

Book of the Month

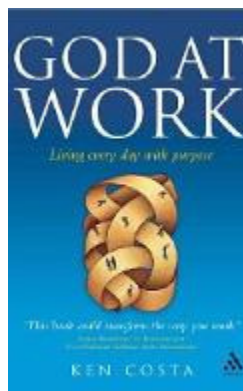
Cost: \$ 10.00

God at Work by Ken Costa

In this book you can expect both biblical perspectives and practical wisdom that are tested and applied. Costa's conviction has always been that if the Christian faith is not relevant in the workplace, it is not relevant at all.

This book is amazingly readable as he tackles the gamut of pertinent issues related to one's work life. For example, he writes, about the meaning of work, "We will only take our faith to work if we know that our work is valuable to God." From the topics of ambition, tough decisions, stress, work/life balance and failure to the sticky issue of money and giving, you will find insights and examples from his personal experience and his acquaintances, and of course the teaching from Jesus and the Scriptures.

Review by Michael Tan



Matt's Matters

Your monthly update on what Matters at St Matt's. Reflecting the generosity of Christ in and to our community.

June 2011



June 2011 Preaching Calendar

- 5 June God, What Happens to Those Who have Never Heard About You?
- 12 June God, What is the Role of the Holy Spirit?
- 19 June God, How Can you be Three Persons in One Being?
- 26 June Employer of Choice - Daniel 1

St Matt's Services

Sunday 8am	Morning Prayer / Holy Communion
Sunday 9am	St Matts @ School; WPH Public School
Sunday 10am	For all Generations Family Service
Sunday 9.45am	Chinese Service; Cherrybrook Public School
Sunday 11.15am	Asian Congregation; Cherrybrook Public School
Sunday 5pm	Contemporary Service
Sunday 7pm	Contemporary Service
Wednesday 10.30am	Traditional Anglican Service

Ministers - All members of the Congregation

Minister	Steve Abbott	Mobile 0417 410 596	9479 3700
Assistants	Shane Dirks	Associate Minister	9479 3700
	Nerida Peart	Young Adults	9479 3702
	Rob Conway	Youth Minister	9479 3704
	Chris Jones	Assistant Youth/Children's Minister	9479 3710
	Karen Braga	Pastoral Care/Young Women	0401 933 264
	Kenneth Leung	Chinese Minister	0433 766 211
	Kenny Liew	Minister of Asian Congregation	0448 515 408
	Jacki Hellstrom	Children's Ministry Co-ordinator Tues & Fri	9479 3700
	Tina Piccione	Communications Co-ordinator Thurs	9479 3700
Administrator	Kat Butler	Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm	9479 3700

St Matthews Anglican Church

T: 02 9479 3700 F: 02 9479 3777

E: office@stmatts.org.au www.stmatts.org.au



If you are feeling new to St Matthews, please fill out a Communication Card found in the church or hall or at the back of the school hall. One of our ministry team will be in contact with you soon. Stay for morning tea/supper after the service to meet others who have made St Matt's their spiritual home.



Reflecting the generosity of Christ

St Matthews
Anglican Church

www.stmatts.org.au

Pastoral Letter—Steve Abbott

Dear sisters and brothers,

It is hard to live in today's world without having the reality of the clash of Muslim and Christian Civilisations thrust upon us. All over the globe we hear of conflicts and tense relationships between these, and of course other contrasting civilizations and cultures. Debates rage in many Western Cultures, not least our own, about what is involved in being tolerant towards those of Muslim faith. What is the wisest policy with regard to the burkha? What do we think about Muslim communities operating on Sharia Law within our own culture? How do we feel about the increasing number of Muslims as they immigrate into our community? Are we fearful? Excited by the opportunity to witness to them?

No doubt we'll all have our own opinions. I for one am so very glad that some of our women provide one-on-one support for some Muslim women through the St John's Parramatta Persian ministry. It's terrific that Margaret Powell is now based in Belmore and building bridges into the Muslim community through regular contact with Muslim women. Not too long ago my USA mentor Leighton Ford sent me a piece he wrote on this very issue, sparked by the unrest over the plans to build a mosque near ground zero in New York. I thought this month I would share it with you:

Jesus and the Mosque

On a shelf at home I have a copy of 'Pilgrims of Christ on the Muslim Road', the story of the Syrian-born writer Mazhar Mallouhi. As a young man who grew up in a Muslim family he had a profound spiritual hunger, read widely, learned of Jesus in the Bible, and became a follower of Christ while remaining loyal to his Muslim culture. His novels are read by millions in the Middle East. Through them he has sought to bridge misunderstandings between Muslims and Christians.

