

Getting Connected



Sunday, 29 Aug 2010

Who Are You Inviting To Dinner? - Pentecost + 14

The Greatest Invitation of All Time!

I read live accounts of evangelism on Melbourne's streets in the late nineteenth century. I was shocked at how bullying and aggressive it was.

No doubt the street evangelists were convinced that in the Christian society of the time where it was assumed that all good citizens were Christian that it was only the most hard hearted of sinners who were yet to hear the good news.

But I didn't hear about Jesus that way. I was introduced to Jesus by people who cared about me and really thought he would enrich my life. I heard this as a kind of "invitation"

to something really good.

These days people who are involved with evangelism often refer to Jesus' gracious invitations to join him in meals.



This parable of the Great Banquet is a beautiful example ...

When one of the guests sitting at the table heard this, he said to Jesus, "How happy are those who will sit down at the feast in the Kingdom of God!"

Jesus said to him, "There was once a man who was giving a great feast to which he invited many people. When it was

time for the feast, he sent his servant to tell his guests, 'Come, everything is ready!' ...

The master ... said to his servant,

'Hurry out to the streets and alleys of the town, and bring back the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.'

Luke 14

Evangelism is different now.

Now, it is marked by

faith, love and

hope. Faith

in Jesus

to bring

about

great

things in

non -

Christian

lives, love for our friends

and relatives that motivates us to

invite them on the greatest

adventure of their lives, and hope

that the Holy Spirit will work in

people's lives.

I naturally warm to the sort of

evangelism that is about friendly

invitations rather than nervously

harassing.

I think it fits in naturally with the way we do things at LFC. I loved hearing about people being invited to the women's retreat, to Cafe Church, to worship and to some of our study groups.

In fact any group or event in our church can be an opportunity to invite people either to that group or into another group that

may take people further in discovering more about Jesus.

Who would you love to invite?

Graeme



Living Faith Church

We acknowledge, with respect, the heritage of the Wurundjeri people, in this place.

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Getting Connected

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HEBREWS 13: 1-8, 15-16

1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

3 Remember those who are in bonds as though you were bound with them, and those who suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled; but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

5 Let your manner of living be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have. For He hath said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee";

6 so that we may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not

fear what man shall do unto me."

7 Remember those who have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God. Follow

their faith, considering the outcome of their manner of living.

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.

15 By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that

is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.

16 But to do good and to communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

[21st Century King James Version](#) (KJ21)
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INITIAL THOUGHTS

The sudden change to a set of brief instructions makes Hebrews 13 seem like an afterthought.

Some have even speculated that it might have been added later to the letter,

maybe to make it into a letter. The same effect might have been produced by the author, if he had added the material after having completed the main work.

It reflects similar values to those in the rest of the writing, even though it employs the cultic imagery differently. It does take the form of closing exhortations which we

sometimes find in other letters.

Each short comment is a theme in itself. Mutual love is a fundamental trait of good Christian community and crucial for survival where a community must stick together in face of dangers.

Offering hospitality was also a key characteristic of early Christian communities. It was especially vital for communication with other Christian communities. Visiting preachers and missionaries needed to be provided for. The allusion to angels recalls the stories in Genesis about the hospitality of Abraham and also Lot.

Hospitality was an essential component of networking.

Solidarity with Christians who had been imprisoned for their faith is also a key value. Earlier the author had reminded the hearers of their own conflicts with the state (10:32-34) and it appeared that such dangers were again on the horizon. State

imprisonment and torture were real possibilities.

In our day we are all too aware of prisoners of conscience and people jailed for their beliefs, on the one hand, and of abuse and torture of prisoners, on the other. The abuses in Iraq remind us that our societies are contexts where violence and exploitation flourish. For many people such violence forms the diet of their visual entertainment.

Read more of Prof William Loader's commentary at: <http://wwwstaff.murdoch.edu.au/~loader/>



SHOPPING TOUR

Shopping Tour Booking Forms Now Available. There are extra forms available on the table. Please take one and give

it to someone who may like to come on the Shopping Tour on Saturday October 23rd.

Money and forms are due back by Sunday September 26th.

See Kay for more information.

PRESBYTERY OF YARRA YARRA PRAYER CALENDAR

Would congregations please offer prayers for:

29 August

- * Boronia Road and Rev Eseta Meneilly
- * Bodalla Aged Care Agency in Kew, Mrs Megan Coote, clients and staff
- * Rev Ken Bingham for his 50 Years of ordination



CHOIR NEWS

The next choir rehearsal is on
Wed, 1st Sep, at 7:30pm.



