

## Focus on Today's News

A New Year is a fresh opportunity for a new beginning. As people who follow Jesus we can become stuck, lose passion or go off the boil in pursuing God. As a result, we sometimes need to reinvigorate our spiritual lives with the tools that God has provided for us. The tools are not a way to earn Gods approval but a way to learn about God.

People who wish to follow in the footsteps of Jesus must dedicate themselves fully to the task. The spiritual disciplines provide one way to grow and prepare for discipleship. The spiritual discipline of silence and solitude before God is a discipline that Jesus used.

As a society we are addicted to noise. We need noise. We've got to have noise! Silence is creepy, even frightening. Silence steals away the distractions of life which anesthetize us from the feeling that our lives are still empty. Noise helps us live on the banks of denial. Noise keeps us concentrated on something else-anything else!

Silence and solitude is the practice of being absent from other people and other things so that you can be present with God. In silence, we rest from our attempts to re-create the world in our image. We rest from arranging our relationships and manipulating people with our words. In silence, we are saying to God - I am here to be changed into whatever you like. In silence we learn to wait on the Lord.

Silence provides an opportunity to discover the amazing power of God's presence.

May you have times of silence and solitude before the Lord and rediscover his amazing grace.

—Stephen

### Today

### Next Sunday

**9:30am Combined Service**  
**SoulCare**  
**Praise and Communion**  
Stephen Cathcart  
Silence & journal Tool

**10:30am Morning Tea**

**12:30pm Korean Community**

**7:00pm Connect @ 7 (HALL)**  
Tina Phillips  
TBA

**9:30am Combined Service**  
**SoulCare**  
**Praise and Communion**  
Richard Oakes  
Fasting Tool

**10:30am Morning Tea**

**12:30pm Korean Community**

**7:00pm Connect @ 7 (HALL)**  
Stephen Cathcart  
Australia Day

#### MOWING ROSTER

14th February 2009  
Stephen Cathcart

#### Prayer Hotline

9487 3918

Hanna Dijkstra

All requests are kept  
confidential and treated  
with the greatest respect.

#### MINISTRY TEAM

Stephen Cathcart	Senior Minister	0419 460 487
Richard Oakes	Associate Minister	0434 104 555
John Park	Korean Minister	0425 833 510
Loida Dart	Chaplain	9440 3723
Tina Phillips	Youth Minister	0413 990 449
Louise Joyce	Office Administrator	9988 4688

#### Church Bulletin Information and Service Presentations

Deadline for all office requests are due by **Friday 9am**.  
Please contact the office on 9988 4688 or email Louise at  
office@northturramurrachurch.org.au  
Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 9am—5pm  
Web site: www.northturramurrachurch.org.au

18 January 2009

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North Turramurra

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# ACOM

## Australian College of Ministry

This is our Churches of Christ theological college that trains our congregations in service and understanding of the Bible. See the notice board for some of the subjects on offer this year. There are many different options for study ranging from Certificate 4 to part time diplomas to fulltime bachelors degree. If you are interested in hearing about the different options to study please join us at 5pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan at the church.

## White House Development 11:15am

This morning the elders along with the management team invite you to a meeting about the white house. This meeting will require you to do some walking, looking and thinking! The outline for the meeting is as follows:

- welcome and introduction
- why are we here?
- Tour of the white house
- Short history of the white house and why we are at this point
- Internal and external changes to the white house
- How are we paying for this?
- Reasons and promises
- Questions and comments

We have a unique opportunity with Nathan and Tina pursuing a short-term mission in China for 6 months and members of the management team having some spare moments.

We are now faced with a decision. Please make the time to come, hear, question and comment on the project proposed.

## Prayer and Praise



- Praise God for the people who have visited us over the Christmas /New Year period
- Pray for the leaders of groups and ministries to be refreshed during January
- Pray for Nathan and Tina, Kaiden and Micah as they prepare for 6 months short term mission in China beginning in February
- Pray for safety for the team going to China in 2009 and for God's direction
- Pray for the Oakes family as they go on holidays until 16<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Pray for Pastor John and Mi and the Korean community as they prepare to reach out to the local community

## Live, Learn, Love

*One way that we can encourage one another is through prayer. We want to pray for encouragement, protection, family relationships and God's blessing on these families this week...*

### This week please pray for:

MONDAY: Kris and Elizabeth VAN VEEN

TUESDAY: Graeme and Barbara VARCOE

WEDNESDAY: David, Sandra, Jessica, James and Daniel VERCO

THURSDAY: Jim and Wendy VERCO

FRIDAY: Eric and Lorna WADE

## Proverbs 2:3,5

*If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, then you will understand and fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.*

## **DIRECTLY**

There has been an increase in the number of people giving by direct debit. Giving by direct debit accounts for 40% of our weekly church giving. Many are finding that it provides the opportunity to give the first part of their income directly to the Lord before spending or withdrawing any money. If you would like to give your *offering* by direct debit please use the following bank details and arrange with your bank to begin the process of being a planned deliberate giver to God.

BSB 032188 A/C 132924

*“You are...infinitely dear to the Father,  
unspeakably precious to Him. You are never,  
not for one second, alone.”*

Norman Dowty

## **JESUS. ALL ABOUT LIFE**

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

The ‘Jesus. All about life’ (JAAL) campaign has already run in Adelaide, Canberra/ACT and Tasmania and will run in Western Australia in October/November, 2008 and Newcastle over Easter, 2009.

The JAAL campaign uses prime-time media to promote the theme that Jesus is ‘all about life.’ Local churches are key to the campaign’s success as they are the ‘delivery point’ of the gospel.

“The television campaign raises awareness of what Jesus said about life with the local Church and ‘quiet Christians’ sharing their faith with their work colleagues, family and friends,” said the campaign organiser Martin Johnson. “We’re delighted that Scripture Union are a part of the ‘delivery’ end of the campaign,” Martin said.

For further info please look at the website: [www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au](http://www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au)

## ***Fasting weekend***

On the weekend of the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Feb the ministry team invite you to share in a fast. This will be the first of 3 fasts in 2009. The aim of a fast is to focus on God. The pangs of hunger can serve as a reminder to focus our hearts on God. As we develop in this discipline, fasting will result:

- In an increasing spiritual sensitivity
- In being more "tuned in" to the Spirit's leading
- In being aware of our own inner condition
- In being aware of the needs of others
- In revealing the things that control us. Some of those things that control us we may need to fast in the future in order to break there chains over us.

In abstaining from food we discover an alternative source of strength. One reason for practicing spiritual disciplines is to eliminate the things that keep us from experiencing the fullness of life in God. Through this practice of fasting God can break our bondage to satisfying ourselves.

Next Sunday we will be talking about fasting and inviting you to share in the weekend events.



## ***Marriage***

*For better or for worse. This is the pamphlet in the focus this week. These have been given to the church for people to read about the importance of marriage and the role it plays in society and church.*