

Getting Connected

Sunday 29 Jan 2012

AUTHORITY

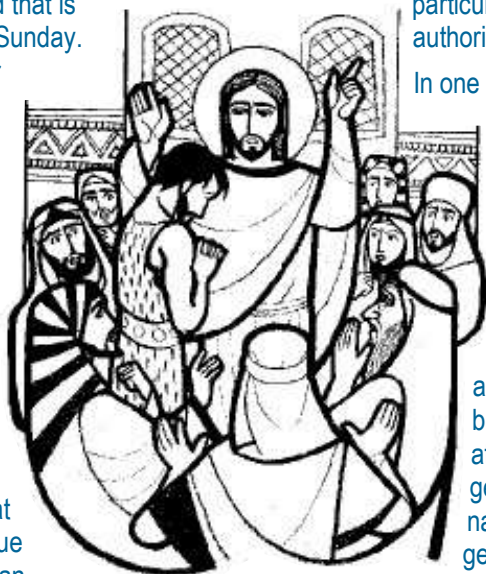
Today we are thrilled to have some of our young people leading the worship service. It is a fifth Sunday and that is what we do on a fifth Sunday.

We always enjoy their contribution. The danger is that we see it, and them, in a paternalistic or maternalistic way; seeing them as "children" doing a special thing, rather than really listening to what they are saying and taking them seriously. We need to remember that they have a very unique perspective on Christian faith, which is both a reflection of their stage of life and their generation.

Jesus has the ability to speak with authority, and to

through any and every generation. In his own time that is what they recognised as particular about him; his authority. In one sense, that is Jesus' gift to us. When we are speaking for him we can have confidence that what we are saying is worthwhile. In fact, it has eternal value. It is a message that is always relevant because it talks to life at a deeper level than generation, race, nationality, culture, gender or social standing.

When an older person speaks these truths, they have authority, and when a young person shares them, they have the same authority. It is important that we



standing.

It is important that we



recognise that our experience of God is valid and worth sharing with others.

The sharing that matters has little to do with theological education and the years which condition us to recite the party line. That part can easily be left to others. It has much more to do with our own experience of God. That's what Jesus did. It is Jesus sharing what theologians have spent countless lifetimes pondering and trying to codify. In all generations a sense of inadequacy of knowledge, has promoted a fear that what I have to share is not significant.

We also fear that our ability to express it, is so weak that it would be better to leave that to others as well. What Jesus says to us is that we too have the authority of the Gospel, that compels us to share, because that story, as we have experienced it, is always significant.

Today we are reflecting on Mark 1: 21 to 28, where Jesus' authority is recognised. In the same context Jesus casts out a demon. Maybe the demon we need driven out of us is the demon of fear; fear that I am not

worthy, fear that the experience God has given me will not be received by others, fear to simply share.

Jesus has given us the authority of his love. Where God's love is expressed in words and actions that is Good News.

People might debate the ideas we have and the way we express our beliefs, but no one can deny the love of God. The focus of Jesus' ministry was loving people. While Jesus taught with authority, not much of it was through debates, it was more likely through actions.

Interestingly, when Jesus had cast out the demon, the people's response was strangely, "What is this, a new teaching?"

My encouragement is for you to share the Good News of Jesus Christ by words and actions with confidence. Many people need to experience what you have to share.

Adrian



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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THINK ABOUT: MARK 1: 21-28

JESUS DRIVES OUT AN IMPURE SPIRIT

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you

come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching, and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

[New International Version \(NIV\)](#)

THOUGHTS ON MARK

In Mark this week, we encounter a crowd and a speaker, not unlike what is taking place in today's political landscape.

However, there is a twist. Jesus enters the synagogue and offers new teaching – a teaching with authority. We do not know of what this "teaching" is comprised. All we hear, from our view on the outside, is that those who listened were "astounded" and noted that his teaching was not like that of the scribes, whom they were accustomed to hearing (not like FOX, friends, or CNN, either!). Before we can even inquire as to what Jesus is saying, how his words can truly be so different as to inspire awe, we are broadsided with action, fast and furious.

