

CONNECT



White Board

April 2013

Any contributions to this newsletter are encouraged.

Dates for your diary

2013

New Connect Group - starting 4th April, Woden Area

Men's Network Group - Sat 6th April, 7.30am McDonalds, Tuggeranong

Presence Global, Sydney Entertainment Centre, 23rd - 26th April

RealMen Conference, Oxford Falls, 26th & 27th July

What's on in April?

Our God is Magnificent

Presence Global

Presence Global - Sydney Entertainment Centre, Tuesday 23rd 4.00pm - Friday 26th April 7.00pm. Hosted by Pastors Phil & Chris Pringle. Special Guests include Steven Furtick, Darlene Zschech, Kong Hee, Joey Bonifacio, Chad Veach and Gabriel George. <http://www.presenceconference.com/>

New Connect Group - Robert & Sharon Doyle are starting a Woden area Connect Group in Waramanga from Thursday 4th April. Contact Robert on 0409820386 if you can make it.

What has happened?



(Ian & Sarah Hill & Jared Pritchard)

Clean Up Australia Day – It was a successful event organised by Jared Pritchard resulting in Lake Tuggeranong looking cleaner than it has for a long time. Next year we will be combining with the Tuggeranong Community Council in the clean-up followed by a big community bbq.



Relay For Life – Guess who has been out and about in the community with a guest appearance as “Sid the Seagull” at the Relay for Life held over the weekend. It is a 24 hour event and a great way for the Canberra community to get together and have some fun, whilst at the same time raising funds for Cancer Council ACT.

Short story of Impact of Men’s e-newsletter – “Now that’s rather good, it has ads for connecting (the stuff at the top) then it gets into the serious stuff of witness in the middle and finishes off with a message from the minister/pastor with a bit of scripture as well. I think overall its good and will serve the needs of your congregation.” - from Chris Fitzgerald

For Free/Sale/Wanted

For Sale a “Toyota Tarago” contact Tim Scott Timscott3@gmail.com for more details.

Check out eBook “Believe in the Son of God” author Graham Cumming
<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/178209>
<http://www.amazon.com/Believe-Son-God-ebook/dp/B00BIV3L56>

[Please email JohnG@c3monash.org.au if you would like to place an advert in the – For Free; For Sale; Wanted Section]



Q&A of a C3 Board Member

Q-Who are you?

A- "I'm Wayne Allen"

Q-How long you have been a Christian?

A- "Since childhood, probably 8 or 9. The details are lost in the mists of time, as we didn't have computers then..."

Q-How did you become a Christian?

A- "My mother converted a couple of years earlier, and I made a decision after her and my stepfather persuaded me it was a "good idea". Despite regular church attendance through childhood into adulthood, my first real encounters with Christ were not until my teenage years, after the family switched from more traditional churches (Anglican, Salvos) to charismatic churches like the Assemblies of God (at the time), then the CRC."

Q-How long have you been with C3Monash?

A- "We started attending C3 (then CCC) Fyshwick when we moved to Canberra in 1991."

Q-How long have you been a board member?

A- "I have been a board member since the mid to late nineties."

Q-What is your role on the church board?

A- "I was the Secretary during the recent change in leadership, and since Barbara Hoyle took on the role (thanks Barb!), I now serve as a board member, and board representative on the Financial Advisory Board."

Q-Sounds like - to quote Ps Steve, a bit of a journey? An adventure?

A- "Absolutely. Jane and I moved to Canberra from Sydney in late 1991. We had attended C3 Brookvale (before they moved to Oxford Falls) prior to relocating, so it was a no-brainer that we'd find another C3 to settle into. Jane had been a C3 kid since being saved there back in the Thev Parade days (after they moved from the Dee Why Surf Club), and I had been attending C3 Brookvale for a few years after leaving the CRC. I had moved across town and settled in with a group of guys from C3, and that was the end of my CRC attendance?"

In the early years after we arrived in Canberra, Paul and Maria Whittaker were the senior ministers of Capital C3, with Marty and Kerry Smith as Associates. After that, Karl and Pat Krahmer became the senior ministers of Capital C3, with Steve and Jill Janes as their assistants. After Karl moved on, Steve and Jill Janes became senior ministers and changed the name to C3 Tuggeranong and again later to C3 Monash, as it is known today, currently Steve and Deb White of course our the senior ministers at C3 Monash in its latest, greatest phase! I realised recently that I've lived through 4 senior ministers and 7 permanent facilities (and several temporaries) in my 21 years here. I think that makes C3Monash a bit of a Grandfather's Axe, especially with no one but my family and Dave Marriot with unbroken attendance in all that time!"

[This is a great insight to the heart beat of one of C3 Church Monash's Board Members]

The Adventure (Ps. Steve White)

For twenty years I walked the main beach at Kingscliff on the far north coast of NSW, most days. Its' geographical name is 'Dreamtime Beach.' On the sands of that beach and in the waves that crash onto its shore I have enjoyed many adventures. I taught my sons to surf; surfed myself, many times; nearly drowned a few times!; walked the dog; had bonfires, jet skied, watched people fishing, had d & m's with family and friends, sunset walks with my bride!; ushered in the new millennium, did church in the sand dunes, carols in the park, baptised people, farewelled a surfing buddy who had died, played with my grand-kids, sat, laughed, cried, prayed, sung, thought, did nothing - profoundly!