In the book is a photo of him in the famous Al Azhar Mosque in Cairo, sitting with a group of Muslims as they read the Gospels together. It is his custom to say, "I am a follower of Christ. Here is what Jesus said. Tell me honestly, do you think I am living as Jesus said I should?" I thought of Mallouhi's question during the heated dispute over the location of a Muslim mosque and community center near Ground Zero in New York. Among the voices being raised – some harsh with anger, some deep with indignation about "rights" – I wonder if the missing voice is that of Jesus?

If I were a Muslim I might want to claim rights, but also want my leaders to consider whether another location would work and help to heal some deep hurts. But I am not a Muslim. Those issues are for the Muslim community to decide. What I need to ask is: what does Jesus say to us who say we follow him? Suppose we, like Mallouhi, sat down with some Muslims in the new community center, and read with them some of the words of Jesus, words like “Do good to those who hate you.” That could apply to radical terrorists who want to blow us up. So how can it not apply to Muslim neighbors who are living among us?

Many years ago my late friend J. Christy Wilson was pastor of the first ever Christian church in Kabul, Afghanistan. Through the good offices of President Eisenhower permission was granted to build the church, attended by Christian expatriates. The time came when the Afghan authorities revoked permission and announced they would knock the church down. When the bulldozers arrived what did the Christ followers there do? They served tea to the workers who were destroying their church building! They were living out a central tenet of our Christian faith – that we are “saved by grace” – God’s grace freely given in Jesus Christ — and they showed grace.

How can we do that? I hope the churches and the Christ followers in New York can figure it out. Perhaps delivering a cool drink to the workers who will build the center? After all Paul went so far as to write (and this was about enemies, not neighbors) “If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.” (Romans 12:20) Does this mean we naively accept real evil? Not at all. I understand the rage that 9/11 stirred. Force is often needed to protect the innocent. But ultimately I have to follow Jesus and his follower Paul in the baffling reality of Paul’s admonition to “Overcome evil with good.”

What does the love of Christ compel me to do? Perhaps, whether in New York or Charlotte, to extend a little more grace – actually a whole lot more. Wouldn’t that be the best witness we could make?

Leighton Ford

As a community of Christ in the Hills District of Sydney may we also fully embrace this grace of the gospel as we engage with Muslims and indeed anyone whom God brings cross our path. Let us all not be driven by fear but love. May we, empowered by the Holy Spirit, both individually and corporately ensure our vision isn't just words on a paper but rubber hitting the road, *'to reflect the generosity of Christ in and to our community.'*

Your partner in ministry,

Steve Abbott



Prayer Points

- That our messages on 'Questions I'd Like to Ask God' and the new book of Daniel series will enrich our lives, equipping us all for Christ's service.
- That our staff retreat on Wed-Thurs, 8-9 June at our home in Fairy Meadow will be rich in fellowship, wise in reflection and planning, and deep in the things of God.
- For God to raise up godly and gifted ministers for the urgent and immediate needs of the Chinese and Youth Ministry positions, and for the longer term need of a Pastoral Care and Seniors Minister.
- That our giving will increase so that we can fill all three of these positions for the long haul.

St Matt's Diary and Notes



SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

12 June 12.30—2.30pm:

If you usually eat alone on a Sunday and wish to join with others for lunch and fellowship, you are invited to our 'Second Sunday Potluck Lunch' in NewLine Cottage. Tea and coffee will be supplied and it would be appreciated if you could bring finger food to share.

Further details:

Pattie Mutton (9484 0174) or

Pat Gould (9868 4630).

The PHCCEA Dinner

Keep Saturday 6 August free for the PHCCEA Dinner.

Come and hear about this exciting Christian work in Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook Technology High Schools.

Tickets (\$25) are available now on line from:

<http://www.trybooking.com/9381>

Equiries: John Hain 9872 9965

CHURCH PHOTOCOPIER

Konica Minolta have decided to replace the church's photocopier, which is on a lease, with a newer model. The old one was costing Minolta too much money to maintain. The new one has been set up, but if you are unsure how to use it please ask Kat in the office.

BEYOND EGYPT COURSE

Beyond Egypt is a Christian Ministry for men and women struggling with unwanted same-sex attraction, as well as other forms of sexual and relational brokenness. This 15-week course, starting in August, provides information, support, accountability and prayer in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

New course starting: 1 August 2011

For more information email:

info@beyondegypt.org.au



WESTMEAD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL— VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS

The Chaplaincy Department of The Children's Hospital at Westmead is holding an Intensive Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education Program from Tuesday 6th September to Wednesday 14th September 2011 for people who may like to consider becoming Volunteer Chaplains, offering their services to the Children's Hospital for a short time each week. Suitable applicants will be considered for this program.

For more information please contact:

Jan Donohoo or Kate Bradford,
Anglican Chaplains; 9845 3903

A note from the Missions Resource Group...

Introducing to you the new updated prayer roster for St Matt's!

