

The Oyster



Life... Shuck it and See.

Tanilba CRC Newsletter, October 2013

Sailing in Circles

by David Trounce.

In his book, *Orthodoxy*, G. K. Chesterton tells the story of a man who sets sail from England to bravely discover new worlds.

Because of a slight miscalculation, he winds up, not long afterwards, on a beach which he considers must be part of a strange new land. There he triumphantly plants the British flag in that barbaric temple which turns out to be the Pavilion at Brighton.

Chesterton then asks the question, "Should this man be pitied or envied?"

Like this man, we are, to use the expression, all at sea. Each of us comes into this world longing to find a number of things - love, happiness, peace and prosperity.

Our lives are spent searching high and low for these elusive treasures.

We dream about finding them. We buy books which promise to give a road map to their location.

Sometimes, we think we have found them and so we squeeze them tight, pitch our tent and claim them for ourselves. But, all too often, the tighter we squeeze, the more they slip through our fingers.



Some think our sailor friend should be pitied. Chesterton thought he was a man to be envied.

What could be more delightful, Chesterton said, than having in the same brief moment, all the fascinating terrors of going away combined with all the security of coming home again?

Chesterton goes on to admit that he was the sailor and that his searching ended when he found all his longings satisfied right on his own doorstep: When he believed in the Gospel.

The Apostle Paul put it this way in his now famous sermon in Athens,

"For God has set the boundaries of our dwelling place so that we might reach out toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from every one of us."

What if the things we long for can be found right here? What if God has indeed come down in the Person of His Son? Perhaps God is closer than you think, if only you will reach out and lay hold of Him.

Why Can't we Get Along?

I spoke to some primary school children recently about a new song by Guy Sebastian called, "Get Along". The chorus ran,

"Dear God, Dear Soul, Dear Mary, Muhammad, Can we all just get along? Can we all just get along?...."

Good question.

by David Trounce.

The thought in this song is that if only the religions of the world would get together and sort out their differences we would have ourselves a peaceful world.

So, I asked the kids if they knew who the characters mentioned in the song were. They didn't.

Next, I asked them if they ever fought with one another. They did.



And so, it occurs to me that perhaps the problem lies much deeper and nearer the heart. You don't need to be Muslim, Christian or Jew to start a fight.

Just be yourself. James, a follower of Jesus put it this way,

"What causes fights among you? Is it not that your passions are at war within you? You desire and don't have so you murder. You covet and don't obtain, so you fight and quarrel..."

Man is torn. He has a law written on his heart telling him to love his neighbour, but this law is at war with a jealous nature - a nature that began to dominate our lives when we turned away from the One who wrote that law.

And so, as one of Israel's ancient Kings, King David, recognised, nothing short of a New Heart will overcome the war within.

Ironically, in the Gospel the solution to this war is death - the death of our old self, along with its misplaced and selfish passions. It is a death that Jesus was willing to undertake on our behalf to bring about a new humanity and secure lasting peace on earth.

Many good people have sacrificed themselves in the cause of peace, but peace remains elusive. And so, we are left with a choice. We can go on sacrificing ourselves for the cause, or we can accept the sacrifice that God has already provided.

News, Views and Events

Enter into Creation...

Saturday October 12th: The Tilligerry Habitat Nature Walk is on followed by a BBQ Lunch and Open Day on Sunday 13th October.

These events are open to all comers and a great way to enjoy the Garden that Surrounds us!

All Welcome.

Details: Phone 4984 5677



Taking a Stroll on the Links...

Mere Christianity

by C. S. Lewis.

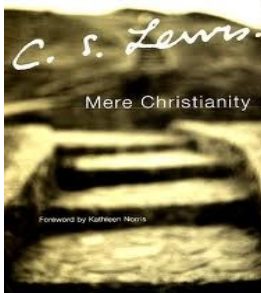
“Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on.

But, He starts knocking the house about in a way that does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to?

The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage - but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.”

In Mere Christianity, a Classic Book by the Author of The Narnia Series, Lewis offers his readers an unequalled opportunity for believers and non-believers alike to hear a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith.

We might think that Jesus was many things. We might say He was either Mad, Mighty or the Messiah. But one thing we can never say of Him is that he was, “Mere...”.



Join the Choir

Do you like to sing?

Each year our Peninsula gathers for a Combined Christmas Service at Tanilba Bay Public School.

Choir Practice begins on the last Sunday in October and we are always on the look out for new choir members.

If you would like to join the Peninsula Choir or find out more information, please call Don Burgoyne on 4982 4507.

Pete's Kitchen

Hosted at the Baptist Church, Pete's Kitchen is a weekly Combined Churches Soup Kitchen.

It's informal, free and open to anyone who wants to come along for a meal and some conversation.

Thursday Evenings, 6pm.

All Articles along with their citations are published on our website at www.tanilbacrc.org.au

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 Mallabulla.
Our Ladies Bible Study Group
also meets at Mallabulla 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
at 7.30am at Henderson Park,
Lemon Tree Passage.

Women's Social Group

This group is open to all women
and meets on the 1st Friday of the
month at 7pm at the church hall
in 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