

NewView

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Readiness:

The Gospel narratives about the life of Jesus and the days leading to his crucifixion all indicate that the writers believed Jesus was well aware of what lay ahead (Matthew 26:1, Mark 14:25, Luke 22: 14-18, John 13:1) and that he tried to prepare the disciples for the events to come, and make them ready to take on the responsibility of carrying on what he had begun. We are fortunate in our relatively stable lives in Australia to have opportunities to prepare ourselves for what we see ahead, to plan a career path or lay down foundations for the future by acquiring the right experience or qualifications, by joining like-minded groups or seeking out appropriate sources of help.

Sometimes our plans do not work out. Perhaps our personal circumstances change - relationships, health or financial circumstances - and render our plans impossible to achieve but often we *are* able to make ourselves better prepared for the future. There is an old Pennsylvania Dutch proverb which addresses this matter of readiness: 'You can't hatch chickens from fried eggs.' In other words, it's too late to realise we need to look ahead and prepare for a future after the opportunities for preparation have passed.

This issue contains some wonderful examples of people who've looked ahead and taken steps to prepare for their future, both short and long term. Neil's recollection of his preparation and readiness for ministry is one such example. Lyn and Pam McDonald's preparation for their trip to Kenya attending to the minutiae necessary for the work they hope to do there, is another. Adult Group's plans for the coming year, and recognition of leadership problems in the future are another readiness for the medium future. Chris Drummond's potted history is an inspiring example of purposeful readiness over a period of years. And the Food Safety advice, aimed at avoiding possible health dangers through appropriate procedures is a further long term readiness, taking the opportunity available before those eggs are broken, fried and now unavailable for hatching!

We continue our new section on 'Getting to Know our Church & Activities' with some information about the art work in the small chapel, the purpose and activities of Leisure Time, and an insight into the Play Groups. We also have reports on a recent Outreach Forum, on our participation in the Chinese New Year celebrations in Kingsway, a Families' and Children's Camp and a Youth Retreat. In addition we hope you are inspired to follow up on the work of Sammy Stamp, to obtain and read the book reviewed, and to take action to stop human trafficking. Happy reading!

Robin Pope

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Neil's Musings



Readiness

As a youngster, prior to commencing school, I grew up in a small country town. I didn't attend kindergarten or preschool as one didn't exist. I went from being at home to commencing school as a five year old. I am sure my parents tried to assist me to be ready for school. However, we moved town a month before starting school, to a temporary house for two months before moving again. I started school and it was traumatic for everyone. For the first six weeks of school I cried and fought not to be put in the car and taken to school. I find it hard to believe that I was like that. It was a huge fight every morning for six weeks. I wasn't ready for school.

I grew up as a child of a minister. There were many blessings growing up in the parsonage. We met

lovely people, visited interesting farms, and shared plenty of nice food. What was hard to be ready for was the wrench when we moved to a new appointment every 2, 3 or 5 years. As I grew from a child to a teenager it was so hard to say goodbye to friends from church and school. How do you help your child to be ready for that experience? I know that teachers and bank staff and their families moved as well.

So as a minister myself, I have great empathy for Lynn, Dale and Craig as my work means we move and start again building relationships. There are blessings, in that you get to meet new and wonderful people. However, the cost is having to move on, and it is hard to allow oneself to be ready for this experience and the associated emotions.

I studied to be a minister for five years. I remember thinking with six months to go, 'I don't feel ready to move away from college and be a minister of a congregation'. I was sure that I didn't know everything that I might need to know. What if I get found out not knowing something quite basic? I soon came to realise that one cannot be prepared for every eventuality in ministry. I had been given the grounding, the tools that I needed, the Biblical and theological understanding, the confidence, and the capacity to know where to turn for help. I had to be faithful to God, and faithful to the Calling that I had received from God, which had been affirmed by the church. I also realised that my sense of readiness for ordained ministry was not my decision in the end. I had to present before Presbytery who determined my readiness to be ordained. The Presbytery did believe I was ready twenty two years ago and one of the members of Presbytery at the time was Rev Dr Warren Bartlett.

Neil Peters

Readiness - for Kenya

Interesting theme, isn't it? Are we **ready** for so many of the activities in our lives? And are we **ready** to participate in Easter and ponder on what God did then and continues to do now for us?

Also for Pam and me, are we **ready** for Kenya? Our community has helped to make us **ready!** We know some of you are praying for us as we go to assist, on your behalf, children in need and the organisations that support them.

Some of you show real interest in what we are doing. The donations some of you have provided have astounded us and make us feel very humble as you trust us to use your money in an appropriate way. Thank you for sharing your heart with these children!



Our suitcases have been packed and repacked and repacked. We are nearly **ready** to go (46kgs for each of us). We know that God is **ready** for us and guiding us in this adventure, again.

Lyn & Pam McDonald

Adult Group: Readiness for 2016 - 17

Roger and Jenny Vass hosted a BBQ for the Adult Group at their home on February 7, in order to get the program for 2016 established. Jenny concluded her email of thanks to members with a sobering reminder: 'We are pleased that this fellowship is able to continue for another year, but we need to look seriously at our options for next year if no one steps forward as leaders. We need to share the load, and if you have never had a turn at co-ordinating the year, or it's been a long time since you did it, please consider having a go next year as



everyone has expressed a desire for the group to continue into the future.' So: the challenge for readiness to Adult Group members has been set!

