



HALLO

ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TARADALE

Church Website: www.stcolumba-taradale.org.nz

Email: stcolumba@xtra.co.nz



Vol 21 - No 7

August 2011

From the Minister

The need for Biblical Scholarship

I was interested to watch "Jesus – the Cold Case" by Bryan Bruce on TV1. It made me realise how the church needs to understand the history and context of the Bible and that we cannot just read it simply as a devotional otherwise we will be susceptible to the shallow arguments of shows like this.

When were the Gospels written: Some date Matthew and Luke in the 75-80AD region, and John in the 90-100's or later. While some scholars would agree, many would not. Many date Luke at the point Luke's work in his second volume Acts ends, AD 61-62. Many believe Matthew the apostle wrote Matthew and John wrote John. The early church from the early second century at least, holds that Peter was instrumental to Mark's Gospel. Luke writes plainly that he drew on eye-witness testimony to write his gospel. Many scholars believe that Luke was an excellent first century historian, with almost all geographical, political, historical and other references easily cross-referenced to secular literature.

Let's say that the Gospels were written 30+ years after the event. Does this mean they are unreliable? If you were to interview someone who was involved in the 1981 Springbok Rugby protests or the Muldoon era you will find that their memories if not perfect are pretty good. Or going back further to World War 2- that is 60 years ago. Are your memories of no historical value because they are old? When you also consider that the stories Jesus told were not only told by a master story teller, but were probably repeated many times as he moved from village to village reinforcing them in the minds of his followers. And the events themselves were so momentous that they would have been deeply engraved into the minds of the disciples.

The historical value of the Bible is also reinforced if we remember that the teachings of Jesus were first circulated as an oral tradition. They retold his stories again and again as they taught new Christians just as we retell them every Sunday. This reinforced them in their minds, it also helped keep them true to the original – because as any parent knows who tries to change a well known story there is an insistence on telling it right. It is not just my word against yours but there was a whole group who could verify the stories and events and ensure that the true version was endorsed. Biblical scholars also recognise that there were probably collections of Jesus' teaching and miracles written down long before they were finally collated as the gospels we now have. If you want to do some research – do an investigation on the "Q" source. Some would argue that the Gospels are linked to the approaching end of the lives of the Apostles, they recording the stories before they were lost in time.

The four Gospels are an intriguing mixture of material – some is copied word for word from an earlier source (Mark?), some is unique to each writer. The differences in the Gospels are a result of authentic attempts to record the story of Jesus as they recalled it. Some of the differences are because the gospels are addressed to different communities and so have chosen parts of the broader Jesus story to address the particular issues facing that community along with the basics. So if something is not in another gospel it might simply mean that wasn't an issue for that community, or that some other story covered that point. I like John's comment in Chapter 20:30-31 that if everything Jesus did or said was written down all the books in the world could not contain the stories, but these things are written so that you might believe.

So when you read the bible let me encourage you to ask what is God saying to you personally, but also to ask why did the original writer include this, what did he want his first hearers to know and understand. May we be enriched devotionally and thoughtfully as we hear the story of Jesus.

Brett

Jesus, the Cold Case

Sunday July 24th saw the TV1 show **Investigator Special – Jesus, the Cold Case** hosted by Bryan Bruce, a well-known contemporary cold case television documentary maker. Bruce attempted to apply his skills to the death of Jesus. Bryan Bruce's view is that the Gospels are totally unreliable as historical records and in fact present a deliberate lie. The Gospel writers were keen to gain favour with the Romans in order to end the persecution that Christians were suffering at the hands of Rome. Therefore they rewrote the events of Jesus' crucifixion to make the Jews guilty and present the Roman Governor, Pilate, as a hero who seeks to free Jesus. Therefore the Gospel writers are guilty of an anti-Semitism that leads directly to Nazism and the Auschwitz death chambers. Here are some quotes from other reviewers

