

The Link

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE

2019 FEBRUARY/MARCH



Two years of evangelism

Scott Dunlop

THE SEEING JESUS CLEARLY DIOCESAN Mission has started, therefore a relevant question to be asking is, 'How do you keep yourself motivated to tell people about Jesus?'

Our own great evangelist, John Chapman used to say 'the first fifty years are the hardest.' If you are like me and don't find it easy, how do we stay motivated to keep at it?

About twenty years ago in Tamworth I heard Rico Tice, author of *Christianity Explored*,

and I have found them very helpful motivation ever since.

Grace is the most important reason to do evangelism because it is too good not to share. *At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived... But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we have done, but because of His mercy... so that justified by grace,*

we might become heirs. Titus 3:3-7. We have an incredible message of grace about God's Son that honors Him when we share it with people. The great thing about doing this is that we're not primarily concerned with the results. Rather we seek to faithfully do what we have been called to do, making grace known. This really keeps me going personally. Regularly I'll preach at a funeral and point people to

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grace, only for them to say to me, 'That was a really nice funeral,' but they have no intention of responding to the message. This can be discouraging but I'm comforted by the fact that it's my job to proclaim grace and God's to change hearts, and He will be glorified in both salvation and judgement. In His strength I keep sharing His incredible grace with those who so desperately need it

Gehenna (Greek word for Hell in the original New Testament language). Jesus said in Matthew 12:5, *fear him who after the killing of the body has power to throw you into hell, yes I tell you fear Him*. I take it that you, like me, believe Jesus to be the most loving man that ever lived, and yet nobody in the Bible spoke more about hell than Jesus, because He knew it was a real place. This means that if we don't speak to people about Jesus, we either don't believe in hell or we don't love people, because at its heart the gospel is being saved from Hell, through the cross of Jesus, so we can go to Heaven. Sin, judgement, wrath, and Hell are realities; so we need to share the only solution, Jesus. People without Jesus go to Hell. That is a reality we need to keep before us.

God's glory. In Acts 17:16 we are told this about the Apostle Paul in Athens, *he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of*

idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews. He was greatly concerned that the true God wasn't being worshipped in Athens, so he sought to change that by sharing the gospel. God has given people today so much and yet the majority worships idols rather than Him. Does that concern you, and cause you to want God to be glorified and worshipped rather than ignored? Like the Apostle Paul, do you get jealous for God's glory, and the fact that many don't honor Him like they should? Being jealous for God's glory will keep you speaking to people about Jesus.

Godliness. Evangelism is part of being a godly Christian. You can't separate the two. *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans 10:13-14.* To say we're godly Christian's and yet not be part of the chief work that Jesus came to earth to do is not continuing His ministry. Unless Christian's speak, how will the lost get the chance to hear about Jesus? Rather, as we follow Jesus and grow in faith, more of Him will show in us, including a heart for the lost. To say we follow Jesus but never speak of Him is to separate something from true faith that is at the heart of Christian mission.



Scott Dunlop.

It will be long and hard, so may God strengthen you and me to share Jesus where He has placed us, particularly over these next two years of Diocesan Mission, as we join with others around the Diocese, helping people See Jesus Clearly, because it's all part of *Seeing Jesus Clearly* ourselves.

Please pray

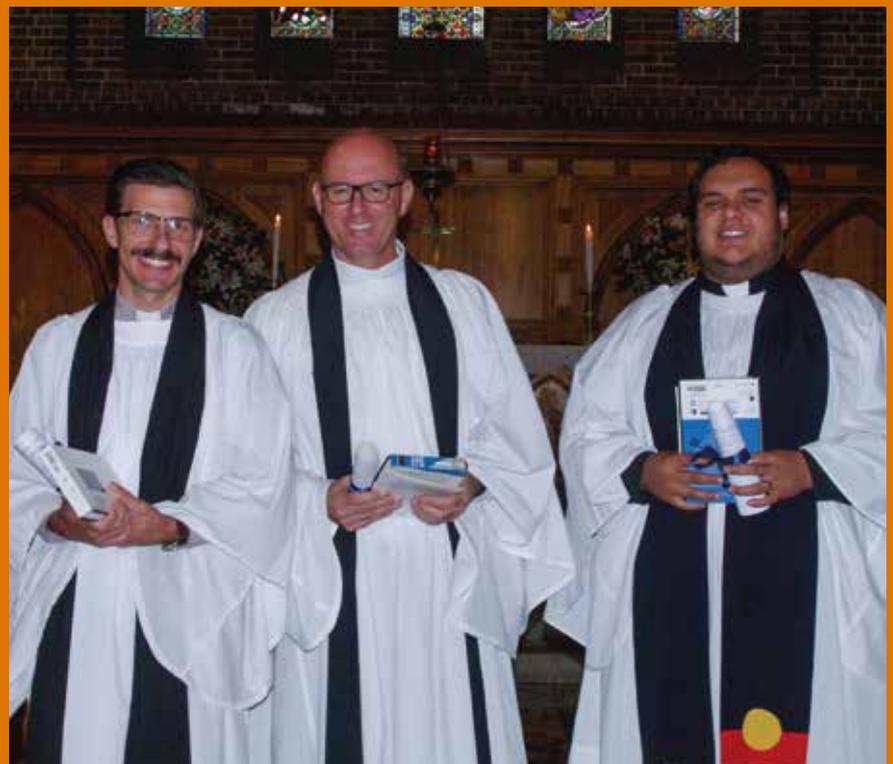
Prayer coordinator for the Diocesan Mission, The Reverend Tory Cayzer has asked us to pray for these things.