Robin Pope



Getting to Know You: Christina Drummond

Call it serendipity or call it divine guidance, but when I decided to ask Christina Drummond if she would agree to be interviewed I had no idea that her life was to provide a perfect example of readiness, which is our theme for this issue.

Chris (as we know her) is pretty much a Glen Waverley product, as her engineer father Don and mother Margaret moved their family from Warburton to their new family home here when she was about 12. Chris and her two younger brothers attended Glen Waverley High School, and Chris progressed from there to Monash University. She enrolled initially in a science degree, with an interest in medicine but uncertain whether she could cope with the stress (such as working in a casualty ward) of the medical profession; but after completing her first year of science she decided to take the plunge, believing that this was what God wanted her to do. She found she did not have Biology, a pre-requisite subject for the medical course, so had to hastily swot this up to qualify for entrance and then undergo an interview, to enable her to transfer to the second year of medicine.



After finishing her medical degree she did her two year residency at the Alfred Hospital, which she recalls as being extremely hard, being on call for 120 hours straight - a system she is thankful has now changed for the better! She holds in high regard the kindness and awareness of the nursing aides in the casualty department, amidst the organised chaos there over the weekends.

In keeping with her aim to equip herself with a wide medical background for her future work assisting disadvantaged populations, Chris spent thirteen years after graduation working in different departments of hospitals. She did stints at Prince Henry's, the Children's Hospital, the Mercy, Mercy Maternity, and time in Horsham learning the work of a General Practitioner. She decided to specialise in infectious diseases and found her two years at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital 'fascinating', especially the rarer tropical diseases such as leprosy.

By the late 1980s she had obtained a position in Horsham as a specialist physician, with responsibility for the whole of the Wimmera, being on call 24 hours. This was another challenge she enjoyed.

1988 was a turning point in her career, when she obtained her first overseas appointment to relief work in Cambodia, which was facing severe poverty and malnutrition resulting from the policies of the Khmer Rouge. Chris was also faced with extensive injuries suffered by both soldiers and civilians from the multitude of land mines which had been laid. Maternity issues were yet another source of medical concern. She returned to Cambodia for two other short spells in 1991 and 1992. Additionally, she spent six months in Hong Kong in 1990 working with the Vietnamese 'boat people' in refugee camps there, further broadening her experience.

Getting to Know You: Christina Drummond

Another landmark occurred in 1992. Chris was selected to be the Australian representative to attend a course run by the Red Cross in Switzerland to provide training in medical work with refugees. Also doing the course was David Bradt, attending from the U.S. - and the rest, as they say, is history! Over the following year or so they made 21 individual flights across the Pacific, culminating in their marriage on Armistice Day, 1993.

By then Chris was midway through doing a Masters degree in Public Health in Baltimore, but they flew to Melbourne to have one of the first weddings in our (then) new church building. Chris's Dad had been ill, and had an operation the Monday following the wedding. Assured that he was OK, she hurried back to Baltimore to complete her exams!

Chris and David lived briefly in Baltimore, but were then sent by the Red Cross to Zaire where over 1 million refugees had fled after the Rwandan genocide in 1994-5. Other appointments followed: she assisted in the crisis in Albania arising from the Kosovo War in 1999; and from 1999-2001 she worked for the World Health Organisation as the TB advisor in post-Suharto Indonesia, also coping with seven disasters within Indonesia, including the refugee crisis created by the East Timor invasion, and the civil war in Central Sulawesi and Maluku.

While Chris has been involved in disease control, David has worked as a humanitarian co-ordinator and on many occasions they have had to work in different locations although addressing the needs of the same crisis. In 2004-5 Chris was the medical co-ordinator for Care International running the Nutrition Centre, while David was assessing the needs of over 100,000 affected people in the same area of South Darfur.

When the Indian Ocean tsunami struck on Boxing Day in 2004 the World Health Organisation asked if they could both go to Sri Lanka. They consented, but Chris was sent to the Maldives, and David to Sri Lanka and then Aceh. Chris was then moved to the regional HQ in Delhi to write the daily reports of the international response to the crisis throughout all the affected areas.

A period of overseas respite occurred in 2006-7, when Chris ran the TB unit in Western Australia, followed by her return to Cambodia as a consultant on public health for the World Health Organisation. As is often the case with bringing about change or re-establishing medical services, Chris found some areas had progressed, while others had experienced setbacks.

Two years were then spent in Amsterdam as the TB advisor for Medicines Sans Frontier (MSF), travelling to various hotspots around the world. In 2010 she and David were the recipients of a Rockefeller Scholarship which funded some secluded weeks in Bellagio on Lake Como, so they could have uninterrupted time to lay down the backbone for a manual for training medical personnel. They completed this hefty volume (it weighs in on my kitchen scales at 1.197 kg of accumulated wisdom and knowledge) over the months that followed, and it has just been re-released in its sixth edition. She and David have used it extensively as the basic manual for the one week course they run in Melbourne and Boston for leadership training of medical personnel preparing to manage health care in refugee camps.