After much discussion and deliberating on how to make supporting our link missionaries more effective, the MRG have decided to shake up a little bit which service pray for which link missionaries.

Perhaps some of you have noticed there are now various link missionaries being prayed for each week. What we have attempted to do is to match up missionaries according to links and priorities of each congregation. Some services will still be praying for all our missionaries, others will be praying for a smaller number who perhaps they have links to.

The intention of this new roster is so that each service can develop closer relationships and be more aware of what the missionaries are up to. We were aware that sometimes we were praying for a missionary only once every 2 or 3 months – not enough to really engage deeply with the ministry they are involved with and be actively remembering them. Now however, some services will be praying through a rotation of 3, 4 or 5 missionaries, praying around once a month for them.

It is our hope and prayer that this new formation of link missionaries will allow members of each congregation to take more ownership of praying for and supporting missionaries. This is also hopefully a way that will lend itself more easily to home groups 'adopting a missionary' to pray for and actively support.

Never fear, St Matt's is as committed as ever to fully supporting each missionary – all their monthly prayer points will still be available in our prayer diary and monthly Matts Matters. Each missionary still has several congregations praying for them each month. We would encourage you to pray diligently for all our missionaries in your personal prayer times.

If you would like more information, please contact Kat Butler to get in touch with the MRG.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12

ST MATTHEWS MEN'S DINNER WITH NICK FARR-JONES Monday 18 July

**Diarise today so
you don't miss out!**



7pm start, Hornsby RSL
Guest Speaker: Nick Farr-Jones
Tickets: \$40 on sale next week
Contact: office@stmatts.org.au or Ben Hodgkinson (0401 526 685)

**SINGLES - FAMILIES - RETIREES
CROSSROADS REALLY NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Have you ever thought of working overseas, but didn't know how, or if you had the necessary skills. YOU HAVE!

We have all been given talents that are needed, so give your holiday meaning by helping those in need.

See a visual presentation and find out how you can help.

at

Thornleigh Community Baptist Church Auditorium
Cnr. Duffy Avenue / The Esplanade, Thornleigh
Wednesday 29th June at 7.30pm

Richard & Helen Barwick, long-term volunteers back home on furlough, will be there to speak of what they do and why.



There will be other Crossroads
ex-volunteers present to answer your
questions.
SUPPER PROVIDED



**St Matt's
Intercessory Prayer Network**

The confidential Intercessory Prayer Network which operates at St Matt's has been bringing the needs of many people before the Lord over the past year. The team of intercessors are praying for up to 15-20 people at one time and many have testified to the encouragement and strength received as a result of this.



We urge you, if you need prayer or know of anyone who does (they need not be a member of St Matt's), please send your requests to prayer@stmatts.org.au or else speak in private to a senior member of staff. This Prayer Network is completely confidential and private - no one will approach you or any one being prayed for without your explicit permission.

'... pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.' James 5:16

**Recommendations to Parish Council & Staff from the
Annual Church Meeting**

All 10 recommendations which were made at the ACM, by members of our various congregations were taken to Parish Council, Staff and the Wardens. The responses have been sent to each of the individuals who made the recommendations. If you would like a copy of the responses, please contact Kat in the office: office@stmatts.org.au or 9479 3700.

Report on STRESS, WOMEN & CHOCOLATE

Early on Saturday the 7th May, over 120 women gathered for a fantastic breakfast here at St Matt's.

Our guest speaker Dr Helen Rienits was terrific sharing her wealth of experience and knowledge on the issue of stress and its impact on women.

Women of all ages found her coverage of the physical, emotional and spiritual effects of stress, along with her suggested strategies, really helpful.

Most importantly, we were assured that chocolate can have a positive impact on our health!



DIVORCE RECOVERY Workshop

This workshop will enable you to grow in your understanding of the hurt surrounding divorce. The workshop will look at what the bible says, how you can pray with, encourage and support people who are going through or have gone through divorce.

Workshop – 18 June 2011

Registration 1.00 pm

Workshop 1.30 pm to 5 pm

Cost \$20

at Golden Grove

5 Forbes Street, Newtown

Car parking available (20 cars).

Bus 8 mins. from Central

Bus 422, 423, 426 and 428.

For more information or to register
phone 0407 910 238 or

email brichards@sydney.anglican.asn.au

www.SydneyHeal.com

Nothing is impossible with God

MISSION AID GROUP (MAG)

Thank you to all who have donated over the past 2 months. We sent a wonderful variety of goods over to Kingsgrove after our April meeting.

The first container for the year was packed to be sent in April. Nerida Peart and a couple of young adults went over to the depot to assist and see where it all happens. The folk at Kingsgrove were thankful for their help. Nerida held a knitting afternoon with the young adult girls and more 'senior' ladies to teach the girls how to knit squares, which would then be joined to make the rugs we send to Tanzania. This was a wonderful afternoon of fun and fellowship over several congregations. A luscious afternoon tea supplied by the girls was much enjoyed. It was great to be able to inform more of our church community about MAG.

