



**Romans 8:37-39** *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

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#### **My Dad's Better Than Your Dad**

Three boys on the playground were bragging about their dads.

One said, "My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a song and they pay him 50 bucks."

"Oh, yeah. My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a poem and they pay him 100 bucks."

"That's nothin'," said the third kid. My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a sermon and it takes six people to collect all the money!"



September'15

## *The Sapphire Coast Uniting CHURCH MOUSE*

It was good to welcome Rev. David home from his wonderftrip to the UK, firstly stopping off in Ireland and finishing up in France. David returned looking and feeling refreshed and rejuvenated after his sojourn. It has been a bitterly cold winter and I know we are all enjoying the early Sring sunshine. The steady rain was very welcome, but it would be nice to have some more. How lovely it is to see the wattle and daffodils in bloom and the black birds singing their melodious song, bringing joy to each day..... all part of God's wonderful creation. A gift to us all.

Church members were pleased to hear that Dick Buesnell's operation was successful and he is at home again. The prayers of our congregation have been with Dick and family during an anxious time.

Merimbula church members are looking forward to attending the service at Wyndham for the Grant family reunion. What a fun weekend that will be for Wyndham.

After hearing of Phillip Grant's illness, our prayers have been with him, Nancy and family. We pray that God's strength and love will be with them.

Rev. David, Corinne, Lyn, Paul, Wendy and Bob recently attended a meeting for Office Bearers, Lay Leaders and Ministry Agents of the coastal churches where Kevin Dilks and Chair of Presbytery Vanessa Crimmins spoke of the vision for our churches and Presbytery 2014 and beyond. It was interesting to meet with members of other churches and hear of their spiritual journey and what their plans are for the future. What are your hopes for the next 5 years for this church?

**The Presbytery Mission Plan stated the following as the ground upon which our Presbytery will focus its resources:** "The Presbytery will assist the congregations and other bodies within its bounds to: Discern the mission of God in their local areas; and Discover, access and develop the resources that are available to enable them to live out the mission of God."

The meeting was held at Bega Uniting Church and the Bega ladies provided a very nice morning tea and lunch.

As Council Chairperson, I was very heartened to hear from Kevin Dilks that Presbytery will be there for us if we have any problems or need help in the future. This help has been seriously lacking in the past during periods when we were vacant. I came away from the meeting feeling reassured and positive about our church's future worship, mission and service. Corinne.



Imlay House

Audrey Crutchfield

We were delighted to get back to Church at Imlay House last Saturday, as we had had a few weeks' break. It was good to see some old friends back with us, after spells of sickness, plus several new faces. The folk there appreciated seeing David again, and hearing his message. Pauline provided the music, as she has faithfully done for many years, and we appreciated Rosemary's beautiful voice leading us. Our numbers are not as high as previously, but we hope they will grow again. The blossom is out in the courtyards, and there is definitely a touch of spring in the air! Come join us; we are there at 1.30 every second and third Saturday of the month..



Op Shop News

Corinne (Coordinator)

The Op Shop has been quieter over the last two months due mainly I feel to the cold weather and windy days. We had clothes on the racks out front flying off up the foot path on some occasions. We have been very fortunate to have bread, rolls and vegetables delivered through REAP to give to customers who have been very grateful. This is to save food from being thrown out from shops, which is sheer waste.

There was a get together recently for staff at Tura Beach Country Club which all enjoyed. A very nice afternoon tea was provided by the club.

We are pleased to welcome Janet Smith as a Supervisor, we also welcome Angela Skitt, Ailsa Liffman, Joyce McGill and Geoff Pridge to our team.

It has been a little difficult with so many of our Supervisors being away over August. Susie and I were the last two standing at one stage, but our wonderful staff members capably backed us up.

School holidays start on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. so we will be back to closing at the later time of 4.30 pm from then on. Winter clothes will be taken into storage and the summer clothing out again so the staff have a busy time ahead over the next few weeks.

