

25th July, 2010

KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING

1 Corinthians 10: 23-33

Corinthians is an intense letter. It demands a kind of forensic exercise in discerning the issues that sit hidden behind Paul's vigorous response to Chloe's report.

I guess if we could get Paul into the room and ask him to express what he was most concerned about I imagine he might say something like this.

Life is difficult and complex and we live our lives deeply embedded, conditioned, influenced and shaped by the dominant cultures around us. We can't just bulldoze all those influences because we are always enmeshed in the shape of it. Nonetheless we are called by God to bring a Kingdom way to the often invisible attitudinal structures that hold so many in a kind of slavery. We are all serving someone, something... the question is who or what? The deepest challenge is to grasp the quality of holistic, honouring covenant relationships at all levels

from how we do family or nation; to how we see our relationships in the natural world and the environment.

The Kingdom is so near and it is an awful thing to miss its beauty. If we understand the significance of Genesis at all, it is to see the whole fabric of the universe and our little world shaped and animated out of the power of relationship. Every part of the manifestation of God declares community.

In the images of Eden the integrity of relational 'communion' is shattered and the world becomes characterised by alienation, division and lies. It is a complete tear in the God ordained order of intimacy and in Jesus Christ every power of reconciliation is pressed home so that we might rediscover ourselves. The power of Reconciliation should motivate the Christian conscious more than the power of division, judgment or fear. To find reconciliation in division and joyful unity apparent hopelessness is the Jesus way.

John Sharpe

Welcome to Ringwood. A church committed to growing a healthy community through attention to the purposes of God and service to the wider world. Dedicated to growing disciples through encouraging gifts, equipping and sending.

WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Worship Leading: Libby Murray
Song Leading: Penny Galbraith
Preaching: John Sharpe

NIGHT Church - 6.00pm
'Café Nineveh'
Special Guest: Amalie Walker
Singer/Songwriter

CONGRATULATIONS:

WOW ... a new little life ... for those of us who have had the privilege of seeing Yvonne and Tim grow up, discover each other and marry it is a deeply felt shout of joy for the safe arrival of Tobias Zander Allred (born July 19th). Please pray for them as they adapt to a whole new life. The Lord is good.

Farewell and special Morning Tea for Michael and Wendy Kavanagh today:

Today we take the time to honour Michael and Wendy Kavanagh as they move to Ballarat. It has been a delight to see the way that God has worked through them in their time at Ringwood. We have been privileged to celebrate Michael's Baptism, their wedding and to see the fruitfulness of their diverse gifts in assisting, encouraging and providing support for others. Please keep them in your prayers.

Please stay and catch up with Wendy and Michael over morning tea directly following the service.

Good News for 'Little Stars' Playgroup: We have been so grateful for the energy, enthusiasm and gifted inspirational leadership of Wendy Kavanagh as she established this outreach ministry. We are also thankful for the full program of themed development and activities that comprise the educational dynamic of the playgroup that Wendy has prepared for the whole year.

We are thrilled to announce that Celia Barnett, who has been a faithful anchor to the program from the beginning, is willing to continue to co-ordinate the play group until the end of the year. Along with several long term and new volunteers we anticipate the continuation of the unique expression of God that 'Little Stars' represents. Please pray for Celia and her emerging team as they fulfil the hope of this ministry area. Pray for 2011.

If you would like to offer time to assist with activities, mix with the parents and take part in story telling etc please see either Linda or alert the office and Celia will catch up with you.