- That all around our Diocese in all parishes there would be a growing heart for the lost.
- That this year we would all be encouraged and equipped for evangelism.
- That Stephen Abbott's *Everyday Evangelism* seminars (19 Aug - 8 Sept 2019) would be faithfully prepared, delivered, and attended.
- That many would turn to Jesus in repentance and faith.

This is our DIOCESAN MISSION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please be at work in our Diocese opening many hearts to the gospel and using us to shine as a light for you, that many would be drawn to Jesus in repentance and faith, and become established among His people. Please compel us with Christ's love, strengthen us in our prayer and witness, give us courage to speak, and faithfulness to persevere. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Ordination 2019



This year's ordination service in late February saw The Reverends Neil Lane, Steve Cimarosti and Nathaniel Naden welcomed into the Diocese as ordained ministers. We will catch up with their new roles in further editions of *The Link* throughout the year.



Can Our Plenty Supply Their Need?

Sharon and students.

Sharon Kirk

FEW OF US WOULD QUESTION THE VALUE OF CHRISTIAN books and theological resources, would we? While the Bible is *the* word of God, for many of us, our Christian knowledge and growth have been significantly enhanced by the written works of godly scholars and saints from times past to the present day.

Here in Australia we often boast bookshelves littered with the works of these saints and scholars. And if we have accessed any theological education during our lifetime, we may have enjoyed the added bonus of well-stocked theological libraries and abundant online resources. This is not the case for our brothers and sisters in North Kigezi.

Canon Ndimbirwe Bible College (CNBC) is the theological training centre for the Diocese of North Kigezi, currently preparing 50-70 students each year to serve in lay leadership and ordained ministry within the diocese. A walk around its library however, soon reveals its desperate need for resources – no computers, no continuous power supply, empty walls, and only a handful of tables and chairs. Of the few books on the even fewer bookshelves, many are outdated, while others are discarded school textbooks on literature and arithmetic! Such a lack of resources limits the capacity of the college to train beyond its current level of an unaccredited certificate. Principal Shadrack is undaunted by the limitations though, continuing to hold out hope that CNBC can become a centre of theological excellence, strategically located to ‘train students from all over East Africa’. The potential is enormous, but the need is great.

The apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthian Christians to be generous in giving to the needs of their Jerusalem brethren in 2 Cor 8:14: ‘At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality’. As we think about the needs of CNBC, perhaps we can ask ourselves a similar question: ‘Can our plenty supply their need?’

The Diocesan Committee for the partnership between the Armidale and North Kigezi Dioceses is asking this very question. We are currently exploring ways of supporting the development of CNBC, as we prepare for the future missionary service of Andrew and Margie Newman at the Bible College.

Recently we spoke to Rev Brian Muhereza about the potential growth and development of CNBC. Brian is currently completing his Master of Divinity degree, following which he will be appointed to a teaching position at the college. He shares Principal Shadrack’s vision, desiring to see ‘pastors that are fully pastors’, thoroughly trained in holistic pastoral ministry, so that ‘the world would know Jesus and understand the Bible in its fullness as a whole story’. He sees the development of the library as integral to the growth and development of the college.

When asked how the Armidale Diocese could support this development, he encouraged us in generosity: ‘If you can give us some resources in terms of maybe a computer, or you can give a donation that can help us have such, or you have a book or a number of books that you feel you can give out for the good of us, you will have done a good missionary work in Canon Ndimbirwe Bible College, you will have done a great work in the East African community’.