Our next meeting is in Hall 1 on Wednesday 15 June at 1pm.

Roslyn Dearden.

NEWLINE COTTAGE (message from Steve Abbott)

It has come to my attention that there may be some confusion about the current and long term role of NewLine Cottage. It was always the intention that, when complete, this would be the centre for ministries of care and compassion at St Matt's, while also continuing to provide us with much needed office space for our staff. This of course does not mean that it cannot be used for other activities such as Prayer Meetings, Bible Studies, Christianity Explored Groups and the like.

It was never intended that the Cottage would be open as a sort of daily drop in centre for our own people and the wider community. However, I hasten to add it is our hope that in due course, when staffing and/or a team of willing members are available, we will have at least one morning and/or afternoon a week when people could drop in for light refreshments, a chat and friendship.

Currently the building provides office space for Shane Dirks (Associate Minister) and Chris Jones (Youth/Children's Minister) and another office is available for the future Pastoral Care and Seniors minister. The Cottage also provides a counselling room, which is used regularly by John Wheeler and Linda Mitchell who provide professional counselling services for their own clients and reimburse St Matt's for the use of the space. The counselling room is also used occasionally for sporadic counselling by staff. On Monday afternoons the staff have their weekly meeting in the lounge room. It is also used for midweek evening HOME Groups and on Sunday afternoon for Youth Bible Studies. The monthly Potluck Sunday lunch also uses NewLine Cottage. Its wonderful to see how effectively the building is being employed for a variety of ministries.

However, we do have some dreams for its future use once we are in a position to provide consistent quality programs. For example, as noted above, we'd like to establish a consistent time for a drop-in centre for everyone, but especially those who are lonely and/or have special need of care. We would love to see us in a position to run Christian Recovery Programs, along the lines of the AA pattern, but with a clear Christ-centred focus. In partnership with Anglicare we will explore other ways of providing effective gospel-based care for both our members and our wider community. We will also plan for a public opening of NewLine Cottage to which local politicians would be invited; this would give the facility a wider public profile and alert the local community to the ministries it will be offering. However, it would be premature to do this until we have a new and established Pastoral Care Minister in place, excellent ministries to offer and a ministry team of members to provide these ministries.

I'm reminded of Galatians 6:10 *'Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.'* All of our dreams and plans fit perfectly within our vision *'to be a church which reflects the generosity of Christ in and to our community.'* Please be praying that this future vision for NewLine Cottage will come to fruition along with the necessary people and financial resources to achieve it.

H.O.M.E GROUPS

Our home-based fellowship ministry continues to provide a greater depth of intimacy and Christian community for many of our members. However, there are still many of you that have yet to sign up and join a group and I want to encourage you to give this some very serious prayerful consideration. Yes it can appear to be intimidating to join with an existing group, especially if you are new to Christianity, never been in a small group before or are maybe on the shy side. However, I want to assure you that all our HOME Groups will warmly welcome new members and be sensitive to each person's situation. Groups meet on just about every day and time of the week, some weekly and others fortnightly.

On the other hand if you would like to attend a 7-week Christianity Explored Group and then make a decision about signing up for a regular HOME Group that would be terrific. If you would like to join or explore joining either of these types of groups please contact Steve Abbott at the office on 9479 3700.

ORANA SENIORS FELLOWSHIP

JULY MEETING

Date: 6th July Time: 11.30am

Come and join us for

LUNCH 'off-site': Bobbin Inn Café

Following Wednesday Church we will meet at 11.30am and proceed to Bobbin Head by car for lunch. The cost of the meal (fish, chips & salad, dessert and tea/coffee) will be \$15.

We extend a very warm invitation for you and your friends to enjoy lunch and fellowship with us in this delightful setting.

Please let Mary Coles (9484 2497) or Judy Full (9484 3074) know by 29 June if you are coming.

All welcome!

We extend a very warm welcome to you and your friends.

'Know Your Bible' Women's Group



In Term 2 we are studying the second half of the book of Romans, chapters 9 to 16. You are most welcome to join us on Wednesday nights 7:45-9:30pm in Hall 3 beginning Wednesday 4 May 2011.

Most people come to faith in Jesus without understanding what it really means for a person to be redeemed, transformed, sealed and sanctified for that day when we will all stand before the Lord (Romans 14:10-12). Romans was a turning point in the thinking of Martin Luther, it caused John Wesley's heart to be "strangely warmed." If you desire spiritual renewal, studying Romans with a friendly group of women is a great place to start.

Please talk to either Wendy Noble (9484 2108) or Pat Gould (9868 4630) if you want further details and let us know if you are coming along so that we can order a study book for you.

