

Both Sides of the Coin

One of the more difficult lessons that each of us has to learn is the fact that there are two sides to every story. How many of us have found ourselves in the difficult situation where, having acted upon one persons account of an incident or conflict, we find that there is another side to the same story which makes us look more than a little foolish in the position we have taken.

Such a lesson teaches more than the importance of getting both sides of a story; it also teaches us that the story is not complete without both sides. Just as there are two sides making up every coin so there are two or more sides which make up the whole story.

When it comes to the role of elders we can usually see the side of the “story” which focuses on the responsibilities of the elders but what about the other side of the story, surely if a coin needs two sides to be complete so the story of the responsibilities of Elders is the same. Consider the following passage.

28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard! Acts 20:28-31

From passages such as this it is reasonably easy to see the elder’s side of the “story”. Shepherds are told to –

- **Watch themselves.** The reason for this instruction is not difficult to see. If a sheep goes “astray” the flock is not greatly affected. The other sheep probably won’t follow it and the shepherds can offer protection for the majority while still reaching out to the “lost sheep”. However if an elder goes astray then the flock can easily be carried away by that Shepherd. Even the other elders will struggle to protect the flock from one of their own. Elders need to watch themselves for much is at stake if they become “wolves”.
- **Watch the flock.** The flock is not an ordinary flock, rather it is one which God “...bought with his own blood”, consequently it is precious to Him beyond anything else. As the shepherds of this unique flock, the elders are to guard it and protect it. No matter how healthy the flock may be it remains vulnerable and “wolves” are always seeking ways to steal it. Elders must watch the flock as if they had “purchased” it themselves.
- **Watch God.** Inherent in these instructions is the fact that God’s purposes and instructions must be acknowledged and obeyed. The Shepherds can’t go too wrong in their task if they pay attention to God’s will and ensure that they are attentive to His instructions and warnings. Elders must learn to watch God and not rely on themselves to ensure that the flock is properly cared for.

However this is only one side of the story and without the other the side the picture can never be complete. As surely as on one side of the “coin”, the elders have responsibilities, so on the other side of the coin, the flock has responsibilities as well. The flock must:

- **Watch themselves.** While the roles of the sheep and shepherds of God’s flock are different they are all sheep under His care and thus all responsible directly to him. The sheep are therefore responsible for their own salvation and for the salvation of each other. They don’t have exactly the same responsibility as elders but they still have responsibility for themselves and each other.

Continued on Page 4...

Belmore Road
church of Christ

reaching out sharing God's love

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.

Eldership Appointment & Luncheon Today

Stuart Penhall is with us today to appoint two additional Elders for Belmore Road, Ian Campbell and Steve Burgin. As part of the celebration, our regular 1st Sunday luncheon is on today rather than next week. If you can, please stay with us after worship and be part of this wonderful occasion.

Health message from Rhonda Tabe

William has a childhood virus which is contagious between children. It shows as blisters on the hands, feet, mouth and nappy area. Please keep an eye out for these symptoms in your children.
Sorry. Rhonda

Next Jumping Juniors

On Friday July 16 Jumping Juniors will be hanging out with Hanging In. More details next week. Rhonda and David.

Youth (& their families) & Young Adult Camp 2010

We hope to use this time as a way of bringing together young adults, youth and their families. This year we're building on some teaching Steve Jackel has done with our youth about the Kingdom, and our part in it as we respond to God's calling us to know and serve Him

We plan on using contemporary Christian music (lyrics and music produced by believers in Jesus) as our vehicle for teaching. In this way we also hope to encourage our young (and older) people to tap into bible

based lyrics, which can inspire us to worship.

We have changed the date of the camp from the Queen's Birthday long weekend in order to accommodate our year 10+ and our Uni students, (we're trying to avoid exam times) so please encourage and support us with your presence and involvement. The camp site is about a one hour drive from Melbourne Central, within the iconic Mt Dandenong Ranges (East of Melbourne).

11 July Sausage Sizzle

A sausage sizzle to raise funds for Amber Drew's PNG STAMP trip will be held straight after worship on Sunday 11 July. Chorlian is organising this fundraiser.

