

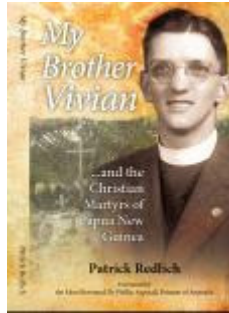
## Book of the Month "My Brother Vivian"

Cost: \$ 20.00

"My Brother Vivian" is a book about the life of my half brother Vivian who it was assumed for over 50 years was killed by the Japanese in New Guinea in 1942. The story traces his life in England and then in Australia where he was a Bush Brother in Queensland, and his work as a missionary in New Guinea until he vanished in the early days of the Japanese invasion. The story tells how the truth concerning his death slowly emerged over the past 12 years and led to the Reconciliation Service with the families of the killers at Popondetta Cathedral on 2nd September 2009.

The book recounts the early part of the war in the Pacific, the Australian Victory at Milne Bay and the landing of Japanese forces on Gona Mission beach. Then the exciting adventure of May Haymen, the nurse at Gona and Vivian's fiancée, and her friend Mavis Parkinson, the teacher at the mission, as they flee the invading forces until they are betrayed and murdered by the Japanese. Bishop David Hand inspired me to write this story when he brought home to me the enormous contribution that Vivian's example had made to the work of Our Lord in PNG. To me this made his life far more than just a part of our family's history.

Review by Pat Redlich



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

September 2012



## September 2012 Preaching Calendar

|    |   |                              |
|----|---|------------------------------|
| 2  | How Powerful is Prayer                                | James 5:12-20                |
| 9  | The Manual of Sacrifice: Enjoying God's Presence      | Leviticus 1:1-17 & 4:13-21   |
| 16 | The Manual of Priesthood: Entering into God's Service | Leviticus 9:1-22 & 9:23-10:5 |
| 23 | The Manual of Atonement: Ensuring God's Forgiveness   | Leviticus 16:1-19 & 16:20-34 |
| 30 | The Manual of Rest: Resting & Redeeming for God       | Leviticus 25:1-31 & 25:32-55 |

## St Matt's Services

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Sunday 8am        | Morning Prayer / Holy Communion               |
| Sunday 9am        | St Matts @ School; WPH Public School          |
| Sunday 10am       | Family Service for all Generations            |
| Sunday 9.30am     | 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

|                           |                 |                        |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Senior Minister           | Steve Abbott    | 0417 410 596/9479 3700 |
| Associate Minister        | Jon Phua        | 9479 3700              |
| Young Adults Minister     | Nerida Peart    | 9479 3702              |
| Youth Minister            | Geoff Everett   | 9479 3700              |
| Chinese Minister          | Ken Wong        | 0425 272 755/9479 3700 |
| Asian Minister            | Kenny Liew      | 0448 515 408           |
| Children's Minister       | Jacki Hellstrom | 9479 3700              |
| Pastoral Care/Young Women | Karen Braga     | 0401 933 264           |
| Pastoral Care Wed/Thurs   | Bill France     | 9479 3700              |
| Church Administrator      | Kat Butler      | 9479 3700              |
| Communications Co Ord     | Tina Piccione   | 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.



www.stmatts.org.au

## Minister's September 2012 Pastoral Letter

### Having the Right Despot

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Currently, in our world, we have seen and are seeing protests and uprisings against corrupt and dictatorial governments. Countries such as Syria, Tunisia, and Egypt, to name a few. In Western Countries such as Australia, we enjoy many benefits of democracy, as it seems to be a system that promotes government accountability to the people who can vote them into power and out of power. This is coupled with the equality it promotes, as each citizen has an equal vote and participation. So this might be why many Western countries call for non-democratic nations to become democratic, or reform their political processes.

However, we are mistaken if we believe that democracy alone is the highest good for humanity in our world. For if we understand human nature biblically, then we will know that individually or collectively, we will not always choose what is right. This has even occurred amongst the people of God. So in 1 Samuel 8, the LORD and his prophet Samuel are displeased that all Israel want a king so that they will be like all the other nations. The problem here was not kingship or monarchy itself, for God had previously specified what sort of kingship in Israel would please him, in Deuteronomy 17. The problem was that Israel were sinfully worldly in their expectations: that they might be like all the other nations. Unlike God's call for them to be his holy nation, distinct from the nations.

Most importantly, our freedom and choice, marred by sin, do not lead us to naturally acknowledge our God who is the true ruler of our world. The one enthroned, who installs and deposes human rulers and governments according to His Will (e.g. Romans 13:1).