Rev Bosco Peters writes "I read the book, Jesus: the cold case, and found it riddled with errors and contradictions that I would expect anyone with good secondary-school Religious Education knowledge to pick up. For example Bruce says "Luke claims three wise men..." That's Matthew's gospel not Luke's and he does not mention three persons – just three gifts". <http://www.liturgy.co.nz/>

Dr Glenn Andrew Peoples writes "It looks fairly clearly as though the presenter has *intentionally* stacked the witness stand with those hostile to the Christian story. It will hardly come as a surprise that, given such a uniform and narrow sample, the testimony will (rather gleefully!) point away from the traditional version of events surrounding the death of Christ. ... Given that those consulted would be placed at one extreme of the spectrum on whether or not we can generally trust the Gospel accounts or the teaching of the early Christian movement, the interests of balance would surely call for less radical voices, the likes of Craig Evans, James Dunn, Luke Timothy Johnson or N. T Wright.

John Dominic Crossan, is asked to comment on the historicity of the crucifixion account at this point, and he tells us: When Jesus says "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me," "I don't think Jesus ever said that." Why not? Well, that doesn't seem to matter. Crossan just doesn't think so. In immediate response, Bruce says that "clearly we have to be careful" when taking such Gospel accounts as historical. After all, Crossan doesn't believe it. Why?... because he doesn't. This is a surprising pattern that begins to reappear throughout this documentary. A person in an armchair appears on-screen, declares that they don't personally think that something in the Gospels really happened, and the narrator, in effect, strokes his beard (OK he doesn't really have one) and says "Well, fascinating, there you have it." But what do other scholars say? What are the reasons for agreeing with the talking head we've just seen? And what reasons do others bring to the discussion table for another view? None of that matters. Crossan says it. Bruce agrees. That settles it. <http://www.beretta-online.com/wordpress/2011/jesus-the-cold-case/>

Rev Ron Hay in the Christchurch press wrote "It is impossible to take seriously a book or programme which ignores mainstream biblical scholarship, for example Richard Bauckham's landmark book, Jesus and the Eyewitnesses. This argues, with huge learning, that the four Gospels are based on the eyewitness testimony of those who personally knew Jesus."

Prof Mark Keown (a Presbyterian Minister) writes as part of his longer review:

"There is an assumption that wherever there is an OT prophecy mentioned or alluded to in the passion, it is a creation based on the prophecy, not a fulfilment of the prophecy. Well, yes, one could argue this if one liked. But one could equally argue the converse, that there was an explicit attempt by Jesus to fulfil prophecy, and that the events were shaped by God in history to fulfil prophecy. A balanced argument would hear both sides and let the reader/hearer make up their own mind.

<http://drmarkk.blogspot.com/2011/07/jesus-cold-case-response.html>

Projector Screen

There has been growing dissatisfaction (and justifiably so) at the lack of quality of pictures on our projector screen, particularly at funeral services when showing the life story of the deceased. There is also the difficulty for those at the sides of the church not being able to see the screen clearly at all.

Research is currently underway to see how we can improve the situation. The biggest problem, of course, is the amount of light in the church on a sunny morning. Very little can be done about that, so the solution is not easy.

Some suggestions so far, are either a more powerful projector, or perhaps a large TV. Any ideas out there, as to how we might achieve a better system, either in method or in financial assistance, would be welcome. I already have some offers by way of finance. Confidentiality assured if you wish.

In the first instance, please contact me personally, either directly, via a note in my pigeonhole at the church, or by phone on 844 7808. (Robin Arnold)

School Holiday Programme

Halo assisted with the St. Columba's Kids Friendly Care school holiday programme in July. As mentioned in last month's Halo, it was once again a privilege and honour to mentor and care for children whose parents must work to make ends meet, or who are otherwise unable to care for their children during school holidays. Some of those children are absolute darlings and, of course, some are far from saintly. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings there is a Christian programme. Children who have never, and in many cases never will, darken a church doorstep learn who Jesus is and what the Bible says. The children are divided into juniors aged 5 – 9 and seniors 10 -13. Often the senior group will go 'off site' as part of their programme. Volunteers from St. Columba's head up those programmes e.g. Wim, Steve and Pam.

