



St Mark's Matters

Persevere with Faith in Jesus

The Wednesday night Bible study group recently looked at the account of the healing of a royal official's son (John 4:46-54). It was the second of Jesus' signs that He gave at Cana in Galilee. We're not given a description of the many other signs Jesus did while He was in Jerusalem for Passover (2:23). Word about Him must have got around, though, because when an official in Capernaum heard that Jesus was back in Galilee, he came to Cana to ask the Lord to heal his son who was at the point of death. Jesus' response doesn't sound very encouraging. He said to the official, *"Unless you [all] see signs and wonders you [all] will not believe"* (4:48). I've added the word 'all' to this quote, because the word 'you' in the Greek text is plural. So the Lord's reply wasn't given only for the sake of the official, but also for our sake.

These words suggest that we're not to look for signs and wonders before we believe in Jesus. We're simply to believe what He tells us. Indeed, signs and wonders by themselves don't bring about true faith. As we'll hear on coming Sundays from John 6, the people of Capernaum who witnessed the feeding of the more than 5,000 people, nevertheless refused to believe that Jesus is the Bread come down from heaven who gives eternal, resurrection life (6:41-42, 52, 60-66). (Compare the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, Luke 16:19-31. When the rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers about the place of torment, Abraham replies, *"If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead"*.)

Yet the Lord gave many signs so that we who haven't seen Him might yet believe that He is the Christ, the Son of God, who will raise His believers to eternal life (Jn 20:30-31). The official believed in Him. He wasn't put off by what must have sounded like something of a rebuff. He persisted with his entreaty, *"Lord, come down before my child dies"*. The Lord gave His word that the official's son would live, and the father returned on a seven-hour journey home to find, the next day, that it was just as Jesus had said.

When it seems to us that the Lord is ignoring our requests, we need to persevere with faith in Him. We know not only about the signs He gave; we also know about His sacrificial death as the Lamb of God who takes away the world's sin. We know about His resurrection from the dead. We have His word that tells us about the Father's love for the world (John 3:16), including us. We can be sure that whatever happens to us and those we love, we are forever safe in His care.

—Pastor David Buck

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LCA Women's Ordination Information Night

On Tuesday 4 May around 40 members attended an information night to learn more about the current discussions regarding women's ordination within the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA). Participants were provided a set of papers to assist with discussions on the night including a brief history of the ongoing conversation within the LCA regarding women's ordination, a theological summary of both perspectives (male only pastors verses male and female pastors), the proposal put forward to the SA/NT District Convention of Synod from St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Adelaide and a future direction paper from the LCA College of Bishops.

Pastor Ben began the evening with a historical summary of the women's ordination journey within the LCA. He also took the time to explain the St Stephen's proposal and what they are requesting in regard to a change to the Theses of Agreement.

Pastor Ben then invited Pastor David Buck and Pastor David Christian to present the two perspectives regarding women's ordination within the LCA. Both presentations respectfully provided information for participants to consider and discuss around their tables.

Pastor Ben finished off the night by sharing the document released by the LCA College of Bishops that highlighted a number of directions that the LCA will need to consider regarding the future of the Lutheran Church in Australia. The main options for the LCA include: remain the same (male only pastors); or one Synod which ordains both males and females; or the Lutheran Church of Australia no longer exists in its current format, and there are a number of synods to allow different theological perspectives on ordination.

After this event, the St Stephen's proposal was discussed and voted on at the SA/NT Convention of Synod on the 15 & 16 May. This proposal was carried and will now be presented to the LCA General Convention of Synod in 2022.

As members of St Marks, we thank Pastor Ben, Pastor David Buck and Pastor David Christian for their input on this night, and for the way they have provided a well-balanced approach to the discussions pertaining to women's ordination in the LCA. Please pray for our church, our LCA leadership and the General Convention of Synod delegates as they continue to discuss the issue of women's ordination.

Emma Graetz (one of St Marks delegates to the SA/NT District Convention of Synod).



Where I love to live

There are some words that when spoken, invoke certain feelings and thoughts - like the word 'home'.

Just as it is important for a child to know where their home is, knowing where we live, where our 'home' is, in a spiritual context is also important. People who live believing that their current life is all they have to look forward to, and try to make their home in the here and now, with all its blessings, as well as its struggles and hardships, either live self-centred lives or lives of regret,

"My life is my own and I'll live it how I want to." Or, "If only I had done that differently."