Into the milieu appears a raucous man with an unclean spirit. Roaring and convulsing, the man names Jesus, challenges him, and is healed, and in that moment the authority of Jesus takes on a new dimension: no longer authority in word, but authority in deed, as well! Not only can Jesus speak with authority, he can do the deed. He is a

healer, a game-changer. And that is the true beginning of the gossip train – far and wide will word of the authority spread, throughout the region of Galilee, and beyond. The people who have seen this healing – not just heard the words, but seen the healing, with their own eyes – they are amazed.

Words matter, yet, what good are empty promises, words uttered to convince the listeners without convicting the speaker? When all we get are words, and no actions behind the words, is not the authority of the speaker to be questioned?

Because Jesus follows his words with powerful actions, his authority is established. He is one to be trusted, one who speaks and then acts in accordance with those words. He is unlike the leaders of the synagogue, and the scribes, who have plenty to say but little to do. In our world today, we badly need leaders who not only speak with authority but behave with conviction.

From "The Need for Authentic Leadership" by [Rev. Angela Zimmann](#)

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

Prayer Points for the next 3 days of Jan, and the first 4 of Feb:

29th - Robert and Elsie Taylor are assisting the Esperance Church. Thank God for an increase in attendances and their community involvement.

30th - Grace Munro is the Tamworth treasurer. Thank God for this faithful lady who has served Him over many years and for her witness to her family.

31st - Earnestly pray that God will open a ministry for Chris and Elaine Guy in caring for hurting people in the Tamworth region.

1st - Norseman folk are talking with Kevin and Deborah Tucker about ministry in the town in 2012. Pray God's leading is known to all.

2nd - Kevin was cared for in the Norseman Mission as a lad and is well known and respected by those who know him. He is a graduate of the A.E.F. College in W.A.

3rd - Remember Don Stephens today preparing this Prayer Diary and other publicity for ACCIM. His daily service for God.

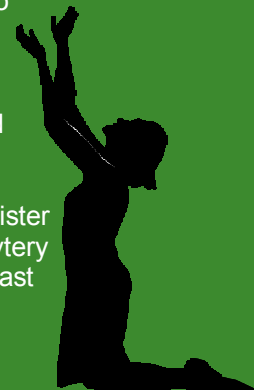
4th - Praise God for the commitment of Yvette Councillor and friend Stephanie Lawrence to the development of a ministry to women in Port Hedland.

PRESBYTERY OF YARRA YARRA PRAYER CALENDAR

Would congregations please offer prayers for:

29 January 2012

- Plenty Valley and Mernda Congregations and their Minister David Anderson
- Preston and Preston East Congregations and their Minister Nalin Perera
- Preston (Macedonian) Congregation and their Ministry Team
- Richmond Congregation and their Minister Liz McMillan
- Ringwood Congregation and their Minister Stan Clarke
- John Mann who has recently completed his Ministry with Heathmont and commences Ministry as Presbytery Minister with the Presbytery of Port Philip East



CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE BACK!

There will be a Choir rehearsal on Wednesday, February 1st at 7:30pm.

Why not include yourself?!

Kay



Choir Rehearsal

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This Thank You has been received from Operation Christmas Child:

"Thank you again for your support in 2011. The Victorian total of boxes was 54,231 which is an increase over last year. Five 40' containers have been sent – two to Thailand, two to Cambodia and one to Fiji. Your generosity means that many children across South-East Asia and the Pacific region will feel loved and special as they receive a shoe box. It is not too early to start your boxes for 2012. Back to school specials include 5 exercise books for 10c at Big W and many other stationery bargains can be had at other stores at this time."



Thank you again for your continued generosity.
Glennys.

MINISTRY STUDIES FOR WOMEN

Stirling College is running ministry studies for women on Friday mornings at Mulgrave in 2012. This provides a supportive introduction to theological study, and equips women to grow personally and in their skills in helping others. Students are also welcome to consider auditing (which involves attending classes, but there is no need to complete essays).