Can our plenty supply their need? We hope and pray so! The diocesan committee would like to invite you to donate towards the ‘North Kigezi Library Project’. If you have (new or used) books, finances, or even computers that you would like to share, please contact Simon Carter (0419220072) or me (0488192437). We would also really value your prayers for God’s direction and provision through this exciting project.



The bookshelves need to be filled to help a new generation of Ugandans.



Calrossy turns 100

Courtney Coe (Head of Boarding), Isabella Fisher (Class of 2018) and David Smith (Principal) look happy to be celebrating.

Byline

SO MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED AT CALROSSY ANGLICAN School since Canon Rupert Fairbrother placed a notice in the Northern Daily Leader on the 7th December 1918 calling for Boarding and Day enrolments for a soon to be established school. In 1919 the Tamworth Church of England Girls School commenced in the hall of St. Johns Tamworth. Since that time Calrossy has survived and flourished, responding to the ongoing generous encouragement of the community, locally and across the length and breadth of New South Wales. The support of many families over the last 100 years has created ongoing impetus for the school to provide quality Christian education for generations of girls and (more lately) boys.

Calrossy Principal David Smith is a strong advocate for the importance of a holistic education and believes that Christian schools must focus on the development of character and the world-view that students carry into life. Whilst academic growth is important, there is so much more to an education, including learning the impact that the Christian faith has had on the development of Western society. He was impressed in the message that John Anderson shared at the recent Men@Glen conference, contending that what our society needs is an historical focus on the Biblical values that have shaped our national story. He also emphasised the importance of personal character and integrity.

It is no accident that Calrossy has as its core values integrity,

selflessness, inclusiveness and resilience. These virtues are informed by scripture and are the pillars that underpin education provided by Calrossy and lived out in its community. Supporting each student in holistic growth is our chaplaincy team, led by the Reverend Stephen Price, which is caring for and fostering the spiritual and wellbeing needs for the students. Asking the big questions of life, meaning and character are integral to the academic programme supported within the school.

In 2019 we celebrate 100 years of education in Tamworth including a Centenary of Boarding. Throughout the course of this year we are connecting with the Calrossy Community and have already started the Principal's Regional Tours of February, March and October. Other events and celebrations are planned throughout the region to meet with families, current, past and prospective.

In February the first tour took place across the North West, visiting Narrabri, Moree, Wee Waa, Walgett, Coonamble, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Coolah and Coonabarabran. We saw first-hand how the hardships of the drought are impacting these communities and we continue pray to our good God for plentiful rain across the region.

In every school, but especially those with Boarders, the adults, and their relationships with students are pivotal. At Calrossy, the specialist Boarding staff are aware of the importance of supporting the students to feeling at home on site and creating a community

that enhances their academic, social, emotional and spiritual growth. They provide an important link between the school, the students and their families. During the recent North West tour, Head of Boarding Mrs. Courtney Coe said, "One of the special things about Calrossy Boarding is that the families are encouraged to be involved in their child's school journey. We support our boarders to play an active role in the community through service and to access the myriad of opportunities available to them as resident students." The emphasis on service and active involvement in helping others is something that has been a very important feature of Calrossy throughout its history, one that Mr Smith wishes to retain and foster. It is more than raising money and has a focus on 'head, heart and hands'.

Calrossy has seen significant growth over the last 25 years with the amalgamation of the William Cowper schools, including the reintroduction of Primary and addition of Secondary boys, day and boarding. The school has adopted a unique Diamond Model. Education consisting of co-educational Primary classes, separated classes of boys and girls in junior high school and co-educational learning in in the final years. This model supports best learning at each specific stage, allowing students to develop their own personal identity, to know and be known and equipping them for the life in the world beyond school. Much recent research indicates that this model provides students with the best of both worlds.

Our approach to school life is underpinned by a Christian worldview that is a cornerstone to the education and growth of the children entrusted into our care from Pre-School to Year 12. The school seeks to ensure that knowledge of God is complemented by active service and involvement in helping others. Calrossy has been blessed with staff who are dedicated and prepared to assist each student to reach their full potential, in every aspect of life.

We enjoyed a successful commencement to our Century of education with a service and whole-school Centenary assembly. Bishop Rick Lewers spoke on the purpose of Christian schooling in pointing students to the truth of living for Jesus. Past Principal Peter Smart reminded us of the need to ensure that our faith is lived out in a personal and caring manner, reflecting God's love to others. A highlight of the early celebrations was the unearthing of a time capsule from 1989, providing all sorts of information from the past.