The afternoons are more relaxed. The children are on holiday, and it would not be fair to treat them to 'school' for that time. On Tuesday and Thursdays, all the children go 'off site' to various treats: swimming, fishing, rock climbing, indoor sports, mystery bus trips etc.

Morning and afternoon teas are provided by the programme and prepared by members of the congregation. Could that be why Halo has the same portly problem as Church mouse?

Those children who are extremely disruptive do cause the programme some concern and KFC acknowledges some of the suggestions put forward by the congregation to assist in their management. While criticism is easy, the answers are far from easy, and we must remember that Jesus came to find and save the lost, and those children are very lost.

All in all Halo enjoyed the time, and we are sure that there will be big numbers signing up to assist Peter during the next program: 7 – 25 October.

Reading and Prayer

Reading: "How good it is to give thanks to you, O Lord, to sing in your honour, O most high God, to proclaim your constant love every morning and your faithfulness every night." **Psalm 92:1 & 2**



Prayer of Saint Benedict: O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate on you, and a life to proclaim you. Through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Children's Story

The following story has appeared before but Halo feels it is worth repeating. During the KFC Holiday programme, the junior children learnt about the 10 Commandments, or 10 Cool Rules. This story taught them about not telling lies, being faithful and keeping promises.

PROMISES

Janet was a lovely little child aged eight who lived at Napier. She liked school, and she liked going to Church on Sundays. She had lovely Sunday School teachers, and heard many things about Jesus.

Some of the children had pets, and Janet wanted to have a pet as well.

"Mum," she said. "Can I have a guinea pig?"

"No." said Mum looking up from the magazine where she was reading about Brad Pitt.

"Awe please Mum, please," said Janet.

"No." Mum said again

"I'll do the dishes," said Janet. "I'll pull up my bed."

"Wait until your father gets home and ask him," said Mum.

Dad duly arrived home. He got a beer out of the refrigerator, kicked at the dog, and threw the cat off the rocking chair. He sat down and switched the television over to Sky sports.

"Dad," said Janet. "Can I have a guinea pig please?"

"No," said Dad.

"Please," said Janet. "Please, please, please. I'll do anything."

"See your mother," replied Dad.

"Mum, Dad says I can have a guinea pig," said Janet.

"What?" yelled Mum?

"Dad says I can have a guinea pig."

"Well we'll see," said Mum.

Two days later, the guinea pig arrived. It sat in a hutch on the back lawn.

"Mummy, Mummy. Thank you," said Janet hugging her mother.

"Just remember young lady," said Mum. "You have to make sure that you check every day to see it has enough water and food, and you also have to shift the hutch every third day."

"I will. I will," said Janet. "I promise. I'll call him Abe."

Over the next two weeks, Janet was very good. She feed Abe, gave him food and water and shifted his hutch. On the third week, she missed checking Abe. She remembered a couple of days later though and although he had eaten all his food there was still water left. The week after that Janet forgot all about Abe because she had a birthday party to go to, and then she slept over at a friends place, and then something good was on TV, and then one night it was raining.

Abe shivered, cold and alone in his hutch. He felt weak and sad. He felt no one loved him. He was also scared. He tried to squeak aloud so some one would hear him but no one did. He lay down on his wet straw and prepared to die.

Just as he was about to die Abe heard a voice.

"What have we here?" asked the voice.

"Oh it's nothing," said Janet's voice. "Come on. You came over to play, not look at an old guinea pig."

"No. I think this is more important," said the voice.

Abe felt the hutch move and gentle hands pick him up and cuddle him into a warm jersey.

