old – the Italians, the Greeks – came here to work.

It’s difficult for them because of the language. But the personal thing to me is the satisfaction of helping these people to become part of Australia,” he says.

While the practical help is welcome, what they appreciate most is friendship, says Kobrossi. “The only thing we need is to give time to these people. Build the bridges, build friendship; let them feel there is someone here that I can knock on his

door and ask a question or ... have a coffee with,” says Kobrossi.

At the church’s Easter service there were tears as well as celebration, he says. “Each family brought a different type of food and we had ... egg hunts and ... music and traditional dancing. It was really wonderful, but at the same time you can see tears, tears of sadness, you can see tears of loneliness. ‘We are here, we are safe, the word of God encourages us.’ But at the end of the day they are human – they miss Dad and Mum and family and home and friends. It’s not easy.

So let us keep the light of the gospel that came from the Middle East from the beginning going on.”

Please pray that more churches would reach out to Syrian and Iraqi refugees with friendship, practical help and the comfort of the gospel.

Anne Lim

How can you help?

1. Join a local “Welcome Dinner” project www.joiningthedots.org
2. Write to Minister Peter Dutton & register your objection to the unfair “Fast Track” policy
3. Visit www.asrc.org.au for more ideas & information

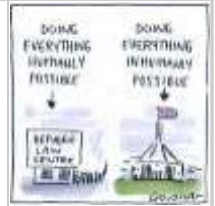


Illustration: Matt Golding

Don't
mistreat any
foreigners
who live in
your land.
Instead, treat
them as well
as you treat
citizens and
love them as
much as you
love yourself.
Remember,
you were
once
foreigners ...

Leviticus
19:33-34 CEV

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

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

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



Riverlinks Together

30th April
@ St Aidan's



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