The next stage of our Centenary is the alumni reunion weekend, in which past students are invited to link back with the school and celebrate this significant milestone of 100 years. We encourage all our Calrossy Community of alumni, past staff and Board Members to make contact. The Back to Calrossy Centenary Weekend is over 26-28



A special moment in the celebrations, three school captains, Lachlan Mills (2010), Doreen Lane nee Woolaston 1937) and Felicity Jagavkar (1989).

April when will give thanks for our history, celebrate the present and look to the future of Calrossy Anglican School. Many activities are planned including the display of the time capsule.

As God has blessed us greatly as a school, our prayer is that we will continue to be a blessing to our students, the region and beyond. May we continue to reflect God's generosity, supporting our families in providing holistic education.

If you want to know more about the school, or this celebratory year, please contact us on:

Calrossy Anglican School
 140 Brisbane St | PO Box 1245 | TAMWORTH NSW 2340
 CRICOS Provider No.: 02316G
 P +61 2 5776 5100
 E: admin@calrossy.nsw.edu.au
 W: http://www.calrossy.nsw.edu.au



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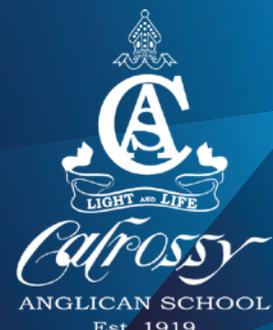
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Questions and answers

Tim Stevens

“QUESTIONS, SO MANY QUESTIONS!” REMARKED THE NEW, confused, Youth Minister, as he began his first ministry posting after Bible college. The youth minister in question might also be the writer of this article, but let’s not let the truth get in the way of a good story.

In my years of ministering to young people, questions have been one constant feature. Young people are full of them, and in the context of a healthy youth ministry, they are a beautiful reminder from God that He is growing them into mature followers of Christ. That as they set-up their lives and grow in Christian maturity, they want to be informed by and live according to God’s wisdom. After all, God created all things, which means that He must know how they work best.

Coming back to questions though, one area which often needs attention with young people is friendship. These usually come in the form of “Where can I find good ones?”, & “How can I be a good one?”. If you were looking for some instruction on what it means to be a good

friend, where would you turn? Instantly my mind turns to the Toy Story classic ‘*You’ve got a friend in me*’. But the problem is that while it sounds nice, when you look at the lyrics they’re short on the details.

Wanting to dig a little deeper, thankfully, and surprisingly for many young people, the Bible is filled with practical wisdom for many areas of life - including friendship. But what does it say? Well, here’s a quick tour.

In summary, the Bible tells us that friends are essential, but that we need to be careful because we often become like our friends, for better or worse. But what are the qualities of wise friendship? What does it look like in practice? Well, thankfully the Bible helps us there too.

Firstly, we learn that wise friendships are forgiving ones. Proverbs 17:9 has the sobering message that “*Whoever would foster love covers over an offence, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.*”

Secondly, wise friendships are faithful ones. Proverbs 25:19 reminds

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us of this through the memorable line *“Like a broken tooth, or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.”*

Thirdly, wise friendships are always honest. Which is a challenge in the age of affirmation because opposite message comes from Proverbs 27:5-6, which tells us that *“Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.”*

Finally, wise friends help each other find their strength in God. In the old testament, David and Johnathan were the best of friends, which during Saul’s mission to kill David was especially meaningful because 1 Samuel 23:16 tells us that *“... Saul’s son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him to find strength in God.”* Later in 2 Samuel 1:26, David tells us that this strengthening caused Jonathan to become a closer friend than any of David’s romantic relationships.

Now looking at that list, and thinking about the practical implications of each area could leave you feeling intimidated. But for the Christian,

we have the best model to follow in friendship, and His name is Jesus. Who tells us in John 15:13 that *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*

Jesus gave His life for us, and in doing so, He helps us to keep giving ourselves in the service of others. I hope you can see how the Bible offers us a much better model than ‘You’ve got a friend in me’.

Which brings us back to questions. Recognising that young people have questions, this year at Youth Muster we spent the weekend in the book of Proverbs as we *“Connect the dots in the Christian life”*. Over the weekend we thought more about friendship and speaking wisely, getting God’s wisdom for relationships, and reflecting on how we can live wisely for the rest of our lives.