"What's his name?" asked the voice.

"Abe," replied Janet. "But he's got all stinky and yucky now."

"I'll look after him," said the voice. Abe felt himself carried away from Janet's house. .../

"I'm Judy," said the voice. "Don't worry I'll look after you." Abe found himself fed with warm milk and going to sleep on nice warm freshly torn up 'Hawke's Bay Today' newspaper. Gradually Abe got well again. His coat shone and his eyes sparkled. Judy took him to a guinea pig show and won first prize. They received a ribbon and a bag of lollies. Janet did not get anything.

So, because Janet was lazy, did not keep her promise, and lost interest, poor Abe nearly died. Judy, on the other hand, kept her promise to look after Abe and won a prize and, of course, Abe lived happily ever after.

Moreover, that is what Jesus is like. When other people do not like you, or have lost interest in you, Jesus will always look after you. He will always be with you. He will keep you loved, fed, and warm.

by Jim Payton

APW (Association of Presbyterian Women)

The following articles are from Gleanings, the magazine of the Association of Presbyterian and Methodist Women.

The Cure for Disappointment

I am the Lord, the God of every person on the earth. Nothing is impossible for me. Jeremiah 32:27

We need to hear that God is still in control. We need to hear that it's not over until he says so. We need to hear that life's mishaps and tragedies are not a reason to bail out. They are simply a reason to sit tight. ..."When the train goes through a tunnel and the world gets dark, do you jump out? Of course not. You sit still and trust the engineer to get you through"....

The way to deal with discouragement?

At our last NCG P&A Meeting the main topic on the agenda was the Triennial National Gathering. Our plans to hold this gathering 22-22 April 2012 in Christchurch are well underway. The venue is Rangī Ruru Girls' College, Hewitts Road, Merivale, Christchurch - where all is well. The boarding house for accommodation, the theatre for presentations and the beautiful church await us. With all the quaking going on in Christchurch we were inspired by the following:

The cure for disappointment?

Go back and read the story of God. Read it again and again. Be reminded that you aren't the first person to weep. And you aren't the first person to be helped. Read the story and remember, the story is yours! *Grace For the Moment (Max Lucado)*.

We look forward to standing alongside our fellow Presbyterian Women NZ (APW)

Encouraging Member Participation

The National Coordinating Group is encouraging all Presbyterian Women's groups to be known as:

1. Presbyterian Women (followed by parish name). We recognise this may present difficulties for Uniting Church women's groups.
2. Recognise all Women, who are members of Presbyterian or Uniting Parishes

We understand that the constitution must remain as APW (Association of Presbyterian Women), but our aim is to encourage ALL women of a Parish to become members of Presbyterian Women (New Zealand), whether they are part of a group or become an individual member. All are welcome. Our membership is \$6.00 per year: a very small amount considering the work the women of the Parish are able to achieve. We would recommend to all Presbyterian Women, our organisation.

6 **Credibility, Endorsement and Youth Workers** *by Mark Seek*

Recently I was involved in an incident at which the police attended. There is no need to go into any detail. The policeman in attendance had known me when I was in my late teens. He was delighted to hear that I spent my Friday nights helping young people instead of doing handbrake wheelies on people's front lawns and other random teenage acts.

The point I need to acknowledge here, though, is that the policeman said he had known me previously, and that I now obviously had a conscience. He said that I must have one as many adults do not care what is happening to young people today. They complain, but do not do anything to change the situation in our society. Obviously, I am now not as selfish or self-absorbed as I probably was when he knew me all those years ago.

Does this give me credibility in the eyes of the young person involved in this incident? I think it does. It says something about my character and what motivates me now. Likewise, are credibility and/or endorsement the same thing?

I understand credibility as trustworthiness and expertise, with endorsement as approval or sanction. Bearing that in mind, I would say the following: we have all seen the advertisements on television with Dan Carter hanging off the wall selling Daikin heat pumps and John Key getting photo opportunities with famous and powerful leaders. Celebrities know that endorsements pay for their lifestyles and politicians know the importance of credibility.

