



Assembly of
Confessing
Congregations

BELROSE UNITING CHURCH

Good News Quarterly

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May – July 2021

The Good News Transforming Communities: 1st Century to 21st Century!!

This year marks 105 years since the commencement of worship services in the **Holland family home in Frenchs Forest in 1916** that would then become the Frenchs Forest Methodist Congregation. Subsequently, in **June 1918**, the Frenchs Forest Methodist Church building was opened on Forest Way opposite Forest Way Shopping Centre - now occupied by the Forest Alliance Church.

Worship continued in that building until 1973 when the Methodist Congregation moved to the current site on Morgan Road in Belrose to become Belrose Methodist Church, and eventually Belrose Uniting Church at the time of Union in 1977. (For a great read about the history of our Congregation, check out the book ***The Fruit of the Spirit in the Forest 1916 – 2016*** by Robert Murphy that is in our Church Library.)



By the grace of God, and by the enabling of God's Spirit, for 105 years the good news about Jesus has been proclaimed and demonstrated in word and deed in the Forest area. Worship services have been held, the good news about Jesus has been shared, lives have been transformed, communities have been blessed, people have been served.

This faithful worship, witness and service at Belrose Uniting Church continues the great mission of the Church begun by the command of Jesus to "*go and make disciples*" (Matthew 28:18 – 20) in the 1st century, and undertaken by God's people throughout the centuries ever since.

We seek to keep on in this great privilege of telling others about Jesus. The means, styles, and methods may have changed a bit over the years, but the message remains the same:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16); and, *"Jesus .. humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* (Philippians 2:8 – 11)

Ian Weeks

Belrose Uniting Church

in the Assembly of Confessing Congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia
Corner Forest Way and Morgan Road, Belrose

We aim *TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN*

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world since 1916.

Every Sunday 9.30 am and 5.30 pm

Good News Quarterly is the quarterly newsletter of the Belrose Uniting Church:

To Know Christ and Make Him Known!

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Who has encouraged you to follow Jesus and influenced you in your Christian growth?

As a teenager, I was greatly impacted by a book by **John R. W. Stott** titled **Basic Christianity**. This book introduced me to the basic tenets of the Christian faith in a readable and succinct manner that grounded me in sound Biblical doctrine. Since then I have accumulated a number of Stott's books that have greatly helped me understand the Bible and to follow Jesus.

Anne & I were also privileged to hear John Stott speak at the Keswick Convention in England in 2007 – which was to be his last public speaking engagement as it turned out. He spoke with such humility and Biblical clarity on the theme of *“Becoming Like Christ”*.

To mark his 100th birthday this last month, I was invited by the UK based Langham Partnership to participate in an on-line tribute in which several talks were given on the influences on Stott's ministry on the global Christian Church. It was a great blessing to be a part this celebration of faithful ministry.



John Stott was born on April 27, 1921. He was made Queen's chaplain in 1959, and also became a bestselling Christian theologian of more than 50 books. In 2005, Stott was named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Stott died in 2011, having established many ongoing international organisations including Langham Partnership, which supports *“churches in the Majority World to be equipped for mission and growing to maturity in Christ”*.

“Stott's vision of a renewed evangelical identity, alert to the most pressing issues of our times – justice, human rights and human dignity, the environment and the arms trade – was always rooted in a clear-eyed and generous fidelity to the unique gift of God in Jesus

Christ,” said former Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

“John Stott's radical vision remains as relevant as it ever was,” according to Paul Woolley, CEO of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) that Stott founded. *“His perspective was simple but deeply powerful: that the Christian faith should lead us to seek the good of others, for the glory of God, in every part of life.”*

Celibate throughout his own life, Stott lived in a two bedroom flat above the garage behind the rectory of All Souls Anglican Church, Langham Place, the inner London church where he ministered for 50 years (*where my late brother Peter Weeks also attended for some time when living in London*).

As Stott's influence grew around the world after World War II – including launching the *Lausanne Movement* with Billy Graham in 1974 – his approach to living out Christian faith according to the authority of God's word also informed biblical teaching. David Cook, the former principal of Sydney Missionary and Bible College, remembers how Stott's visit to Sydney in 1965 impacted at least one person – someone who went on to be known as *“Sydney's leading evangelist for more than 50 years”*.

Stott preached on 2 Corinthians at the CMS Summer School event, and his style of expository preaching – focusing on the words, grammar, content and context of a biblical passage to derive meaning – changed renowned evangelist John Chapman. *“I heard only one of [Stott's] Bible studies but I was so taken by the way he stuck to the text and stayed with it,”* said Chapman, according to Cook.

Stott's biblical and theological writings have impacted so many more preachers, teachers and pastors over the year, and I am sure will continue to do so long after our earthly memory of him is faded.