Later in the year is our FUEL leaders weekend, where we will be preparing our Youth Leaders for the 2020 year of evangelism with three speakers, Jim Ramsay, Rick Lewers, and Emma Little. Then



Going to where the people (and the cattle) are

Church on the stock route.

Ben France
Vicar of Walcha

WITH THE CURRENT DROUGHT CONTINUING TO PUT A strain on feed for livestock throughout our region, many farmers are needing to put their sheep and cattle out on the roadside to graze.

With this being the reality for some of the parishioners of the Niangala Church congregation (Walcha Parish) it was decided in March to hold the usual monthly service on the side of the travelling stock route.

The rest of the congregation, along with a few visitors travelled out to join those supervising their cattle, with 13 adults, 3 children and a dog being present for the time of fellowship.

Sitting around on an assortment of camping and plastic chairs, with the use of a Bluetooth speaker, we were able to have our service as normal, singing, reading the Bible together, having a time of sharing about what God has been teaching us as well as the usual sermon and communion.

There was a slight issue of ants crawling on the computer being used for music, but no cows interrupted us. After the service we shared a barbeque dinner together and continued our fellowship until it was

time to bring the cows in for the night.

It was a great initiative from the members of the congregation themselves and shows their desire to adapt in order to seek to not stop meeting together, but instead encouraging each other, especially at a time like this. It was a testimony also to other locals driving past us as we met together visibly as the members of the church in this small community and may be a less confronting setting for them to be invited to join us in the future.

People tell us that having your livestock on the road can be a very isolating and tiring experience, but to be able to include people who are going through this, rather than having them left out, was a real joy for everyone involved. We were able to share our lives and our faith together under the gumtrees, sit with each other in the circumstances of life and spur one another on in faith.

The plan is to have the service in the same place next month, as long as the cattle haven't eaten too much grass and are still allowed to be there!

Hope when all seems dry



Helping out on Warrabah station.

OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS, THE ARMIDALE DIOCESE HAS been partnering with Anglican Aid and other donors to support those affected by the drought. To this point over \$134,000 has been distributed, and as the drought continues to drag on, applications continue to come in. But it's not always easy for those on the land to accept a helping hand.

'Trevor', one of those we have been able to help, comments:

Just writing to give you a very sincere thank you for the perfectly timed drought relief payment. That covers this month's Norco feed bill and to be honest, I wasn't sure where I was going to get the money from to pay it myself. In terms of this drought, I'm sure it's the worst I have seen it around here in my lifetime. Dry seasons and droughts are certainly part of the game and we do our best to prepare but this one is something else, especially considering how hard and expensive feed is to source at the moment.

Up until this point I have been battling away as best I can and it has been a struggle lately. I hadn't considered any form of assistance until mum contacted me about this. I will admit I was initially very reluctant to accept it. Others are worse off and others need it more etc. And, of course, any bloke-especially farmers-aren't good at accepting help at the best of times! For me I thought I would accept it for the sake of my stock - feels better to me that way. I hope you can find others who need and will accept your help as I have. It has made this month a lot easier for me, I can assure you! Again, thank you very, very much!

If you, or someone you know, needs some assistance to help get through this drought, please contact your local Anglican church.

Recharge at Autumn Encounter

Nick Stone

CMS Queensland with Northern New South Wales
Northern NSW representative

GOD'S PROMISE IS TO BLESS THE NATIONS. WHAT DO GOD'S eternal promises mean today? How are we part of his blessing?

Join us at CMS Autumn Encounter Friday 12 April – Saturday 13 April in Tamworth as we unpack these promises and what they mean for us today.

Autumn Encounter is a great opportunity to recharge before Easter and gives us the opportunity to encounter God through His word and His mission throughout the world.

We will be meeting at Calrossy Anglican School where our speaker for this year will be Andrew Lubbock, who will lead us through Genesis 12-17. Currently Andrew serves as the Senior Minister at Arundel Presbyterian Church on the Gold Coast following many years serving in Italy as a CMS Missionary.

We're also excited to hear from missionaries-in-training, Andrew and Margie Newman who are currently training at St Andrew's Hall as they prepare to serve in Uganda.

God's mission and promises aren't just for adults. Children and youth (12 months to Year 12) will have their own program where they'll learn about God's mission in His world and where they fit, while also having lots of fun.

Following the day program on Saturday, we'll be kicking off Autumn Encounter Plus. This is a new component of the program, where you can stay for a relaxed BBQ dinner and join us for church on Sunday morning at St John's Anglican Church where CMS QNNSW General Secretary, Mark Fairhurst, will be preaching.