Youth workers are neither celebrities nor politicians, but we are aware of the need to have credibility. This comes by earning the right to speak into a young person's life by going through the difficult times alongside them and their families. Our programmes require older peers to say 'Yeah, I believe in this. It is something I want to belong to.' (sic – rad mean)

Think back to situations where you have required credibility, or endorsement of a service or product you supplied. Your personal CV glowingly reviews sensational reports to impress potential employers. We wear endorsed products. If I wear Rodd and Gunn, I am perceived as this, or that, etc. We buy endorsed products because we like what they represent; a lifestyle, or they make us feel good about who we are as status symbols. The world has a fixation about whether or not you are who you say you are, or whom they think you should be. Personal stories are always good, right? Go into a Harley Davidson motorcycle store not dressed as a biker. You get no customer service, just a grunt like, 'Yeah, you might own one some day buddy!'

Recently I had to take my Dad to Wellington Hospital for surgery. It was a private hospital costing thousands of dollars before you even got to see the surgeon. (Deposit required). It struck me that the surgeon who was to operate on my Dad mentioned that he did this type of operation as his bread and butter. Far out, \$40,000 to have the operation done by a surgeon who was supposed to be the best. He had credibility (he was trustworthy and an expert). The best for my Dad.

As a youth worker, we are required to be trustworthy, and to be experts in what we do. It requires us to be innovative, creative, adaptable and mediators. The playing surface is constantly changing the way we communicate, but not what we communicate. The message is still the same. God love is still the same today as it was when Jesus was in the marketplace. Jesus has to be my credibility with his radical message of love and hope. A transformation from a person fixated on fame, fortune, image and financial success.

Do we as a Church endorse the message that Jesus died for the world? Do we have the credibility to say such a radical thing? I think we do because Jesus believed in us so much he did indeed die to give us that credibility. We were sinners, but now we are people living with his father's Grace, and operating out of that Grace. Think how powerful that can be. We have done nothing to earn that endorsement (Grace) from God himself, the one who created it all. He gave it to us. Look back on the road you have travelled in your life. Sure, it has patches where the grass has grown, or where you refused to move on, but if you look hard enough you will see the journey has been endorsed and you have been given credibility. How wonderful is that!

God, the manufacturer. We are his wonderful product. Get to know the manufacturer.

One Year in the Solomon Islands (well – almost) 7

I was walking along the beach this morning thinking of you all and thought that I would drop a line with a few 'musings'. I have been here in the Solomons for almost a year now and the time seems to have flown by, at this stage of the piece.

I won't talk about the weather in the middle of your winter, when you will be fighting to stay warm at times, BUT the temperature here ranges from 29 to 32 and the only difference is the amount of cloud cover and rain. It is LOVELY (sorry!). With the water temperature at around 29 degrees, water activities are easy – no wet suits etc.

Honiara, the capital city, is a dump, but interesting. The place is littered with rubbish (lots of plastic), splattered with the red hoik (spit) from betel-nut chewers, dusty and smoky (that's mainly burning plastic) and busy with traffic and people with nothing to do.

Isabel Province, where I am staying at Kia Village, is the least visited of all the provinces, but wonderful! The forest is lush and the reefs and lagoons just magic. On the negative side, logging by (mainly) Malaysian logging companies is laying waste to huge tracts of virgin forest, and is causing erosion and the destruction of reefs by siltation from the run-off in heavy rains. It is so depressing and the bane of my life, but I won't go on! Pollution is reaching its destructive tentacles into these remote areas as well. Food and supplies that were once wrapped in banana leaf or coconut palm baskets are increasingly being carried in plastic bags. Likewise, disposable nappies are starting to appear, and aluminium cans are abundant. EVERYTHING goes into the big 'rubbish bin' here – the sea! It is so hard to watch plastic bags full of rubbish, nappies, cans, batteries etc simply being thrown overboard from a ship, or out the window of a house into the sea.