Later spells in Mongolia and Swaziland have taken place, but since her father died in 2012 Chris has not been able to work overseas in crisis health management. However, she does not sit around resting on past laurels (and there are many of those, including an AM).

Readiness

Apart from her current work at Cabrini in infectious diseases, now she is studying for a horticulture diploma in readiness for her return to overseas aid work, so that she has a better knowledge of nutritional crops and their cultivation. Thus, long-term assistance which extends beyond the crisis period will be another string to her bow.

Meanwhile, David is stationed in Switzerland working in Humanitarian Assistance with the World Health Organisation. I asked Chris, 'Where is your home?' and she replied simply, 'Wherever I am at the time.'

In the epilogue to their joint manual, some frank advice is provided for the newbies, reminding them that the focus of their work is 'humanitarian assistance', and advising how some of the wrinkles can be ironed out. This focus is retained in the final point of their manual, by quoting one of their own mentors:

Do not be afraid

Any fear you face is likely a fraction of the fear refugees have lived with. Don't make a big deal about it. Get on with the job. If you are in a combat situation, then you may have to be a little brave. You do it five minutes at a time. Ultimately, you must anticipate, adapt, or die.

Readiness. Chris's academic and working life has been intentionally directed at helping vulnerable populations. I am awed by the preparation she has undertaken to ensure her readiness is adequate for the task and that she is now ensuring others are similarly prepared. Her wonderful example is inspirational.

Robin Pope

Some Food Safety Practices to Live By

Food is a wonderful way to share fellowship between family and friends. So knowing that the food has been prepared and stored well can only add to the enjoyment of the day.

The table on the adjacent page produced by the Victorian Department of Health can be a useful reminder of things to be aware of especially if you are cooking large quantities of food. Using a temperature probe is a very handy way to ensure that the food has been thoroughly heated through or completely cooled down to prevent rapid bacterial growth.

Please contact any member of CKC if you would like more information about food safety. All our members are listed with their contact information on our roster list available in the GWUC kitchen.

Happy cooking!
Careful Kitchen Crew [aka CKC]

Yan Emms

Food safety rules

health



Cold storage

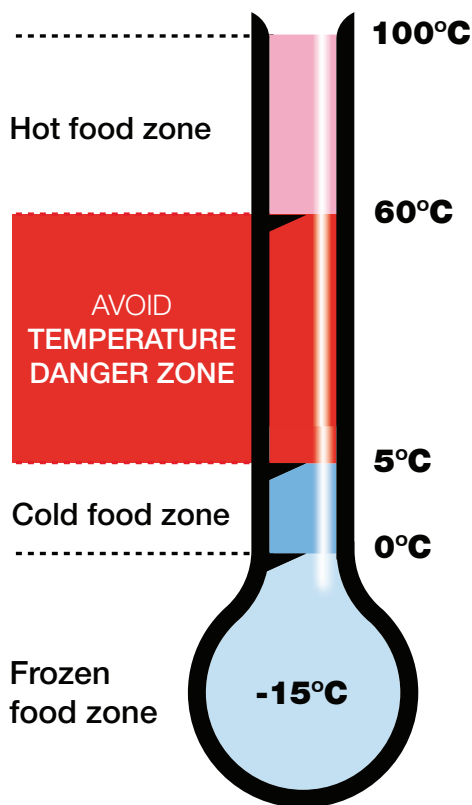
- Cold food must be 5°C or colder.
- Frozen food must be frozen hard.
- Check the temperature of fridges and cold storage areas regularly.
- Thaw food in your fridge, away from, and below, cooked or ready to eat food.

Preparation

- Limit the time that high-risk food is in the temperature danger zone and return to the refrigerator during delays.
- If food is kept within the temperature danger zone for a total time of 4 hours or more, throw it out.

Cross-contamination

- Cross-contamination occurs when harmful bacteria or allergens spread to food from other food, surfaces, hands or equipment. This can lead to food-poisoning, to ensure crosscontamination does not occur, make sure you;
 - Keep raw food separate from cooked or ready-to-eat food.
 - Use separate utensils and cutting boards when preparing raw and cooked or ready-to-eat food.



Cooking food

- Use a thermometer to make sure foods are thoroughly cooked and the centre reaches 75°C.
- Hot food must be kept at 60°C or hotter.
- Check that only clear juices run from thoroughly cooked minced meat, poultry, chicken or rolled roasts.

Cooling food

- High-risk food must cool from 60°C to 21°C in the first 2 hours, and then to 5°C or lower in the next 4 hours.
- Once food has cooled to 21°C put it in the refrigerator or freezer.
- Large portions of food take longer to cool. Divide large portions into smaller batches before cooling.

Cleaning

- Use clean, sanitised and dry cutting boards, equipment and utensils.
- Clean and rinse wiping cloths after each use, and change frequently.
- Wash hands thoroughly and regularly.

For more information call 1300 364 352
www.health.vic.gov.au/foodsafety



Temperature



Hygiene



Cross-contamination

Getting to Know Our Church: Our Small Chapel

In the June 2014 issue of *NewView* there was an article explaining the symbolism present in the stained glass windows in our church, both the tall sanctuary windows and the small side windows. Now we are able to provide some information about the two art works on either side of the communion table in the small chapel (Room 1).