The playgroup currently runs on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Linda Mill and John Sharpe

SHAKING THE WORLD: PRAYER ACTION

- Pray for God's wisdom and discernment across our nation as we progress toward a Federal Election. Pray for the integrity of our leaders across the various parties and political persuasions. Pray for clarity and perceptions around key areas of future development and life.
- Pray for the ongoing long term processes of recovery in the Mexican Gulf. Give thanks for the cap on the leak that at the time of printing has been secured. Pray for the many communities and ecosystems still facing many years of recovery.
- Pray for those in various forms of mission service. Pray specifically for Amy Nettelbeck and Ash Newnham as they settle back in to Rom Gow Thailand. (Note Amy returns next Tuesday) Give thanks for their recent visit back home. Pray for Amber Drew as she continues to thrive in mission exposure and training.
- Pray for the Mission focus of Ringwood as the mission giving from Celebration Sunday is prayerfully distributed over the next little while.
- Pray for those who are preparing for Baptism next Sunday for Emily Campbell (night Church service) and for Trish Horsfall and Rob Moody in the morning service. Pray for those who are still prayerfully discerning their decision. Give thanks that God is refreshing, calling and leading people to greater clarity in their faith .
- Give thanks for Laurie Hannah as he expresses his renewal of faith and is welcomed into membership.
- Uphold those how are engaged in ministry formation and training. Pray particularly for the good cohort of people from Ringwood studying at CCTC. Pray specifically for Libby Murray as she engages further with her training and formation.
- Give thanks that we endeavour to encourage and provide the opportunities for discipleship and gift development in many ways at Ringwood. Pray for our wisdom and ability to continue to identify, encourage and act as partners in equipping others for ministry.
- Give thanks for the many people so willing to provide practical care and support. Pray for the team today (Sunday) who have travelled to Traralgon to assist with Rachel's move to Melbourne.
- Give thanks for the safe arrival of Tobias Zander Allred. Pray for Tim and Yvonne and all their friends and family.
- Pray for those in our fellowship who are faced with significant changes and transitions. Pray for Joy Lobbe as she seeks permanent supported accommodation.
- Pray for those who are persecuted for their faith in a range of countries not only through violence, but various forms of discriminatory practise and sanctions.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 12.30pm in the Parents Room Philippians

PARENT SUPPORT NIGHT - Monday 26th July @ 7.30pm at the Church

If you are a parent, or know of parents who have children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder/Asperger's and who might benefit from gathering together to support one another, it is not too late to register to come along. Please phone 9870 8169.

RINGWOOD KIDS LEADERS COFFEE AND DESSERT NIGHT

When: Thursday 29th July
Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Where: The Underground Station Room

This training night is for any leaders involved in Children's Ministry programs at Ringwood.
RSVP to the office by Tuesday 27th July for catering purposes.

Nursing Home Volunteers Training

'The Master's Call'

If you are, or want to be, a volunteer in a Nursing Home and want to make a difference in the lives of those living there, then sign up for a training day run by Maroondah City Church.

When: Saturday July 31st, 10.00 am – 3.00pm.
Cost: \$20.00 which includes morning tea and lunch.
Where: MCC, 320-340 Wonga Rd, Warranwood

If you would like more info about the speakers and topics being covered or a registration form, please see Libby Murray.

Baptism and New Membership Sunday: August 1st

We have set aside the first Sunday of August to celebrate Baptism and the prayerful celebration of those who are being welcomed into membership.

If you have made a decision of faith or seeking a conversation about membership please contact any of the Elders, ministry team at the office.

YOUNG ADULTS: Choose Your Own Adventure Series Ver 2.0

The first 4 Tuesday nights in August we will be holding the CYOA series. Themes will be finalized soon, so watch this space. This will be our last major study event for the year so lock these 4 weeks away now and plan to be there. Sign up sheets will appear in the foyer towards the second half of July.

SPECIAL COMMUNION SERVICE

There will be a special Communion Service on **Monday, 2nd August**. This is a service specifically designed for people who cannot make regular Sunday worship, and particularly those who may be frail aged, or find crowds difficult. The service goes for approximately 45 minutes and is followed by a light luncheon.

DIARY DATE:

TRIVIA NIGHT

It's on again ... Trivia Night 2010 – August 21st.

Time to book the date in the diary, and think about who you might invite.



