

BPPC Newsletter



*Our aim
is to know
Jesus Christ
and to serve
one another*

Browns Plains
Presbyterian Church

28th November 2010

*If you are visiting with us
today, please stay for
morning tea over in
the Hall as we would
love to meet you.*

Please be seated by 9.30am

Creation Museum founder **KEN HAM** to speak at BPPC

Sunday 5 December



You have a rare opportunity to hear Ken Ham, formerly of Brisbane and now president and CEO of Answers in Genesis–USA and the acclaimed Creation Museum, give three presentations in Queensland!

*Beloved, let us love
one another, for love
is of God;
and everyone who loves
is born of God
and knows God.*

1 John 4:7

9.30 am Morning Worship Service - Genesis and the Decay of Our Western Culture

*The morning service will be followed by a BBQ lunch
(cost \$5.00 pp)*

6.00 pm Defending the Christian Faith in Today's World

7.45 pm Answers to Some of the Most-asked Questions on Genesis:

Six Days of Creation?
Age of the Earth?
Origin of the "Races"?
Is There Evidence for an Infinite God?
and more!

Sunday Worship

Morning Service	9.30am
Prayer Group	5.00pm
Lite Bite	5.30pm
Evening Study	6.00pm

Prayer Requests

Please refer all prayer requests to any Elder or your Home Group Leader

Cry Room

available for young children and parents during Services. Sermons can be listened to via video link

Sermons available on CD

from the Sound Room immediately after the Morning Service - \$3.00/CD

**A donation of \$2 per person in the evening to defray costs would be appreciated.*

Please don't miss this opportunity to hear one of the world's most sought-after speakers on the Bible and one of the leading creation apologists of our day!

KEN HAM is the author of the best-selling book *The Lie: Evolution*, and the visionary behind the internationally acclaimed Creation Museum near Cincinnati, Ohio (which has attracted 1.2 million visitors in three years).

Greeters



December

Barry Dittman
Liz Dittman
Lyn Kunde
Rainer Hartberg

Morning Tea



28th November

Eileen S
Jenny S
Wendy B

5th December

To be advised

MEDIA RELEASE:

Euthanasia is Murder: Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church of Australia has called on Federal Members of Parliament to oppose the euthanasia bill soon to be considered by the Government.

The Church's Moderator General, Rt Rev David Jones, has personally written to each Member asking them to oppose Senator Brown's *Restoring Territory Rights (Voluntary Euthanasia Legislation) Bill 2010*.

"The Presbyterian Church of Australia is fundamentally opposed to the legalisation of euthanasia," he said.

"We understand euthanasia to be the taking of the life of one human being by another—albeit with the best of intentions. While we fully support the development of palliative care and recognise the secondary consequence of the hastening of death which sometimes occurs as a result of that course of pain-management, that must not be confused with what is proposed by this legislation!"

Mr Jones said the legislation in its current form proposed the legalisation of the calm, cold, calculated decision to take another's life.

"This is legalising a form of murder," he said.

"This is not a States' Rights issue but a fundamental issue of moral importance and so I am appealing to the government to not support this legislation."

BPPC Calendar

Nov. 26	Friday	6.30pm	Kids Club - Craft for Christmas Bags
Nov. 28	Sunday	9.30am	Rev D. Geddes (Elders Retreat/Planning Day)
Dec. 3	Friday	6.30pm	Kids Club - end of year party
Dec. 5	Sunday	9.30am	Ken Ham - Genesis & the Decay of Our Western Culture - BBQ lunch \$5.00 pp (Young Adults Group)
		6.00pm	Ken Ham - Defending the Christian Faith in Today's World
		7.45pm	Ken Ham - Answers to some of the most-asked question on Genesis.
Dec. 7	Tuesday	7.30pm	Presbytery
Dec 10	Friday	9.30am	Young at Heart Breakup
Dec 12	Sunday	9.30am	Rev D. Mihailovic Communion
Dec 14	Tuesday	7.30pm	Session
Dec 19	Sunday	9.30am	Rev D. Mihailovic
		12.00pm	Marrieds
Dec 21	Tuesday	7.30pm	Committee of Mgmt.
Dec 25	Saturday	9.30am	Christmas Day Service - Rev D. Mihailovic

Invite a friend along!

