

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

I am sure that it seems an eternity ago that the congregation here at Belmore Road embarked on the process of expanding the eldership. It is hard to believe that it is six months ago that the three candidates put their names forward to be considered for the eldership. To say that the road has been long would seem to be an understatement and following the various twists and turns has not made the journey any easier.

Making the journey seem even longer are the trials and tribulations it has produced. For those standing for the eldership this has been particularly true as being the focus of attention is never a pleasant experience.

Under such circumstances it is very easy to feel that it is all too much and that it is just not worth the heartache, pain and uncertainty. Maybe, it is easy to conclude, it is just not worth the cost and the congregation would be better just forgetting the whole thing for the time being. I must admit that I have felt this way from time to time especially as it has been difficult to follow the progress of the process from Gosford and, more recently, from the USA.

While such feelings are natural they need to be tempered with the realization that the process of establishing a sustainable eldership is not something that we can just neglect because it is taking a long time or because it is a hard thing to do. In the book of Acts we read:

21 After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." 23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. (Acts 14:21-23)

Among the many things we can learn from this passage are some things of the greatest importance in our present circumstance for the passage clearly reminds that:

Appointing elders was part of proclaiming the gospel. The fact that Paul went back to cities already evangelised indicates that the task was not completed by the proclamation of the "plan" of salvation alone. As the task of proclaiming the whole Gospel has not changed, it follows that the task of proclaiming the gospel is no more complete for us than it was then if we have failed to address the task of appointing elders.

Appointing elders required determination. For Paul to go back to places where he had been physically attacked required a great deal of courage. Courage also displayed by those churches that had to live with the hostility of their fellow citizens toward the gospel. Determination in the face of obstacles is just as important today as it was then if new elders are to be appointed.

Appointing elders demands sacrifice. Paul must have been exhausted by the schedule he had maintained and a time of rest and recuperation at Antioch must have been appealing... To appoint elders Paul had to retrace his steps and spend valuable time focusing the young churches of these cities on the task of appointing elders. To do this both Paul and the congregations had to make sacrifices of, among other things, time and energy. Appointing elders today makes similar demands on us. Regardless of how long and winding the road might appear which lies ahead of us this passage serves to remind us that it is a journey which we need to take regardless of the determination and sacrifice it demands. As surely as appointing elders was a necessary part of the Gospel for the early Church so it remains for us today no matter how long and winding the road may be.

Stuart Penhall

NEWS AND NOTES

Welcome

We welcome you this morning and hope and pray that your time with us will be spiritually uplifting and fulfilling. We look forward to seeing you again.

New DG Topic this Week

Discovery Groups resume this week. For the next 13 weeks the topic will be 'The Ephesians Letter'

June Sermons

The June sermons will be on the Epistle to the Ephesians. Benny Tabalujan is scheduled to preach each Sunday in June. The focus on Ephesians will be complementary to the DG study topic on the same epistle. Why not prepare for the DG and sermon series by reading Ephesians this week - it's only 6 chapters and it's a wonderful read!

Youth and Young at Heart-YAYAH

YAYAH is on today after worship. Are you coming? There'll be some of us carpooling. See Peter, Doug or Nancy for a lift. Here are the details:

Come along for a late lunch, a chance to hang with young people that love God and fun in the sun, or if there's no sun then perhaps some indoor activities (board games or a dvd). Depends on the weather :), Jess Bailey

You can go onto Facebook to RSVP or give her a call.

Date: Sunday, May 30, 2010

Time: 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Location: The Bailey's House

Street: 4 Poulson St

City/Town: Carrum, Australia

Phone: 9772 6080

Koinz 4 Kidz

Next Sunday (June 6th) is KOINZ 4 KIDZ. The last collection managed to raise \$545 which is a great encouragement towards this work from our church members. Thank you so much for your generous support towards this International Missions work. I encourage all of us at Belmore Rd to continue in this endeavor and to pray for the

kids in India.
Chorlian

Free Family Movie Night

Hosted by Belmore Road church of Christ Jumping Juniors

Movie: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (Rated G)

Sat 19th June

6.00pm - movie starts at 6.30pm

At the building

Free lolly bag, popcorn, drink, glow stick, tea and coffee

Contact Rhonda on 0409035281

A handout to give to all your friends will be coming soon

Additional Brief Ministry Reports

Chinese Ministry

5 families (about 16 people) attend the Chinese worship service and bible study regularly.

When Stephen Chan (James' Dad) was in Melbourne, he conducted many bible studies with the group in individual's homes.

Currently, James is studying with Adam and Sarah is studying LST with Louise on Wednesday nights.

Facilities

Building Extension Project – as per Steven's report on 23/5/10.

Building Maintenance

The committee is still trying to resolve the problems of supplies. The electrical meter has been relocated for easy access by the meter reader. There are still some minor electrical problems which need to be addressed and corrected.

Women's Ministry

Sally-Kate is in-charge of the Ladies Prayer Group (LPG) which meets on every fortnight. She will inform ladies of the venue each fortnight (either at the church building or Sally-Kate's home).

Finance Ministry – As per report presented by Charles at the congregational meeting on 23/5/10.

NEWS AND NOTES

Worship

John Cooper has taken over the preparation of the monthly Worship Roster, with input from Benny and the Elders.

Benevolence Ministry

Continue to supply Food Hampers to Haig School and the Whitehorse Benevolence Society on a regular basis.

Other activities revolved around Gardening. 6-8 visits to individuals who needed gardening help had been conducted since last year. More volunteers on this good outreach activity are needed. Kindly contact Francis if you are able to help

Staffing Ministry

Full-time worker for BMR – as per Ian's report at the Congregational Meeting on 23/5/10.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for May 2010

Birthdays

Jessie Tabe	4 th
Joy Tabalujan	13 th
Damian Forbes	13 th
Nikki Baker	15 th
Ruth Drew	21 st
Tamari Burgin	22 nd
Erin Burgin	23 rd
Yulia Lazarev	29 th

Spiritual Birthdays

Ruth Xu	1 st
Nicholas Goh	18 th
Uli Chin	22 nd
Nicole Baker	24 th
Charles Hooi	May 1993
Mark Ibbetson	May 1978

John Baldwin May 1977

Wedding Anniversaries

Swee & Charles Hooi 9th May 1971

For the Record

Contribution: 23/05 – TBA
Attendance: 23/05 – English – 96
Chinese - 16

People Movements

- We thank God for the safe return of Tjing Krause (Thailand), Jackie Baldwin (USA) and John Cooper (Hong Kong)

Prayers Please

- For our pregnant mums Ainz, Sophie, Paula.
- For Hannah's health
- For Barry as he recovers from his foot operation.
- For our new Christians - Barry, Tim Tabalujan and Susan Ocenasek, that we can help them grow as Christians.
- For the Sudanese congregation at Chadstone, for their spiritual growth, and also that they will be a witness for Christ to their community.
- For the Eldership expansion process; for the committee members, the nominees, and for our existing Elders, Charles & Trevor.
- For our Government and Leaders, that they may have the wisdom they need to rule our country.
- Please keep Brian and his wife Ann Humphris (Luke Humphris' parents) in your prayers. Brian is recovering from major surgery to remove cancer.

PEARLY GATES



We are on the web
www.belmoreroadChurCh.org.au

**BELMORE ROAD
 CHURCH
 OF CHRIST**

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Belmore Road Church of Christ is a God centered, Bible based family that provides a nurturing environment to share God's truth in love.



In Jesus and through his spirit, we foster and encourage spiritual growth and understanding, offering friendship and help to those in need. We reach out to all, starting with those who are seeking the truth, people in our local community and those who we meet in our daily lives. As we have come to know God's love, we reach out and share His love with others.

WORSHIP ROSTER MAY 2010

May	Greeters + Assist LS	An- nounce (+Op+Cl Prayer)	Songs + Assist LS	Lord's Supper	Reading + Assist LS	Sp Prayer + Assist LS	Preaching (The Gospel Is For All - Families)	Sun Adults' Class (Like Antioch Church)
30	David T Jimmy F	Alan R	Peter R	Benny T	Cedric L	Roger D	Stuart P	Trevor B
Mid-week	Discovery Groups							

WORSHIP ROSTER JUNE 2010 (DRAFT SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

June	Greeters + Assist LS	Announce (+Op+Cl Prayer)	Songs + Assist LS	Lord's Supper	Reading + Assist LS	Sp Prayer + Assist LS	PREACHING (THE GOSPEL IS FOR ALL - EPHESIANS)	SUN ADULTS' CLASS (BOOK OF JAMES)
06	Gareth L	Ian C	Scott C	Roger D	John B	Francis H	Benny T	Alan R
13	Gareth L	Ian C	Scott C	Roger D	Johnston S	David T	Benny T	Alan R
20	Gareth L	Ian C	Richard H	Peter R	Tim M	Charles H	Benny T	Alan R
27	Gareth L	Ian C	Richard H	Peter R	David W	Steve B	Benny T	Alan R
Mid-week	Discovery Groups - The Ephesians Letter							

DUTY ROSTER APRIL & MAY 2010

	Lord's Supper	Luncheon Prep & Cleanup	Morning Tea	Mowing	Cleaning (weekend of)
MAY	Chris Campbell	Ruth Xu Debby Rowley Chris Campbell (H)	Peter Randall Judith	Ash Crill David W.	01 - Crill 08 - Rowley 15 - Drew 22 - Tabalujan 29 - Jackel