

The Oyster

"...Open every day to be fed by God."



February 2016

He only needed to speak

There's a knock at the door. "Who is it?" asked my wife ... curious, yet cautious as to who was knocking.

No reply, just silence. Thoughts flit through her mind. Perhaps it's a friend of ours passing by; maybe a caller with raffle tickets, possibly the meter reader ... maybe any one of fifty possible people ...

"Is that you, Kerry? (a neighbour)", she calls out. A voice replies, "No, it's Jake (another neighbour). "Have you seen our lost chicken, a brown one? It's not in the yard!"

Ha, Ha! Problem solved. We're safe to open the door. We knew our caller as soon as he spoke to us! And we've not seen the missing bird.

In searching for God, we can make guesses every single day of our lives as to what God is like – and never ever truly find an answer. Some think God is like a heavenly Santa Claus – there to shower us with gifts again and again. Another person thinks God is the 'getcha god' – who won't let you get away with anything pleasurable, but will 'getcha' in the end. Someone else thinks that God loves us – but then how do we account for all the trouble and hatred in the world? Beginning with ourselves and our own reason, we will never find God.

A professor once wrote to 250 of the then best known philosophers, scientists, writers and intellectuals in the world and asked each person "What is the meaning of life?"



Christ knocks on the door of a sinner's heart

Some offered their best guesses, some gave a 'made up purpose' and others said that honestly they were clueless. In fact, a number asked the professor to write back and tell them if he discovered the purpose for life! Now if the Creator & inventor of all did speak, *then* we could truly know about God & God's purposes for life.

When God speaks, do we listen?

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.” Hebrews 1:1-2

And God has chosen to speak!

God, the Designer and Creator of this vast universe of suns, space & planets, of amazing varieties of animals and plants, air and water – and humans – this God has chosen to speak.

God spoke directly to the first humans He created as male and female, and to the generations that



descended from them, but when He spoke to Moses He gave him a message for all humans. God not only gave him the Ten Commandments, but also told him to write down the record of God's dealings with mankind, for the benefit of future generations, including ourselves. The Bible says:

“And the Lord said to Moses, 'Write these words, for in accordance with these words, I have made a covenant with you and with all Israel'”(Exodus 34:27).

Many sceptics say that God didn't say anything to Moses, that it was all imagined in Moses' head. Yet, if words mean anything (and they do) Moses declares that God spoke to him. Furthermore, God told Moses that He (God) was going to free the nation of Israel from slavery in Egypt, and God did as He said He would (see the book of Exodus in the Bible). The Bible shows God declaring the future again and again, then making these many, many promises happen. In fact, the words, 'God said' or 'the Lord said' are recorded over 3,000 times in the old section of the Bible – emphasising that these are not man's words or ideas, but they come from God. For this reason, the Bible is called 'God's Word'.

God spoke to Abraham and made promises, from which the whole Bible unfolds. Although Abraham was childless, he was promised a son and descendants too numerous to count, and that one of his descendants would bring 'blessing for all the world'.

The New Testament of the Bible identifies this person as Jesus Christ – God's final word to mankind. He came to begin to put an end to ungodliness and wickedness in the world. He brings a message of peace & pardon, of love & forgiveness from God for all who sincerely believe in Him. God has spoken, and He calls you to follow Jesus – as He re-shapes you and enlists you in His mission to speak to a lost and aching world. *In believing God's word, we find the true meaning of life!* BT.

'Why Jesus?' Author: Nicky Gumbel.

The most important relationship a person can have is a relationship with God – writes Nicky Gumbel, evangelist and Bible teacher. He concludes that the reason for man's emptiness is that 'men and women have turned their backs on God'. Without this relationship, there will always be 'something missing in our lives'.

He then shows how the most amazing man who has ever lived – Jesus Christ – satisfies this hunger by providing *meaning and purpose in life*, satisfying our hunger for *forgiveness*, and replacing fear of our own certain death by freely *offering us the gift of eternal life*.

Gumbel states that people give excuses like “*I have no need of God*”, “*There is too much to give up*”, “*There must be a trap*”, “*I'm not good enough*”, “*I could never keep it up*” and “*I'll do it later*”, as reasons for not accepting God's offer of *pardon*, and *gift of the Holy Spirit* to live within us. These excuses are answered and set aside by Gumbel so that people can see their way clear to respond to Jesus.

The initial response is to say sorry to Jesus for what we've done wrong, thank you to God for sending Jesus to die in our place on the cross, and thank you to Jesus for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

That's all that's required to start a genuine relationship with God, because Jesus has done it all for you. If you try to make a relationship with God without Jesus, then your sins won't have been forgiven, you won't know what it is to have peace with God, and you won't have assurance of eternal life. Do something about it today!

Before you read any other books, come and get a copy of 'Why Jesus?' from the books at the back of the church or ring Steven on 49845442 and ask for a copy to be delivered.

Ask yourself. If a relationship with God is possible *without* Jesus, then why did he come to earth, suffer and die and then rise again for you and me? Tony Adams

Easter Services

9am Good Friday March 25th
9am Easter Sunday March 27th

Corner of Peace Parade and
Tanilba Avenue, Tanilba Bay

ALL WELCOME

What's on This Month

Women's Get Together

The local get together for women next meets on Friday March 4th and April 1st at 7pm in

Tanilba CRC Church,
Corner of Tanilba Ave and
Peace Parade, Tanilba Bay.

Call Ella on 0439824507

Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at 7.30am at

Henderson Park, Cook Pde,
Lemon Tree Passage.

Saturdays coming up are
March 5th and April 2nd.

For more information call
Steven on 4984 5442

Pete's Kitchen

Pete's kitchen is on every Thursday in school term time at 6pm at the Baptist Church, Tanilba Bay. Come along and enjoy a meal among friends and neighbours.

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 our Church's activities 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, 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 Group

Our Ladies' Bible Study Group
(Know Your Bible)
meets at Mallabula on
Fridays at 10am during school
term time. Enjoy friendship, a
chat and learn more of
God's love and care for you.

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
at 7.30am at Henderson Park,
Lemon Tree Passage.

Women's Social Group

This group is open to all women
and meets on the
first Friday of the month.

Come share a meal and a
conversation at the church hall on
the corner of Peace Pde and
Tanilba Ave, Tanilba Bay.

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

Church Service: 9am Sunday

www.tanilbacrc.org.au