They Love All Men

Thoughts on How to Make a Name for Christ

The best way to begin this reading would be to take five seconds right now and pray, "Heavenly Father, let your love be done in my life the way it's done in heaven." With all his teaching on love, the apostle Paul also prayed that God would make love grow in the hearts of Christians. "I pray that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment" (Philippians 1:9). "May the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all men, just as we also do for you" (1 Thessalonians 3:12). "[I pray] that you [would be] rooted and grounded in love" (Ephesians 3:17).

It was an urgent plea when Paul prayed this way. Why? Because what is at stake in "increasing and abounding in love to one another and to all men" is immense. At stake is a compelling demonstration of God's reality in the world. Jesus described the impact of the unity of love like this: "[I pray, Father] that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me, I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one; I in they, and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me" (John 17:21-23). We may not fully understand this. But it is clear that something tremendous is at stake in the practical unity of love in the body of Christ.

Or consider John 13:34-35, where Jesus says, *(Continued over)*

Ministries

Home Groups			
Oak Tree's	Mon 3.00pm fortnightly	Mike Kolln	3803 3598
Browns Plains	Tues 9.30am	Barry Field	3200 7871
Camira	Tues 7:30pm	Honi Otukolo	3818 2027
Ladies	Wed 1.30pm	Wendy Bouyer Janelle Henderson	0430 448 180 3299 6835
Hillcrest	Wed 7.30pm	Mike Kolln	3803 3598
Greenbank	Thu 7:00pm	Joe Papajcsik	3800 5022
Loganlea	Thur 7.15pm	Ken Crase Leon Lewis	3299 6169 3216 8940
Music Practice	Sun 11:30am	Debbie Whitting	3800 1734
Young in Heart	2nd Fri/mth 9:30am	Jim Hopkin	3803 6919
Kids' Club	Fri 6:30pm fortnightly	Liza'I Textor	3287 9814
Sunday School	Sun 8:45am	Wendy Bouyer	0430 448 180
Young Adults	Wed 7.00pm fortnightly at the Wallace's	Luke Kite	0431 568 362

Nursing Home Visits	Chadwick Palmer
Religious Education In Primary Schools	Ros Field Rosemary Palmer Jan Chapman
Child Mentoring - Regents Park Primary School	Joe Papajcsik

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." One indispensable public mark of a Christian is love for other Christians. Jesus assumes that the world is watching this and that judgments are being made. He means it to be this way.

Or consider Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." The glory of our heavenly Father is at stake in the pattern of good deeds that flow out from our lives.

On the basis of these texts, I infer that growing in love is also growing in evangelism and missions and pastoral care and marriage and how to get along with people you disagree with – and virtually everything else. Small wonder that Paul calls love "the greatest of these" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

In the early centuries of the Christian church, Christians lived a kind of love that did not always win approval, but, in truth, testified to Christ. *The Epistle to Diognetus*, from the 2nd century, says, "They love all men, and are persecuted by all.... They are poor and make many rich; they lack everything and in everything they abound.... They are abused, and they bless; they are insulted, and repay insult with honour. They do good, and are punished as evil-doers; and in their punishment they rejoice as gaining a new life therein" (Quoted in J. Stevenson, ed., *A New Eusebius* [London: SPCK, 1968], 59).

Justin Martyr, writing at about the same time, described the Christians of his day: "We who hated and destroyed one another, and on account of their different manners would not live with men of a different tribe, now, since the coming of Christ, live familiarly with them, and

pray for our enemies, and endeavour to persuade those who hate us unjustly to live conformably to the good precepts of Christ, to the end that they may become partakers of the same joyful hope of a reward from God, the ruler of all" (*First Apology*, chapter 13).

Do not these testimonies of the early church fill you with a longing to love the way they loved? O to make a name for Christ by the radical difference of our love – for enemy and friend. To that end I pray in the words of Paul, "May the Lord cause you [and me] to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people" (1 Thessalonians 3:12). This is the great work of God. The great and first fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22). "Now faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

John Piper, *A Godward Life*, Book 2.

