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The Encounter

September 2013

The Parish of Victor Harbor
St Augustine's Church, Victor Harbor
St Christopher's Church, Mt. Compass

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We live in an age of individualism in which the individual and his/her rights are to the forefront of outlook. At a recent Church Missionary Society dinner some of us attended, Archbishop Peter Jensen, drew our attention to the Target Company's promotion "You have a right to look good and feel good." Maybe that's a reflection of a common outlook?

Do we tend to carry that outlook over into the Christian faith today I wonder? E.g. I can make up my own beliefs and behaviour.

Jesus told his apostles to teach believers to observe (obey) all that he had commanded them. And we read that new converts "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching." Their teaching is the faith we are to understand and practice.

The Anglican Church historically has recognised this as stated in article 6 "Holy Scripture contains all things necessary to salvation, so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation."

And then the article goes on to list the Canonical books of the Old and New Testament which make up Holy Scripture. These are the ones included in our bibles-but not the Apocrypha. The Apocrypha is a collection of books written between the period when the prophets gave the word of God (Malachi the last book in the Old Testament) and when the apostles gave the word of God. (The New Testament). "Thus says the LORD" is not a phrase found in the Apocrypha for they are not a collection of books of divine revelation.

And so the word of Paul to Timothy are in one way or another relevant to us all, and especially to any with any teaching ministry "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth". 2 Tim 2:15. Again, "Follow the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us." 2 Tim 1:13

The teaching and study of the scriptures is therefore vital to the life of the Christian individual and church today, and is therefore to be given time - in private, with other believers and in worship. We are to guard the faith-but that in turn means we are to know it!

Why should the Lord Jesus and his apostles inform our faith as to what is true? In short, because Jesus himself is the truth. And the scriptures bear

witness to Him. "I have not spoken on my own authority; the Father who sent me has himself given me commandment what to say and what to speak." John 12:49. Jesus himself is the Word of God who became flesh. And Jesus chose the apostles who gave the correct interpretation of Christ. Paul for example said he was "an apostle by command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope." 1 Tim 1:1.

Your brother, Alex.

When the magpies are swooping!

It is magpie swooping season here. That means that the magpies have babies in their nests and they don't like things that go under them, including people on bikes!! My 12 year old son was riding home from his tennis final and he got swooped! Not just swooped, but hit on his bike helmet and not just once but 3 times!



If you have ever had this happen to you, you would understand that it is actually quite frightening. Noah went down a side street, found a man who was washing his car on the front lawn and between tears asked him what to do! He kindly told him to wave his arm above his head and keep riding!

So, off brave Noah went. Fortunately the magpie had moved on and it didn't swoop again! Needless to say when Noah arrived to the safety of home he shed a few more tears, had a big hug and we discussed the situation in a positive light. i.e. how well he handled it and that he had what it took to keep going.

"Being positive is compatible with being realistic. It does not mean expecting only positive outcomes, but having confidence that even if things don't go your way, you will be able to deal with the situation (or even somehow benefit from it)" (Boniwell Positive Psychology in a Nutshell page 25)

As I thought about swooping magpies and this quote I realised the amazing situation we are in to help kids and friends to look on situations in a positive light. That is not to say that we brush their situation aside, but perhaps we can help them as we listen to see some positives?

When kids talk to us, sometimes they just need to be able to see another side to the situation.

Rebekah Bleby

Ageing beauty

I'm sitting outside a cafe at a wobbly iron table, my pen moving lazily and messily across my notebook as I dream and write, dream and write. I sip from my mug-sized chai latte. A European wasp hovers hungrily above the frothed milk.

I look up and see a slim young Asian woman, neatly dressed in white shirt and charcoal bootlegs, smooth, dark hair in a ponytail, discreet silver rings in her ears. She tugs gently on the padded front bar of a walker.

Behind the walker is an elderly woman, bent sideways and stooped over like a crooked L. She shuffles one foot forward and slides the other up to meet it, swollen ankles hanging in soft folds over slippered feet. Her skin is crumpled and spotted with age, her white fly-away hair scant and dry, her patterned shirt and pleated skirt thrift-shop polyester.