Now is a great time to have a chat with the registrar (John Williamson) to discuss possibilities for study in 2012 on 9790 1000. You can also get information by email: registrar@stirling.edu.au



THANK YOU FROM JOAN

Joan would like to express her sincere thanks to all her friends within the Living Faith Church community who, through cards, telephone calls, all well-wishers, helped her celebrate her memorable 90th Birthday.

PANCAKE DAY MORNING TEA

The Pancake Day morning tea will be on 12th February after Church. Beautiful, fresh, mouth-watering pancakes will be available with a selection of fillings, at a bargain price of \$2 per pancake.



Proceeds will go to the Share appeal to help needy people in our community.

If you are able to help with making and serving pancakes or setting up Saturday evening or clearing away Sunday morning, please contact Heather or Glennys.

THE PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY GROUP

The Pastoral Care Ministry Group is planning to meet on the following dates throughout the year. Please mark these on your calendar for future reference.

These dates will appear in Getting Connected in the week before each Pastoral Care Ministry Group meeting.

The dates are: 7th February, 6th March, 3rd April, 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th Sept., 2nd and 30th October, 3rd December.

Please contact Bryan for further information.



MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Monday Night Bible Study commences, for 2012, on 6th February at 7:45pm. For information regarding studies and venues please contact Bryan.

CODGERS

CODGERS MENS GROUP RE-COMMENCES TUESDAY, 14th FEBRUARY

An invitation is extended to all retired gentlemen to join us Tuesdays 1:30pm - 3:00pm in the youth room of the Church. This group is run in co-operation with the friendship centre and the Carer's group of Living Faith Church.

SO WHAT DO WE DO?

Well in the main, we talk to each other and hear one another's stories, sometimes we have a speaker and, always, we have afternoon tea.

"DON'T BE SHY - GIVE US A TRY"

It's a very welcoming group.

Stewart & Graham (Facilitators)

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Christian Women's Fellowship Executive members met last week, to share ideas and plan their program for 2012. After gathering information already researched by the ladies, we were able to put together a program for the year.

The Syllabus contains some meetings in homes of group members and several outings we hope will be of interest to Living Faith friends. These will be advertised in "Getting Connected" at the appropriate time. Two Trading Tables on Sundays 29 April and November 18 have been included, also collection of goods for Hospital visitors, mid year.

Like all programs planned a long way ahead, circumstances may make changes necessary as the year proceeds.

If you would like a copy of the Syllabus - please contact **Valda**.



Living Faith Church Family Camp 17-19 February 2012

Fun for Families with Children/youth

Camp Burnside Anglesea: <http://www.abcamping.com.au/camp-burnside/index.html>

What a great way to get to know each other better in a fun atmosphere in a setting designed to build community across the ages.

There will be organised activities, free time, discussion times, singing and worship times, and time at the beach. This is a catered facility.

The Church Council has agreed to underwrite costs so that no family will miss out because of financial difficulties. See Graeme Harrison in confidence if a discount of any size is required.

There are 16 rooms that are prioritised so that families with children and youth will be guaranteed a place.

Families will pay maximum \$280 regardless of how many children

More details to come. Forms available in the foyer

Speak to Graeme Harrison 9877 1820 or 0422 490 323.



POND NEWS

We would like to welcome all pupils, teachers and helpers back to the POND for 2012.

The POND year begins on **Sunday 5th. February**, and we encourage all pupils to wear their school/kinder uniforms on this day.

Our first POND teachers' meeting is to be held on Thursday 9th February at 8.00pm, in the Fellowship room.

If there are any members of the congregation interested in volunteering some time to this important church program, please talk to **Pam, Robert or Alison**.



CAFÉ SUPPORT GROUPS (CAREGIVERS AND FRIENDS)

Our church now has **two** CAFe groups to support people who are caregivers. For the last two years we have had just one group supporting members of our church family, and now we are reaching out to include members of the community who have no connection with our church. Janet and Jacob will lead the new group. We will continue to meet at local cafés for a cuppa and chat. If you know anyone who would benefit from belonging to such a group, whether a church person or not, would you please contact me, **Joan**, for further information.