Stott was once asked in an interview not long before his death what was his remaining ambition, given his impressive resume of academic, church and regal positions. *“To be more like Jesus,”* Stott answered. Vale John Stott – *“well done good and faithful servant”*.

Ian Weeks (with material written by Ben McEachen and posted in *Eternity News*)



KNOWING THAT HIS MESSAGE WAS ON THE WEAK SIDE, HE MAXIMIZED THE VISUALS FOR IMPACT



The good news of Jesus impacting the World:

(excerpts of global news from 30th April edition of *New Life Newspaper*)

Global Prayer Movement Helping Muslims Learn The Truth About Jesus

Christians around the world are praying for the world's 1 billion Muslims during Ramadan, April 12 to May 12. David Garrison, executive director of the evangelical missions group Global Gates, has travelled 250,000 miles investigating movements where at least 1,000 Muslims in a community had been baptised into the Christian faith. He discovered that around 84% of all the movements have happened in the last 30 years. He says that what he has discovered since his travels is that this surge towards faith in Jesus Christ coincided with the beginning of 30 Days Of Prayer For The Muslim World, 28 years ago.

'While Muslims might not know that Christians are praying for them, God knows – and He's listening,' Mr Garrison says. A free downloadable copy of World Christian's Muslim World Prayer Guide is available at the website globalgates.info/30days (CBN Christian World News)

Outpouring Of Love Following Volcano Eruption

Faith-based relief organisations are ramping up to help stranded people in Saint Vincent due to volcanic eruption. Soon after the initial eruption on the Caribbean island nation on 9 April, volunteers began preparing hundreds of meals in the Kingston Baptist Church kitchen.

Rev Cecil Richards, the church pastor, is already looking ahead to longer-term needs of locals, who last experienced an eruption in 1979. His church and other Christian groups, as well as international relief agencies, are preparing to assist with physical and spiritual needs during what is expected to be a long recovery. About 100,000 people live on the island, and some 16,000 to 20,000 were evacuated. Scientists have predicted eruptions could continue to occur for weeks yet. (Religion News Service)

MOZAMBIQUE: TWR Broadcasting Hope

Trans World Radio is teaming up with humanitarian aid workers to provide practical help and Gospel hope in northern Mozambique. A militant Islamist uprising in the country has left one million people, including many Christians, facing severe hunger. The content TWR are broadcasting in the region, speaks to the heart to give hope. They are directing people specifically to Jesus Christ as a source of hope. www.twr.org

BANGLADESH: New Program Answers More Than A Decade Of Prayer

A church leader (name withheld) says he has been praying for the new Farms International program to help his people. The program enables Christians from a Muslim background to endure multifaceted severe persecution in the Muslim-majority country. FARMS is working alongside a coalition of Christians to enable pastors and their people to grow their own food and make it available to others. The pastor says this will help Christians to be respected by the community as they will show the nation what can be done with the help of the church, he says. Bangladesh has one of the world's highest poverty rates. (Mission Network News)

Some spiritual food: A Bible study in Proverbs Ch 1 Two Voices – Only One Way

Read Proverbs 1:8-33 (*From Journey Through Proverbs by David Cook © 2017*)

Since the very beginning in the garden of Eden, two voices have been heard in Scripture: the voice of the Creator, and the contrary voice of the devil. In this section of Proverbs, we hear the two voices again. Both are speaking to 'my son' (Proverbs 1:10), the young man. **One is the voice of sinful men** (10), the simple (22), and the mockers (22). This voice is enticing: it appeals to the young man to disregard consequences and pursue ill-gotten gains (11–13), and to throw in his lot with the wrong company (14).

But the other voice – that of the wise parent (v8,9) and also of Lady Wisdom (20) – exposes the scheme and reveals it for what it really is: a trap (17,18) that will eventually cost people their own lives (v19). Wisdom always shows the true reality: it cuts through lies and warns against submitting to temptation. It urges the young and simple to listen to and obey the right instruction (8), and not to give in to the voice of sinful men (10).

Wisdom says: 'Consider the consequences!' If we listen to this voice, we will enter its haven of safety (33) but if we resist, we will suffer the consequence of our actions (31). Wisdom calls us to fear the Lord (29), but stubborn resistance will only lead to destruction (32).

Wisdom's voice reminds us of the voice of Jesus Christ, God's wisdom in the flesh. Jesus reveals the truth of what God is like and how He intends humanity to live. He calls us to leave our naiveté and mockery (22), and to repent. This is a stark warning. Jesus Christ shows us the way to know God and to live in friendship with Him. To live any other way – no matter how enticing it may seem – is ultimately destructive. The fool hates knowledge and does not fear the Lord (29), but the wise listens and fears the Lord. It is he who will find a secure and untroubled haven (33).