She lowers herself carefully onto a bench. The young woman fetches a cup of tea and an easily digested sweet biscuit, and sits and chats about whatever comes into her head: the balmy weather, a boyfriend who left her, how she likes to sit in the garden after work. The older woman listens attentively, a small smile on her carefully lipsticked mouth.

Here is a greater humility than I have yet learned—not just to serve, but to receive service—to patiently accept help with simple tasks like walking, personal tasks like choosing which bread rolls to buy, and intimate tasks like showering. It would be even harder (for me, at least) to respond graciously when, inside, I'm longing for solitude and silence—to trade this lovely coffee shop stillness (how I love sitting alone in coffee shops!) for a constant companion who feels the need to make cheery conversation.

It looks like the younger woman is serving the older, but I suspect a different dynamic is operating. A sweet and unassuming gift is being given from older to younger—a gift of experienced wisdom, cheerful forbearance and patient stillness. It's a wisdom gained through a lifetime, a cheerfulness won during who knows how many battles with irritation and anxiety, and a stillness that has been reached after many years of cooking and washing and cleaning and serving.

How easy it would be to become bitter and self-absorbed and grumpy and anxious and shrill as I grow old! Instead, I pray that I will become like this woman, whose gentle spirit shines from her sweet face with a soft radiance. I pray that as my joints ache and my skin wrinkles, my heart would grow more lovely year by year. I pray that even now, I would be planting the seeds of humility, gentleness, cheerfulness and forbearance that will one day blossom into the beauty of lovely old age.

Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewellery, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. (1 Pet 3:3-4)

Jean Williams

Submitted by Michael Murdoch

Where IS the safest place?

Statistics don't lie!!

How to stay safe in the World today!
Where IS the Safest Place?



Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.



Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.



Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.

Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve These forms of transportation.



Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

But wait

there is a good side to all of this -

perhaps you did not know

.001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at CHURCH!



And -Bible study is safe too! The percentage of deaths During Bible study is even less.

So, Attend church,

And read your Bible

It will save your life!

May God continue to bless you!!!



<http://justmeintchristian.wordpress.com/2011/08/04/the-safest-place-to-be/>

I am with you always

Matthew 28:18-19 Jesus came to His' disciples and set them the mission of teaching the nations. Then He said in verse 20. "lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

What a daunting task Jesus set His' followers!

The longer we live the greater the chance of personal disappointment and sometimes disaster. Things happen throughout life, outside of our control. Accidents happen; the phone rings and we're informed of bad news for a friend or relative; our children do not always behave in ways that make us happy. Yes our calm waters can be disturbed suddenly and unexpectedly.

In **Matthew 28** Jesus reassured His' disciples that He would be with them. We know Jesus has gone to the Father but He has sent the Holy Spirit to remain with us. This is a great comfort, because no matter where we may go we can trust Jesus that the Holy Spirit of God is always with us.

At times we may feel very weak and vulnerable. That's because we are weak and vulnerable! We are not here by chance; we have been predestined before the foundation of the world. We were in God's mind first and then He created the world around us, a world for us to occupy and take care of.

Ephesians 1:4 says, "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,"

If we are in Christ and Christ is in us, then we can with Peter step out of the boat and walk on the water towards Jesus. We can trust in faith that God will remain true to His' Word.

Matthew 14:28 (Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." When Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.)

Our problem as human beings is that we trust too often and too much in our ability and performance. We need to understand that God is the creator and NOT us! We need to recognise that God is still in control, we can see that our world is out of control. That's the result of failing to do things God's way.

If we simply call out to Jesus, He will raise us to Himself, He is far more willing to save than we are to be saved. We need constant reminding that Jesus is always with us in the form of The Holy Spirit; and trust in His' Words, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age"

Des Arthur

as we forgive - Stories of Reconciliation from Rwanda

by Catherine Claire Larson. (Page 129,130)

One of the most famous accounts of reconciliation in all of literature is a parable found in Luke 15:11-31. It is a story of a son who requested his inheritance before his father was even dead. He then turned his back on his family and squandered the money. When he finds himself in a faraway land, living in a pig sty, eating the swine's castoffs, he suddenly comes to his senses. He realises that the hired hands on his father's land live better than he does. So he returns, hoping not for re-admittance to his father's table, but for the privilege of perhaps being one of his servants.