Never before
have the needs
been greater



share
WINTER APPEAL

In the past 12 months one UnitingCare emergency relief centre has been forced to turn away an average of 280 people a month.

In February they had to say no to people who needed emergency relief more than 300 times.

Increasingly more homeless people are accessing housing services with a key housing provider seeing 50-80 new clients a week.

Please support the SHARE Winter Appeal and help us provide vital assistance to disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

The act of sharing is simple, yet it can change a life. It brings light and warmth to the most hopeless of situations, reminding people that they are not alone.

Kensington Chamber Players present

A WINTER



VARIETY CONCERT

Sunday 29th August, 5pm

Come and warm yourself with...

Beautiful Music featuring

- ❖ Kensington choir
- ❖ Czech violin music
- ❖ Schubert songs
- ❖ Cello solo "The Swan"
- ❖ Piano solo
- ❖ Classical guitar



Mulled wine, supper ...and much more...

Christchurch, 76 McCracken Street, Kensington

ENTRY BY DONATION

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE HOTHAM ASYLUM SEEKER
PROJECT - SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY**

KIDS HOPE AUS.



KIDS HOPE AUS.

STORY OF THE WEEK FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

OUR SPECIAL DAY

Written by a KHAUS Coordinator

I never cease to be amazed at the impact of KIDS HOPE

There was an opportunity for our most senior mentor, an eighty three year old man, to mentor a child of five whose parents have problems with substance abuse and domestic violence.

It is a most beautiful sight to witness the mentor, spending time with this little boy. A couple of weeks ago I finished breakfast club and heard the little boy running (which is forbidden) down the corridor yelling out "Keith, Keith".

When asked by one of the teachers why he was running in the corridor his reply was "It's Friday, that's me and Keith's day."

As I witnessed this sight I couldn't help but think...even though because of age, Keith is stooped and hobbles along, what a beautiful picture of Jesus he is to this little boy.

Praise God for KIDS HOPE AUS. and the dedicated mentors.

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN NOW ON THE WAITING LIST CONTINUES TO INCREASE. PLEASE PRAY THAT GOD WILL PROVIDE A MENTOR FOR EACH OF THESE CHILDREN.

KIDS HOPE AUS. builds caring relationships
one child, one hour, one Church, one school.

Robyn (Coordinator)

A COCOA Pakistan Flood Relief Form is available from the Door Stewards

Please support the SHARE PAKISTAN FLOOD RELIEF APPEAL

More than 1500 people have been killed and 14 million people displaced by Pakistan's worst flood in more than 80 years.

SHARE Community Appeal



SHARE is calling for donations to aid the enormous recovery efforts through the Pakistan Flood Relief Appeal.

All donations forwarded to SHARE will be sent to Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.



Act for Peace and its partners are responding on the ground with life-saving assistance.

They are distributing

food packages, shelter, drinking water, hygiene kits and mosquito nets to flood affected families in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

We are asking for Uniting Church members to pray for the people affected and that all members give generously through a Special Pakistan Flood Relief Appeal this Sunday.

Donation forms for **SHARE PAKISTAN FLOOD RELIEF APPEAL** are available from the door stewards.

Thank you again for your support in this time of crisis.

David Hickey, Director SHARE

Ph: 1800 668 426 or go online to: www.shareappeal.org.au

TUCKER CLUB

You may have heard rumours about Tucker Club – this is another of the new mission activities of Living Faith Church.

Tucker Club is a community meal that Living Faith will be holding on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

We have partnered with the Diamond Valley Advisory Service (DVAS) who will be referring people to us who would benefit from a meal and the social interaction that Tucker club will provide. We are starting out with a small group, but will no doubt expand with time.

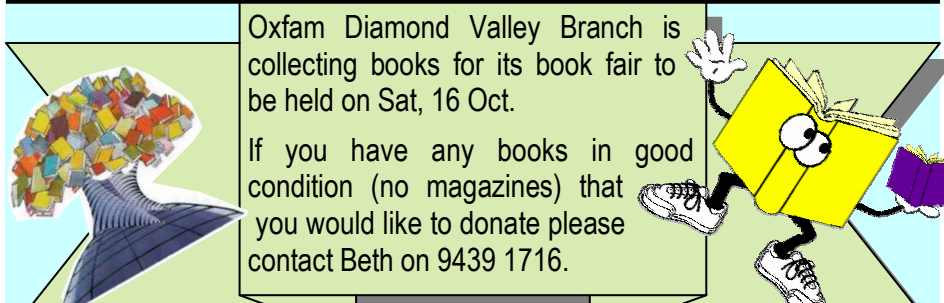
We had our first “Practice” night of running Tucker club on Wednesday night this week.