Deadlines

Newsletter

Advise Glenese
by 4pm Wednesday
gmparish1@bigpond.com
Ph. 3848 2386

Announcements

Advise Walter
by 8pm Saturday
walterkite@iprimus.com.au
Ph. 3800 4075

Browns Plains Presbyterian Church

276 Waller Rd,
Heritage Park QLD 4118
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bppcmail@bigpond.com

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Browns Plains QLD 4118

Minister:

Rev Dan Mihailovic
Ph. 3800-3799
Mob. 0437 826 105
danny333@optusnet.com.au

Student Minister:

Gavin Henderson
Mob. 0405 753 709
gahendo@tpg.com.au

Becoming a Person Who Loves Others

I recently had the opportunity to share with an unbeliever how I was converted to Christ. Some have enjoyed the privilege of having been raised by Christian parents and cannot

(Continued)

recall a time in their lives when they did not trust Christ for their salvation. I have had the privilege of experiencing the saving grace of God as an adult, having spent years in the vanity and pride of sin and then coming clearly and decisively from that sin into new life in Christ. I told my friend how I had been attending Bible studies at a U.S. Air Force base chapel where I was stationed in the early 1970's. I came to the point of realizing that while I had acknowledged the existence of God (or at times merely the possibility of his existence), I had never trusted him vitally and practically. So one night, I cried out to God, asking him to show himself to me in a way that would win my trust. Although my friend is an unbeliever, even he thought my prayer was not very reverent or theological. Of course, he was right. But, as I explained to him, I have since then learned that God is not concerned with formal orthodoxy so much as with the genuine cry of a man's heart and soul. My friend asked me how God answered my prayer, and I told him that the Lord simply, profoundly, and lastingly changed me. God did what no man or agency could ever do, he gave me a new heart and soul!

"God did what no man or agency could ever do, He gave me a new heart and soul!"

To this day, nearly 40 years after my prayer and its answer, I am still amazed and delighted at how the Lord did and continues to do for me exceedingly abundantly beyond what I asked or thought. But how did I know I had a new heart and soul, that I was a new man by the marvellous working of the saving grace and power of God? That answer is one of the most simple and clear ones I can give: I became a man who loved others. I had been self-centred, but God changed me into a man who began to love him and to love people. This loving, although I still do it very imperfectly, has become the greatest blessing of my Christian life, second only to God's love for me.

As I grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, I come less and less to question or doubt his love for me. I accept it with increasingly profound gratitude as the nourishing food, healing medicine, and liberating light of my soul. Therefore, I spend less time asking God to prove his love for me, and I spend more time asking him to make me a better lover of him and the people in my life.

It is in the exercise of such love, however difficult and sacrificial it may become, that I find a blessedness that I could not experience were I to be merely a recipient of love, even of God's love. This is so because God's love does not have the character of terminating with those who receive it. The love of God impels those who truly know and possess it to love others.

This loving of others makes the living of the Christian life to be both sweet and simple. As the love Jacob had for Rachel made the years of his service to her father pass quickly and sweetly, so the love the Lord gives us to have for and demonstrate to others transforms all cost and sacrifice involved in our giving such love into blessedness for us. In Galatians 4:15, Paul equates supreme blessedness with supremely sacrificial service. The Galatians were most blessed when they were lovingly committed to giving their own eyes to relieve Paul's affliction. This can only be true if such loving service is rooted and grounded in the infinitely sacrificial and saving love that God has for us (Eph. 3:14-19). If we are so rooted, love issues from us as the natural fruit of God's Holy Spirit, not as the artificial and exhausting works of man.

"The love of God impels those who truly know and possess it to love others."

The simplicity of this is in our asking in every situation and with every person one question: What is the loving thing to do? We do not need to manipulate factors or persons in any situation in order for us to love others in those situations. We do not need to wait until others seem to us worthy of our love, nor do we need to fear that our loving will impose loss upon us, when it will only prove to be for us a greater blessing to give such holy love to others than to receive anything else in all the world.

William Harrell,
Pastor of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia