

Toorak Uniting Church

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Still Thinking: Reading old and new by Christopher Page



Once a month, when I was the Pastor of McNeill Baptist Church in Ontario Canada, I would have lunch with the Rev Dr Harold Lang a former Principal of McMaster Divinity College and a member of my congregation. Harold was 96 years old (he died at 104 years) and was a sharp as a tack. He lived by himself in a large early 20th Century house within walking distance of the McMaster campus. Harold's wife had died some years earlier and his house maid would prepare the meal for us, setting it in the dining room and then leaving us to our theological conversations.

After the meal we would retire to Harold's study for coffee and further conversation. Harold would love to tell me stories of the present faculty members at McMaster and how he once gave the current Professor of Biblical Studies, a student of Harold, a C- grade for a very poorly written essay. But among all the stories and aphorisms Harold exchanged with me there was one that stood out, probably because it remains a paradox even today. "Chris," he would say, "When I hear of a new book published in my field of interest, I rush to my study and pick up an old one and read it!"

Perhaps he was reflecting on the Preacher in Ecclesiastes who wrote, "There is nothing new under the sunthe making of many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body..." Of course the truth is that there are new discoveries and original ideas in books we read every day. But Harold's warning is worth taking notice of. As Sir Isaac Newton said, "If I have seen a little further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." The endless quest for novelty and newness can at times mean the neglect of the wisdom of the past.

Old books and those recently purchased have a place in our libraries and of course to gain knowledge and wisdom they must be opened and read. I chose a

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to; whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at
Toorak Uniting Church.

Please come and join us after the service for fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee.

book to read recently that I had read some years ago. I needed to recover some of the wisdom I recalled in those pages. The author of the book is Sam Keen and I thought it appropriate for me for this Lenten season. The title is *In the Absence of God: Dwelling in the Sacred*, and ends with these words:...it remains for us to discover how we may at once be at rest and in transit, ordinary people yet on an unending heroic journey, living in a fractured but enchanted world.

The paradox of living the pain of the Lenten story as we move toward the joy of Easter.



World Day of Prayer

Friday, 4th March, 2.00pm
St Peter's Catholic Church
Toorak Road

On Friday 4th March Christians all over the world will join in prayer all using the same order of service.

This year the churches of Cuba have prepared the order of service and the emphasis will be on that country.

The service next Tuesday is supported by the Toorak Ecumenical Council and a warm invitation is extended to the four churches in Toorak.

No Lenten Studies

Due to a change of clergy, illness and the fact that Easter is early this year, unfortunately there will be no Lenten Studies evenings this year.

Church Fundraising

The first church fundraising stall for 2016 will be held on **Sunday 13 March**. There will be the usual home made cakes, slices and jam.

Please donate items to help stock the tables for our enthusiastic

You are warmly invited to join us for Bible League's upcoming **lunch with Tony Tay** to be held at Caffé La Via, 252-254 Glenferrie Road, Malvern on 10th March 2016

Tony is passionate about seeing Pastors and Churches engage in Marketplace Ministry. He will share about how we have all been "Commissioned to Fish", Called to Discipleship and can Collaborate through Networking. Tony is a dynamic speaker and in-demand coach for many involved with Ministry in the Marketplace.

You are welcome to arrive at the Restaurant from 12.00 pm. The presentation and lunch will commence at 12.30 pm and conclude by 2 pm.

Please confirm your attendance by calling **Heather** on Freecall 1800 800 937 during business hours or visit our website to book your seat at www.bl.org.au by 26th February 2016. If you have any special dietary needs please advise Heather when booking or email her at events@bl.org.au. Please RSVP early to ensure your place (limited availability).

Let's
Do
Lunch!

Please join us after the service
for a light lunch in the Faichney Room.
All welcome.

New in the TUC Church Library

The newly reactivated Church lending library is on a table in the Faichney Room this morning. Please borrow any you would like to read and record details in the exercise book. The suggested borrowing period is 2 weeks.

A DVD titled, *“Every Heart Beats True”* about Jim Stynes’ battle with cancer is in the library. It is a compelling story showing his courage in the face of insurmountable odds. Very worthwhile.

Several copies of John Thompson’s book *“Caught in the Rip,”* are for free. (John facilitated our Planning Day.)

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE!

Please email to the office

Time for Fellowship

Morning tea at
11:00am on the
last Monday of
each month
(TOMORROW, Feb 29)

Everyone welcome. Details from
Lenore or Jean. February topic:
“What I did after Christmas”



The Lenten Offering

At this time of reflection, renewal and recommitment, please consider the brochures outlining SHARE projects, with envelopes attached, available this morning.

Diary Dates

Sun	28 Feb	11.15am	Preliminary congregation discussion of the recent Planning Day followed by	
		11.30am	Whole Church Family lunch	Faichney
Mon	29 Feb	11.00am	Fellowship morning tea	Faichney
Wed	02 Mar	6.30pm	Handbells	Wettenhall
Fri	04 Mar	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer	St Peter’s
Sun	06 Mar	11.15am to 12.15pm	After-Church morning tea and Discussion. Chris will lead a discussion on themes in recent Sunday messages. All welcome	Faichney
Sun	13 Mar	9.30am	Church fundraising stall	
Sun	17 Apr	11.15am	Congregation AGM	Church

Special Event Thursday 3rd March,
10.30am - 11.30am

***"For the Beauty of the Earth"* ARTIST TALK
& COFFEE with Angela Abbott**

Gold Coin Entry

Please join us at Kinross Arts & Spirituality Centre for an artist talk with Angela Abbott. Angela will speak about her current work, her painting technique and insights into tonal impressionism in Australia. Angela is an artist, teacher of painting, choir member and avid bush walker. This is a great opportunity to meet her in the historic environs of Kinross House and to see her solo exhibition. "For the Beauty of the Earth" inspired by the Hymn lyrics by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint 1835 – 1917 (Hymn 137 in *Together in Song*).



Exhibition on display until March 24th. Open 10am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday.



At least 21 lives have been lost and hundreds of families left homeless after the strongest cyclone ever to hit the Southern Hemisphere tore through Fiji on Saturday. **We urgently need your help to provide emergency relief.**

With gusts of up to 325 km/h, the cyclone cut a path of destruction across Fiji's islands blowing off roofs, bringing down trees and power lines, and flooding rivers. A 30 day state of emergency has been declared. Our partners are on the ground now assessing damage and providing relief where it is needed most.

Please make a make an emergency gift today. As well as helping the people of Fiji, your gift could also help those families in Tonga who were affected by the cyclone earlier last week.

www.actforpeace.org.au or Free call: 1800 025 101