Anne Olinsky no sooner arrived home from holidays and was back into making her marmalade and relish which is so popular in the shop. Anne is on the lookout for cumquats at the moment if you know of anyone who has a tree.

A 5 year lease on the shop has now been finalised, so we can feel much more settled, rather than having a 6 monthly lease.

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There are different kinds of Spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. Different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord.

God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

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Merimbula Mutterings

Church members were saddened to hear of the death of Joan Lovett's mother who died a few days after her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday party which Joan and Royce attended in Melbourne and which Wyn thoroughly enjoyed.

Our prayers and thoughts have been with Peter, Libby and family at this time and we continue to pray for Peter, Tim, Kerrie, Alison and Julie.

It was a pleasure to welcome Rev. Ian Diamond who conducted the Communion service last month in David's absence. Ian and his wife are good friends of Rev. John and Bec Blair who spent some time with us recently. The Diamonds stayed in John and Bec's apartment and hope to visit again.

So many of our church family have been off travelling far and wide...Joan & Royce, Morag & Anita (who both unfortunately arrived home with a very bad flu), Susie & Darrell, Tony & Anne, Lyn & Paul, Cathy & Jeff, Ros & Bob, and Wendy & Bob. These are only the ones I know about. We look forward to hearing about their travels. Janet, Clive and Ursula are about to set off on a caravan trip for several weeks. Safe travels.

We give thanks for Elizabeth's successful knee surgery and look forward to her playing the organ again.

**"Morag, what are you and Anita going to be doing in Perth?" She replied " We are going to go around Perth TOPLESS, on the bus." Oh Morag! Interesting image? I think she meant to say they would be going around Perth on the Double decker ' topless ' Bus. Thanks Lyn. Ha ha.**

At the Fellowship meeting in July, Cathy and Jeff shared their trip to Gallipoli for Anzac Day. What a wonderful experience. On 7<sup>th</sup> September, Tony and Anne did a presentation and talk on their recent trip down the Canning Stock Route. What an interesting history lesson. Canning once lived in Bega, hence Canning St.



## Council Clips:

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At the last meeting it was proposed to look into the cost of a storage shed to be situated at the top of the church block. This would be used for storing furniture donated to the Op Shop, also storage for church items.

There was also a proposal by David for a café church or Bible Study café to start in Spring..

Your Church Council's responsibility is to give priority in its life to building up the Congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope and leading the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world.

It would be appreciated if you could remember your Church Council in your prayers.

It was noted by Treasurer Jeff that our weekly collections do not cover the cost of ministry. We rely on extra from Op Shop proceeds.



## Wyndham Warblings *Lyn Scrymgeour*

Welcome Back David. We thank David for his postcard and we will be so glad to have him back with us on Sunday.

### The Inaugural Grant Clan Reunion

We are very much looking forward to the special church service which will be held on Sunday 4 October at 10.30am. Lots of folk from the Grant connection will be coming from near and far. Following the service, which will be led by David, there will be a dedication service at the cemetery for the grave of Henry Grant.

We are delighted that members of the Merimbula congregation will be joining us for this momentous occasion.

### Choir

Our choir has resumed after some time off during the cold winter months. Last week we visited Imlay House and presented the lovely residents there a program of love songs, hymns and fun songs. This week we are visiting Albert Moore Gardens. We are looking forward to catching up with the folk who came to visit us at Wyndham earlier in the year.

### Prayer and Love

We are missing our dear Jeanette but we are grateful that she is now at peace. Remember her family in your prayers.



## Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

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Don't miss the boat.

Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Build your future on high ground.

For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

When you're stressed, float awhile.

Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

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You say: It's impossible. God says: All things are possible (Lk.18:27)

You say: I'm too tired. God says: I will give you rest (Mt. 11:28-30)

You say: Nobody loves me. God says: I love you (Jn 3:16)

You say: I can't go on. God says: My grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9)

You say: I can't figure things out. God says: I will direct your steps (Prov.3:5-6)

You say: I can't do it. God says: You can do all things (Phil.4:13)

You say: I'm not able. God says: I am able (2 Cor. 9:8)

You say: It's not worth it. God says: It will be worth it (Rom. 8:28)

You say: I can't forgive myself. God says: I forgive you (1 John 1:9)

You say: I can't manage. God says: I will supply all your needs (Phil. 4:19)

You say: I'm afraid. God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (2 Tim 1:7)

You say: I'm always worried and frustrated. God says: Cast all your care on me (1 Pet. 5:7)

You say: I'm not smart enough. God says: I give you wisdom (1 Cor. 1:30)

You say: I feel all alone. God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Heb. 13:5)

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### The Coin Toss

By the time Bobby arrived, the football game had already started. "Why are you so late?" asked his friend.

"I couldn't decide between going to church and going to the football game. So I tossed a coin," said Bobby.

"But that shouldn't have taken too long," said the friend.

"Well, I had to toss it 35 times."

## Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) Corinne

I joined Susie on a trip to Sydney last week to attend a State Conference of CVS Coordinators. Bus and train up and back and a full day conference on the Thursday. We both found the speakers very interesting with several good subjects, not only useful for CVS but for the Op Shop as well, both having volunteers. It was great for Susie to meet other coordinators in The Southern Highlands region which takes in Bega Valley, Cooma, Canberra, Albury, Wodonga, and Wagga Wagga, a huge area. She will now be telly conferencing with this group of ladies, making her feel less isolated. If you are interested in visiting lonely folk in aged care, Susie would love to hear from you. It is very worthwhile and fulfilling to bring some joy into an elderly person's life and they have some wonderful stories to tell if someone has time to listen. Many lovely relationships have been formed through the CVS.

Our society must make it right and possible for old people not to fear the young or be deserted by them, for the test of a civilization is the way that it cares for its helpless members.

-- Pearl S. Buck (1892-1973)

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## SEEING CLEARLY

John 4:39-42

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

This is what happens sometime AFTER Jesus has that wonderful meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob. Look what happens ... "belief" breaks out because of the woman's encounter with Jesus! People believe in Jesus on account of what this woman tells them about Jesus.

The Samaritan woman has now led others to come to Jesus. We might even say that she is, in a sense, the first 'evangelist' of John's Gospel. For while Andrew goes to tell his brother Peter that he has met the Messiah, this woman goes and tells all kinds of people. And they come to believe and seek out Jesus because of her testimony. It is almost always the "least" who do the most in the stories of the early church. A woman whose name we don't even know is the one who brings others in her community to believe in the Jesus she has encountered at the well.

As well as the "ordinariness" of the woman and her encounter with Jesus and the almost 'matter-of-fact' way the writer of the story is told here in John's Gospel, the thing to notice is the "essence" of her report. She says, "He told me everything I have ever done." Just that !

Note that she doesn't say, "he predicted the future." Not, "he cured a dread disease." She doesn't even refer to the very thing that is at the heart of what Jesus actually said & did - she doesn't say "He promised me living water."? None of that - just simply "He told me everything I have ever done."

You see, what she remembers of her encounter with Jesus - which she shares with others and which prompts them to believe - is simply that Jesus SAW her. That Jesus met her and regarded her as worth seeing, as worthy of attention, as someone who deserved to be known and taken seriously. And THAT is what makes all the difference to this Samaritan woman. She might not be named but she is certainly remembered as one who exemplifies the way that Jesus treats people irrespective of who/what they are. No one is beyond "being truly seen" by Jesus.

How powerful that on the basis of her "testimony", others are seen, known, and counted as worthy.

Jesus sees us for who we are and engages with us, just as was the case with this Samaritan woman. Jesus sees and knows everything we have ever done and loves us and wants the best for us!

So then, we are invited to slow down in order to really see others - that is, to notice, to give attention, and to convey a sense of worthiness to - our friends, our children, our spouse, our co-workers, our neighbours, and those we might not even know.

Who knows what goodness may follow, if we can do just this!

Dear God, help us to see - to really see - those around us that they may sense your love and believe they are worthy.  
Amen.

*Rev. David*