These were originally created for the 'new' Methodist Church in Springvale Road in the 1960s, when Arthur Ellemor was the minister. The architect, Jim Earl, thought the new church needed a focal point, so at Earl's instigation, Rev. Ellemor commissioned Ian Anderson, a professional artist living in Mt Waverley and attending St John's Methodist Church, to provide that focus. Ian still lives in the house he and his wife Roma moved into in the 1950s. At age 89 he is still actively involved in art as an expression of life.



At the time of Arthur Ellemor's approach, Ian had been reading a great deal of the writing of Paul Tillich, a theologian and philosopher, whose work was a pivotal influence on Ian's own faith. In this work he kept in mind Tillich's recognition that 'every symbol points beyond itself to a reality for which it stands'. He originally created the two works as windows in clear glass so that viewers could both look *into* the church and ponder what it stood for, and people in the church could look out and ponder *the world outside*, through the prism of the symbols in the windows. They were hung in the narthex of the old Methodist church and later transferred to our current church building.

In using visual symbols the artist invites the viewer to participate, by filling the gaps which he has intentionally left, and by suggesting only that which is necessary. The original drawings were in about A4 size, but enlarged into their current size so they could then be etched into the glass. In the two designs there is, in the first work, a downward movement in creation, and in the second an upward movement of reconciliation is present.



The first work symbolises the idea of creation, as emanating from God. The artist has confronted the problem of how God can be represented visually. Since God is engaged in the act of creation, in *doing*, the gold line which represents God, is continuous, without beginning and end. All things stem or grow from this line, the Ground of our Being. The sun (representing the natural, physical world) and the Tree of Knowledge (of good and evil, the moral world), emanate from God, as do the humans, who are placed in this environment. Perhaps the couple are contemplating their choices in life: they are both encompassed by, and arise from, the line, or hand of God.

Getting to Know our Church: The Small Chapel



Humans are the focus of the second work, which is enclosed by a continuous line, again suggesting the ultimate surrounding presence of the divine. The figure in the circle represents Man in the fullness of life, and the circle symbolises the perfection and totality of life. This overlaps the cross, showing that suffering is integral to life. The encircled figure reaches out to others, the seated figure representing despair, perhaps guilt and shame. The other figure is a seeker of the ultimate - the divine - and the fullness of life, and reaches out to receive the outstretched hand. Overhead the hand being clasped reminds the viewer of the forgiveness offered, with the power to overcome despair and guilt and offering new life, which comes via the cross.

Next time you are in the chapel, take time to contemplate these works, taking into account what Ian Anderson, the artist, has provided and reflect on what these symbols bring to you and your experience.

Robin Pope; Photos Jit Tan

Getting to Know Our Church (2): Leisure Time

Leisure Time is a program designed to assist isolated Monash seniors and their families. This program provides a friendly day out, addresses the problem of social isolation and aims to develop positive relationships in an inclusive and non-discriminatory way.

Leisure Time at Glen Waverley Uniting Church has been in operation for 38 years—quite an achievement! Leisure Time is staffed entirely by volunteers and there are 68 volunteers assisting.

Leisure Time gatherings are held each Monday at the church. Guests are picked up from their homes and brought to the church in time for morning tea and a chat. This is followed by an activity of some kind organised by the day leaders.



Robyn, Suzanne, Ramila

Getting to Know Our Church (2): Leisure Time



Warnock Outing 2015

A hot two course lunch is served, again by volunteer cooks and kitchen helpers. Guests are transported back home at 2.00pm.

When there is a 5th Monday in a month, an outing is organised and these are always well attended.

Each year the Christmas party is certainly a highlight for everyone. Guests, along with family members and volunteers, meet for morning tea followed by entertainment of some kind. Last year three choirs from Glen Waverley Primary School entertained everyone and they were greatly appreciated. A catered for Christmas lunch is served to guests, ministerial staff and some volunteer helpers followed by a short Christmas devotion held in the church.

Please help us to connect with people in the community who may benefit from attending this program. If you would like to try it yourself or if you have friends, neighbours, relatives or know of any church members who may like to attend, please encourage them to contact the church office. Transport is available within the Glen Waverley area.

We pray that this worthwhile program will continue for many years to come.

Laurel Muir; Photos Margaret Fraser



Panna, Joyce, Veronica, Beryl

Getting to Know Our Church (3): My Beloved Playgroup

9:30am Toys and puzzles, train sets, crafts table, playdough, mats for the slides, cubby house, sandpit, the dolls corner, paintings...Good, ready to go!

10:00am Tip-toe, tip-toe, here come the little feet, 'Ni Hao' (Chinese greetings) from one of the grandmas, mums greeting each other, kids can't wait to dash to the slides, and shy newcomers shrinking away, hiding behind mummy's back.

10:45am Morning tea time, kids back to wash their hands, gathering around the table, saying Grace before snack time; cheese, rice crackers, strawberries and grapes, watermelon, yogurt, while mum and grandparents enjoy a biscuit and a cuppa.