Registrations are now open. For more information email qld@cms.org.au or call 07 3171 3020.

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019

CMS
AUTUMN ENCOUNTER 2019

*Blessing
all the
nations*

Genesis 12-17

12-13 APRIL
Calrossy Anglican School
Tamworth



To Uganda, love Armidale

Joe Goldsworthy

IT IS 6PM ON NEW YEAR'S EVE AND while many Australians are preparing for the celebrations later in the night, a group of 14 people from the Armidale Diocese are meeting at Sydney's International Terminal preparing to fly to Uganda. Suitcases are opened as Geoff Hearne and Sharon Kirk look for any spare capacity to fit Bibles and theological books.

The partnership between Armidale Diocese and the Diocese of North Kigezi (NKD) in Uganda has been in operation for 15 years with the purpose to "equip, encourage and support Gospel workers in North Kigezi in their efforts to make 'Disciple-making Disciples of Christ'". The NextGen Conference in Uganda is integral to that outcome with the specific aim of helping youth involved in Christian leadership further develop their skills in understanding and teaching God's word. It is the ninth of such conferences.

In preparation, training days have been completed, injections endured and visas and passports are ready. Initial concerns about funding for the Uganda conference

delegates have been eased by a late surge in giving from throughout the Diocese. God is good! Nevertheless, there is still a degree of apprehension evident as the majority of the group are inexperienced in regard to the Ugandan culture and we all face the prospect of working together in a new and unfamiliar environment over the coming days. It is a diverse group with team members coming from Armidale, Gunnedah, Lightning Ridge, Tamworth and Uralla.

The first few days were orientation that involved meeting the Ugandan Committee and the rest of the North Kigezi team in preparation for the commencement of the conference on Sunday. Sunday morning saw the team split into smaller groups to visit churches in the Diocese, with one team member at each church giving the message while another gave his or her testimony. Some of the team members were already showing off their language skills much to the delight of the locals. The hospitality was overwhelming. Our gift of a diocesan tea towel seemed quite inadequate but is warmly received.

In the afternoon the delegates start arriving at the conference centre. Each delegate received a bag with their booklets and pens and those attending for the first time were given a Bible. It was encouraging to see that we were soon superfluous in the registration process. The locals had it under control.

Our attention was soon captivated by trucks arriving piled dangerously high with thin mattresses that were needed for the 200 plus delegates. The mattresses were quickly dispersed and it was time to get on the school bus to go back for dinner at our accommodation before the Conference began.

As we got off the bus on our return to the Conference Centre the sound of the singing could be heard. It is impossible to describe the sound but to say the dining room was 'rocking' with praise to God would be an injustice. I only wish I had videoed the singing that night! The format for the services for the rest of the week was clear: singing, an ice breaker (often highlighting our inability to walk with a Bible balanced on our heads), a testimony, prayer, a Bible reading and a message. In the morning the message was given by one of the Ugandan clergy and in the evening by one of our Armidale clergy.

Monday morning saw the delegates divided into strand groups, Ugandan style, with some groups of 40 plus initially while others had only ten. Eventually some redistribution occurred but there still quite a variance in group size. Delegates are enrolled in Strand One or Strand Two. Each delegate must complete their strand twice before they can proceed to the higher level. Those who are identified as more capable after completing Strand Two are the given the opportunity to become trainee leaders assisting the group leaders.

The NextGen model of 'Pray, Read, Reread, Content and Context, the Big Idea, Implication



The conference attendees.

and the Package' becomes the means by which the delegates are looking to understand God's word better. The morning group sessions were the source of much discussion amongst the Armidale team members. The first few days were a mixture of concern about each group's progress, the variation of ability within each group and the Ugandans' understanding of the Australian accent.

The week soon disappeared. Relationships were just beginning to be established and conversations beginning. Some of the students were really understanding how the model could be applied. God willing, less of our team will be required in the future. The conference ended on the Friday afternoon. The delegates received their certificates and they began to disappear along with all the mattresses.

The team had a day off on Saturday, church services on Sunday, dinner with the Ugandan team on Sunday night at the Bishop's residence and departure on Monday morning.

God has been good. There is so much to give thanks for, the generosity and support both financially and through prayer from our diocese, the safety and well-being of the



This is Uganda!

team, the teamwork and friendship that has developed, the quality of the Bible teaching received, the wise leadership of those entrusted with the responsibility of leading and the response from the delegates at the conference.