Volunteers from the DVAS were our guests and provided us with valuable feedback at the end of the meal on how we can best make Tucker club work.

So what is next?

1. Please pray for Tucker Club – pray for the people who will be coming along and for the team providing meals
2. Consider financial support for Tucker Club – we will be incurring costs in providing the meals and a welcoming environment for our guests
3. Let us know if you are keen to be a member of the Tucker team – send an email to Anita Wilton who will add you to the distribution list. Please understand that we have had a lot of interest in this ministry, so will be developing rosters for our coming Tucker Club evenings
4. If you are a member of the Tucker team, or interested in becoming one, you **MUST** come to training. Our next training session will be Thursday September 2nd at the church at 7 pm. It will be for 1 hour only.

Any further information – see **Anita**



Oxfam Diamond Valley Branch is collecting books for its book fair to be held on Sat, 16 Oct.

If you have any books in good condition (no magazines) that you would like to donate please contact Beth on 9439 1716.

book fair

12 SEP - SPRINGTIME SONGS OF PRAISE

Come along and sing your favourite hymns and choruses with special guests Moses and the Samoan Gospel Singers and Melbourne singer Ally Dawson.

The Springtime Songs of Praise will be held at the Diamond Valley Baptist Church, 309 Diamond Creek Rd, Plenty (Melway Ref 11 D7) on Sunday 12th September.

Come and have an enjoyable afternoon from 2pm to 4.45pm, followed by a complimentary afternoon tea. For further information call 9435 9377.



Who would you love to invite?

Churches of Christ Sunday 3rd October 2010

October 3 2010 has been designated as Churches of Christ Sunday, with the theme: "we are a people of an open table". It is a day to remember our heritage, acknowledge our present and imagine our future. We imagine that this Sunday will give churches an opportunity to wrestle with important parts of the Churches of Christ DNA, to be able to introduce newer members and attenders to the Churches of Christ DNA and explore ways of living out that DNA in the mission and ministry of the church. The first of our resources is now available: The Open Table blog which can be found at <http://bit.ly/theopentable>

This blog will have regular articles and resources posted on it, and will be both a resource and a safe place to wrestle with who we are and how that impacts our communities around us. I trust that it will become a useful resource for you and your church, and I look forward to your feedback.

Craig Brown
Federal Coordinator, Churches of Christ Australia
cbrown@churchesofchrist.org.au

Magpie Alert

The message is clear.

Beware!

Magpies are swooping protectively at present, even in our carpark at LFC.

Keep your eyes peeled for this iconic Australian bird.

Talons and beaks can make a horrible mess of skin, young or old.



Belgrave Heights

Security in the Saviour.
Sat September 11th
9.00am 'til 3.45pm.
Four teaching sessions
by Jenny Salt, Dean of
Women at Sydney Bible
College, and Lisa

Watson, well known for her involvement in Celebrate Recovery program, KYB and CWCI; and a question panel.

Registration leaflets in the foyer.

Women's Convention

LinC

Maybe if you have never volunteered with LinC before this is a job you could help with.

We need to transport a man from Medbury Av Greensborough, to Gambro Dialysis (beside the church) on Wednesday and Friday to be there at 12.20pm.

Just a drop off, you don't even have to walk him in.

We would like to get a roster going, so the more people the less often you would be needed.

Or maybe you are out and about at that time and would be prepared to do this weekly or fortnightly.

Please speak to **Carol** or **Barbara** if you would like more details.

COMM & ADMIN MINISTRY GROUP MEETINGS

September 23rd – CORE group
October 28th – FULL group
November 25th – CORE group
December 23rd (if necessary) – CORE group

melbourne seminar

11 September 2010

10.00am – 3.00pm

Uniting Church Centre,
130 Little Collins Street,
Melbourne

Bring own lunch

Speaker & leader:

Rev Lord Andrew Mawson



Rev Lord Andrew Mawson OBE

Andrew Mawson is one of the UK's leading social entrepreneurs. For over 25 years he has created a family of projects in particular the renowned Bromley-by-Bow Centre in East London.

Today he is leader, motivator and adviser to major projects including the St. Paul's Way Transformational project in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Water City, a visionary plan to revitalise East London and a vehicle for Olympic legacy.