11:45am Singing time, all the kids sitting on the carpet and enjoying singing all the favourite nursery rhymes: Mary Had a Little Lamb, Row Row Row Your Boat, Old Macdonald had a Farm, Five Little Ducks and of course, can't do without Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. At 12:00 playgroup finishes with lots of hugs and byes, and sometimes I'm even lucky to have a kiss or two.

I can't imagine that it is my fourth year with Monday playgroup. I still remember how I started. I had been attending Glen Waverley Uniting Church for nearly 13 years. I was very quiet, maybe a little bit withdrawn, had never spoken to the Minister for more than one minute, just shook hands and went after service, not knowing many people until I moved to 8:00 o'clock service.

In the second half of 2012, something had been troubling me in my mind all the time. 'Is this how you would like to spend your days at church?' I argued, 'God, you know I am very busy with work and with all the caring responsibilities for the elderlies at home, plus washing, cleaning, cooking.... I don't have time to get more involved!'

Over the next few months, the 'restlessness' still lingered on. Sometimes while I was walking or driving, God's words would pop up in my mind, 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and He will show you the right way' (Proverbs 3:5-6). 'Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light' (Matthew 11:29-30).

I began to have second thoughts; maybe I could give it a try. 'But where and how do I get started?' Then, just a week later at the 8:00 o'clock service, Kaye stood up and made a request, 'We are desperately in need of a volunteer for the playgroup, if anyone can help.' After the service, I summoned up all my courage to go to Kaye: 'Can I volunteer for playgroup?' Kaye gave me a big big smile, and I could hear what she said, 'Thank God for answering my prayers.'

.....

That was how I started. God has given me abundance in His provisions. When I think I am giving, I am the one who is receiving more than I give. I have been offered more jobs for the other days, more than what are required to make up for Monday mornings. When I see the kids smiling, running around, holding my hand, hugging me, I find myself regenerated. All the burdens seem to be lifted and getting lighter. I am opening myself to interact with the parents and grandparents, especially

Getting to Know Our Church (3): My Beloved Playgroup

those that need interpreting and grandparents who come over from China, mainly to help looking after their grandchildren. They have no English, cannot drive and sometimes they are feeling lonely. Now they are making friends and chatting in their own language, sharing laughter with us. They say how grateful they are for coming to playgroup. Above all, the team work that I experience with the other committed volunteers on Mondays, Kaye, Pam, the two Joys and Margaret is a sharing and close Christian fellowship that I really treasure a lot.

Journeying from playgroup, I started to help out with some Chinese translation at church, joining in the Bible study class and participating in the Chinese New Year stall and some outreach programs. I won't feel uneasy chatting with the Minister for more than half an hour now!

Once after the combined service, a Chinese lady came over to greet me, 'Hello, do you remember me?' Her face did look familiar to me. 'I came to playgroup with my child over a year ago.' 'Oh yes I remember.' I was so overjoyed in seeing her attending our service. How wonderful it is!

I see the children growing, coming and leaving, going to kinder and pre-school, some mothers returning to work and grandparents going back to China. If somehow in their memories they remember the church as always a welcoming and caring place, a place where they find warmth and support, we are thankful that God has given our playgroup a part to serve Him in His own way.

Children, can we sing Grace for morning tea?

Thank you for the food we eat - yum yum,

Thank you for the friends we meet - such fun,

Thank you for the birds that sing-a-ling-a-ling,

Thank you God for everything. Amen.

Sheila Chan

Outreach Forum: Glenallen Special School

On Sunday February 28th a small group of interested people were inspired by Deputy Principal Jennifer Healey talking about the work she and the staff at Glenallen are engaged in. Our church has had a long connection with the Glenallen School, with volunteers attending there for over 30 years, providing the Christian Religious Education program for their students. When the program ceased last year, Neil recognised the faithful work of these women through a certificate presentation in the morning worship services.

Nancy Cottrell works at Glenallen, and Neil has also strengthened the contact, and through that our congregation was made aware of the specific need for an upgrade to Jai's wheelchair. Generous donations from our members provided what was needed. The Principal Michael Cole desires to continue this connection with the GWUC community, so we requested a representative to speak at one of our Outreach Luncheon forums, so that we could be better informed about their work. Jennifer proved to be an engaging and informative speaker.

Outreach Forum: Glenallen Special School

A video gave us an idea of the wide range of issues that Glenallen students face. Students are only able to attend with medical recognition of their physical needs, and such is the regard in which the school is held that some students travel long distances each day to come there. Many students have additional intellectual challenges.

The school, with current enrolment of 147, provides education for students from Preparatory Grade through to Year 12. The students are grouped according to individual need and abilities, rather than streaming according to age which occurs in mainstream schools. For example, non-verbal children are grouped together so that the extra time needed for communication through various devices can be provided in their class, while verbal students learn together through appropriate interaction with staff and each other. The teaching staff are supported by two nursing staff (in charge of medication), teaching aides, therapists (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathologists, music therapy) and other ancillary staff totalling 122.