The people here are beautiful and gentle. I have hardly heard a raised voice since I have been here, let alone a fight. They are so tolerant and avoid conflict to a fault. Time means nothing, as there is no work, and food is abundant. If you want to sit and talk all day (and I mean ALL day), then that is what you do. This is a wonderful freedom of the mind and something totally unimaginable from the seat of my office chair a few years ago!

In Kia the religion is Anglican and very strong. The first question you will be asked is, "What religion you?" The church building is by far the most prestigious building in Kia and they hold services twice daily (7.00 am and 6.00 pm) and two main services on Sunday morning (7.00 am and 10.00 am). Not bad for a population of 1,000? I have been a few times and love it when I do. I spend quite a bit of time up here at the Arnavon Islands where I am working, so am often away from the village. The singing of the men and women is beautiful – they are just natural harmonisers – and they sing most of the service. I do find it a bit "rote" and not as personal or meaningful as our services at St Columba's.

There is also a mixture of Kastom magic mixed with Christianity, and many have a strong belief in both. It is almost as though they don't want to let the Kastom go, in case it does have some foundation. Some well-educated people have interesting beliefs such as that their ancestors were crocodiles, or sharks or their people were rescued from a sinking boat by their ancestor the manta ray. It can be interesting when they want rain or something – they are quite relaxed about mixing the faiths, just as long as the rain comes!

We recently had a group from the Kia church Mothers Union visit the Arnavons and they were a wonderful lot! We had so much fun and learnt so much. The women will determine the future of the country, eventually. They do a lot of the work and keep the households running – the men are useless and spend most of any cash they get on SB (Solomon Breweries beer). The women get very little input into any decision-making (there are no females in parliament), but will get mobilised into action before too long I feel. A young female Kiwi journalist came out here with the women, by chance, and wrote an article on her web-site about the women's' visit. If you have access to the internet you may feel like reading it – the web-site is www.unstucktravel.com and the story is easy to find.

Anyway, I must stop rambling on. I could go on for ages but I have a busy day (yeah right!) I will be back to New Zealand in September for a couple of weeks, so hope to be able to get along to a service at St Columba's

Fondest regards, Gary King



Women's Fellowship followed up on an idea from Norma Sinton and arranged the collection of products and filling of shoe boxes, for forwarding to Christchurch, to assist those in need following the Christchurch earthquakes. Halo understands that 66 boxes were filled. Norma does say that there is every intention to continue with this project as the need will continue into the foreseeable future. Goods are being collected and stored and Halo suggests you contact either Norma or Peggy Flack.

A Tribute to Gladys

On Saturday July 9th 2011 at Atawhai Rest Home, GLADYS ELEANOR INGLIS died; she was the widow of the late DONALD LIVINGSTONE INGLIS.

Don and Gladys had no children of their own, but much of their life was spent giving pleasure to other people's children.

Gladys' work was at the draughting office of the NZED in Napier where she was a skilled draughtswoman and much loved by her work colleagues. Both Don and Gladys taught Sunday School for many years and Gladys' gift of music and artwork made Sunday School time special for the children. They were also choir members at St Columba's for many years.

Their married life was spent at 10 Waterhouse Street in Taradale, but when Donald was unable to be cared for there, he moved into a room at Atawhai. Not a day passed without a lengthy visit from Gladys – true devotion. Some time after Don's death, Gladys too made Atawhai her home, and many of her friends have enjoyed visiting her regularly over the last four years. We were always welcomed with a smile.

Gladys, I will really miss my regular visits and the chats we had as we caught up on the latest news.

