

# Chapel Monthly

October 2008



**Chapel** on  
the  
**Boulevard**




Join us for the

# Chapel Hour



Every Sunday morning at 9:30  
Song and word followed by a relaxed  
blend of music, food and coffee



**Chapel** on  
the  
**Boulevard**

## Chapel on the Boulevard

Cnr West Lakes Boulevard  
and Philips Crescent  
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[www.chapel.org.au](http://www.chapel.org.au)



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## OLYMPIC GOLD

By Andrew Ready



The olympic games have been an amazing spectacle recently. There are not many events that can command such a worldwide audience, and bring together people from so many countries for the same purpose.

Many people realise the modern olympics are a far cry from the ancient games of Greece. There are some fairly obvious differences; the ancient Greeks did not ride bicycles for example. Any combat events did not have the same safety measures and often were fought to the death. For all the 'noble' ways in which the ancient Greeks are portrayed, there was also a very depraved element to their society. A famous fighter was Arrichion of Phigaleia. He is one of the only people to ever win an olympic event whilst dead. The story goes that his opponent had him in a strangle hold in the Pankration, a wrestling based combat event. While blacking out from lack of oxygen Arrichion managed to break either his opponent's ankle or fingers, the account varies. His

opponent was in so much pain that he surrendered, however by the time the judge went to raise Arrichion's arm as the victor he had already died. His body was crowned with the olive wreath. His dead body then received a hero's welcome when it returned to his home town.

It is interesting to note the type of self-sacrifice that is glorified in our society. Recently there has been an ad on TV thanking all the families of athletes who for years have been up at the crack of dawn to get their kids to training. Many famous olympians will testify that they could never have achieved such great heights without the support of their families. Broadly speaking, we recognise people who have made sacrifices, and particularly value this when they have done so to strive for a sporting goal. I do find it a little funny, however, when I tell people my church is a half hour drive away from my house. They always look at me a little strangely. 'Oh', they say, 'That's a long way to

go!' Maybe they are right, but it is only once or twice a week, and sometimes I wonder what their reaction would be if I was making that drive every day to train with the Adelaide Crows instead. Rather than a bit 'over the top' I tend to think they would not think twice about the distance or the time given.

In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 the Bible compares our Christian walk to an athlete who works towards a goal. These verses make an important distinction, however. While olympic gold is an amazing achievement, it is still only a temporary prize. Four years later your glory can easily be snatched away. From 1900 to 1920, tug-of-war was an olympic event. I am sure those who won the tug-of-war were ecstatic with their achievement, and yet now this sport does not even feature at the games. The glory has not even lasted 100 years. Winning in any olympic event surely takes a lot of blood, sweat and tears.

We can admire all who have achieved such things, yet we must remember there is a prize we are to strive toward which is incorruptible, and lasts even beyond death. While Arrichion's body was buried with his crown, the crown itself was unable to pass beyond the grave to go with him.

These verses also say 'Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize?' Then later in the passage it says 'therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air'. Paul, the author, is drawing another distinction using the analogy of training. For every story of olympic glory there are many, many more of years of sacrifice that have only led to heartache and shattered dreams. What a joy it is to understand the difference; our walk with the Lord is a reality, not a dream we are chasing. The 'reward' is not just in the age to come, but knowing His life, His peace, and His joy here and now as well. ■

## MY IDEAS OF GOOD

By Janelle Hill



I love watching my children grow and develop – seeing them achieve new things and grow up to be a 'person.' My three year old is at the 'I do it' stage, which as many parents know, is an exciting and frustrating time. It is great to see them blossom into independence – able to put on their own shoes, choose their own pyjamas, manage the 'big slide' at the playground – but sometimes it is just plain frustrating. Trying to rush out the door while they get ready by themselves, or cleaning up the mess they made while 'helping' is part of being an 'I-do-it-parent.'