From the Evangelism Committee

God's plan for the church is to make disciples of all the nations; to set everyone free by knowing the truth so that no one should perish. Matt 28:19-20; Jn 8:32; 2 Pet 3:9. How confident do you feel in sharing the good news with others? Jerry Tallman, evangelist, suggests that evangelism should be as easy and natural for a Christian as it is for an apple tree to bear apples. Yet, the most common hurdle to Christians evangelizing is the fear of rejection. How can we work together so that speaking and showing Jesus' love to others via actions and bible study can become more empowered by God? In the coming weeks, the evangelism committee will be working on this, seeking the Lord in prayer and needing your input to this vital function of the church! "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

NEWS AND NOTES

FUN with FEMO (Plasticine)

Come and enjoy a fun afternoon creating your own animal or anything you feel like creating around the table in a friendly atmosphere

Stay for a light lunch and a chat! Let the children play :)

Where: Belmore Road Building

How much: Free

When: "One day only" Thursday 8th July / 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Please mark it in your diaries and let the girls know who they can expect to come!

What a great chance to have our friends with young children get to know us and experience our love for one another!

Please contact Catherine Donnelley or Jennifer Permezel if you would like to come

People Movements

- The Tabalujans are leaving for Jakarta on Monday visiting with Benny's family for 10 days and will return on 8th July. Tim is home alone with lots of homework and a dislocated shoulder.
- Debby Rowley leaves on Thursday for a week in Oman.
- The Carpenters are away on holidays for the next 10 days.

Sermons Online

We have recently started recording Sunday sermons. These recordings have been uploaded to our website and available for viewing.

Prayers Please

- For our new babes, Sam (Auld) and Mack (Ibbetson)
- For our search for a full-time worker
- For Tim Tabalujan - recovering from a dislocated shoulder.
- For our pregnant mum Ainz.
- For Hannah's health.
- For the Sudanese congregation at Chadstone.
- For Brian and his wife Ann Humphris (Luke Humphris' parents) in your prayers. Brian is recovering from an operation to remove a cancer.
- For our two new Elders, Ian and Steve and for our existing Elders, Charles and Trevor.

For the Record

Sunday 13th June:

Contribution - \$797.00

Sunday 20th June:

Contribution - \$3,630.00

Attendance: English 91 & Chinese 8

PEARLY GATES



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

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

Belmore Road
 church of Christ
 reaching out sharing God's love

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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.

Continued from Page 1...

- **Watch the Shepherds.** If the sheep are responsible for each other it follows that they are also responsible for the shepherds who are also, before God, sheep. If shepherds can become "wolves" they are vulnerable and need encouragement and edification like anyone else. In this we are not to be their critics but rather their protectors.
- **Watch God.** Although the shepherds bear responsibility for the sheep, the sheep still stand or fall before God based on their own faith. Consequently, like the shepherds, the sheep must look to God for their instruction and guidance especially in light of the obvious human frailty of the elders themselves.

As surely as a story is only complete with both sides and a coin needs two sides to be of value so does the Eldership of the church. Without question, elders have responsibilities toward the sheep so the sheep have responsibilities toward the shepherds. Together they fulfil God's purpose for his people.

Stuart Penhall

WORSHIP ROSTER JUNE 2010

June	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 - Ephesians)	Sun Adults' Class
27	Gareth L Pak TC	Ian C	Richard H	Peter R	David W	Steve B	Stuart P	Suart P
Mid-week	Discovery Groups – The Ephesian Letter							

DUTY ROSTER JULY 2010

	Lord's Supper	Luncheon Prep & Cleanup	Morning Tea	Mowing	Cleaning (weekend of)
J U L	Bethany Burgin	Cath Campbell Charles Hooi Hannah C (H)	Kate Burgin Jo Drew Chorlian	Trevor B. Benny T	03 - Permezel 10 - Crill 17 - Lazarev 24 - Ana C & Nancy W 31 - Sonia & Ruth Xu