Nancye Munroe

92 YEAR OLD PREACHER

While watching a little TV on Sunday, I watched as a church in Atlanta honoured one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the pulpit. Without a note or written paper of any kind, he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears, heartbreak, pain, fear, and sorrow paralyzed me... the only thing that would comfort was this verse...

"Jesus loves me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
we are weak but He is strong,
Yes, Jesus loves me....
The Bible tells me so."

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."

"Here for you now is a Senior version of Jesus Loves Me":

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

chorus

YES, JESUS LOVES ME..
YES, JESUS LOVES ME..
YES, JESUS LOVES ME,
FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

chorus

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song..
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

chorus

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

chorus

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

chorus

Thank you Judith Trim

Limapela Cedric's School, Zambia

About two years ago, Matthew Raymond spoke at St. Columba's concerning this school. We print the following update from him.

Progress Report 20 July 2011

During a lesson on Transport and Communication with Grade 7 this week I discovered that a significant number of the pupils have TV in their homes (battery operated), but very few of them have running water, electricity or books to read. The discovery made me wonder whether value structures in poor communities are really very much different from those in affluent ones! As poor communities today face modernity, and rapidly advancing technological development, their choices are more complicated than they were in the days of David Livingstone.

In terms of capital development, the past three months have been a waiting game for us at Limapela Cedric's - waiting for the electricity to be connected, and waiting for boreholes to be sunk. "This is Africa," they say, which presents us with the challenge of applying firm but friendly pressure while maintaining a gracious attitude! The building of the new classroom block is progressing slowly.

With the start of the new financial year, we have been taking stock of school finances. Our school budget for the year is NZ\$63,400. We are encouraged to see that the school income this year, which includes pledged fee and salary sponsorship, should amount to a minimum of NZ\$44,000. It is a wonderful assurance to know that your support in this way pretty well guarantees a good portion of our basic running costs. If we achieve our objective to find sponsors for all the remaining 132 pupils on our roll, this income will increase to around NZ\$75,000, more than covering the budget.

Fee Sponsorship

We are making progress! 145 pupils at Limapela Cedric's are now sponsored. With your help, we will have sponsors for the remaining 132 by year's end. Do drop me an email (matthew@limapela.org) if you, or someone you know, would like to commit to a monthly payment of NZ\$20.00 per child.

View From Under the Pew By Church Mouse

I know that Rhonda will not be happy knowing that I have been in the office. I only do so at night once she has left as I would not want to frighten such a valuable person, and I do try to leave everything just as I found them. I was in there the other night to find a few pieces of paper to insulate my mouse house. (No, the Government has not provided me with any assistance). There was a stack of pages ready to be stapled together for Halo, so I took a couple hoping that no one would notice. After all, where can you get charity if not at a Christian Church? As my family was tearing up the pages I noticed the hymn sent in by a Judith Trim; 'Jesus Loves Me'. It brought back memories of stories told me by my Great Grand Mouse when he lived in a Sunday School hall about 60 years ago. How neat adapting it for an older generation. Will me, and mine, be hearing it sung at St. Columba's?



BEREAVEMENTS Our love and sympathy to the families and friends of Gladys Inglis, Val Marshall and Mary Whenmouth.

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the congregation is to be held on Friday 16th September at 6.00 p.m., starting with a potluck tea, a guest speaker and then the AGM.

SEPTEMBER HALO

Traditionally the September Halo consists of annual reports from all the committees and groups that make up St. Columba's. These reports are also presented at the AGM. If you are responsible for reporting for a group, please have your report in to the church office by Friday 24th August. (Rhonda will be ringing to remind you in the next week or two.)

24th SEPTEMBER CEILIDH

Remember the fun last year? Put a ring around the 24th September for a repeat.
Robin Arnold.