Few things have the potential to so overwhelm the senses and so forge devotion than expecting thundering wrath and receiving a flash flood of grace. The father weeps over the return of his wandering son and embraces him.

I wonder sometimes what it must have felt like to feel those aged arms clasping so tightly, to feel the warmth of the father's breath and the coolness of his tears fall on the bare skin of an exposed neck bowed in shame.

The father then turns and calls out. He could call together friends to berate the foolishness of such a son, to mock him, or to bemoan the financial loss and heartache he has caused his aged father. Instead his father restores him. He calls for his best robe and ring to be given to his son, and for a welcome party to be prepared for the young man's return. This luxurious robe wrapped around the undeserving shoulders of an errant son - this is the texture of grace, a fabric all of us long to find ourselves wrapped in. Perhaps it is only the understanding of our common need to be wrapped in such grace that can move us to take the first faltering steps toward reconciliation.

Submitted by Judi Arthur

Recent Entries from the Parish Register

Funerals	Josephine Dorothy Turner	8 th July, 2013
	William (Bill) Briton-Jones	27 th July, 2013.
Interment of Ashes	Christine Spriggs	18 th April, 2013
	Raymond Osborne Walker	13 th September, 2013.

Over and over.

(written Oct 98. Sydney - memories of songs sung by Dad at bedtime - Over and over comes the Love of Jesus rolling over me.)

Dumped down by the waves of life
Rolling over and over
Caught up, helpless, powerless
At the mercy of the waves
Out of my depth.

God is in control
It is God's mercy in the waves
Waves of God's mercy roll me over
Turn me around
The Cross the only solid ground

Judi Arthur

Update on Ebony McIlduff - Myra and David Brigg's granddaughter.

Ebony has now been in remission since last September and doing well, she is now back at school repeating year 11. Hair has grown back after 18 months without any, not that it ever worried her.

Six months after Ebony was diagnosed with cancer she was asked by the cancer department at the hospital if she would join a committee called the A.Y.C which stands for, Adolescent and Young Child's cancer foundation which she has now been a part of for the last eighteen months, in between school. They liaise with the powers that be, on what these children and teenagers need. Recently Ebony was elected as Chairwoman of this organisation, and now represents South Australia and the Northern Territory. Not bad for 17 years old, and in September will go to a conference in Melbourne with a group of people from this committee. Many, many thanks for all your prayers.

Myra and David Briggs.

PS, It has been reported that Ebony is not out of the woods yet, she has again signs of cancer and missed her trip to Melbourne, but a video of her was shown at the conference. Please continue to pray for her.



We welcome as members of the Parish

New parishioners: Len and Carol Sargent
Nicky and Richard Sage
Pam Fergusson

MOTHERS' UNION - Mary Sumner Day. Friday 9th August.

There was a search for even more chairs to comfortably seat the large crowd of at least 130 members who came to St George's Church, Gawler to celebrate our founder Mary Sumner and listen to Bishop John Stead of Willochra. The substantial and stately old church was filled to capacity for our worship, thoughtfully led by Rector Piers Davey who is also Chaplain for Mothers' Union in Adelaide.

The following are some points worth sharing from Bishop Stead's talk to us on "*FRESH EXPRESSIONS and MOTHERS' UNION*"

We can carry out a lot of activities, but if we do not speak about Jesus, people will not know what it is we are doing. We are nervous about speaking of Jesus as our motivator, but we can say "I do this in response to God's love".

Mary Sumner had a clear purpose in starting Mothers' Union, we can make a huge difference.

When in Kenya, Bishop Stead asked to see the work of the Mothers' Union. Mothers' Union operates schools for orphans of HIV-Aids victims, supports mothers, operates micro-loan finance schemes, responds to the local needs in a similar way to Mary Sumner would have in her day.