There is however much ongoing prayer needed. Pray that the delegates stay strong in their faith wherever they are, for the leadership of the North Kigezi Diocese and their church as there are many issues and challenges facing them, for the future direction of our partnership and for Andrew and Margie Newman as they prepare to go to the Bible College in Rukungiri at the end of this year. The college is lacking in resources, as the empty bookshelves show. But God is good, and will supply the needs of our friends in Uganda.

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to university with his distinctive driving style. We've heard it was quite a bonding experience for all involved. After University, Dad worked and travelled overseas including six months working near London with an animal feed agency. He went on agricultural tours to Texas and Argentina, and managed his father's property near Inverell.

In his late 20's he enrolled in a two-year course at Sydney Missionary and Bible College. Dad thoroughly enjoyed his time there and was appointed head boy in 1979. There he even managed to work in some horticulture - by pruning the many campus roses. Following his time at SMBC, Dad worked for two years with Scripture Union in York St., Sydney, as their Bible Reading Coordinator.

Dad met Mum, Wendy Booth, one Sunday in May 1983 when he was a visiting preacher for Scripture Union at an Anglican church in Berry, where she was running a Scripture Union bookstall. Just to get the chance to see her again, Dad drove a single forgotten bag of turnips three hours to her house in the Blue Mountains. They had many shared interests, so sharing their lives together was the next step. Mum says she has been wonderfully loved and cared for by this constant, trustworthy, godly man and has much to be thankful for. They married in March 1984 and continued living at "Rosedale" where their first child Jennifer was born in 1986. They then bought "Chevy Chase", a farm at Spring Ridge, south of Gunnedah, and made the big move north in 1988. Their second child Benjamin was born in 1989. Mum and Dad farmed cattle and crops, later moving into wool production, breeding merinos.

During this time they were members of St Albans Anglican Church Quirindi. Dad served on parish council and through lay ministry at Quirindi and many smaller churches around the parish. We have fond memories of accompanying Dad to these services. He was also involved in the Anglican Diocese of Armidale at this time. Often drawn into leading organisations he was involved with,

Dad was asked to join the board of what was then Calrossy Anglican Girl's School, not long after Jen started as a weekly boarder there. He eventually became chairman of the school board.

Dad sacrificed much for our family, as did Mum, including living apart for many years from Monday to Friday, while Ben went to high school in Tamworth and Mum worked at the Tamworth library. This would have been a lonely time for Dad however, as usual, he didn't dwell on the negatives of a situation but accepted things and got on with life, enjoying it and focusing on the positives. It is qualities like this in Dad's character we draw strength from now.

Dad then decided on a career change, accepting the position as Vicar of Nundle which meant being ordained as an Anglican minister in 2011 and selling the family farm to move to Nundle in 2012. He took to this role eagerly as his love of God, people and small country towns was combined. Dad enjoyed the many responsibilities this ministry brought, amongst which were preaching at Nundle and other churches within the parish. He and Mum bought and renovated Oakenville Creek Cottage and ran a number of cattle, some horses and chooks on their place.

To really belong in a small community you need to be involved and Dad certainly was. From joining the SES as a member of Community First Response, becoming part of Lions where he served as President and Secretary, to his Saturday morning visits to the craft shop to pick up a lemon meringue pie, he immersed himself in this new phase of life. He made many friends by his caring manner and love of a chat and will be sorely missed around the village.

We are thankful that Dad was able to enjoy the things he loved right up until the end of his life. It is a consolation to me that he is at peace now with God his heavenly Father. Dad has been a valuable influence in a lot of people's lives and we have heard from many how they treasured his friendship and guidance. I know he would be chuffed and very thankful for the