In Hebrews 11 we read that Abraham, **"By faith ... made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; ..." (vs. 9)**

The reason Abraham could do this was, **"he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God." (vs. 10)**

Abraham lived his life in this world with his spiritual eyes firmly affixed on a heavenly home and this helped him remain other-person centred (Genesis 18:22-33) rather than self-centred, and pass from this life without any regrets.

Hebrews 11 goes on to declare that all people who live their lives as Abraham did, **"... were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth." (vs. 13)**

Charlotte and I were blessed to have my uncle conduct our wedding and one of the best pieces of advice he gave us was, **"Hang loose to the things of this world".**

Living each day as if we're just passing through and joyfully taking from it the blessings we are freely given enables us to see any struggles as, **"momentary troubles" that are, "... achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." (2 Corinthians 4:17)**

I have entitled this article 'Where I Love I Live'. These words come from a poem written by Robert Southwell.

The final stanza says,

**"Not where I breathe, but where I love, I live;
Not where I love, but where I am, I die;
The life I wish, must future glory give,
The deaths I feel in present dangers lie."**

It seems from these words, that Robert Southwell lived his 34 years of life with the same mindset as Abraham and he would have agreed with Paul when he wrote to the church in Philippi, **"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21)**

Paul, writing to the church in Corinth, which was full of people wanting to make their homes in the here and now and satisfy their earthly desires, reminded them,

"... if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands." (2 Corinthians 5:1)

He went on to say,

"Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord." (vss. 6-8)

Having confidence to **"live by faith, and not by sight"** requires living our lives guided by the eternal Spirit rather than our momentary feelings.

Continued..page 5

Spotlight on the LCA/NZ

In each edition of the St Marks Matters, we will spotlight an area within the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCA/NZ) for our members to know more about the wider mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church.

Spotlight: Reconciliation Ministry

Purpose: *(taken from their website)* Biblical Reconciliation Ministry serves members and pastors of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand by encouraging and equipping sisters and brothers in Christ to dwell in and share the forgiveness of Jesus Christ in all relationships.

As God's people, we live in relationship with him and experience his love and forgiveness in the divine service. Yet, from time to time we experience strained relationships with others in our family, congregation and wider community. Biblical reconciliation provides understanding, tools and resources that equip God's people to respond to conflict in ways that are restorative and healing, bringing forgiveness, peace and joy in Christ.

Biblical reconciliation grows out of and supports word and sacrament ministry, refocusing and affirming God's people, and whole Christian communities, in their identity in Christ and how they live their faith with others as people of the gospel.

As Christians, the freedom to be peacemakers, to seek reconciliation with our neighbours, is grounded in the forgiveness that is ours through Christ's saving work on the cross. We are reconciled to our Heavenly Father through the blood of Jesus who takes away the sin of the world (Romans 5:6–11) and are called to share God's love and mercy by serving our neighbours as we work through conflict, reconciling our relationships and bringing glory to God (Ephesians 4:32, 5:1).

Areas of interest:

Until COVID, this area of ministry provided workshops to members through Australia and New Zealand to help explain and practice Biblical Reconciliation. They hope to conduct workshops again soon.

Over the last six months, nine members of the LCA/NZ have been receiving training on how to teach Biblical Reconciliation. They have come from most districts of the LCA/NZ. You can read more about this group: <https://www.lca.org.au/spreading-the-message-of-reconciliation/> Reconciliation Ministry works closely with congregations who require an interim reconciliation pastor.

Staff: Assistant to the Bishop – Reconciliation Ministry: Pastor Paul Kerber; Reconciliation Ministry Support Officer: Erin Kerber

Want to find out more: <https://www.lca.org.au/departments/reconciliation-ministry/> or sign up for their eNews: <https://www.lca.org.au/communications/enews/> [departments/ministry-support/](https://www.lca.org.au/departments/ministry-support/)



Where I love to live ... Continued

Living our lives guided by the Spirit helps us to love Jesus and obey His teachings and He promises us that when we do this,

“My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” (John 14:23)

This home though is no ordinary home, “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)

So the next time you’re tempted to live according to your feelings, or complain about the troubles you have in your “jar of clay” that is your mortal home, stand before a mirror and tell yourself, “You are not your own; you were bought at a price.” (vs. 17)