In the West today these needs are met by Non-Government Organisations, or Government schemes. What is Mothers' Union's role in contemporary Australia?

We need some re-invention and some re-discovery. Mary Sumner's purpose was to strengthen families in her day, like the women are doing in Africa. Mothers' Union is the powerhouse of the church in Africa...we can be that too in Australia.

Our challenge is what changes are needed? Why are we here?

Are we holding on to our Purpose?

What if the Government re-defines marriage? Whatever our opinion of same-sex marriage, these people are still families and we need to act to support them, therefore re-discover our purpose and live it out in a different way.

CAN WE COME AT THAT?

FRESH EXPRESSIONS is a movement to discover the unique need in our community and respond to that need in our place.

Re-discover the purpose of *Mary Sumner* by -

Listening - by asking questions and then keeping quiet to listen to the answer. Fresh Expressions is not about what we are comfortable doing.

There has been a change in the church. People who are in church now are fewer but are committed. It used to be that church attendance was a social norm.

New changes are not comfortable.

The Church needs to prepare itself *to change nappies* and this can be messy! - we need to be ready for the Spiritual Babies (Mothers' Union can do that!)

Listen for real answers to real questions.

Listening to Scripture.

Vision - What is God doing?

Find what God is doing and go and do that with God. In our prayers seek what God is doing around us - we have to listen for His answer.

Our Challenge - to LISTEN to Scripture - God - Community.

Bring these together around our founder's vision in context of today's world.

Too Tired?

Find the God vision and you will get the energy.

The majority of Mothers' Union members in Kenya are grandmothers!

Fresh Expressions of Church is not merely taking an existing model and putting a new package around it eg café church, using glossy leaflets, renaming a service a family service.

The "Inherited Church" has great things to offer, but do not just re-package Sunday services.

Fresh Expressions challenges us to start at the **OTHER END** - maybe not even in the context of a worship time.

If we discern the need to be with single mums, for instance, their first need may be a support group which includes talking and listening. Finish with prayer - Ask "Would you mind if we pray?" if no, then "could I pray for you later on?" An easy question.

Do not be afraid of no answers to your invitations.

Maybe over many months begin introducing a Christian song and so on...

Do not pretend we are not the church.

Maybe the shape of that initial group will change over time to grow to include a worship time.

"Inherited ways" of being church can still be attractive to today's generation - Choral Evensong is becoming quite popular among young people in the UK.

In Willochra Diocese a Choral Evensong has been adapted in one parish with Country and Western style music - sometimes using local artists from the community.

We love our hymns and had to learn them over many years - we can learn new ones -but we don't want to.

Augustine of Hippo - "to sing is to pray doubly" (words and music)

Why does the Church exist? - to make us (or the Jewish authorities in Jesus's time) happy?

Church exists because it is the agent by which God works in the world.

God needs Church to carry out His mission.

Church does not have a mission in the world - God of Mission has a Church in the world.

We are here to carry out God's mission - *LISTEN*

Parable of the Sower - there was a growth success rate of 1 out of every 3 for the scattered seeds.

Are we prepared for failure when only 1 in 3 people respond to our invitations?

Even though "we have tried that before!" try it again!

Have a "glass half full" attitude.

Focus on what you **have**, not what you **do not** have and you will do **amazing things**

Fresh Expressions calls us to work with what we have.

Whole church is called to Mission not just Clergy or Bishops.

As living stones of the temple we all have a key role.

Never diminish power of prayer if that is what you are called to do.

Before we departed, many in cars, many in busses, we heard the good news that \$621 was raised on the day for our Ethiopian Literacy Project.

Cheryl Bainton, Mothers' Union President

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Editor's Note.

Thank you to all who contribute. It is you that make this Edition what it is. I just arrange the pieces. I would encourage writers to continue to submit articles that would provide information about life in our parish and would spur one another on toward love and good deeds and encourage one another. These articles could be left at the church office, or

email to brentonmclean1@gmail.com

Brenton McLean, Editor