

# The Corner Post



A.D. 22 January 2012  
www.cornerstonehobart.org

Weekly Bulletin for Cornerstone Presbyterian Church  
Phone 6234 6334

Cornerstone is part of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and supports the Vision 100 movement, [www.vision100.org](http://www.vision100.org)

## Welcome to Cornerstone!

Today we get a powerful insight into the heart and mind of Paul, as he describes his prayers for them, and his longing to see them.

Don't forget that to get the most out of this series read through Romans repeatedly, join a weekly Bible study, and follow along with a commentary by either John Stott or F.F. Bruce (in the bookstall). If you prayerfully immerse yourself in Romans, you will find it life-changing.

**Romans 1:8-15** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. <sup>9</sup> God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you <sup>10</sup> in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. <sup>11</sup> I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong-- <sup>12</sup> that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. <sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. <sup>14</sup> I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. <sup>15</sup> That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.

Cornerstone's sermons can be downloaded at [www.cornerstonehobart.org](http://www.cornerstonehobart.org)

## Cornerstone Contacts

**Pastor** Campbell Markham  
0404 456 962  
**Elders** Simon Boonstra 6267 1113  
Steve Fair 6228 1960 6229 9579  
Des Richardson 6267 2889  
(Meeting the last Friday of each month)  
**Life & Family Advocates** Martin & Penny Webb 0438 449544  
**Music** Nathaniel Richardson 0419 962 473  
**Admin** Alison Richardson 6267 2804  
**Treasurer** Libby Dilger 0448 554845  
**Bookstall** John Jansen 6223 3330  
**Church Office** 123 Bathurst Street, Hobart  
phone 6234 6334



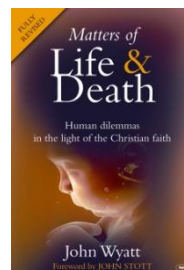
Paul set out on his missionary journeys from his headquarters in Antioch (right). He wrote to the Christians in Rome (left) from Corinth (centre) in 57AD. Jerusalem is marked out to the lower right.

## Cornerstone Summer Seminar Medical Ethics for the Beginning and End of Life

The New Town Bible Study group is hosting this 3 week summer series for all the church and interested people before small groups start.

Chong Ong is a doctor in our church with a strong interest in medical ethics. He will lead us in helping gain an understanding of a biblical framework and the technology used in this complex and sometimes grey area. It will assist us to think through the issues we or someone we know may face. It will be a combination of talks and group interaction.

**Thursday 2, 9, and 16  
February 2012 7.30 -  
9.00 pm at the Philip  
Smith Centre.**



Contact Aaron Johnstone 0404 917  
418 [ajayus60@hotmail.com](mailto:ajayus60@hotmail.com)

## TASpy Summer Camp January 26-29

**THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE  
UGLY, & AND THE GOOD**



**Guest speaker Ian Partridge**

**REGOS DUE NOW!**

Phone Kiri and Nick Rabe  
0418 767 135  
[kirirabe@gmail.com](mailto:kirirabe@gmail.com)

## Andrea and Phil's Wedding

1pm, 3rd March, Runnymede Gardens,  
61 Bay Road, New Town.  
(If you are able to bring biscuits or a  
slice for all to enjoy for afternoon tea  
following the ceremony Andrea and Phil  
would be very grateful!)

## Preachers' Workshop

The 2012 Preachers' Workshop will  
be held on the first Sunday of each  
month from 1.30-3.00pm, starting on  
February 5th. The year long course will  
be run by Des Smith and held at the  
Kingston Reformed Church, 17  
Denison Street.

Please RSVP to Des  
at [des.smith@crckingston.org.au](mailto:des.smith@crckingston.org.au) by  
February 1st.

# Bible Study Groups

In recess over January.



## Tuesday Ladies' Group

1-3pm with Amanda Bartle, 39 Schouten Way, Warrane. 6244 4051

## Tuesday Night in New Town

7.30pm with Steve and Karen Fair, meeting at the Van Emmeriks', 10 Archer Street. 6228 1960

## Tuesday Night in Blackmans Bay

7.30pm with Ian and Kym Headley, 6 Tanina Mews. 6229 1345.

## Tuesday Night in Warrane

7.30pm with Doug and Natalie McKinnon at the Webbs', 209 Bligh Street, Warrane. 0438 288 452.

## Wednesday Night in Margate

7.30pm with Simon Boonstra, meeting at the Boonstra's, 295 Nierinna Rd, Margate. 6267 1113

## Wednesday Night in Warrane

7.30pm at David and Anna Gee's, 12a High Street, Bellerive. 6244 3208.