Lord Andrew Mawson notes:

"The United Reformed Church has displayed an important role in the nurturing and development of communities across Britain over many years. Many of our best buildings have bought a sense of place and identity to towns and cities across the land. During my Christian ministry of over 25 years, I have found myself specialising in church-based community regeneration projects and the redevelopment of buildings. It is my experience that human beings are profoundly influenced by the places we live, work and play within. We hope that by rejuvenating many of our historic sites, bringing them once again back to life, we will not only be re-interpreting the mission of the church to a new generation, but we will be also "lifting the game". We will be raising aspirations and surprising people through what we hope will be a new generation of inspiring church buildings. Buildings which, we hope, will once again bring life into a local community."

on being a
missionshaped church

11.09.2010
MELBOURNE

25.09.2010
BENDIGO

2 one-day seminars
exploring Church based community regeneration

A conversation with John Dominic Crossan

Directions in New Testament Scholarship & the implications for congregational & pastoral ministry

When: Monday 30 August 2010

Time: 1-4 pm

Where: Centre for Theology & Ministry,
29 College Cres, Parkville, VIC 3052

Cost: \$20 (\$10 Theological students). Payable on the day.

RSVP: info@ctm.uca.edu.au or 03 9340 8815
Thursday 26 August 2010

Dom Crossan will lead a conversation from 1-3. This will be followed by afternoon tea and further conversation.

John Dominic Crossan is an Irish-American religious scholar and former Catholic priest known for co-founding the Jesus Seminar. Crossan is a major figure in the fields of biblical archaeology, anthropology and New Testament textual and higher criticism. He served as co-chair of the Jesus Seminar for its first decade. Crossan is also a member of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL). He is also featured in a number of Living the Questions programs.



He is the author and co author of numerous books, including several he co-authored with Marcus Borg. His newest book, *The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer*, will be released in September 2010.



blink

has the church blinked?

2010
crossway conference



20-23 September 2010

While God is moving powerfully in the third world where have we 'blinked' in the West?

DAY TWO:

Session 1

Leading upwards - Dale Stephenson

Session 2

How to CARE through Teams and Prayer - Lyn Hunter/Trish Becker

Session 3

Handling Conflict - David Jenkin

DAY THREE:

Session 1

Keynote speakers Q & A - Host Dale Stephenson

Session 2

Ideas from Peers - MC Tim Piesse

Session 3

Round Table - Crossway Staff

Further information can be viewed at the Crossway Conference website at: <http://>

DAY ONE:

Session 1

Harnessing the Entrepreneurial Spirit. Craig Winkler
Presenter will be Mr Craig Winkler, founder and former CEO of accounting software firm MYOB.

Session 2

Communicating for engagement 'scratching the itch' - Tim Piesse/
Crossway Planning Team

Session 3

Where did we BLINK on Church Planting Movements? - Dave Lawton

2010
crossway conference

20-23 September 2010



What's on this Week At Living Faith Church

Friday, 27 Aug 2010

10:00am - 12:00 noon - Bible Study Fellowship
7:00pm - 9:00pm - Yarra Yarra Presbytery Meeting - Burwood Heights Uniting Church

Saturday 28 Aug 2010

9:00am - 3:15pm - Yarra Yarra Presbytery - Burwood Heights Uniting Church
Circa 10:00am - Music Rehearsal - Youth Team

Sunday, 29 Aug 2010

8:45am - A service of reflection
10:00am - All-age Worship
12:00 noon - Soup and Sandwich Lunch

Monday, 30 Aug 2010

7:00pm - 8:30pm - Primary Club - Races
7:30pm - 9:30pm - Monday Night Bible Study Group - Mulholland
7:45pm - 10:00pm - Monday Evening Bible Fellowship - Henderson

Tuesday, 31 Aug 2010

10:00am - 11:30am - Playgroup
1:30pm - 3:00pm - Codgers

8:00pm - 10:00pm - Elders' Meeting

Wednesday, 01 Sep 2010

7:30pm - 9:30pm - Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm - 10:00pm - Finance Committee Meeting
8:00pm - Wednesday Evening Bible Study - de Ridder

Thursday, 02 Sep 2010

9:30am - 11:00am - Playgroup
1:00pm - 3:00pm - Friendship Centre
8:00pm - 9:30pm - Must Get Changed Study Group - Youth Room

Friday, 03 Sep 2010

10:00am - 12:00 noon - Bible Study Fellowship

Saturday 04 Sep 2010

Circa 10:00am - Music Rehearsal - Group 1

Sunday, 05 Sep 2010

8:45am - A service of reflection
10:00am - All-age Worship
7:00pm - 8:00pm - Taize Service - Lutheran Church