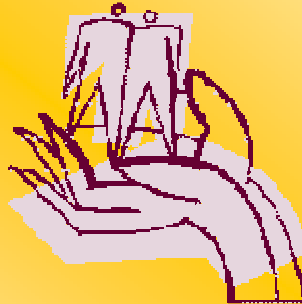
Our planned dates for the next few weeks are:

Group 1

Tuesday February 7th
Tuesday February 21st

Group 2

Wednesday February 8th
Wednesday February 22nd
and possibly Wednesday February 29th.



PATRICK ROBERTS CHARITY CONCERT

Patrick Roberts has been entertaining audiences for over 15 years. As a classically trained Violinist he has transformed much loved classics into contemporary masterpieces. His shows capture and mesmerise audiences far and wide, bringing people to love his lyrical approach to popular music. You may have experienced Patrick's music at one of his many local charity concerts, or heard him at the Carols by Candlelight. Take this opportunity to see Patrick perform at The Palms at Crown Casino on February 18th 2012. Not only will you be mesmerised by his music, you will also be entertained by long time great artist Daryl Braithwaite and be supporting the National Stroke Foundation. Come along and share the songs you love, and discover new songs that you will never forget. These range from beloved classics to breathtaking orchestrated masterpieces. A limited number of tickets are for sale at St Mary's Greensborough Piety Store or phone St Mary's Parish Office on 9435 1543 to arrange purchase.

Cost \$69 each. Or book tickets by phoning Ticketek on 13 2849 or log onto:

<http://premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=PATRICKR12#.TuFxmAoCVY>



Micah Challenge →

HALVE POVERTY BY 2015

Welcome to Micah Challenge in 2012! We've got another exciting year planned out to equip Christians in Australia to speak out and take action on behalf of the world's poorest people.

[Click here](#) to download a campaign calendar for 2012 in PDF.

Key Dates for 2012:

Next month on 20-26 February we invite you to join with us in taking action through prayer. This is an opportunity to start the year by 'walking humbly with our God', in the spirit of Micah 6:8. We'll be in touch again shortly with prayer resources for you to use throughout the week.

Our annual [Voices for Justice](#) gathering will be on again in Canberra. Registrations will open later in the year, but please pencil 15-18 September in your diary now!

Later in the year, keep an eye out for:

The launch of phase 2 of [the Justice Hub](#) - when we'll be asking you to share your own thoughts on the issues in our world that keep people in poverty. [Click here](#) to visit the Justice Hub and watch our campaign videos.

A call to ramp up our grassroots campaigning efforts in the lead up to the 2013 election.

To kick off 2012 please:

Invite your friends and family to make a personal commitment to fight poverty by signing the [Micah Call](#). 'Like' Micah Challenge Australia on [Facebook](#) and follow @Micah_Challenge on [twitter](#) so we can keep you up to date on our latest news and actions.

Invite your friends to like and follow too.

Visit the [Micah Challenge blog](#), subscribe to our feed, share the links and join in the discussion.

Thanks for your continued support in 2012 - we wouldn't have a campaign without you!

Micah Challenge Australia

Ph: (02) 9356 8500

www.micahchallenge.org.au

Micah Challenge is a global campaign to mobilise Christians against poverty, in the spirit of Micah 6:8 "...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God", and in support of the Millennium Development Goals to halve poverty by 2015.

Cut out and attach to fridge



What's on this Week At Living Faith Church

Saturday, 28th Jan

Circa 10:00am - Music Group

Sunday, 29th Jan

8:45am - A service of reflection

10:00am - All-age Worship

Monday, 30th Jan

Tuesday, 31st Jan

Wednesday, 1st Feb

7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm - Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday, 2nd Feb

9:30am - Ministry Meeting

Friday, 3rd Feb

Saturday, 4th Feb

Circa 10:00am - Music Group - Group 1

Sunday, 5th Feb - POND Returns

8:45am - A service of reflection

10:00am - All-age Worship