## Thursday at Calvin Christian School

1.30pm with Paul and Heather Hutchens, for students and staff. Phone 0424 141 349

## Friday Night Youth

7 - 8.30pm 123 Bathurst St, 0419 446 312

## With a Little Help From My Friends

By Michael Haykin



Our culture is not one that provides great encouragement for the nurture and development of deep, long-lasting, satisfying friendships. Such friendships take time and sacrifice, and the busy world of the early twenty-first century West, as a rule, is far more interested in receiving and possessing than sacrificing and giving.

What is especially disturbing is that western Christianity is little different from

its culture. In C. S. Lewis's remarkable little commentary on spiritual warfare written from the devil's vantage point, *The Screwtape Letters*, Lewis imagines one letter from a senior devil, Screwtape, to his nephew Wormwood in which Screwtape rejoices over the fact that "modern Christian writings" offer "few of the old warnings about Worldly Vanities, the Choice of Friends, and the Value of Time." Lewis may or may not be right about the scarcity of Christian literature in the twentieth-century about "Worldly Vanities" and "the Value of Time." He is undoubtedly correct when it comes to the topic of friendship.

How different in this respect is our world from that of the ancients, both pagan and Christian. In the ancient world friendship was deemed so vitally important that the pagan philosopher Plato devoted an entire book, the *Lysis*, as well as substantial portions of two other books, the *Phaedrus* and the *Symposium*, to discussing its nature. Aristotle, the other leading thinker of the classical Greek period, occupied two of the ten books in his major work on ethical issues, *Nicomachean Ethics*, with a discussion of friendship. For the ancient Greeks, friendship formed one of the highest ideals of human life. This was also true of the Romans.

### THE SCRIPTURES ON FRIENDSHIP

While two out of ten books of Scripture are not devoted to the concept of friendship, we do come across,

1. reflections on friendship like [Ecclesiastes 4:7-12](#);
2. marvellous illustrations of what friendship should be like, as with Ruth and Naomi or David and Jonathan;
3. and nuggets of advice about having friends and keeping them in that Old Testament compendium of wisdom, Proverbs. For example, "a friend loves at all times" ([Prov. 17:7](#)).

These texts leave the impression that the Bible regards friendship as a very important part of life. Sure enough, the Bible uses two consistent images in its representation of friendship.

The first is *the knitting of souls*. Deuteronomy provides the earliest mention of "a friend who is as your own soul" ([Deut. 13:6](#))—that is, a companion of

one's innermost thoughts and feelings, pointing to a concept of intimacy. This is well illustrated by Jonathan and David's friendship (for example, see [1 Sam. 18:1, 3-4](#)).<sup>[4]</sup> Here we see ideas of strong emotional attachment and loyalty.<sup>[5]</sup> Lazarus, Mary, Martha, and Jesus present a New Testament example of this kind of friendship in John 11 (see esp. [John 11:5, 11, 35-36](#)). In fact, "friend" naturally becomes another name for believers or brothers in the Lord (see [3 John 15](#)). The privileges and responsibilities of a biblical "soul mate," then, involve intimacy, loyalty, and a strong emotional attachment. Thus, it's only natural that Jesus would use the language of friendship to refer to our ultimate loyalties—and his ([John 15:13-15](#))! Are we friends with the world, or God ([James 2:23; 4:4](#))?

The second image that the Bible uses to represent friendship is *the face-to-face encounter*. This is the image used for Moses' relationship to God: in the tabernacle God spoke to Moses "face to face, as a man speaks to his friend" ([Exodus 33:11](#); see also [Numbers 12:8](#)). The face-to-face image implies a conversation, a sharing of confidences, and, consequently, a meeting of minds, goals, and direction. In the New Testament, the apostle John tells a church that he's tired of writing, but hopes to visit and talk "face to face, so that our joy may be complete" ([2 John 12](#)). One of the benefits of face-to-face encounters between friends is the heightened insight that such encounters produce. A proverb that highlights this idea is the famous one in [Proverbs 27:17](#): "Iron sharpens iron, and one friend sharpens another."

## Prayer Meetings

**1** [Thessalonians 5:17](#) Pray continually.



### 1) Before Church

9:15 – 9:45am upstairs before church

### 2) City Prayer on Wednesday

7.45 – 8.15am at the church office

### 3) Combined Churches Prayer

9.15 Tuesdays at the Church Office

### 4) Vision 100 Prayer Meeting

The next Vision 100 prayer meeting will be held at **1pm, Feb 16 at the Presbyterian Churches office** (123 Bathurst)