Jennifer enlightened us on the physical effort that schooling demands of the students. We learned about students requiring assistance or monitoring of basic functions such as respiration, or eating, before any learning can begin. Each non-verbal student is provided with a communication book, individually created by the staff according to the child's cognitive and physical abilities. Other communication devices such as computers, iPads etc are provided, as is the equipment for mobility, exercise and play. This is all funded from the grants that each student attracts, and these are pooled to provide for the school's requirements.

We could not help but be impressed by the obvious dedication of the staff. Jennifer herself has returned to Melbourne from NSW only because she was able to teach at Glenallen. Staff seem to go the extra mile as a matter of course, and are also committed to a vigorous program of professional development. She noted that there is a need for outside volunteers, as parents of their students find they have little time for assisting, having their hands full with children who require constant attention. One way in which we might be able to help is through working bees at the school, which few parents are able to attend. If you are interested, or if you would like to join a conducted tour of the school, give your name to Neil Peters, who will be in touch.

Robin Pope; Photos Jit Tan



GWUC Reports

Chinese New Year Celebrations on Kingsway



We again joined the Chinese New Year celebrations held on Kingsway on Sunday February 21. It is said to be one of the biggest celebrations in Melbourne with an estimated 10,000 people coming to experience this cultural event.

We provided free children's craft and our amazing team handed out show bags, and shared information with families about the life of our church. Children could make various monkey crafts with our wonderful craft volunteers and we estimate that over the afternoon more than 300 craft monkeys left our tent.

Many conversations were had and families showed interest in what we were doing as a church community and were encouraged by diverse programs provided by our church. We learnt that a number of the community thought our building was part of the council buildings!

Overall it was a great afternoon amongst the buzz of Kingsway. The parents and kids were particularly thankful for the activity we provided. A huge thank you to the team who organised everything: Lee Bech, Angel Shea, Sheila Chan, Vida Foo, Ben Krieger, Lynn Peters, Annie Lau, Winnie Liang, Sarah Wieden, Lyn Shegog, Joel Hearnshaw and Neil Peters.

Alanee Hearnshaw

Pleasing Year for Sammy Stamp

Due to the continued support of church and non-church groups, individuals and businesses around Victoria, Tasmania and indeed, Australia, I am pleased to report sales have reached about \$40,965.61 at 10/12/15...

Thanks are due to the volunteers from our pool of about 38 persons who come in on Thursdays to trim, sort and sell stamps, raising money to support many worthy causes...

Grants approved during 2015 totalled \$38,500:

• Wandin/Seville UC (for water project in Zimbabwe)	\$5,000
• Healesville UC (for clean water, Kenya)	\$5,000
• Vanuatu Prevention of Blindness	\$1,000
• Echuca-Moama UC , assisting Breakfast & Lunch program	\$2,500
• SHARE Vanuatu Cyclone Appeal	\$5,000
• Swan Hill UC to help asylum seekers	\$3,000
• SHARE National Cyclone Appeal	\$2,000
• Mission Liaison Group, transporting charitable goods overseas	\$2,000
• Uniting World Nepal Earthquake Appeal	\$3,000
• High St Frankston UC for Mother and Baby Clinics, North India	\$2,000
• St Margaret's UC Mooroolbark for Rubaga College Kampala Uganda	\$3,000
• Share Syrian Refugee Appeal	\$2,000
• Uniting World Appeal for Famine in Papua New Guinea	<u>\$3,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$38,500</u>

Allan Clark, Convenor

When trimming stamps from envelopes please leave a border of 1/8" (.3cm), not 1/4" (.5cm) as earlier advised! Sammy sells bulk stamps by weight and that little bit of envelope extra means more paper and less stamp in the bundle.

Dorothy Graham

Children's, Families' and Youth Events

Children's & Families' Camp

A great time was had recently at the Children's and Families Camp, held at Mt Buller. Families travelled up to Mt Buller on Friday night, enjoying a picnic dinner in Yea before arriving at the well-equipped university ski lodge.

The fantastic accommodation had floor to ceiling windows framing the mountains, various lounge rooms, a cinema room, industrial kitchen, TV room and a rumpus room.

Families enjoyed a range of activities, from bush walking to Saturday night's hilarious Family Feud. Sunday morning we were again thankful for the amazing facilities as we were able to use the Mt Buller Chapel for our interactive family worship service on creation. A great time of fellowship was had by all. Thank you to Andrew Adams for organising such a great weekend away and for all the families that attended and all the things they did: cooking, cleaning, games, birthday cake cooking and first aid. There are already plans underway for the next Glen Waverley Uniting Church Children's and Families' Camp.

Alanee Hearnshaw



Youth Retreat

February saw those who could within the youth ministry head to Mt Martha for a retreat, staying again in the Uniting Church Deaconess house.

The retreat is a weekend of goal setting, time out, Bible study, dreaming, visioning and going to the beach!



This year is the lead up to another National Christian Youth Convention (NCYC) to be held at Stanwell Tops on the coast in NSW. The group is looking forward to planning and getting ready to join our national gathering of young people again.

Some other highlights and part of this year's vision are:

- State Youth Games held on the June long weekend;
- exploring ways we can serve the community;
- serving in a soup kitchen;
- going on another Habitat for Humanity house build;
- exploring an overseas service trip;
- exploring ways to benefit faith exploration of young people with a regular accessible space;
- home work groups and ideas on what to do with a generous bequest.