I remember dwelling on this one day and I imagined myself standing at the foot of the cross while Jesus hung there dying for my sin. I could see myself calling out to Him 'not yet Lord! You can't die for me now, I'm not good enough yet.' How often I want to be worthy of Him on my own merit and to find something of value and worth in me. But the Bible says that we are 'dead in our sin'. (Col 2:13) In the Psalms, David says of humankind 'there is none who does good'. (Psalm 14:1) No wonder I run out of energy when I try to be good – I am dead, unable to be or do good.

I was thinking about this in relation to my own walk with God. There are many times when I say to God 'No! I do it!' I want to 'do' parenting by myself, be good by myself, be a successful worker, friend and Christian by myself. There is something in me that wants to be measured as good and worthwhile. Of course, I am not alone in this. The theme of 'there is good in everybody if we look hard enough' resounds throughout Hollywood, the world and even Christendom.

My own experience is that I always run out of energy attempting to be and do good. In fact, trying hard to do the right thing leaves me feeling drained, frustrated, anxious and often very, very angry (especially if someone questions my 'good' choices).

Despite all of this, my testimony is that the Lord is faithful. The scripture says that 'while we were without strength, Christ died for us' (Rom 5:6). What a relief! Jesus isn't waiting for me to be good enough or strong enough. He is waiting for me to fall on His mercy. His wisdom, strength, refreshing, and healing have come to my life as I have let Him lead me instead of pursuing my own rightness and my own achievement. The 'good' or 'bad' choice is no longer the issue. Rather I want to know what the Lord has already determined for me to do. The book of Ephesians describes this beautifully. 'We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them' (Ephesians 2:10). ■





By David Hall

## HOW DOES FAITH COME?

'How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ... So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' Romans 10:14-17.

This verse teaches us that all faith comes from God. That is a big statement! It means that faith is not something that is naturally resident within us as human beings. No matter how hard we try we cannot, of ourselves, generate true faith. We must receive it – and that from God Himself. Then it becomes our accountability to exercise that faith, for God will not do our believing for us.

Because 'faith comes by hearing the word of God' we can only receive it when we are listening. Faith is packaged and delivered to us in the word that God speaks to us. So then, how do we hear this word? The answer is simple. It comes to us through the mouth of human messengers that He sends. Our verse above refers to them as 'preachers', but these can include anyone whom God sends to genuinely bring His word to us – spiritual parents, preachers, teachers and leaders amongst God's people.

While it is true that we should all read and study God's word in our private devotions, we still need this 'preacher' or 'messenger' element to deliver the word to us in the first place. We can see this principle in the early church where

God allowed persecution to scatter the Christians so that they went everywhere preaching the word. Acts 8:4 Jesus' own instruction to His disciples was, 'go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature'. Mark 16:15. Each of the seven churches of Asia was overseen by corporate leadership which Jesus Himself addressed as the 'messenger' of the church. Rev 1:20. (Greek 'aggelos')

It is clear, then, that one of the keys to finding faith is being properly related to God's messengers within the Body of Christ. We cannot afford to live in isolation – 'just me and God'. We must be able to hear a word outside of ourselves, outside of our own emotions, culture and predispositions. The word must come to us, not be generated from within us as if we are its source. Paul had to challenge the Corinthians by saying, 'What? Did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached?' 1 Cor 14:36.

When we live in isolation from this 'messenger' element, not only are we robbed of the living word which God sends via this channel, but we are vulnerable to being overpowered by our own self-assessments, self-justification, self-condemnation and anxiety. Even worse, we are open to oppression and ultimately to deception. By contrast, as we do live in full relationship within the body of Christ, then the miracle happens by which the seed of God's life is brought to us as a word coming from

God Himself. Then we can understand what Jesus meant when He said, 'man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God'. Mat 4:4

The initial word of the gospel spoken by the messenger is simply 'God loves you. He has planned for you to be one of His sons, and He is sending the seed of His life to you now, in this word.' When we hear that word and receive it in our hearts, our response is to say, 'Lord, I am so thankful for Your love. I believe Your word of love'. Our own self-condemnation may be shouting, 'I am a failure; I am hopeless'. But against this din of mind chatter, the word spoken to us can break through to illuminate us to

His love. We feel it shining upon us with the warmth of His care for us. Then we can say, 'I love you in return.' This is the first response of faith. It is inspired by God's love, and is met by our response of love.