A Noodle Box Led Recovery ... WHAT AN AWESOME RESPONSE

\$1658.85

Was gathered in coins and other donations from the boxes.

If you don't yet have your Noodle Box, or you want another one, please collect one from the table near the pigeon holes...there will be another date set towards the end of the year in about 3 months time to do this again.



A new opportunity for families!

“We first came to Ringwood Church of Christ with our young children 10 years ago. We had always been in small churches where we knew everyone. It was very daunting to stand in the foyer and see a sea of faces none of whom we knew, however, we loved the atmosphere, the services and our children loved the kids program so we decided pretty quickly if we were going to connect we would need to join a grow group. When we approached the grow group coordinator, there were no groups suitable but were given the names of two other couples and were told, how about starting a new group!

A new family group was formed. We met fortnightly, shared an easy meal together and the kids played while we talked, learnt from the Bible and prayed with a few interruptions along the way! It was wonderful. Not only did us adults love the time but the children looked forward to it and every week asked eagerly, “Is this week small group?” Ten years later, the first three families are still represented, others have joined us, a few have moved on and then still others have come. We meet after tea now. Many of the children are now young adults or teenagers but those friendships formed through the grow group continue. Just as our family situations have evolved and changed, so our grow group has changed with it. This group of people, with whom we have shared life with, has been paramount in our growing and maturing as disciples of Jesus and in cementing our sense of belonging in this community, not just us adults but the children as well. We would whole-heartedly recommend all families to find a way to be part of a grow group.”

On that note, I want to tell you that we have a new possibility for a Sunday lunch/after church Grow Group for families with young children. Life is busy, it is a sacrifice at times but the rewards far outweigh the effort so take time to consider if it is time to be part of a grow group. This is a great new opportunity. Even if this time doesn't suit, if you are saying, “Yes, it is time we joined a grow group” then please speak to:

Libby Murray on 9870 8169 libby@ringwoodchurch.org.au



DADS AND SONS: GROWING HEALTHY SEXUALITY

2 nights:

**Monday August 9th and Monday August 16th:
7.30pm- 9pm**

A short course designed for teenage boys and their dads. We realize that some boys do not have male role models at home for various reasons and they are welcome to attend.

This course will provide insight and helpful pathways for the development of a healthy expression of sexuality in a world dominated by sexualized images and often unhelpful expressions of relationship formation. This 2 night seminar will provide processes for good healthy practice into the young adult years.

Cost: \$5 students \$20 for others to cover photocopying and supper.

Embrace Conference for Women -

Take some time out to embrace all that God has created you to be and to do ... A time of inspiration, learning and affirmation for all women to come and share, to be encouraged, renewed and equipped to serve God and others better! Helen Meyer and Nicole Connor are keynote speakers, and there is a wonderful range of workshops available. "Embrace" Women's Conference, One Community Church of Christ Blackburn, 27th and 28th of August 2010. See the Church mailout table for registration forms, or check out www.missionandministry.com.au/

YOUTH NEWS

Thursday Night at 7.00pm

Youth Band - The band is open to all youth wanting to express their gifts of music. The plan is to meet every week during school term.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS: RAHAB'S ROOM FUNDRAISER

Once again this year I have Entertainment Books to sell. They cost \$65.00 but if used regularly can save you hundreds. If you would like to see a book before buying that is no problem. I will have some at the church office. Thank you for everyone in the past who has purchased a book from me. It makes for a very easy fundraiser for Rahab's Room, the money made helping to pay for activities.

Please contact Nicole White 9870 3448 or you can buy one from the church office.



NEW ROSTERS

New rosters are now available for collection in the pigeonholes. Please collect yours today. If you need to review at any time the current roster is available on the church website: <http://www.ringwoodchurch.org.au/page/worship-teams/>

Local mission opportunities:

KIDSHOPE... We have a wonderful working relationship with Eastwood Primary and part of that is expressed by the mentors from Ringwood Church of Christ who offer support to a range of students during the week. Mentors work with one student for one hour at a negotiated time over the year. If you would like to be part of this incredible team in 2011- talk to Marg Kittelty or Linda Mill to find out more.