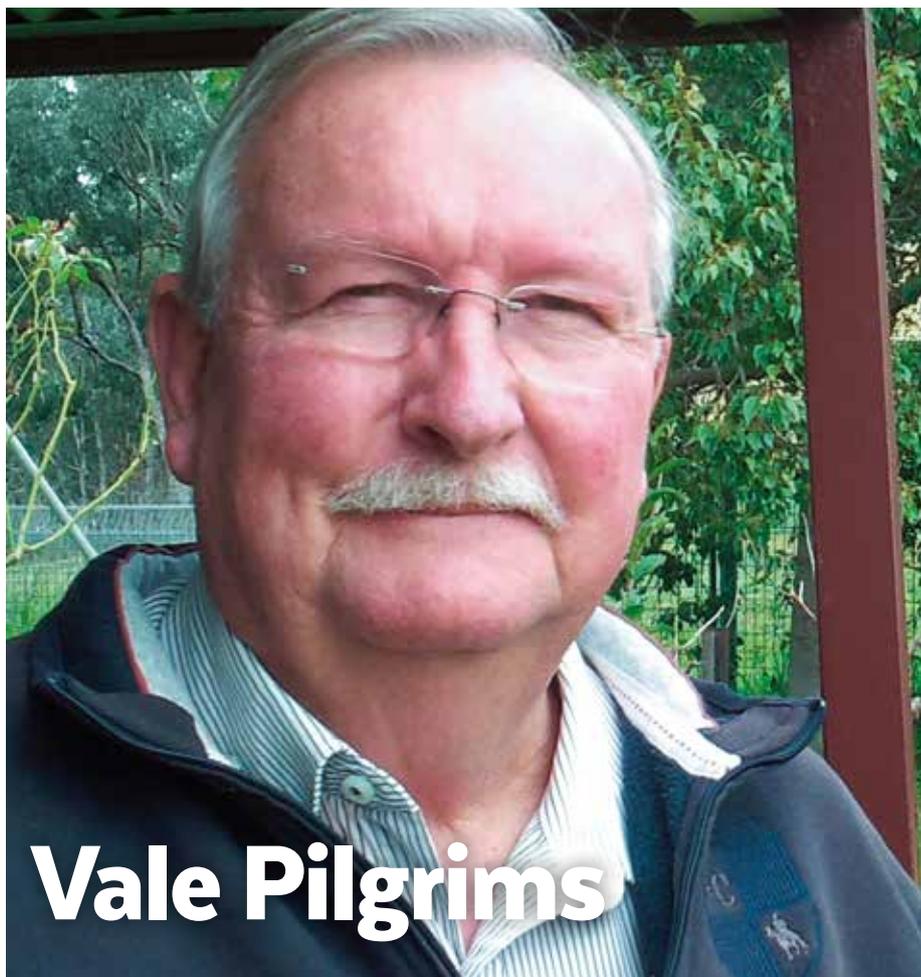


Stephen's desire to see children respond to the gospel worked itself out even in Monopoly games.



“...there’s no discouragement shall make him once relent his first avowed intent to be a pilgrim...”

John Bunyan



THE death of a friend is hard to bear. The Diocese of Armidale has had to face the deaths of two friends in recent months. The Reverend Bill Howarth (2 July 1932 – 16 Feb 2019) former chaplain at The Armidale School 1975 to 1995, and the Reverend Steven Millar, Vicar of Nundle. Instead of our usual Pilgrim page, we are grateful to Steven’s family, and in particular his wife Wendy and children Jennifer and Ben, for their permission to re-produce a portion of eulogy which they gave at his funeral.

About

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Anglican Diocese of Armidale
PO Box 198 Armidale 2350
T: 02 6772 4491 F: 02 6772 9261
www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com

Editor: Robyn Powell
E: robyn@redropewriting.com

Art direction and assistance from
Stephen Mason and Anglican Media Sydney.

BORN ON THE 12TH JUNE 1950, STEPHEN Morrison Millar was the first child of Fred and Elsie Millar, and the elder brother of James, Peter and Margaret.

In 1955 Dad began his education at Trinity Grammar School, which he attended from kindergarten until year twelve, completing the first ever Higher School Certificate in 1967. He enjoyed school and was a friendly face to many, making some lifelong friends in the process. Dad played rugby, and was sent to Scouts and Sunday school, and in his early high school years became involved in the Christian youth organisation Crusaders with some close school friends. As well as providing lots of fun activities, these meetings opened up God’s word to Dad, and his continued involvement challenged him to maintain his commitment to Christ.

Dad had a natural ability to lead; post-school he led a Saturday night Crusader meeting at his house in Homebush, and was involved in their camps, including sailing camps at Lake Macquarie each summer. He had stories

of desperately rowing a large wooden boat against a storm on Lake Macquarie with a boat full of young campers. For many years, during university and his early working life, Dad was also involved in Scripture Union Beach Missions held over the Christmas/New Year holidays at North Haven, just south of Port Macquarie. He met people during this time that would continue to influence his life for years to come.

Dad had a great interest in living things; plant or animal, which may have been sparked by his father’s interest in breeding chooks, budgerigars and orchids. Dad’s farming pursuits started when he was just a boy - with his own bindii eradication program in the family’s backyard. Dad then went on to complete a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at Sydney University, where he made other lifelong friendships through his course and Christian involvement. During this time he would pick up many friends in his distinctive Morris 1100, taking them all

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