We trust that reading the articles in this magazine will encourage you to be like the servant of Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who was reading the scriptures alone as he travelled home from Jerusalem in his chariot. Not understanding what he read, he invited Phillip, God's messenger, into his chariot to bring the word to him. This encounter enabled him to believe the gospel 'with all his heart'. Acts 8:37. Faith had indeed come. ■





By Carol Wollaston

## MOVING HOUSE

We are moving house and they tell us it is one of the most stressful events in a person's life.

The moment you make the decision, you become aware of all the little repair jobs you did not do over the years and all the collecting of junk you did do over the years! How to rationalize becomes the challenge and once you have pared right down, moving all that is left becomes a gigantic headache!

Then there is looking for the new place to call home. This can be exciting at first, but excitement can wane as frustrations arise over the inability to find

the one place with all the attributes you fancy. Then there are all the exorbitant costs. Someone said that Stamp Duty was to be cancelled out by G.S.T. Well, believe me, government fees are alive and well.

As a congregation we are thrilled to have purchased our Hendon building which we have called 'Chapel on the Boulevard'. The same frustrations and costs have applied to us, of course. But this is a wonderful venue for special events and we hope to host quite a few. (Keep watching this newsletter for upcoming events!) The church of course, is people, not just bricks and

mortar. It is the same as a family which can still be a loving and supportive unit regardless of its dwelling place. People are the church's greatest treasure and we can gather anywhere knowing that God's presence is with us. Since we have been at Hendon, we have had three baptisms at Tennyson Beach (because our baptismal tank is not yet installed). The Lord was just as present there on the sand as anywhere else, including our Chapel on the Boulevard. Paul reminded the Corinthians that they are God's building and each is being built on the firm foundation that is Christ Jesus. 'You are the temple of God and (His) Spirit dwells in you', he says.

Abraham gave up his permanent home to be a tent dweller. By faith, he believed that nomadic existence with God was better by far than an ungodly permanent home. He believed for a

city of God's people 'whose builder and maker is God'. He saw down through the ages to Christ Himself, the chief cornerstone of this eternal city made out of living stones.

A new house for me personally, means sacrifice as well as joy. The same applies for those who build in the Lord's house. Each person is being built, stone upon living stone for the encouragement of us all. God is building something of eternal character in each one who is prepared to lay down his or her own agendas to allow others to build. This is as much a challenge as taking out a mortgage and buying a house. Yet in the household of God, Jesus has already gone to prepare a place for those who believe in Him and we who are of His family can boast now and in the future that 'God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.' ■





A personal testimony from Bronwyn Osman

## A CALL TO MY LIFE

I lived my life without knowing God until I reached the age of 28 when something began to stir within me. I knew God had been good to me, but I did not know who this God was. I knew He had been watching over me over the past difficult years, and many a time I had cried out to God in desperation. So now that things were going well for me and my family I felt a responsibility to God, my husband and my children to find out the truth. Who is this God?

I knew there were many different Churches across the community. I thought how can this be? Surely there is only one God and one truth? I was determined to find out for myself. I remembered 'crying' out to God at my kitchen table, 'I want to know the truth. 'I believe there is a God. Who are You?'

God began to answer me through a Christian friend. Yes, I heard His voice calling me through her! I responded and so began my journey with the Lord. I started going to Church where I heard about the unity of the Body of Christ. It excited me to hear that there is one God, gathering His people together as one.

Since then God has brought me through many trials and taught me much about His way. Because He knows what He is doing I have a peace, a deep seated joy, and a love towards others. God is true and has a plan and purpose for my life, as He does for everyone. ■

