

CHELSEA NEWSLETTER



24 January 2010

WHAT'S ON at Chelsea Church of Christ



Monday:

[CBCHS @ the Men's Shed 9-12 noon](#)

Tuesday:

[Scope @ the Men's Shed 9-12 noon,](#)
[Skilling Australia 9am-4pm](#)
[Bible study 7.30pm](#)
[Christian Women's Fellowship](#)
2nd Tuesday of month

Wednesday:

[Community Breakfast 8-10 am,](#)
[Men's Shed 9am-12 noon,](#)
[Skilling Australia 9am-4pm](#)
[Wednesday Afternoon Games 10-4pm](#)

Thursday:

[Men's shed 9am - 12 noon](#)
[Skilling Australia 9am-4pm](#)
[Bible study 3pm](#)

Friday:

[Woorinyan @ the Men's Shed 9-12](#)

Sunday:

[Worship 10am each week](#)
[Introduction to Christianity](#)
4th Sunday of each month 12 noon

PRAYERS

Please pray for the following people

Andrew, Jacinta, Barry, Darcy, Dave, Norma,
Joan, Bob, Jean Carr, Kevin Hall,
Michael, Joyce, Kath's friends Joyce & Elly,
Victoria, Georgie, Tup & Carmel, Emma,
Bob & Judy Rutherford, Pat Fielder, Louise,
Edna Eaton, Noel (Judi's brother),
Win Thomas, Becky, Irene Kowalski & family,
Susan, Hans, Steve & Kaylean,
Dorothy's family (Syd's sister),
Trevor (Lesley's brother-in-law),
Dulcie's nephew, Paul W,
Peter (from the shed), Bev,
Joan Hazeldene, Rita @ Northcliffe Lodge,
Yvonne (Dianne's sister in-law)
Colin Duggan's brother & sister in-law,
Ray (Jill Rogers uncle), Dianne,
Penny (Darcy's mum),
Daniel & Meaghan, Blair,
Kerry (Helena's friend with MS)
Graham, Sarah & family, and any
others on the hearts of our church
family.



KID'S KORNER



**Sunday School starts again
on February 7.**



STEVE S SAYINGS

We Ministers meeting for Future Directions have been given the following article to study before we meet. So In turn I would like to share it with you and ask what you think about it, before I talk it over with the other ministers on 15 February.

A penny for your thoughts

Steve

A DANGEROUS QUESTION

by Neil Cole

Think about what questions you've been asked about your church.

Questions come up like: "What church do you go to? How big is your church? Where is your church? What kind of music do you have at your church? What denomination is your church? Who is the pastor at your church?" I find that we often ask about things that may seem important, but we usually aren't getting at what matters most. These are things about churches. But what is a church?

.....While as seminary student, I was given a definition of church that was really more of a description. Church was explained as embodying these five characteristics:

1. A group of believers gathered together regularly...
2. That considers itself a church...
3. That has qualified elders present...
4. That regularly practices the ordinances of baptism and communion as well as church discipline...
5. And that has an agreed on set of doctrinal beliefs and evangelistic purpose.

These are all good qualities for any church to have. Most of our churches, in fact, would meet these standards. But my question was still with me, so I turned the question inside out by asking what is missing from this list of five things. Since that time I've put the same list and question before a lot of groups. "What is missing?" After a few minutes of responses, I generally tell them what I think is missing if they haven't already found it.

Jesus is missing!

One of my respected mentors, a theologian and career missionary, told me that Jesus is assumed to be in the definition because it is believers who are gathered. My response was, "Why would you verify that qualified elders are present but assume that Jesus is present?"

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This assumption betrays a problem in our churches, a serious one. The church is often more about the people and the institutions that gather in the name of Jesus than it is about the reality of the risen Jesus, alive and active with His people.

Seeing Jesus

As the world looks at our churches, particularly in the West, it sees only what people have done or what programs they are doing. The world is not impressed. In response, we scheme and plot and plan, "What can we do to make our church more appealing to the people in our community?" This is, once again, the wrong question. It's as if we're trying to boost God's approval ratings. It is God's name that is at risk, not ours, and we are not responsible for protecting His reputation. He can handle that, by Himself, just fine. A better question is, "Where is Jesus seen at work in our midst?" Where do we see lives changing, and communities transforming simply by the power of the Gospel? Where do we see fathers restored to a life of holiness and responsibility? Where do we see daughters reconciling with fathers? Where do we see addicts who no longer live under the bondage of chemical dependency? Where are wealthy businessmen making restitution for past crimes that went unnoticed? These are the questions that lead people to recognize the living presence of Jesus, loving and governing people's lives as their King. When people encounter Jesus, alive and present as King, they get a taste of God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. If Jesus is missing in our understanding of church, He will likely be missing in our expression of church as well.

What a Church is: Jesus Followed

I have come to understand church as this: the presence of Jesus among His people called out as a spiritual family to pursue His mission on this planet

God Bless

Steve

Other News

Last Friday we had a great kick start BBQ for our Dad's parenting group. Pete Aldin and Zi are developing a new style of group, more informal, with the help of the dads who attended last year. Please pray for this group and its ability to change lives.

Breakky starts again this Wednesday. Please pray for us or even come and give a hand where you can.

Judi has worked enormously hard and given up much of her holidays to kick off our kid's club. A few new children have attended. We believe it will build over the years into a ministry with an incredible impact. Please pray for Judi and this essential ministry.

The shed got going this week with a few of the regulars, we look forward to another great year under Keith's leadership.

News from Haiti

The Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) Newsletter is available today.

If you know people with medical training who want to help in Haiti could you please pass on the following.....

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Dear Friends

Below details the Churches of Christ Overseas Mission Service (OMS) needs in Haiti, mainly centred around medical aid. Read further if you have medical training.

Our OMS colleagues in Haiti operate a hospital (Bethesda Medical Centre) in Cape Haitian, north of the quake zone in Cape Haitian. They are in desperate need of medical personnel.

Please read below and pass this to your congregations or those you know in the medical fields.

From OMS Haiti:

" We are trying to work with other clinics/hospitals that are getting overloaded with people injured in Port. Some are also reaching our clinic. Dr Gavin will be here Thursday and we will put him in charge of the medical aspect.

We will have translators and we will make in-country arrangements to get them to area most needed. What ever medical supplies they could bring would be most helpful. Gloves and masks would be high on the list. I also sent OMS a list of needed items.

If anyone already speaks Creole get them here yesterday.

We need orthopaedic doctors, surgeons, medical doctors. Bring everyone into Cap Haiti until further notice. MFI is flying regularly to Port (au Prince, from FL) with supplies and stopping here to take people out. They might be able to throw a few passengers on with relief flights.

Please call us on 03 9872 4209

Ray Airoso

Executive Director