To Think Through: Two voices speak in Proverbs 1:8–33, but only one is to be obeyed.

How can you identify them and obey the right one?

What does Proverbs 1:8–33 say about the fool's future? Is it his fault or his fate?

Pray for wisdom not only to know the right path, but also to walk on it.

Belrose Uniting Church Preaching Plan May - July 2021

	Date	9.30 am Morning Church	5.30 pm Evening Church	MISSION OF THE MONTH
	May	<i>The Great Commission in Action: Acts</i>	<i>Christianity Explored</i>	CMS (Church Missionary Society) <i>A world that knows Jesus</i>
1	2 nd	<i>The Great Commission Re-stated Mark 16:9 - 20</i>	#1 <i>Good News!</i>	<p>CMS is a fellowship of Christian people and churches committed to global mission.</p> <p>CMS works with churches to set apart long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>We have supported Wayne Oldfield and Mandy Jones in their missionary service at Nungalinga College in Darwin for many years until their recent retirement.</p> <p>We will be seeking to partner with new missionaries in the near future. Until then, we seek to support CMS in its aim to proclaim the good news about Jesus in Australia and throughout the world.</p>
2	9 th	<i>The Lord's Supper</i> Rev Ian Weeks <i>A God worth talking about</i> Psalm 96	#2 <i>Identity</i>	
3	16 th	Rev Ian Weeks <i>The Task of the Disciples</i> Acts 1:1 - 11	#3 <i>Sin</i>	
4	23 rd Pentecost Sunday	Rev Ian Weeks <i>The Power for Gospel Ministry</i> Acts 2:1 - 21	#4 <i>The Cross</i>	
5	30 th	Rev Ian Weeks <i>The Gospel shared at home</i> Acts 4:32 - 5:11	#5 <i>Resurrection</i>	
	June	<i>The Great Commission in Action: Acts</i>	<i>Christianity Explored</i>	The Bush Church Aid Society
1	6 th	Rev Ian Weeks <i>The Gospel shared beyond the neighbourhood</i> Acts 8:4 - 25	#6 <i>Grace</i>	 <p>The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia has a heart for people living in remote and regional Australia. We are committed to going the distance to reach Australia for Christ.</p> <p>Since 1919, BCA has been reaching outback Australians with the good news of Jesus.</p> <p>Under God, we do this by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proclaiming Christ so that people may respond to Him; • nurturing Christians in their faith and ministry; • strengthening local Christian communities in their mission.
2	13 th	<i>The Lord's Supper</i> Rev Ian Weeks <i>The Gospel taken to the ends of the earth</i> Acts 13:1 - 12	#7 <i>Come and die</i>	
3	20 th	Rev Ian Weeks <i>The perils of sharing the Gospel</i> Acts 16:16 - 34	<i>The Gospel at Work:</i> #1 <i>Sowing the Seed</i> Mark 4:1 - 20	
4	27 th	Rev Ian Weeks <i>Courage to share the Gospel</i> Acts 18:1 - 17	<i>The Gospel at Work:</i> #2 <i>Confronting our Will</i> Mark 6:14 - 29	
	July	<i>The Joy of Giving</i>	<i>The Gospel at Work!</i>	The Bible Society
1	4 th	Rev. Ian Weeks #1 <i>Giving as Worship</i> 1 Chronicles 29:10 - 22	<i>The Gospel at Work:</i> #3 <i>Changing our Priorities</i> Mark 10:35 - 45	 <p>The Bible Society is Australia's longest-living organization, over 200 years old!</p> <p>The Bible Society is creating new ways to advocate for the Bible, to promote it, and offer people new ways to engage with it;</p> <p>Our vision is to see all people engaged with the Bible in a language they can understand, in a format they can use, and at a price they can afford.</p> <p>The Bible Society is also the publisher of the monthly <i>Eternity</i> newspaper.</p>
2	11 th	<i>The Lord's Supper</i> Rev. Ian Weeks #2 <i>Giving as Partnership</i> Philippians 4:10 - 20	<i>The Lord's Supper</i> <i>The Gospel at Work:</i> #4 <i>Creating a New Community</i> Titus Ch1	
3	18 th	Rev. Ian Weeks #3 <i>Giving as Discipleship</i> 2 Corinthians 8:1 - 15	<i>The Gospel at Work:</i> #5 <i>Creating a Hunger for Truth</i> Titus Ch 2	
4	25 th	Rev. Ian Weeks #4 <i>Giving as Celebration</i> 2 Corinthians 9:1 - 15	<i>The Gospel at Work:</i> #6 <i>Creating Changed Lives</i> Titus Ch 3	