And say,

“Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.” (Psalm 42:11)

“Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.” (Psalm 65:4) Mark Frost

St. Marks school

In 1981 the Education Department allocated three transportable building for the school (six temporary classrooms). I remember when they came down the road. ETSA where there to lift the powerlines. It was a great day. Many working bees were held to landscape the grounds, paint and repair the classrooms etc. A school council was formed and a PFA. Alan Wiebusch was called as principal from Geelong. Dianne Steicke and Suzanne Paech were called as teachers. Dianne accepted the call, but Susanne declined. Ellen Dahlenburg also from Geelong was called and accepted. A residence was purchased for the principal on Albert Road. Brown and white were chosen as the school colours. The PFA raised \$1000, and Dept. of Education approved a grant of \$35,000 for a toilet block. And so the school began.

From Venture in faith booklet written by Trevor Schaeffer in 1983



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA'S
MISSION INTERNATIONAL AND YOU!



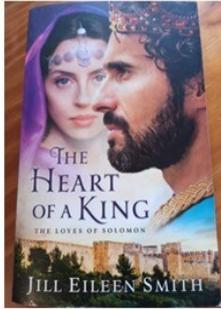
There are two mission arms of the LCA Mission International, the partnership with churches in Asia and Papua New Guinea, along with Australian Lutheran World Service, its aid and development arm. Lutheran Women of Australia, (LWA) give support to several of these partners by way of financial support, prayer and ongoing interest. St Marks Women's Fellowship invited Erin Kerber and Nevin Nitschke from Mission International to speak on two of the institutions LWA supports.

It was our privilege to be the first group to have a face-to-face chat via zoom with Rev Peter Eliezer, director of Bethany Home for the Disabled in Malaysia. People with disabilities receive education and training enabling them to work and lead a more normal life. The Bethany church knows it must keep in touch with people by reaching out to the community showing Jesus knows and loves them. Bethany Home is a place where people come to see and experience care and healing in a culture that normally shuns the disabled. Pastor Eliezer asked for our specific prayers for extending the number of independent living houses for older students. Bethany Home has been blessing the students from that community for 40 years along with their families.

Home of Praise is a nursery run by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand diakonia department. It's located under the freeway in the heart of Klong Toey slum community in Bangkok. The following story gives a picture of this oasis so deeply valued in the community that works to keep families strong and safe. After the children leave Home of Praise, the staff don't always know what the future of these children will be, but sometimes they meet them again many years after. A few months ago, Anne (a Finnish missionary who is the adviser to the nursery) received the following email: *'Do you remember me?' I'm Green and a second later there came a picture of a small girl in the green Home of Praise uniform. 'Of course I remember you!' was Anne's reply. Then Green wrote to Anne in fluent English that she misses Anne very much. Green was now studying second year High School and she lives with her mum in the countryside. When Green went to the Home of Praise, she was one of the children for whom they were most concerned. She lived with her grandma and uncle who was only 11 years old at that time. Both were sniffing glue, so her family situation was very difficult, and even though her grandma loved Green, she could not take care of her in a good way. Anne still remembers one afternoon when the police came to arrest grandma and the staff at Home of Praise ran after the police to say they could not do that because she needed to pick up Green from the nursery. All the staff in Home of Praise at that time gave Green a lot of love and care, but Anne was very concerned (and not optimistic) about her future. Therefore, she almost cried when she received this email, that Green was doing well, living with her mum in the countryside and that she remembered and missed the Home of Praise.'* Anne told this story to show what impact Home of Praise has on children's lives, not only while they're in the nursery but also later in life. And this you and the Lutheran Women of Australia are a part of.'

COVID-19 has hit hard throughout the whole world. The difference is we as Australians have resources to fall back on that the less fortunate folk in Klong Toey and Malaysia will never know, unless out of our riches and generosity we share with them from the blessings God has bestowed on us. Thank you in anticipation of your kind gesture to help the Women's Fellowship support these two people projects with loving, generous, prayerful hearts and actions. Joy Christian

Church Library—New Additions



The Heart of a King

by Jill Eileen Smith

Found on the 'Fiction' shelf

In this engrossing novel, you'll find yourself whisked away to ancient Israel, where you'll meet Solomon and four of the women he loved: Naamah the desert princess, Abishag the shepherdess, Siti the daughter of a pharaoh, and Nicaula the queen of Sheba. As you experience the world of Solomon through his eyes and the eyes of these women, you'll ask yourself the ultimate question: Did Solomon's wisdom ultimately benefit him and those he loved . . . or did it betray them?