Wardens' Update—Financial Matters

Late last year, we asked all members of St Matthews to review their offertory giving, and to prayerfully consider if they could *increase* it and make it *regular*.



Since that request was made it is obvious that many have prayerfully considered their situation and have increased their regular giving. We are very grateful for God's blessings to us at this time.

During April the Average Weekly Giving ("AWG") was \$16,384. This was \$336 (2.1%) above our budget and \$1,341 (8.9%) up on last year.

When we take into account some special donations made at the beginning of the year our Average Weekly Giving for the 4 months to the end of April is \$17,794, which is \$1,746 (10.9%) above the budgeted giving and \$3,913 (28.2%) above the same period last year.

This is a very encouraging result and clearly something for which to give thanks. We must however be mindful of the fact that we are operating in 2011 to a very tight budget which includes restrictions on spending and staffing. The growth in our giving, provided it continues, should allow a slightly more expansive budget in 2012. This should then allow staff planning which is closer to meeting our ministry needs and objectives.

Whilst on financial matters, did you know that if you have a discretionary trust you might be able to make a distribution directly to St Matt's and in doing so give to the work and ministry of St Matt's from your gross income?

It is usually a good idea to obtain advice from your accountant prior to making any distribution of this nature, but if you would like to discuss how this could work, please contact Colin Gibb or Claire Jones.

John Parker
(On behalf of the wardens including Claire Jones and Rob McGregor)

Pray for those with special needs:

Jan , Damon , Margaret , Dudley ,
Brian , Caroline (Betty daughter), Betty ,
Jeannine , Peter ; Margaret , Jane ,
Cliff , Geoff & Margaret , Stan , Bev ,
Janet , mother of Sally (Member 10am).



Men and Meat – 14 May 2011



On the perfect Saturday night about 135 men from St Matt's and their guests got together to fully apply Genesis 9:3, Acts 10, and Hebrews 10:10. It was all about Men, Meat, and a Lasting Sacrifice!

The guys gathered in the hall at West Pennant Hills Public School for a special night with Christian Butcher, Michael Moore of Moore's Gourmet Butchery (Epping).

Mike brought along a side of beef, lamb, and a whole lot of pork ribs, butchering them, teaching the men about the best cuts and the secrets of Barbequing them just right! First up, the men enjoyed American-style pork ribs, cooked to perfection, along with some corn chips and Mike's own guacamole. Mike shared some great stories and insights from the other side of the counter, and even gave some tips on looking after knives. After hearing all this and seeing Mike cut up the side of beef, it was time to hit the barbeques. 16 red-hot barbeques awaited the men and their selections of steaks and a few legs of lamb. The smoke went up like a pleasing aroma to all, and then it was eating time!

It wasn't all meat though, it was great to hear 10 o'clocker John Zeckendorf share his testimony; sharing his story of being born Jewish, and through careful investigation of God's promises in the Old Testament, and a few special moments with people God had provided along the way, coming to receive Jesus as his Messiah. The men also heard a talk from Shane Dirks based on Hebrews 10:10. Shane pointed to Jesus as the sacrifice who achieved what the blood of bulls never could, in dealing with our sin and revealing God to us. Every man was offered a copy of the essential Jesus and given the task of reading it and thinking for himself if these things could be true.

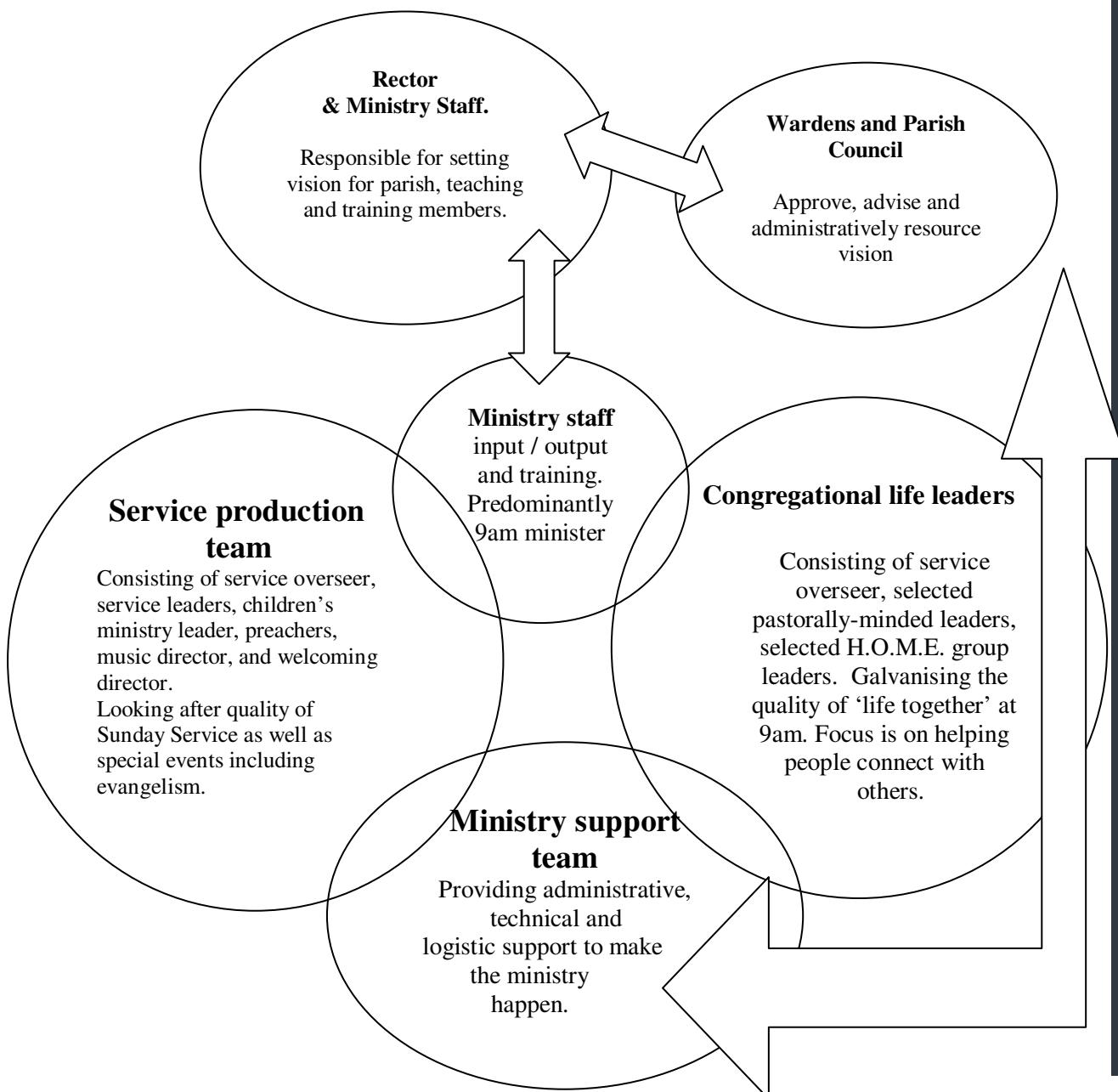
It was a great night for everyone, and the guys were given a little appetite whetter for the next event, the Men's Annual Dinner in July



In previous Matt's Matters I have talked about the need to evolve the leadership model in a growing congregation. As a result of many conversations within and without our parish the 9am congregation is now moving to the model shown. The model is designed to share leadership according to convictions, character, and competencies. The goal is to build on the quality of our meeting time on Sunday whilst enhancing the strength of our relationships on the other 6 days of the week. The model has scriptural basis in Acts 6, 1 Timothy, and Romans 12. Some of these leadership roles have been filled, please pray as we continue to talk with others about taking on these roles. A fuller version of this model is available upon request.

Shane Dirks.

9am Leadership model



聖馬太中文堂家庭營——來跟從我
St Matthew's Family Camp----Come, Follow Me
李嫻嫻 Kitty Li

我們的生活中有太多阻礙使我們跟神的關係疏遠，工作忙，學習緊，家務重都可以成為各式各樣的阻礙。難得有機會遠離繁忙的都市，沒有堆滿文件的辦公桌，沒有喋喋不休的上司，沒有寫不完的論文，沒有家中洗不完的衣服和碗筷...我們來到教會家庭營，這裡有的是與世隔絕的寧靜、並肩前進的弟兄姊妹，和神為我們預備的功課。

There are many things in our life that could hinder ourselves from developing a close relationship with God. These hinders could involve hard work, stressful study, heavy housework and others. Our Family Church Camp was a perfect opportunity to escape from the busy city with no office work, the nagging boss, essays, homework and never ending housework. In the camp, we had peace and quiet that is out of this world. Together with our brothers and sisters, we learn and grow in God's Words.

作為一個基督徒，究竟我相信的這個“主”是誰呢？我是為了甚麼而活呢？我的生命中要做些甚麼呢？這些問題好像很簡單，我卻很少留心去思考，甚至有時我明知道答案，卻為自己不去遵行主的旨意找很多藉口。這次營會剛好給我安靜自己的時間，在聽呂牧師講道之後，認真思考和反省。我相信的這位真神基督耶穌不但是我們所有人的救主，也是我生命的主宰。我要為主而活，全情侍奉主。

Being a Christian, do I know our mighty God well? What is the purpose of our lives? What do I need to achieve in my life? These questions seem straightforward to some, but I have rarely thought them through in detail. Sometimes I may know the answer, but would find excuses not to follow them. In this camp, it was a perfect opportunity for me to quiet down.

After listening to Pastor Lui's sermon, I truly gave a thorough reflection of my life's important values. I believe the almighty God is not only our saviour, but also our lives' dependent. I need to live for God, and serve him well.



營會有很多讓我印象深刻的事和活動。不得不提的是，我們每天都有豐富的食物、水果、飲品，自己帶的零食完全用不到。除了早上跟弟兄姊妹一起靈修，聽呂牧師講令人深思的道，我們還有不少做遊戲的時間。所有弟兄姊妹被分成了幾個小組，週五晚上入營時，大家通過畫圖猜人物等遊戲彼此認識；經過週六一天的聽道和分享得着，大家彼此熟悉，晚飯後大家都興致勃勃地參與到“拿簽名”，“放下隨身物”和“猜領軍人”的遊戲中。最後每個小組都以“來跟從我”為主題獻上自導自演的短劇。營會中所有讚美敬拜神的詩歌都令我有一顆火熱的心去唱出對神的愛。整個營會都被歡聲笑語和敬拜之聲充滿了。

There were many memorable moments and activities during the camp. I must mention the daily nutritional meals, fruits and food items, which have fed us well. All snacks we brought there were taken back because we didn't need them in the camp.

I enjoyed the morning devotion times with brothers and sisters, listening to Pastor Lui's deep and meaningful sermon, and lots of games and activity time.

All brothers and sisters were allocated into small groups of 7 on Friday's welcoming night. It was a great chance to know each other when we played the charades game to guess who each other was from their interests and sketching.

After Saturday's sermon and sharing time, we were much closer with each other, and the games involving signature collection, letting go of personal belongings, and guessing the leader. The night's main event was the Saturday's Extravaganza Night, where each group presents a drama session with the theme of the camp "Come, follow me".

All the songs of praise to God sung during the camp had enlightened my internal heart, and to praise out loud of God's Love to us. The whole camp was filled with cheerful words and voices of praise.

最重要的是，這次營會，我不但聽到了神通過牧師告訴我的道理，也深切感受到，應該如何行在主的路上，而且我並不孤單，因為弟兄姊妹們會相互幫助扶持。大家一起吃，一起住，一起聽道，一起做遊戲，一起在主里成長，就像一個大家庭里每個成員都手牽手共同前進，跟從我們的阿爸父。

Most importantly, in this camp, not only did I have the opportunity to listen God's word through Pastor Lui's sermon, I had deeply experienced what is involved in following Jesus' footsteps as a disciple. I do not feel alone, because brothers and sisters will care for each other.

In the 3 days 2 nights, we ate together, camped and lived together, listened to the sermons together, enjoyed the activities together, and grew in Christ together, just like a big family, where every member would hold hands, march forward, and follow our Abba Father in Heaven.



St Matthews Asian Congregation

11.15am church service

9.30am crossfire youth group

all meetings @ cherrybrook public school, 131 new line road

SMAC ANNUAL CAMP 2011



This year, we spent an intense 5 day “boot camp” tackling the topic of Justification. At the beginning, our brains were hurting from struggling with difficult topics like falling away and salvation from faith and works. However, towards the end of camp, we started to realise that no matter how loosely we hold God’s hand or even if we let go, He will always be holding tightly onto our hands. The talks from Kenny and the discussion groups challenged us about our assurance in our salvation and how to live a life that reflects this. One of the most memorable explanations was a father spends \$50 for a delicious buffet dinner for his son, and after the dinner, his son tries to pay back his father with 20c. Obviously, his mere 20c could not pay for dinner, so the father insists that instead of trying to pay back for dinner, that the son should use his 20c to buy his friend a gummy frog lolly. Just like how we cannot earn our salvation with works or good deeds, let’s use our gifts and opportunities to serve and love others and point towards salvation instead! To help us do this, we had seminars that pushed us to think seriously about the welcoming, fruitful conversations, what makes a good youth group and our personal goals for SMAC.

One of the highlights that really impacted people of SMAC were the games, not just because they were fun and exciting, but because they helped us to get to know each other better. Over the past year, we had several people join SMAC and 16 people at camp who had never been to a SMAC camp before! With so many new comers, camp was the perfect opportunity for SMAC to develop real, fruitful bonds with each other. On the last night, we celebrated with our realisation of how awesome God is with performances of dances, singing and skits in front of a bon fire. We roasted marshmallows, sang songs and everyone reminisced the memorable moments of the past few days.



My personal highlight from camp this year hearing the impacts that camp had on the people of SMAC. Those who have been Christian for years were refreshed and reminded of God's unconditional love and even one girl who after years of doubt and struggle decided to recommit to God and get baptised.

We thank God for his love and mercy, for always holding onto us and for the ways that he has worked inside peoples' hearts during SMAC CAMP 2011!



ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

JUNE 2011

Please pray for link missionaries each week. For more information on all of our link missionaries please see the missions page at www.stmatts.org.au
Pray for organising ongoing mission opportunities in St Matthews now and in the future!

Chris & Sharon Ekins, Coast EC Forster

- Praise God for the continual slow and steady growth. Pray for God to raise up more homegroup (bible study) leaders. I am hoping to train Romne and Andries in July.
- Praise God for the solid youth core group that is being built up. Ask for God to sustain Evan and Alicia and to raise up more leaders for the growing youth ministry.
- Pray for Holiday Hang Out kids winter mission run by St Matt's Youth on 11-13 July. We are hoping to connect with many primary school kids! Pray for good follow up and that many will receive Christ and link to Grommets youth group for kids
- Pray for wisdom and boldness as I work with other local ministers to get Scripture started at Tuncurry High. There are some who think the lessons I prepared are too Christ-focussed, are too evangelistic in asking kids to make their own decision to follow Jesus, and they also want the substitutionary atonement to be removed from the lesson about what Christ's death achieved. These are serious matters and the lessons are under review. As a result, the lessons at the school have been postponed until 27 July. This is very frustrating. Pray for me to be godly, patient, wise and courageous.



Ian & Ruth Batey, CMS Spain

- Samuel, Emma and William have summer break from June until September. Please give thanks for a good year at school and pray for a refreshing holiday break for the family, including maintaining friendships.
- From June until mid-2012 our congregation will be joining the other IERE (Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church) congregation, San Basilio, in the city for combined services. Pray that it will be a period of growth for both congregations, and also that we can maintain a sense of our own identity as 'La Ascension.'
- Please pray for a buyer for the block of land, and the purchase of a suitable locale for our congregation.
- Pray for the congregation over the break, for safety in holiday travel and people will keep prioritising church etc. Pray that we might have opportunities during this very slow season to meet with and encourage people in the church and to share the gospel with neighbours.
- We are having troubles with our car and have had some expensive repairs. Please pray there will be no more needed before home assignment.



Morgan & Anna Powell, SIM Ecuador

- Praise for all that God has provided in our resettling back into Sydney, for time with family and friends and a restful holiday down the coast.
- We also thank God for all the support and encouragement we have received over our first term on the field.
- Pray for visiting our support churches— June: St Matt's, July: St Albans Belmore, August: Church by the Bridge, Kirribilli.
- Pray for preparation and our presentations, that we will be able to share effectively about our ministry in South America and future plans and encourage people in their awareness of mission.
- Pray also for safety as we travel around the place and for Anika that she might cope with lots of people and different places.
- On July 30 we will be attending SIMworld which is the annual conference for SIM. Pray this will be a great time of sharing and encouragement.



ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

MISSION EVENTS IN AND AROUND ST MATTS :

MISSION PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday 6 July, 7.30 in NewLine Cottage.

Please come along and join us in the important ministry of praying for mission throughout the world.
(Mission prayer nights are held the first Wednesday of every month)

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES AT ST MATT'S:

Throughout the rest of the year, there are several mission-related opportunities that small teams from St Matt's are involved in. This is very exciting—something to praise God for and be continually praying for all these ministries. If you would like more information on any of these, contact the office and they will direct you to the right people.

In **July**, some of the youth leaders will be heading up to Forster to help out Chris Ekins at Coast Evangelical Church, Forster.

In **October**, potentially a team will be going out to Hillston with the Whybrows to run some outreach and church encouragement events with BCA and the churches in Hillston.

In **December**, a group of young adults will be heading up to Crossroads in Hong Kong to serve there. Crossroads is an aid organisation that sends superseded goods to communities in need around the world.

ADVANCE NOTICE: June 2012 Mission Trip to Zimbabwe—contact Steve Abbott if interested

2011
SIM
WORLD

30 July 2011
9am – 3:30pm
Morling College 120 Herring Road
Macquarie Park NSW



Mission – where do you fit?

Ever wondered if God is calling you into world mission? If you have what it takes? If your skills and experience could be used in cross cultural ministry?

SIMWORLD is designed to help you explore those questions. Experienced missionaries and SIM staff will be available to chat with you and there will be six creative and interactive workshops to choose from. Ask questions, find out about the opportunities that exist for ministry in Africa, Asia and South America and enjoy fellowship with like-minded people.

Register online at: www.sim.org.au



June is the month when we have Morgan and Anna Powell with us at St Matthews!

They have returned to Australia from working in Ecuador for a few years with SIM and are available to speak to home groups or other groups.

Please contact the office if you would like more information or to book a time.



"The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

Zephaniah 3:17