Alanee Hearnshaw

Book Review

Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch (2009),

ReJesus: A Wild Messiah for a Missional Church,

Grand Rapids, Baker Books.

Michael Frost is an Australian Baptist minister and Alan Hirsch is an Australian Churches of Christ minister. Both are theologians with a passion for mission. In **ReJesus**, they challenge churches and church members to get to know the real Jesus and not the Jesus who has been moulded in our image, the Jesus we prefer to see.

The book begins with three examples of Jesus being moulded by culture. In 1964, a group of Ku Klux Klan members pray in the name of Jesus before going off to kill Civil Rights workers. The authors visit St Peter's in Rome. Their reaction to its opulence was to ask "Where is the poor, itinerant rabbi from Nazareth?" Michael Frost visits the Church of the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow to find the walls adorned with paintings depicting the defeat of Napoleon in 1812 while outside sits a woman, begging. Where is Jesus in this scenario?

The authors ask the question: 'In how many ways do we domesticate the radical Revolutionary [Jesus] in order to sustain our religion and religiosity?' They argue that Jesus has been lost and covered up by centuries of tradition, ritual and theology. Our task is to find the real Jesus again and to become like him – we need to follow the example of the radical rabbi from Nazareth. As disciples, we need to put Jesus at the centre of our lives and faith. Jesus was human, but unfortunately, the institutional church has made Jesus otherworldly and out of reach.

The authors argue that the Jesus we are to follow was not the 'gentle Jesus meek and mild' of our Sunday School days. Rather, 'Jesus was a wild man. He was a threat to the security of the religious establishment. He was baptized by a wild man. He inaugurated his ministry by spending time with the wild beasts of the wilderness. He was unfazed by a wild storm that lashed his boat on an excursion across a lake and [unfazed] with the wildness of the demoniacs of the Gaderenes...There was an untamed power within him. Even his storytelling, so often characterised by the church today as warm morality tales, was dangerous and subversive and mysterious.' The reader is challenged to meet the biblical Jesus and be brave enough to encounter the disquieting, unsettling, perplexing, unfamiliar Jesus found there.

The authors tell us that rediscovery of the biblical Jesus will radically reshape our view of God, the church, and the world. We will see mission as God's mission, not ours. We will see the church as a gathering, a community which seeks to serve others. We will see all people as made in the image of God. We will see ourselves, first and foremost, as disciples and the authors tell us that the biblical record shows that 'Jesus does not disciple people by generating information, developing programs, or implementing plans. Rather, Jesus' discipleship always involves a deeply personal process of being drawn into becoming more like the image, or form, of Jesus.'

The rediscovery of the biblical Jesus affects not only individual Christians, but also the institutional church. 'ReJesus, the refounding of the church, means departing from a blind, slavish allegiance to religious rules inherited from our parents and forebears. It means walking into the turmoil of chaos and daring to trust that at the end of the path will not be bedlam but a rediscovery of the way of Jesus, a rediscovery of the original rules that we can own ourselves with greater conviction and authenticity.'

The book is studded with wonderful stories and anecdotes, stories of real people who have discovered the biblical Jesus and have striven to become like him – people just like you and me.

I found this book riveting reading. My only criticism is the foray into trying to explain the Trinity towards the end of the book. I think that would have been better left alone!

The challenge in this book is there for us. Are we ready for it?

Ross Mackinnon

Seeking the End of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking and forced labour occurs in industries in Australia such as construction, the meat industry, manufacturing, hospitality and people who are forced to live-in as housekeepers... We have also [a] campaign to have the Australian Government require companies importing products from overseas to take all reasonable steps to ensure the products did not involve human trafficking, forced labour or slavery in their production.

A number of proposals to address human trafficking, both in Australia and in the production of imported goods, are under active consideration by the Minister. We need another demonstration of public support so the Minister can push his colleagues in Government to take action.

People coming to work in Australia from overseas expect that if they work hard they will get decent pay and conditions. Shamefully, this is not always true and our Government has not yet put a stop to the abuse and exploitation of so many of these people...

Often at the heart of the problem are labour businesses. These businesses organise for workers to come to Australia and place them in jobs. However, some labour hire businesses are criminal enterprises, intimidating workers to accept low pay, making illegal deductions from their pay and maintaining physical control over them. They steal workers' wages, provide them with substandard accommodation for exorbitant fees and seek sexual favours from female workers.

Labour hire companies in Australia largely escape any Government oversight. There is little stopping anyone from setting themselves up as a labour hire company. Dodgy labour hire businesses hurt the reputation of legitimate labour hire businesses as well, tainting the whole industry. A licensing requirement for labour hire businesses in industries where there is a risk of human trafficking would go a long way towards driving out the shady element from the industry.

