

The Oyster

...On the off chance you'll find a Pearl of Wisdom.



Tanilba CRC Newsletter, February 2014

She Lied Like A Trooper

David Trounce

One of the charges levelled against the Bible from time to time is the seeming contradiction between what is forbidden and what is later done with Heaven's nod.

Rahab is a good example of this.

(You can read all about Rahab in the book of Joshua, chapter two, and also read God's comment on it in the book of James chapter 2, verse 25)

There is no getting around the fact. Rahab had a choice to make. She could tell the truth and send two godly men to their death or she could lie like a trooper.

Rahab chose the better portion and lied like a trooper. She clearly lied and God clearly praised her for it, saying it was worthy of imitation.

This is the kind of situation the moralist hates (A "moralist" being one who applauds themselves for all the good things they do). In Rahab's case, either choice meant some imperfection.

For the moralist, it is important that he stands or falls on his own goodness. For the moralist, the question is always, "How can I come out of this looking squeaky clean."



There is another way. Instead of waving our own germ-free hands about in the air, we rest on the perfect nail-printed hands of someone else, someone willing to stand in our place – should we ever be brought to trial for the things our hands have done.

In this case, preservation of our own purity is not the central issue. The central issue is knowing who to call up in your defence.

God had made a promise to rescue Israel. Rahab believed it and acted accordingly. This same faith puts its trust in Jesus Christ: the Perfect Man, sent into the world to stand trial on behalf of unclean people.

Rahab lied because she believed God and considered operating against Him a far greater evil.

On the last day, no man will be given the golden handshake for his own moral purity. The handshake is given to those who believed in the goodness of God.

Down but not Out

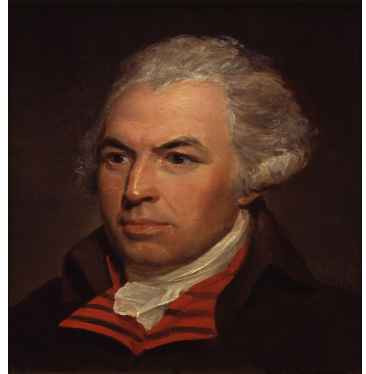
*“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”
(Psalm 30:5)*

By David Trounce

If you have ever been down, depressed, perhaps even longing for life to end, you may appreciate the life of William Cowper.

William Cowper (pron. 'Cooper') was born in exciting times. He lived through the voyages of Captain James Cook, the French Revolution and the American War of Independence.

He is best known for his magnificent hymns and his writings which included *'The Task'* and *'The Castaway'*.



He was a firm believer in the Gospel and all of its promises, and yet, was probably one of the most miserable, melancholy people you could ever meet. He attempted suicide several times and it was only divine intervention through friends, low tides, weak wrists and weak ropes that kept this poor man alive.

There are many possible reasons for his lifelong battle with depression - brutalised in school by older boys, the death of his mother at age six, and a largely absent father. All may have contributed to the sadness of his soul, yet William lived.

We like to think we are in control of life: That we can make the happiness happen. We aren't – and we can't. Sadness, depression - and grief - can hit suddenly. What do you do? Where do you anchor your soul when strength gives way to sadness? William once wrote,

*“Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take, the clouds you so much dread...
Are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your head.”*

He was echoing another man who had suffered with great melancholy. A man called Asaph who sang of the anchor that steadied his soul in unsteady times.

*“My heart and my strength may fail, but God is the Strength of my heart,
and my portion forever. For me, it is good to be near God.” (Psalm 73)*

The roots of William's endurance, like Asaph, were not in himself. They were anchored in someone who had also come into this world, stricken and acquainted with grief, an anchor that you can hold on to – or better yet, who will hold on to you – when (not if) your heart and your strength fail.

Jesus did not promise an easy life, free from pain. But He did promise to uphold us and be with us in the pain, so that, in the end, we endure to eternal life where every tear will be wiped away.

News, Views and Events

Money, Debt and Getting Help with CAP

CAP Money is a free money management course that teaches people budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system that really works. The course will help anyone to get more in control of their finances, save, give and prevent or overcome debt.

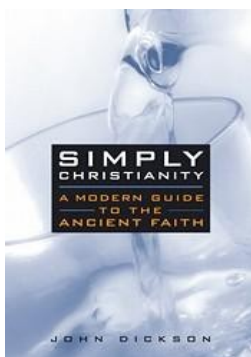
For more info visit www.capmoney.org



What's it All About?

Learn about the Christian Faith

Most people have an opinion about the Bible and the Christian faith it teaches, but not everyone has had the opportunity to learn why it is that this faith endures and why over the last two thousand years since the birth of Jesus it has only ever known increase around the world.



Why do so many people believe the Bible and seek to follow its teachings – even (in some cultures) at the risk of their own lives?

What does the Bible actually teach? Is it reliable?

'Simply Christianity' is an opportunity for people from all walks of life to gather around a table together and ask these, and many more questions about the Christian faith.

These small and friendly Groups are open to anyone, and meet over five sessions with plenty of opportunity to explore the meaning of the Bible, its authenticity, its impact on our lives and the reliability of the Claims of its central character – Jesus of Nazareth.

If you would like to know when these groups are being held in your neighbourhood, please

Call David Trounce on 49845442 for more info.

Social Group Meetings

Tanilba CRC is having its first social groups for 2014. All are welcome to attend.

For Lemon Tree Passage call Don and Ella on 4982 4507.
For Tanilba Bay call Mark and Lesleigh in 4982 4623

Help a Local Family

Do you know of a family in need. Are you a Family in Need? We have Hampers and Vouchers available for the Holidays. Please Call Ella on

49824507

Men's Breakfast

Men's Community Breakfast meets on the first Saturday of the Month, this time at the Baptist Church, Tanilba Bay,

February 1st at 7.30am

Come hear Stinker Clark.

For more Information call David on 4984 5442

About our Church Community...

Tanilba CRC is a Community Church that began on the Peninsula over 50 years ago. We believe in the Bible. We believe that Life is a Gift and we believe that God has created us to know Him and to live for Him in true family and community through His Son, Jesus.



If you would like to find out more about the Christian Church on the Tilligerry Peninsula, we invite you to contact us or attend one of our Regular Activities for more information.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting

At the church. 7pm.
All Welcome.

Social Groups

Make New Friends.
Soup Nights, Kite Flying,
Cricket, BBQ'S, Day Trips,
Family Games and more.
Join one of our Social
Community Groups in Lemon
Tree Passage or Tanilba Bay.
These Groups are open to all and
meet in February, May, August
and November each year.

Weekly Bible Study Groups

We run two Bible Study Groups.
Our Family Bible Study and
Supper Group meets at 4pm on
most Sundays at Mallabula.
Our Ladies Bible Study Group
also meets at Mallabula on
Fridays at 10am.

Men's Breakfast

Come join other local men in our
Community for a Hot Breakfast
on the 1st Saturday of the month.
All are welcome and we meet
usually at 7.30am at Henderson
Park, Lemon Tree Passage,
though for February see inside.

Women's Social Group

This group is open to all women
and meets next on the Friday,
March 7th at 7pm in the church
hall , Tanilba Bay.
Come share a meal and a
conversation on a Friday Night.

Published By Tanilba CRC.

Christian Reformed Church
02 4984 5442
Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace
Parade, Tanilba Bay. NSW.

Church Service: 9am Sunday

www.tanilbacrc.org.au