A CHALLENGE FROM CHRISTCHURCH PRESBYTERY

Rev Sally Carter (St Paul's, Napier) spoke to everyone present at the Presbytery meeting in Wairoa on 18th June about the Christchurch earthquake. She has recently shifted from there and has been in communication with the Christchurch Moderator, Rev Martin Stewart. He has a vision of contributing \$200.00 supermarket vouchers to those most in need. To date he has \$30,000.00. Can we support him? It was decided that each parish try to contribute \$500.00. A collection box is in the foyer of our church. Many thanks, *Sue Read*

What's on in August

Wednesday 17 th August 7.30 p.m.	Board of Managers monthly meeting in the lounge
Thursday 18 th August 1.45 p.m.	Missionary Guild
Tuesday 23 rd August 7.30 p.m.	Women's Evening Fellowship
Wednesday 24 th August 10.30 a.m.	Monthly Mid Week Service
Thursday 25 th August 7.30 p.m.	Session meeting

Regular events

Mondays	House Group 7.00 p.m. (fortnightly) Contact: Pat Gordon 844 2188
Tuesdays	Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265 Prayer Group 11.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Contact: Marjory Yelverton 843 5331 House Group 7.30 - 9 p.m. Contacts: Wim & Inger Slooten 844 9070 House Group 7.30 - 9 p.m. Contact: Robin Arnold 844 7808 Women's Fellowship meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month
Wednesdays	Mainly Music 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Contact: Margaret de la Haye 843 2272 Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265 Youth - 'Pimp My Ride' 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Contact: Mark Seek 027 478 9404 Board of Managers meet at 7.30 p.m. in the church lounge on the third Wednesday
Thursdays	Mainly Music 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Contact: Karen Jensen 843 9447 Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265 Missionary Guild meets on the third Thursday of the month Session meet at 7.30 p.m. in the church lounge on the fourth Thursday
Fridays	Youth - 'Contact' 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Contact: Mark Seek 027 478 9404

Church Office Phone and Fax 844-5004 Monday—Friday 9.30am—12.00pm
 If no reply, please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as we can.

Church Postal Address:	P O Box 7136, Taradale	
Minister	Rev Brett WALKER	844-2256
Acting Session Clerk	Colin ZACHAN	844-8050
Parish Assistant—Youth	Mark SEEK	027 478 9404
Pastoral Care	Robin ARNOLD	844-7808
Communication	Dot McLEOD	844-1211
Af Care/Holiday Programme	Peter WOOTEN (convenor)	843-7770
Change of Address	Church Office	844-5004
HALO - Editor	Jim Payton	843-3937
- Distribution	Wendy GOSLING	844-0282

Services – Sunday 9.30 am morning worship

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of March, August and December and the second Sunday of June, plus Easter and World Communion Day. On the Wednesday following, a Communion service will be held at 11.00 a.m. in the church lounge.



PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR HALO SPONSORS

SEND YOUR
MESSAGES OF
LOVE AND
CARING WITH
FLOWERS

CALL YOUR PROFESSIONALS

THE FLOWER BARROW
(06) 844 8250
229 GLOUCESTER STREET, TARADALE

Inspiration, Information - Our Church Library

Have you looked at our library?
It's in Fish Hall next to
the piano.
There's sure to be
something there for you.

Greenmeadows New World

Always more for your money
Phone 844 6240

BETH SHAN
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*Bruce Finlayson, Neil Earnshaw, Tracey Thompson,
Ross Gannon or Ingrid Mackie*

For that caring touch through all aspects of bereavement.

- * 24 hour personal service
- * Prearrangement
- * Funeral plans available

Phone 06 835 9925 Fax 06 835 5834
157 Georges Drive, Napier
email: bruce@beth-shan.co.nz

ACCOUNTANT

**Financial statements
Rentals
Tax returns**

GARY BERNTSEN
Phone 835-5078

REAL ESTATE HANLIE MARNEWICK

**Direct: 06 845 9065
Mobile: 027 295 9981**
hanlie.marnewick@tremains.co.nz

Tremain Real Estate Ltd Licensed Real Estate Agent REAA 2008
www.tremains.co.nz