Mentoring @ Norwood Secondary College... if you have a passion for inspiring and supporting young people, can offer an hour a week and have a caring and friendly personality then Jenna Langland, the Youth Worker at Norwood, would love to hear from you. KIDSHOPE does not extend into secondary School so Jenna has adapted this functional model for Norwood. See John for more info.

Jenna can be contacted on: 0417394857.

Christian Welcome Centre We're looking for a fresh group of volunteers for the Christian Welcome Centre at Ringwood Library. This is an outreach ministry established by local churches that has been running for 15 years ... it is a remarkably long term ministry which seeks to provide a listening ear and support to often very lonely people. The Welcome Centre is open during the week. Any interested people should contact John Sharpe john@ringwoodchurch.org.au

CRE: Several people from Ringwood continue to make CRE a priority. John currently takes 3 grade 5/6 classes at Great Ryrie Primary. This is still one of the best opportunities to express local mission. The children are generally interested, most schools are very supportive and the materials prove more than enough inspiration for the limited time that a CRE class runs. The truth is our nation changes daily as people are impacted by all kinds of philosophies and cultural influences that are in line with God's love and hope for people. If we abandon our post who or what will stand in the gap? For more info please see Linda Mill or John Sharpe

iPray – Global Mission Day of Prayers is iPray

Making a Difference is Now in Your Hands.

Global Mission Partners: Churches of Christ Mission arm.

Please find enclosed in the Breaking News a small brochure, small enough to be placed in a pocket, or used as a book mark as a reminder for regular prayer.

One of the most powerful elements of this day of Prayer is the experience of praying for someone else, aware that they know you are praying for them, and they for us in our mission. It is a two-way day of prayer. GMP invite their partners around the world to pray for global mission as well.

The brochure contains snapshot stories from the Global Mission Partners partner countries to enable your praying.



Birthday Greetings - July/August

Tuesday 27th	Dorothy McLeod
Wed 28th	Jenny Willetts, John Rowe, Woody Marriott
Thursday 29th	Roger Woodlock, Glenys Fraser, Erin Fullerton
Saturday 31st	Rachel Edwards, Beverley Hickin, Mathew Wright
Sunday 1st	Janice Smallwood, Joy Nathan

Next Week - 1st August

KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING - WEEK 4

1 CORINTHIANS 11: 17-29

Speaker:	John Sharpe
Worship/communion:	Max Moody
Song Leader:	Chris Sharpe
Bible Reading:	John Sonsie
Communion Helpers:	Greg Hall, John and Trish Burch, John and Julie Lanaway, Peter and Val Mickelson
Band:	Peter Breen
Singers:	Natalie Caubo, Perla Fookes, John Newnham
Audio:	Mark Nettelbeck
Projection:	Greg Carroll
Morning Tea:	Dorothy Birch, Barbara Harrison (M)
Communion Preparation:	Arleen Caubo
Flowers:	
Welcome :	David Brown, Judy Peter, Brian and Belinda Tanfield
Creche:	Whitby, Rachel Thomas
Offering Counters:	Phil Joyce, John Mollison
NIGHT CHURCH:	TBA
	Speaker: Glen Coleman Leader: Jessie & Kellie Lewis

Op Shop: Wednesday/Thursday
(10.00am - 3.00pm)

Oasis Meals: - Thursday
(12 midday)

NOTICEBOARDS:

- 'Sacred Garden: A Christians response to caring for the earth'. July 28th, Aug 4th and 11th.
- Netball players needed for a daytime comp: see general noticeboard

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8.30am Communion/Study

10.00am Worship

4.00pm Rahab's Room

6.00pm Evening