By far the most endearing memories for me of Dreamtime Beach are the God moments. So many... too many to count; yet each one unique in its own precious way. Early morning sunrises, committing each new day to God. Prayers of thanksgiving and gratefulness for family, friends, church, relationships – life. Petitions of desperation – contending for family, the church, souls, healings, deliverance, finances, breakthrough, revival, community transformation. Many answered, many still to come to fruition. One of the most fervent cries of my heart was for wisdom; I always seemed to be out of my depth in where God was taking me, with a desperate need for wisdom and the grace of God.

I was inspired recently when reading of Solomon;

1 Kings 4:29-30 (NKJV)

And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.³⁰ Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt.

Reading that scripture took me back to the shores of Dreamtime Beach – oh that my heart would have the largeness of Solomon.

The adventure has led me away from Dreamtime Beach for a season. And I am thrilled to be creating a whole new raft of memories in a brand new place, with brand new, beautiful people – what a privilege! But still for me it is the God encounters that sustain me on the adventure. The cool thing for Solomon is that he had “...*peace on every side all around him.*”

1 Kings 4:24 (NKJV)

As we seek God I am confident that that same peace will be ours as we take a leaf out of the life of Solomon as we trek down the God appointed adventure of life.

Scripture

**** James Ramsay's favourite bible verse****

“That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty.” NLV

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” KJV (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

**** Lindsay Higgins with his idea of scripture****

Depends on what is going on in life that I need to focus on.

The Proverbs have something for most of life. Just reading those alone will sort out most people's issues.

Ecclesiastes helps you focus on what is important in life.

Corinthians is great teaching and Romans excellent for discipleship.

I find most of the Bible is good for something. As I like to eat a variety of foods, I also look at a variety of scriptures. I love fruit, meat, sweets and many vegetables. It's

hard to find a favourite when they all have their place. I just love food and I do love what the Bible provides, a resource manual for life with such variety and depth to it.

To pick one, *John 3:16* is an excellent summary of what the Bible is about.

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” NLV

[If you have a favourite bible verse let me know and I will include it!]

Editorial

“One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee; he saw two brothers – Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew – throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.”
(Matthew 18-29 NLT)



The theme for this month is **CONNECT**. One of the effects of not being connected is **LONELINESS**. We all get lonely from time to time; this doesn't mean that there is anything wrong with us or that we are weird. We can become lonely during a major change in our life, especially when exploring new spiritual growth and paths for ourselves, as you are bound to get a little lonely in the transition period as you look for people who share your new interests and thoughts.

There is a difference between loneliness and solitude. Generally speaking loneliness is when you are unhappy being alone and long term can lead to depression, whereas solitude is when you look forward to having some time to yourself.

Connect is the opposite as you are not in loneliness or solitude when you want to be with people, there are people in your live whom you can relate to and become close with, including Jesus.

How do we overcome loneliness and begin to connect?

Call, or get together with people you know. Making human contact makes establishing more contact easier. Do more listening than talking. Listening and drawing a person out with meaningful questions will deepen your connection with them. No one wants to listen to you

talking endlessly about yourself. Do not exhaust your existing connections, as they are all you have right now.

Get involved in activities. Join in on organised activities within the church and connect groups, join a club (sport, car, book, music, etc.). Become a volunteer within the church and in the community. Don't go to church or join a club with the sole intention of meeting people, try to have no expectations, be yourself, enjoy the activities regardless of what happens, have an open and servicing heart, teachable spirit and the process of connecting will happen organically.

Challenge yourself to be the first to connect. Don't wait for men to approach you, step out and approach them first, ask them if they want a coffee or a chat. If you show interest in others they will show interest in you. Meet another man's needs and he will give you access to his life. By making a connection you are trying to make a place for yourself in another man's life, this will take time, it can be a long painstaking process and most men you meet will have already established their friends and lives. Don't think that just showing up will win you instant friends, it doesn't work like that.

Spend Time. Once you have established a connection allocate meaningful time to growing it, be purposeful in sharing time with family and friends, share that time with new friends it will diminish their feeling of awkwardness as their comfort level increases.

Try not to indulge in the pity party. Instead of dwelling on how lonely you feel, do anything to get your mind off it. Take a walk, ride your bike, read a book or scripture, explore new activities or hobbies. By doing this you will gain experience in more situations, thus have a wide range of conversation when connecting with other men.

Consider getting a pet. A pet will help you with companionship, teach you how to care for others, winning the trust and affection of a pet will hone with your skills of winning the trust and affection of a friend.

Consider exercising. It will help with self- improvement and increase motivation to want to get out there and connect.

Finally be a "Pleasant Presence". Draw other men to you by providing enjoyable company. Be complimentary rather than critical. Casually mentioning that you like something about them or what they are interested in it breaks the ice and builds trust steadily over time, as they will come to understand that you will not criticize them, they will start to realize you are creating a safe and confidential environment for a deeper and more meaningful relationship.

I would encourage connecting men to Jesus, an active involvement in the life of C3Monash, and connecting with other men as we strive to do life well.