## TIM'S GARDENING TIPS – TOOL MAINTENANCE



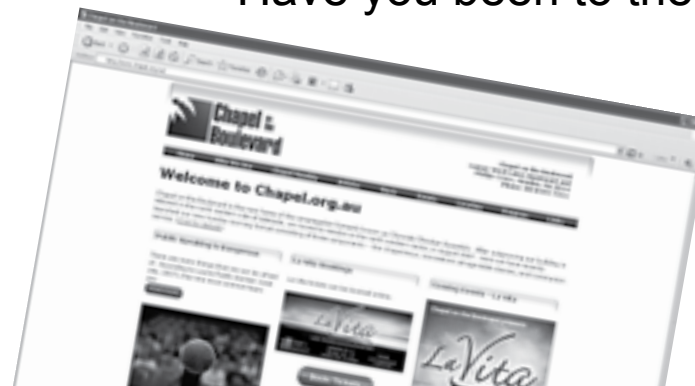
There is no inducement on these cold frosty mornings to get into the garden so why not go into the shed and do some equipment maintenance as this will help tools to last longer and perform better. Secateurs need oiling, sharpening and adjusting, spades need their cutting edge sharpened and wooden handles can be oiled with linseed oil. Lawnmowers need to be regularly serviced but at home you can clean oil filters, sharpen blades and check the oil in 4 stroke mowers and make sure it is not dirty.



Likewise our faith needs regular attention. The Bible encourages us not to give up worshipping and fellowshiping together. Also we need to daily read the Bible, (our maintenance manual!) and regularly pray (speak to the manufacturer)! I find people are very tardy in performing the smallest tasks in the workshop to maintain their tools. It is not a popular pastime. It can be the same with maintaining our faith. However any time spent with the Lord and hearing from God's messengers is time well spent and enables us to be victorious in difficult times and enriches our daily living. ■

### Have you been to the Chapel website?

[www.chapel.org.au](http://www.chapel.org.au)



You can read articles and download previous editions of the Chapel Monthly along with free music MP3s. You can also view the websites of associated fellowships around Australia.



# THE OVERSTATED METAPHOR

By David Baker

How do we advance in life? How do we see the blessing of the Lord poured out on our businesses, employment, families and relationships? Jesus gives us a key to answering these questions when He says, 'if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off' Matt 5:30. It is clear that Jesus did not intend this statement to be taken literally. We will call it an overstated metaphor. Jesus is teaching the principle, of removing everything that stops us from progressing and advancing in life. If we fail to remove these things which damage us, then they can and will destroy us. The second half of this verse reads, 'better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to go into hell'.

The fundamental of the gospel is not that Jesus died for me, but rather that 'we are being changed from one degree of glory to another' 2 Cor 3:18. Change does not come by osmosis. The only way we change is by embracing the 'overstated metaphor'. We know that we do not actually cut our hand off. The overstatement is bizarre enough to ignore its true meaning. However, we ignore it to our peril. We need to heed the point that Jesus is making, and cut off from ourselves everything that stops us from changing and moving forward in life. Our continued application to change is the key to happiness.

If we are not going forward, we are going backwards. The kingdom of God is moving on and increasing with or without us.

As we age, we must not become consumed with worry about life and stability. Happiness will find wings and fly away. Anxiety in life depletes our drive and initiative. It strips us of our confidence to step out in faith and take a risk. As our anxiety increases, and everything in life continues to progress, we find ourselves further and further behind.

Why does this happen? It happens whenever security becomes more important than progress. Life and the gospel are about progress. Until the moment we breathe our last, we should be changing from 'one degree of glory to the next'. Our society is changing rapidly. Our children and our children's children will not enjoy the security that we currently have. We need to constantly pursue Godly increase rather than security. We must teach our children to do likewise.

The risk of faith never gets easier. Each new step of faith is always as hard as the previous. When we take a step of faith, we are laying hold of something that we have never had before. The things that got us to where we are can easily become the things that stop us from progressing. If we stop, we are going backwards. If we do not embrace the risk of faith then we are dying.

Many people are intensely afraid of risk, forever talking about doing and intending to do. But they never actually take the step of faith to do something. Of this anxiety Jesus said, 'Cut it off'. It must be removed. Otherwise it will destroy us. Anxiety stops us from obeying the command of the Lord to go forward.