(This page is taken from the JIM Unit's Just Act mailout, March 2016)

What you can do:

Write a polite and respectful letter to:

The Hon Michael Keenan MP
Minister for Justice
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Salutation: Dear Minister

Points to make in your letter:

- Express deep concern that goods produced with the involvement of human trafficking, slavery or forced labour are being imported into Australia.
- In order to encourage companies in Australia to do the right thing, ask the Government to introduce a law requiring companies in high risk industries to publish the actions they are taking to ensure the goods they are importing are free of human trafficking, forced labour and slavery. This is already a requirement of the UK *Modern Slavery Act* and the Californian *Transparency in the Supply Chains Act 2010 (SB657)*.
- Ask the Australian Government to make customs data public so it is known where companies are sourcing goods from. This is already the case in places like the US and India.
- Express deep concern at the evidence of human trafficking in some Australian industries, such as farming, food processing, construction and hospitality.
- Note that labour hire businesses are often involved in the trafficking and exploitation of workers coming from overseas.
- Ask the Government to set up a licensing system of labour hire businesses in Australia in industries at risk of human trafficking and provide meaningful oversight of labour hire businesses in these industries.
- Ask that workers from overseas who are suspected to have been trafficked into Australia be given access to independent legal advice before any action is taken to remove them from Australia.
- Ask that employers be required to allow workers from overseas to have access to a non-government organization to assist the worker to understand their rights and responsibilities. This would act as a significant protective factor against human trafficking and exploitation.

Be a Good Egg This Easter

Our children love Easter Eggs. Other children are forced to produce them.

...Want slavery-free chocolate? Look out for these certification labels.



Fairtrade is a strategy for poverty reduction and sustainable development with the aim of creating opportunities for farmers and workers marginalised by the conventional trading system....[It] includes minimum prices, payment of a premium that must be invested in local development, access to partial advance payment, as well as respect for the right to freedom of association, collective bargaining and non-discrimination.

Rainforest Alliance promotes better management of tea farms and estates...Core socio-economic themes are concerned with working conditions and community relations.

UTZ Certified has an overarching focus on better management of farms...Three key areas are: Management (traceability of tea back to the source; worker training), Social (complying with international labour standards; occupational safety and health and local development) and Environmental (soil and water quality, energy use and deforestation).

The best option is Fairtrade

Efforts to promote chocolate that has been ethically sourced via slavery-free supply chains are already having an effect in Australia. There have been some big successes:

- Cadbury dairy milk chocolate bars made in Australia have been Certified Fairtrade
- All Mars bars made in Australia are now certified Rainforest Alliance
- All Nestle chocolate made in Australia and NZ is now UTZ certified
- Haighs source 70% of their cocoa from UTZ certified farms. Their Easter range is 100% certified.
- Aldi have a wide variety of UTZ certified Easter chocolate

What You Can Do

BUY slavery-free chocolate this Easter

EAT only slavery-free chocolate this Easter

TALK about slavery-free chocolate this Easter

THANK the stores who stock slavery-free chocolate this Easter

This information is extracted from a pamphlet supplied by the Justice and International Mission Unit in its March 2016 mailout

Be a Good Egg This Easter

BRAND/STORE	PRODUCTS	AVAILABILITY
ALDI	<p>Aldi's entire Easter private label range is UTZ Certified, their range includes: Dairy Fine, Choceur, Moser Roth, Specially Selected.</p> <p>For full list of products see http://bit.ly/23SxNL</p>	<p>Aldi Stores www.aldi.com.au</p>
CHOCOLATIER AUSTRALIA	<p>Fairtrade Milk Chocolate Egg 100g</p> <p>Fairtrade Dark Chocolate Egg 100g</p>	<p>Myer, David Jones, Big W, Woolworths and Coles</p>
COLES	<p>Fairtrade Chocolatier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark Decadent Selection 4pk (100g) • Chocolate Egg Selection 6pk (150g) • Bunnies w speckled & mini eggs (150g) • Gift Pack Egg Dark (100g) • Gift Pack Egg Milk (100g) <p>UTZ Certified Coles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk Chocolate Bunny (100g) • Hollows Eggs Gift Bag (510g) • Easter Hunt Bag (360g) • Chocolate Lollipop (35g) • Frozen Breakfast Set (40g egg) • Minions/Frozen Ceramics Mug & Egg • Avengers/Star Wars Mug & Egg • Star Wars/Frozen Foil Cup Chocolate 	<p>Coles Supermarkets www.coles.com.au</p> <p>NB Not all products may be available in every store</p>
DAVID JONES	<p>Fairtrade Certified Chocolatier:</p> <p>80 g Bunny & Egg 100g Milk Chocolate Egg 100g Dark Chocolate Egg</p> <p>Additional certified chocolate products in wider range available including Pana Chocolate, Organic Times, Coco Chocolate, Anthon Berg, Blanxart</p>	<p>David Jones stores www.davidjones.com.au</p>
HAIGHS	<p>100% of Haigh's made Easter range uses UTZ Certified cocoa</p>	<p>Haigh's stores: Adelaide, Melbourne & Sydney. 1300 HAIGHS (1300 424 447) orders@haighs.com.au</p>
TRIBES AND NATIONS	<p>The Real Egg - Fair-trade Certified</p>	<p>www.tribesandnations.com.au</p> <p>sales@tribesandnations.com.au</p>

for everything there is a season
and a time for every matter under heaven

We record with sadness the deaths in the past months of members of our church family and we extend our support and sympathy to their families

June Kirkham

Dean Andrew Hughes

Glenn Thomas Laub

Valerie Dowling