The right acknowledgment of God is granted to us by his Holy Spirit in **Luke 2:25-32a**: (NIV) "Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

The original Greek word for Sovereign Lord here is **Despota**, from which we naturally have the word: **Despot**. Often this is used negatively to describe a dictatorial ruler, the type that is protested against in our world.

However, the good news of Jesus allows us to rejoice in our Sovereign Lord who powerfully intervenes in our lives to rescue and restore our broken relationship with Him. Christ came to lay down his life on the cross to deal with our sin, with the sign above his head: King of the Jews. God has appointed the ascended Jesus as King of our world, who rules with complete wisdom, justice, love and power. The climax of his rule will be evident to all, in His return to our world.

We as Christians can enjoy this world's democracy, using our freedom and choice to glorify our wonderful King Jesus. We are rightly realistic about the shortcomings of our human leaders and our political systems, because we are not naive about sin. Yet, we can be so positive about the power and transformation that happens to people, when the Holy Spirit indwells us, making us new creations in Christ.

Some evangelistic discussion questions for our friends and family, to point to this, might include: In our democracy, do we as a people always choose what is right? Who is a trustworthy leader? What makes them so?

**May our Sovereign Lord lead many to joyfully acknowledge Him as their Despot!**

In Christ,  
Jon Phua  
Associate Minister



# St Matt's Diary and Notes

## SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

**9 September 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:

Colleen Cummings 0403 239 321

## WORKING BEE @ ST MATT'S

**15 September—8AM—1PM**

If you have one or more spare hours, please come and help out at St Matt's with the jobs which need doing. Many hands make light work. Thank you!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO KENNY AND LORETTA LIEW

Kenny and Loretta have been blessed with a baby boy, David. David was born on the 22 August, weighed 3.6kg and is 51cm. Praise God for this wonderful blessing.



## MISSION AID GROUP (MAG)

Thank you again for your donations over the past 2 months. After a lot of discussion it was decided at our last meeting not to have a book fair for our fundraiser next year. In place of this we are going to hold a **"car boot sale"** combined with a mini art show, Devonshire teas, coffee and a sausage sizzle. This is advance notice so you decide if you would like to book a spot for your own stall to sell whatever!

There will be approximately 39 spots in the car park. Of course, you don't have to use your boot, you could put up a table with a shelter, etc. More details will follow. The art group is already working towards this day. It will be held on **16 March, 2013**. We would love to fill the spaces with St Matt's parishioners as stall holders.

If you have any questions please give me a ring.

### Suggestions for this month are:

Reams of computer paper, any stationery, 8-ply wool or 4-ply baby wool, toiletries including baby soap, rubber gloves, dessert spoons (for hospitality sets) and used stamps,.

Thank you.

*Roslyn Dearden*





**KCC-  
all one in Christ Jesus  
Women's Katoomba  
Convention  
To book:  
[www.wkc.kcc.org.au](http://www.wkc.kcc.org.au)**

# **Fuelled by DESIRE**

**DOUBLE DAY SAT-SUN 8-9 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**SPEAKERS: SARIE KING & RUTH MUFFETT**

## **ORANA SENIORS FELLOWSHIP**

### **September Meeting**

**Date: 5 September Time: 11.30am**

**Speaker: Dr Greg Clarke  
CEO, Bible Society of Australia**



We are delighted that Greg, who is the son of our own Di and James Clarke, can be with us for our September meeting. This will be a great opportunity for us to hear Greg speak about the work and ministry of the Bible Society. Book the date!

**3rd October at 11.30am**

**BBQ Lunch at "The Station"  
Bobbin Head Reserve**

We have again booked this excellent pavilion-style BBQ facility at Bobbin Head for our October lunch. Join us with your friends for a lunch of quality sausages, salads, cake and tea or coffee: all for \$5! We are looking forward to a great outing and to your company.

Transport will be via car pool.

**All Welcome!**



## Series on Book of James - written by Nerida Peart

Over the last month I have decided that the book of James is one of the most challenging in the whole Bible! It is easy to talk the talk, affirm the right doctrine, turn up to church regularly (although that can be hard for people sometimes!), and pretend to have it all together. But James cuts through. He says you must not just talk the talk, you must walk the walk. You must live radical lives of obedience to Jesus – not just hearing what he says, but doing it! As Eugene Peterson puts it: “God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense.”

And James is not short on challenging various behaviours: In-fighting in the church, favouritism toward the rich or those who look like us, using your tongue carelessly, being generous with your money, looking after the poor, depending on God, not on your own schemes for security, pursuing fairness and justice rather than wealth for yourself.

These things are easy to read and understand but hard to do.

And ... it causes us to wrestle. I don't know about you but over the past 4 weeks, I have at times felt like Jacob, wrestling with God in the desert. I want to be faithful and godly, but as Paul describes, our desires compete within us.

Even though we are finishing our series on James, let us not stop wrestling with God to grow in obedience and faith, to follow the leading of the Spirit and allow ourselves to be yet again transformed by his work.

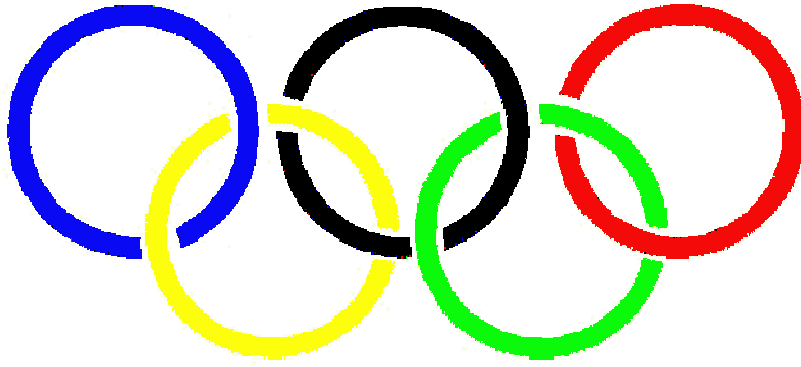
Because James writes all these things not merely to convict us, but primarily so that we may persevere in faith. He wants us not only to receive the crown of life, but also to continue to grow in knowing God personally maturing in faith and Christlikeness through all challenges and situations, through all stages of life. More than houses, or wealth, or nice food and wine, or youth, or intelligence and education, or even relationships, God wants us to know him, and the fullness of life and maturity of faith that only comes through that.

*“Be patient then brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient they are for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.”*

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Friday 21st December,**  
**West Pennant Hills Public School**



# MEN @ ST MATT'S



The Men of St Matt's recently met together at Hornsby RSL for our Annual Men's Dinner. With the Olympic Games just around the corner the dinner was headlined by guest speaker David Tyndall, who has served as Chaplain to the Australian Olympic team in recent years and is currently over in London as Chaplain for the Paralympics team.

David not only provided some interesting insights into what life is like inside the athlete's village, but also challenged us to consider the important things in life – after all the gold medals fade and the flowers wither, but God's love will always remain.

In other news the team are organising a Father's Day door-knock for Saturday **1st September**. We will be handing out Father's Day packs, extending an invitation to future events and just introducing ourselves to some of the Dad's in the local area. It would be great to pray that families are receptive to this idea and good conversations are had.

Finally for all the golf enthusiasts be sure to mark down Saturday, **September 15th** in the diary. The men of St Matt's are heading out to Terry Hills for a round of Twilight golf at the Par 3 course. We hope to see you there from 5:30pm for tee-off and a BBQ afterwards, but be quick to grab a ticket because there are limited spaces. All skills levels welcome!!



## MatT's 4 Older Kids

Children in years 5 and 6 are generally considered to be undergoing one of the crucial transition periods of early life. There are many names given to children within the 10-12 age bracket (for example: 'preteens', 'tweens', 'Now-but-not-yets', 'whipper-snappers', 'teeny-boppers'). It seems to be a period of time where children seek to start establishing an identity as they look forward to entering the teenage years and graduating to high school. Unfortunately, in recent times at Matts4Kids we have noticed that we are losing a lot of kids from our programs when they reach this age.

We see effective ministry to this age group as non-negotiable because we are passionate about encouraging many children to enter their teenage years as followers of Jesus. So we have spent much of this year deliberating over how to





**Diarise: 27 October**

Dessert and Coffee Night  
with

Rory Steyn,

Former chief of security for  
Nelson Mandela.

Invite your Friends and Neighbours

Tickets: \$10 each



We are having a busy term at Matts4Minis in Term 3. We are looking at colours in the Bible with every colour in the rainbow.

Our Family Farm Fun Day is on **Sat 1 September**. I'm sure that lots of the families will come along to enjoy the morning with the animals.

**Sun 16 September** is our Family Service at 9am and we will be inviting all our Matts4Minis families. The children will perform a song and we will have a special kids' talk. Please pray for the organisation of the day and that many families will come along and feel welcome.

**Pray for those with special needs:**

Jan , Damon , Roy , Es and Laurie ,  
Margaret , Dudley ,  
Brian , Carolyn (Betty daughter),  
Betty , Colleen , Jeannine , Jane ,  
Cliff , Geoff & Margaret ,  
Janet (mother of Sally ), Irene .



## **WEDNESDAY CHURCH, SENIORS AND PASTORAL CARE UPDATE—Bill France**



The every-member Pastoral Care Course run as part of the Focus Month was very successful, with some 45 people attending all or most of the four evenings. It was particularly helpful and encouraging that folk were engaged from the outset, getting involved in the presentations and contributing thoughtfully and constructively to the discussions.

We began with “eco-mapping” our relationships, identifying the stronger from the weaker, the easier from the more difficult, the more demanding from the less, and in small groups of two or three discussed with one another why these things were so and how best we could function in those relationships.

The second evening saw us working through how each of us as individuals function in relationships - why do I relate as I do - what are my strengths and weaknesses - what is my “interpersonal style” - how do I go about building and developing a relationship?

“Listening Skills” was the focus of the third session. We explored what makes a good listener: - that verbal understanding is but a small part of getting on the wavelength of the person with whom I am relating - we need to be able to recognise non-verbal cues in voice, facial expression and body language - that my own non-verbal engagement plays a significant part in listening and that I need to be “quick to hear and slow to speak”.

Working in small groups in the last session, participants used a variety of scenarios as a means of practicing and critiquing their relational skills.

Thanks are due to Marilyn Young, Karen Braga, and Helen Boxwell for the considerable time they put into preparing and presenting the sessions.

People may not be aware that there is a Pastoral Care Resource Group that meets monthly to discuss issues related to the caring ministry of the church. Members are Marilyn Young, Ros Dearden, Robyn Thompson, Karen Braga, Peter Lloyd, Keith Robinson and Bill France. Should any of you have matters you would like to raise about the caring ministry of the church, or people you feel would appreciate support one way or another, please feel free to speak to any of the above.

### **Wednesday Morning Tea and Midweek Service**

- Morning tea from 10.00am: tea + coffee and an array of delicious cakes and slices.
- Great fellowship with friendly like-minded people.
- Holy Communion or Morning Prayer at 10.30am: a shorter, more traditional service - around 45 minutes.
- Focused bible teaching - 15 minutes worth of good stuff!

If you know of folk for whom this time would be suitable, do invite them to give it a try - or even better bring them along yourself!!! Even more, why not make it a regular feature of your own week, an opportunity for further reflection and ministry.

# Over a cuppa with Jenny Fallon St Matt's Link Missionary



**Names:** Jenny Fallon, married to Dale Williams (since 10 Sept 2011)

**Residence:** Punchbowl, east of Bankstown

**Found Jesus:** I don't remember a time when I didn't know him as my Saviour and Lord, but definitely grew in understanding of what it meant to follow him through my teenage years. Helping to lead the Christian group at school and involvement in Crusader camps were significant growth times.



**Missionary Work:** Did a short term of 3 mths at Galmi Hospital in Niger when I was a newly graduated midwife. Came back to Australia for 5 yrs to get more experience as a nurse/midwife and to go to Bible College. Joined SIM as a Member and left in 1986 for Burkina Faso, where I worked as a community health nurse and midwife for 12 years. I was also involved in leading Bible studies in my local church there. Later I moved to a different part of the country and helped the SIM-related church establish a program to fight HIV/AIDS – concentrating on prevention and enabling the church to do this – a training and equipping role. During this time I also helped teach women a variety of subjects in their language at the local Bible school.

I was involved in some administrative work and served for 10 mths as the interim Director of SIM in Burkina Faso. I returned to Australia in March 2009 to take up a home staff role with SIM.

**Favorite local food:** African peanut stew with chicken and rice

**Social Activities:** I enjoy walking anywhere beautiful, especially in the bush; exploring interesting places and getting to know people from other cultures; keeping fit; cooking and having friends over or visiting their homes; watching a good film

**Currently Reading:** "Open Heart, Open Home" by Karen Burton Mains. Reading this aloud with Dale as we think about hospitality and using our home to love and serve people.

"Becoming Global" by Bruce Dipple. A practical approach to integrating global mission and your local church.

**Connection to St Matt's:** I grew up in St Matt's – Sunday School, youth group, church with my family. Mum is still a member of the 8am congregation. I've been linked to and supported by St Matt's for 26 years

**What is the best thing about being back in Sydney:** Enjoying places of natural beauty and the incredible choices we have in almost every area of our lives.

**Words of Encouragement to those who want to "radically" challenge themselves:** Jesus is our example. He's gone ahead of us, he's beside us and there's nothing safer than being in his will. His power is made perfect in our weakness!

## Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook Christian Education Association Dinner (PHCCEA)

**Saturday 25 August 2012**

The annual PHCCEA Dinner was held recently to raise awareness of the activities and the needs of the association, which employs two full time teachers (Graham Castle and Peter Murphy) to teach SRE (Special Religious Education) or, as we prefer to call it, *Christian Studies*, in our two local high schools, Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook Technology Highs.



PHCCEA Dinner at Thornleigh Community Baptist Church



Gareth and Claire address the gathering

About 164 people from many of our local churches heard from Peter about the hard slog our teachers have of sowing seed on the various soils and what an encouragement it is when seed grows in fertile soil. Graham gave some informative case studies of how different students had been impacted by the program. Gareth and Claire (see photo opposite) reflected on what Christian Studies meant to them and explained how it allowed students to discuss their faith openly in the lessons and the impact this had on the other students.

After a delicious dinner was consumed, the chairman Rev Gav Poole (Cherrybrook Anglican) spoke of the vital role the association plays in presenting a unified Christian message in our schools and he outlined the ongoing financial costs in running the ministry. He invited those present to become partners by giving regularly. A new brochure to explain this was distributed at the dinner and will soon be available at St Matthews.

Present in the audience was Bill Aitken, editor of "The Chronicle" so you can anticipate reading his account of the evening in a forthcoming issue.



## Mission to Forster 2012— by Geoff Everett

How does one measure the success of something that is ultimately immeasurable?

Here are just three aspects of our time away in Forster:



**(i) The team:** This year 18 youth and young adults travelled up to Forster to support the ministry of Coast Evangelical Church by running a 'Holiday Hang-Out' kids program. The make-up of the team included those with lots of ministry experience through to those with little or no experience. There were teenagers through to twenty-somethings. The value of having a team make-up that provided great opportunities for training, mentoring and building relationships: immeasurable.

**(ii) The kids program:** The ministry of the team started off with running kids church on Sunday afternoon at Coast EC. The purpose was twofold: for the Coast EC kids to meet the team and to inspire them to invite their friends along to the 'Holiday Hang-Out' (HHO). HHO ran over three days with a 'Carnival' theme and bible talks coming from the Gospel of Luke. Each day started off with singing, games, a drama skit and a short bible talk. This was then followed with craft, more games and lunch to conclude. Over the three days a total of 43 kids participated in the program, a third of whom Coast EC had not contacted before. The end result is that many of these kids are now attending Coast EC on a regular basis. The value of running the HHO kids program: immeasurable.

**(iii) The non-programmed events:** During the week the team was billeted out to stay with members of Coast EC providing opportunities for us to get to know them better and learn more about their lives in Forster. There were also a number of outings where church members and team members were able to mingle and enjoy a meal together. The highlight was perhaps the time we spent visiting the local Aboriginal mission, playing soccer and hanging out with the kids, many of whom came along to HHO as a result. The value of non-programmed events allowing us time to get to know people from Coast EC and people in the broader community: immeasurable.

In all, it would be difficult to measure the value of our time away in Forster. The opportunities to minister to, connect with and build relationships with members of Coast EC and the broader community are ultimately unable to be measured. Yet, under God's sovereignty and providence our prayer would be that the success of our time away in Forster may be measured by lives transformed and shaped by Christ, and our hope that many more may be added to the number of those who will be gathered around the throne of God praising Him on the day He returns.







# 40 HOUR FAMINE

17-19 AUGUST 2012

Well, it's that time of year again, when heaps of our youth and many from across the church choose to give up something that matters to them for 40 hours - all to raise awareness and funds for issues of global hunger and poverty.

World Vision's 40 Hour Famine is one of Australia's largest fundraising events, and has been running for over 35 years. St Matt's has participated in the Famine for many years, and it seems we only get more and more involved! Last year we raised over \$11,000 to go towards community projects and agricultural training for our vulnerable neighbours in East Timor.

This year, the focus is on Ethiopia – a country ravaged by over 30 years of drought, and which has suffered horrendously in the East Africa Famine crisis over the last few years. We again hope to raise at least \$10,000 to go towards the valuable and sustainable work that World Vision is doing for the world's poorest.

At St Matt's Youth (Club 78, Sunday 78 and Friday Night Live) over term 3, we have been learning lots about Ethiopia – how people live, what hunger looks like, and what the bible has to say about poverty and justice. It has been an enriching time for many people, kids and leaders alike. On Friday 17th to launch the 40 Hour Famine weekend, the youth participated in an Ethiopian simulation where kids were in groups to build their own cafe. They had to produce food for themselves and their cafe and serve customers out of minimal recycled materials, while trying to avoid the corrupt 'Officials' that threatened to jeopardise their business efforts. It was a lively evening with much creativity and stealing, but most of all a challenge that life for many around the world is not easy or fair.

Did you know that in Ethiopia there are currently an estimated 4.5 million people in need of emergency food aid? Over one third of people in Ethiopia live on less than \$1.25 per day, and over half the children suffer growth stunting due to malnutrition and lack of healthcare.

However, World Vision is working on the ground to fight against these heartbreaking statistics by providing adequate and sustainable solutions for communities in need, to help children like Burtukan (pictured above) have hope for the future. We, as the church, are called to be open-handed towards the poor (Prov 19:7) and it is my hope and prayer that St Matt's will again give generously to the 40 Hour Famine.

To donate to our group online please visit: <http://40hf.com/stmattsyouth> or put some money in the boxes in the foyer.

Thank you for all of your support! Marissa Flynn on behalf of St Matt's Youth and the world's poor.

## **St Matt's is in Zimbabwe on Mission ...please pray for us!**

**Team:** Pat Sutton, Pamela Webster, Jack and Zara Packham, Mark Simons, Nigel Woolley, Steve Abbott.

**Dates:** 1- 9 September, 2012. Pamela Webster is staying an additional week. At this stage she is hoping to give some training for those in Prison Ministry in the Harare area as they don't have Kairos Ministry there yet.

**Who With:** Reuben and Cheizda Zivagwe under the banner of their ministry 'The Living Word Ministry'.

**Where:** Mufakaso Baptist Church in a suburb of Harare (6 nights in local Harare hotel), Nenyunga Area (probably 2-3 nights) in an isolated and very poor community in the Zambezi Valley which is about 400kms from Harare. Mark, Nigel and Steve will stay in the village and the ladies and the Packhams will stay in a hotel in Gokwe about 20 Kms away.

**Ministry:** We will do some teaching, preaching and sharing of testimonies. In addition to the activities Reuben Zivagwe has provided below, we are exploring going to Nenyunga School to teach a class and/or assembly teaching. There will also be surprises and we'll need to be ready for last minute ministry.

The Zivagwe's have given us lots of good advice in the lead up to the mission trip, such as

*"Worship is a big event in many cultures. You may be sitting on a hard bench for several hours or under a tree during the heat of the day. Be prepared for anything!"*

### **Activities we will be involved in:**

1. Pastors' Encouragement clinic
2. Women's sewing club visit
3. Orphans' Pre-school visit (time with the orphans)
4. Feeding programme (time to share some food stuffs with poor communities)
6. Jesus Film shown in the villages (including a short message)
7. An open air demonstration during the day
8. Church in Harare one Sunday and in the village the other Sunday

Another CWCI event to mark in your diary . . . . .

# Is the Bible relevant to our lives today?

## “Q & A”

Bring your questions with you.....

To be answered/explained by our expert panel

Robyn Claydon and Marlene Hickin

Held at Kellyville Anglican Church -

45 President Road, Kellyville

On Saturday morning 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2012

9.30am to 12.00 noon – Cost \$10

Morning tea provided



Robyn Claydon and Marlene Hickin, our speakers for the Q & A, are sisters who have had ministries in Australia and in different parts of the world over many years as authors and speakers. They have both been school teachers and have spent many years counseling and encouraging people of all ages. They have been challenged by life's experiences and have seen the relevance of the Bible to their lives today. They are both mothers and grandmothers.



**CWCI Australia** (Christian Women Communicating International) *Growing Women in Christ through sharing the Bible*

Women ministering to women through local events held in cities and country areas, offering encouragement, inspiration and Bible teaching. Know Your Bible studies are used regularly by thousands of women in KYB groups. Studies are also available in many different languages and are used in many countries overseas. CWCI Safaris go into the remote areas of Australia with Christ's love and teaching. **For more details contact your local committee about functions in the Hills Area - telephone:**

Glennis Saunders 9484 5686 or check the website [www.cwciaus.org.au](http://www.cwciaus.org.au)

## St Matt's Link Missionaries Update by Wendy Noble

### God's Mission and the Big Picture – Where do you fit in?

Over four Monday nights in August, the Mission Group hosted the thought-provoking course 'Mission and God's Big Picture: Where do you fit in?' For those of you who could not make it, I'll share here some of the salient points which remain with me. Right away my preconceived idea of mission was blasted with ideas such as these:

*All Christians are missionaries 'from everywhere to everywhere,' says Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali the General Secretary of Church Mission Society (CMS) from 1989-1994. In other words, the mission field is wherever we happen to be. God's will is to seek and save the lost, and the church needs to get caught up in what God is doing. John Piper says mission exists because worship of God does not, so the goal of mission is for more people to worship Him. But affluence and apathy have caused Christians in the West to 'lose our way.' So now missionaries from other lands are coming to us.*

In week one, Maurice Boxwell and Geoff Everett gave a biblical overview of mission. We learned from Genesis that our capacity for relationship with God is established –we are made for relationship with him, and even though we have sinned, God makes a way for our friendship with him to be restored. And why are we blessed by him in this wonderful way? Throughout the Old and New Testaments we hear the refrain again and again 'blessed to be a blessing.' For example, Abraham is told by God, 'through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me,' (Gen22:17), then in Galatians 3:7 we see this promise fulfilled in a unique way by Jesus. Paul tells us 'those who believe are children of Abraham. All nations will be blessed by you.' Week one gave me pause to reflect 'am I a blessing to the nations? Or am I a Christian who is asleep at the wheel, wooed by the world into thinking, 'she'll be right, mate,' someone else will seek and save the lost for God, someone called a missionary.'



In week two, John Bales, minister of Good Shepherd Anglican Church Greenacre and former General Secretary for CMS-NSW & ACT, gave us a snapshot, or more like a shot in the arm, of what is happening today around the world in mission. We also talked to missios at their home in Asia via Skype, who said they do over there what they would do here, reaching out at work, at school and with neighbours. Here are some of my notes from week two:

*World trends include globalisation, where global companies are more powerful than some governments; rising fundamentalism, fuelled by corrupt pseudodemocracies which lead to instability; the 'Arab Spring' is the Christian Winter; economic instability such that 51% of the world lives in cities where life as depicted in the movie **Slum Dog Millionaire** is normal. No wonder people are on the move as migrants and refugees. With 21 million UNHCR persons of concern, 7,000 refugees received in Australia each year is just a drop in the bucket of humans in need. Poverty and disease are huge challenges with Africa running out of water as the population grows.*

*These trends have changed how mission is done; local church planting movements will rapidly multiply; theological training which is not 'Western' but contextually appropriate is occurring; gospel tourism is on the rise, and business as mission such as Filipino maids taking their faith into Middle Eastern homes. Technology allows for internet evangelism and stronger links with home for overseas missionaries. God uses tragedy for his glory: the best thing about 9/11 was it has returned many, many people to the practice of prayer.*

Both parts of this evening, talking to the Gibbs and listening to John, gave me a sense that there is plenty of work for us all to do for God, and since our real home is in heaven, maybe I need to spend less time in my home and more time engaging with neighbours and friends who do not yet know him.

In week 3 Jenny Sawyer from Anglicare spoke about local missions and Jenny Fallon, Personnel Director of SIM (Serving in Mission) talked about different approaches and purposes of various mission organisations: CMS, Wycliffe, Pioneers, OMF (Overseas Mission Fellowship) and SIM. Here is a taste of Jenny Sawyer's talk:

*As Gal 6:10 says to those who know and love Jesus, "Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially the household of the faith" because amazingly all that we do in Jesus brings glory to Him. ANGLICARE's vision is REVEALING or unveiling the curtain of need in Sydney; RELATING by developing missional partnerships; and RESOURCING through training.*

*ANGLICARE want to help parishes not pass by on the other side of the road like the priest and the Levite in the story Jesus tells about the Good Samaritan who helps a man wounded lying on the roadside – the priest and the Levite saw an inconvenience, someone unclean, someone out of their class or status, someone hopeless and undeserving, someone who looked very broken and wounded - NO - let us step out of our comfort zones to cross the road to connect, to care, and to love as Jesus does.*

Here is what Jenny Fallon said you need for overseas mission work:

#### ***What are we looking for in candidates?***

- *committed to knowing and serving Christ, seeking to follow and honour him in their lives.*
- *prepared to count the cost, financially, career wise, and in other ways too – willing to suffer.*
- *people who have a 'fire in their belly' about a world that is lost without Christ.*
- *people who are prepared to be available for God to use – don't always end up doing exactly what was expected – sometimes more, sometimes different.*
- *Then – connected and endorsed by local church*
- *share our core beliefs and can communicate the gospel appropriately*
- *adequate training and experience in ministry*
- *physical, emotional and spiritual stamina and resilience*

Sadly, my maverick sense of adventure and love of travel rather pale in importance in light of this list. To have any integrity in overseas mission, perhaps I need to work on having 'a fire in my belly' for the Domino's pizza delivery boy and Franklin's check out chick before jumping on a plane.

As this publication goes to print before week 4, I cannot tell you my reflections yet, but I am looking forward to tomorrow night to find out 'Where to go from here? Where do I fit in?' with Marissa Flynn interviewing a few among us with some missio experience: Leigh, Ben; and Debbie chairing a missio panel.

When I look through the list of our Link Missionaries and see how each of them is connected to St Matt's, because they grew up here (Chris Ekins, Jenny Fallon, Mike, Rob Haynes) or ministered here (Daniel Lai, Steve McKerney, Morgan Powell, Peter Murphy, Ian Batey), I am grateful to God for these people, their ministry to others and inspiration to us to be ambassadors for Christ from everywhere to everywhere. Let's pray for them, Skype them, Facebook them and remind them 'you know your labour in the Lord is not in vain.'



## ST MATT'S E.S.L. MINISTRY

ESL is the teaching of English to migrants in our area.

ESL is short for "English as a Second Language".

At present about eight ladies are coming to

classes: Linda from China; Naomi, Pauline and

Sylvia from Korea; and Celia, Cindy, Fion and Kelly from Taiwan. The atmosphere is happy; the students relate well to each other and tell us that the lessons are helpful.



Our strategy of dividing into elementary and intermediate levels for part of our lesson time continues to go well. It is a great provision to have enough teachers to give valuable one-on-one support for students in the elementary class; and also that excellent teaching resources are available for all levels in Australian English. At the end of each lesson we have a Bible presentation in simple English and a time of prayer. Students often request prayer; both petitions and thanksgiving. Now that Spring is here, we are planning ways of advertising our ministry as we would love to have more students. Suggestions would be very welcome!

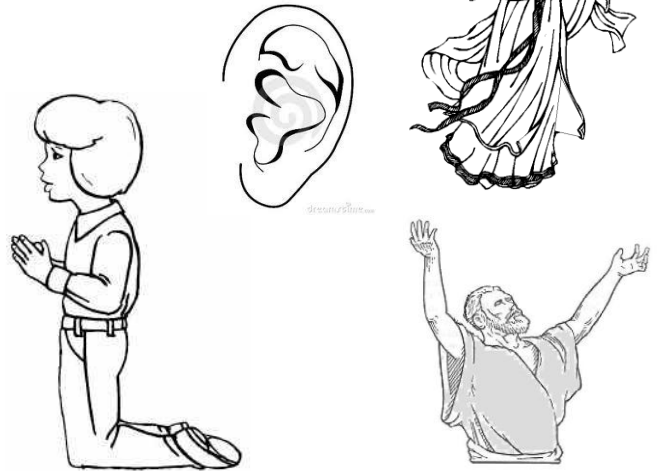
We have been thinking about how we can add further dimension to our ministry. At a recent Anglicare ESL teaching conference, we were encouraged to explore ways of bringing students into contact with people and activities in our own congregations. We have been grateful for the kind hospitality shown to our younger students by the Young Adults members and their families and we are now exploring other possibilities of linking our class with the parish – for example, with one or more home groups who could take an interest in our students, pray for them, join us in occasional outings, etc.

We would really appreciate prayer for Kingdom priorities in all aspects of our ministry, so that God is glorified and our students brought into closer relationship with Him.

# Body Parts in the Bible

There's no word list but the blanks in the verses can be filled by words found in the grid. Sometimes the first letter is given.

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| R | E | D | T | R | A | E | H | I | H |
| S | T | S | T | O | M | A | C | H | C |



**Matthew 11:15** He who has \_\_\_\_\_, let him hear.

**Luke 15:20** So the son got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his \_\_\_\_\_ around him and kissed him. Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his **f**\_\_\_\_\_ and sandals on his \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ezekiel 16:11** I adorned you with jewellery: I put a bracelet on your **w**\_\_\_\_\_ and a necklace around your \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 19:33** The soldiers went to each cross. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his \_\_\_\_\_.

**Acts 9:40** In Tabitha's room, Peter got down on his \_\_\_\_\_ and prayed.

**Matthew 6:21** Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your \_\_\_\_\_ will be also."

**Psalms 134:2** Lift up your \_\_\_\_\_ in praise to the LORD.

**Matthew 10:30** Jesus said, "Even the very \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_ are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

**Revelation 15:6** Then came seven angels dressed in clean, shining linen and wearing golden sashes around their \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 15:17** "Don't you see that whatever enters the \_\_\_\_\_ goes into the \_\_\_\_\_ and then out of the body?"

**Matthew 20:34** Jesus had compassion on the blind men and touched their \_\_\_\_\_. Immediately they could see.

**Matthew 12:40** Jonah was three days and three nights in the **b**\_\_\_\_\_ of a huge fish.