Peter writes, 'in the last days mockers will come with their mocking ... saying ... all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation'. 2 Peter 3:4. This is the attitude that says, 'What worked then, will work now. There is no need to change'. However, there is always need for change. The word of the Lord is always 'new' and it calls us to move forward to a place we have never been before. The Lord calls us to take risks of faith and generate increase, both personally and financially.

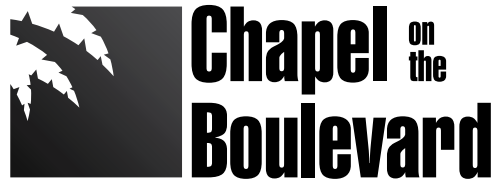
Many business people have discovered the biblical principle of giving and that it generates increase. They are called philanthropists. This principle is evident in many facets of life. However, it is clearest in the kingdom of God itself. If we want to generate increase in the kingdom then we need to give. If anxiety or something similar is stopping us from giving, then we need to obey the Lord and 'cut it off'.

We should aspire to be everything that the Lord calls us to be. The only way to achieve this is by giving and carrying the burden of offering. Giving always involves risk. 'If I give it away, will God supply my needs?' This is why faith is so necessary.

We should ask ourselves, 'What stops us from giving?' These are the things we must cut off. There is nothing more rewarding in life than cutting off the things which hold us back. We find peace when we 'cut off' our anger, and forgive. We find rest, when we 'cut off' our anxiety and fear.

The Lord is calling us to increase and move forward. Are we able to 'cut off' everything that hinders us and follow His call? ■





## WHO WE ARE

Chapel on the Boulevard is part of Restoration Fellowships International, a nation-wide fellowship of twenty-five churches with international connections in New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Pakistan. Each local church maintains active connection by supporting one another and sharing ministry as part of a global movement seeking the restoration of the vitality of the early-day church.

As with all Restoration Fellowship International churches, we hold firmly to the 'doctrine of the Trinity, of one Triune God'.

We value family life and believe that the church should be a family of families. We share a deep love for God's word and for the expression of worship in music and song, and are dedicated to sharing Christ with others.

## HOW YOU CAN CONTACT US

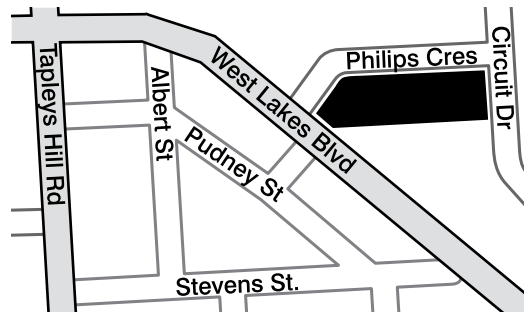
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Download previous editions of the Chapel Monthly at [www.chapel.org.au](http://www.chapel.org.au)



# A PLACE FOR YOU AT THE CHAPEL

Our current program has something for all age groups

## Sunday Program

- **At 9.30 AM**, families gather for the '**Chapel Hour**' in which there is community singing (accompanied by a fine orchestra), musical items, a children's segment and an encouraging message from the Bible. This concludes with an opportunity for friendship and conversation over a cup of tea or coffee.
- **At 11.00 AM, Bible classes** cater for age-groups from school-age children through to adults.
- **At 11.45 AM is our family Communion service.** All are welcome to attend. Since Citywide Christian Fellowship has no restricted membership, we invite anyone who believes in Christ to share the Communion elements.

## Other Events

- On the fourth Tuesday of each month, ladies gather for friendship, mutual support, a time of singing and an inspirational word.
- The teens gather most week-ends in a program organized by the parents.
- The young adults group (18-25) also meets weekly at various locations.
- Families meet twice per month in home fellowships across the city.
- Periodically, special musical events and dinners will be presented in our new venue, at no cost to our guests.
- In the school holidays we run a free Parents' Coffee Shop and Children's program.

For further details please phone us on 08 8370 9964



# Free School Holiday Program

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October, 10:00 am till 2:00 pm



Parents Cafe...



... and Kids Club 

Relax in a café atmosphere while your children enjoy the fun and games. Coffee, cake and a light lunch at affordable prices.

Free games, activities, craft and entertainment for the kids.

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