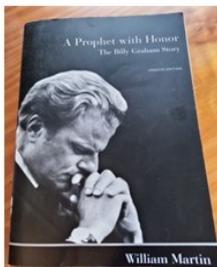


The Faith of Queen Elizabeth

by Dudley Delffs

Found on the 'Inspirational' shelf

Discover the inspiring spiritual legacy of Queen Elizabeth II, the longest reigning monarch in British history. Throughout all her trials and triumphs, Her Majesty credits her personal faith in Jesus Christ as the steadying anchor to her life and reign. This spiritual biography, unpacks the secret behind Her Majesty's personal devotion and public service, giving you a fuller, richer picture of the woman who's led a nation with unwavering faith and resolve.

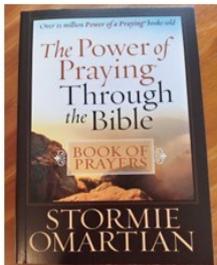


A Prophet with Honor: The Billy Graham Story

by William Martin

Found on the 'Biography' shelf

This is the biography Graham himself requested and liked for its sympathetic but frank approach. In this carefully documented, eminently fair, and gracefully written account, William Martin raises and answers key questions about Graham's character, contributions, and influence on the world religious scene.

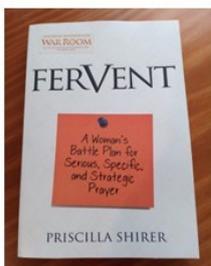


The Power of Praying Through the Bible

by Stormie Omartian

Found on the 'Prayer' shelf

Omartian journeys with readers from Genesis to Revelation and reveals how God designed prayer, so that they can communicate with Him, embrace the promises of Scripture, release burdens to God's care, walk with Jesus daily and listen to the Spirit's leading.



Fervent

by Priscilla Shirer

Found on the 'Prayer' shelf

Fervent is a woman's battle plan for serious, specific, and strategic prayer and shows women how to renew their passion, refocus their identity, deal with regrets, defeat temptation, weather fears, and uproot bitterness.

**You can now also access the entire Bible (NIV) on CD,
available via the 'Audio Visual' shelves**

Care group BBQ

Jane's Care Group's Social BBQ was at Paul and Anne Andrejic's home and garden, on the Anzac weekend. Two generations enjoyed fabulous food and fun filled fellowship, surrounded by floating autumn leaves.. Lyn Marshall



Venture in faith

In September 1975, the Building committee was asked to ascertain the building requirements of the congregation over the next 10 to 20 years. In the previous five years baptized membership had increased from 250 to 380 (52%) (Now 374) and confirmed membership from 142 to 260 (45%) (Now 307). In the last two years then nine adults had been confirmed. The attendance at worship had not grown in proportion to the membership over the past 5 years, from 106 to only 135. (Now approx. 180 per Sunday) But there was plenty of scope. The Mount Barker population of 3000 was projected to double over the next ten years (Now some 38,000) Wow!

Sons of St Mark's who have become Ordained Ministers

Eric Liebelt Mark Schultz David Kuss Ray Roehm Stuart Kleinig Paul Kerber

Are you bogged ?



I spend a lot of time raising awareness about spray drift but recent events have compelled me to talk about something that disturbs me even more than spray drift.

I have spent my whole life working in rural and remote Australia and always around country blokes; working with them, for them, and beside them. My father was one, my brother is one, and most of my dearest friends are country blokes. I have always worked in male dominated occupations and that certainly doesn't make me special but I believe it has given me a good understanding of rural men and it has definitely given me a deep and profound respect for them.

So when I see country blokes facing challenges like never before, I need to say something because I know none of them will. I'm talking about rural men's mental health and more specifically, rural male suicide. Yes, that mongrel black dog that sneaks in when you least expect it, grabs all of your rational thoughts, buries them somewhere you can't find them, and without you or those close to you noticing, it gradually pulls you into a hole, a bog hole.
Mary O'Brien

"If you're feeling bogged or you're trying to pull out a mate who's stuck in the mud, we can get you connected with the right help." Top of the Valley Lutheran Churches invited men to this free event at Lobethal. The focus was on those affected by the Cudlee Creek bushfire, including those supporting others affected. Lunch and afternoon tea were provided. Over 60 men attended including several from St. Marks. If you need help, please contact an elder or google "are u bogged mate".



Blast from the past.

I have been given several old youth magazines to peruse. Here are some interesting details.

1984 OUR MAG

Committee: Sonia Heinrich and Mark Jaensch

The car auction section featured six cars. Green Datsun, Red Toyota Corolla, Commodore vacationer, Toyota Cressida, Blue Commodore, Brown Sigma. Anyone able to match the cars with their owners?

Darren Jaensch wrote on the debate with Strath youth: Subject, Showers vs Baths.

Peter Jaensch gave details of the inter zone rally at Strath. Robin Mann led a session on learning the new spiritual songs.

The joke section had some poor jokes. Dear Abbey had all the answers to some very topical questions.

“That is life “ section had some very interesting rumours. Karen had a secret admirer, a romance between Postie and Heather. I do not know who wrote this.

“It is a fact “ detailed profiles of Karen Jaensch (Dislikes: Beetroot and Twisties) and Steve Matthias. (Most admired: Ronald McDonald)

Sonia Heinrich was the self-elected president of the Spinsters club.

The top 11 chart-toppers included “What’s singing got to do with it” by the amateur hour group

The push car rally was held somewhere. A service was held before lunch. Our youth had two carts entered and reached the finals.

Overall a very interesting read from what sounded like a very active youth group.

1985 BORE (Barkers outrageously ridiculous edition)

Editor :Michael Kreiewaldt Committee :Tanya Rosenzweig, Katrina Wegener, Darren Jaensch

The editor lamented that at 20 years old he was one of the older members. Andrew and Diedre Henke got married. Brian Jaensch had bought a Bluebird TRX. Sister Leanne also had a new car. The hit parade included “Old man down the road” by Pastor K.

Activities included a very cold night and bonfire at Hedley’s and an “It is a knockout night”. The zone rally was held at Oakbank Area School. Lobethal won the sports shield. Service shield won by Mount Barker and the Stamp shield by St Pauls.

Who said what? Section: Brian Jaensch said, “With a bit of luck we may get in for nothing “ to the St Michaels Spud Disco.

Cathy Pfeiffer said “They are very heavy are they not” about the phone books the youth delivered.

“Singing books. Song books what is the difference?” Brian Jaensch

“Did you know” included profiles on Richard Fishlock and Natalie Rosenzweig.

(Footnote: Thankyou to Valda Jaensch who has kept a lot of memorabilia from those years. They may be available for interested readers.)

CHURCH REGISTER

Baptisms

Date	Name	Born	Parents
21/3/21	Jasmine O'Daly	3/8/20	Patrick & Jessica O'Daly
11/4/21	Arya Grierson	5/12/20	Jake Grierson & Tyra Ladhams
11/4/21	Lynette Jackson	adult	

First Communion

Date	Name
13/6/21	Chloe Footner
13/6/21	Siena Lang
13/6/21	Darcy Phillips
13/6/21	Toby Phillips
13/6/21	Jessica Saliba
13/6/21	Zack Schwarz

Confirmation

Date	Name
4/4/21	Sharnie Jones

Membership In

Date	Name	From
11/4/21	Bernard Jackson	
9/5/21	John & Maryn Schultz	Redeemer, Nairne

Membership Out

Date	Name	To
25/4/21	Matt & Sharnie Hutchinson Jasmine, Olivia, Thomas, Henry	Victor Harbor Lutheran

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St Marks 
Lutheran Church
SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS

35 Hampden Rd Mt Barker

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CHRISTMAS EVE @ ST MARKS



Keep updated using the web site or having the Sunday bulletin delivered each Friday by email by registering online. St Marks Matters is also available electronically via our website.



The Chairman runs for his life



PJs and pizzas at the school

Out & About At St Marks



It has been a privilege to publish St Mark's Matters .

The Editor Thanks You!



Woodside Shed men



Arlya Grierson Baptism



Easter dawn service



First Communion



School excursion



Mitch and Olivia's Farewell