

Capernwray Update 2011

Life at Capernwray New Zealand continues to develop and grow in many ways.

I'm pretty sure that Charles Dickens never followed PB (Peter Bichan) on the journeys that ABS takes you on, but he understood better than any non "ABSer" when he said, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Now, any English scholar will tell you that he was speaking of a more major event in history than the short six weeks that are spent on ABS; but those six weeks may be the most life changing any heart will ever journey on.

He also once said, "Suffering has been stronger than all other teaching, and has taught me to understand what your heart used to be. I have been bent and broken, but - I hope - into a better shape."

ABS is not a decision to be taken lightly. Almost every aspect of this course is kept a secret, and secrets never have been our most favourite as a human race who love to have every bit of our lives planned and written down weeks in advance. Even non planners love to have an idea of where they are going, how long they will be gone, and most importantly, in many cases, that it will be a comfortable journey. Sources of entertainment are at our every finger tip; iPods that can carry music wherever we go, phones with unlimited texting so we can always have a friend nearby, television, iPads, laptops... Progression leads to a digression of simple silence and beauty of the world that surrounds us. What is your true heart like when everything is stripped away? In the solitude of the quietest moment, where does your mind turn?

Dickens describes suffering as the best form of teaching, and I'm sure he got this knowledge from James, who wrote in **James 1.2-4, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete lacking in nothing."**

On ABS there will be moments where you will believe that it is the worst of times because your

limits will be tested, your boundaries pushed, and some of your beliefs you've held since childhood will be shaken. But, that is the best of times. For me, on ABS my own faith became real. The beliefs that my heart holds so dearly, I know are solid because they are not formed on the words of man, but the experiences I had with God.

Don't let any of this scare you away from ABS however. For on this journey you will have the best adventures you may ever have in your entire life. There were moments at least every day where I had to stop and breathe and in my mind I constantly thought, "Lord, am I really doing this?" For I was taken on a journey I had only dreamed. There are moments you look at your new family in bewilderment thinking, "Are they serious?!", moments where my sides almost burst laughing with Claudia or James, and moments when PB's knowledge blew me away. The experiences had, and the friendships built, are life changing, and I pray life long.

However, some of the secrets may have reached you, but the experience of you adventuring on your own, the way God touches your heart as never before, that is what will change your life. God's change is permanent, and I know that I will forever look back on ABS as some of the best weeks of my life. Big lessons are learned here, and are different for each person.

For me, I learned that God can be trusted, and that through Him I am worthy of love.

Back to Charles, I agree, I have been bent, and I have been broken, and I know that God has taken my heart far from where it has been, and I do pray it is now in better shape.



Rachel Morrison
(Wisconsin, USA)

Upcoming Events

Woman to Woman Spring Conference
Fri 7th – Sun 9th October, 2011



This is the seventh year of our Woman to Woman Spring Conference and it is appropriate that our guest speaker for this year is our own Elizabeth Thomas. The theme for the conference is 'The Year of the Lord's Favour'.

Xposure 2.0
Fri 14th – Sun 16th October, 2011



Youth weekend designed to help young people discover the truth of God's Word in a discipleship setting. The event is held at the Adventure Bible School Lodge, on the foreshore of Lake Karapiro.

Breakthrough '11
Fri 4th – Sat 5th November, 2011



A regional youth event held at Monavale Homestead. The theme for this semester is 'Border Control' – In their search for a mysterious and ancient treasure, they dared to cross over dangerous borders and got more than they bargained for. Be prepared to get wet, muddy, chased, scared, excited, and learn some very important Christian truths along the way!

Carols by Candlelight
Fri 9th – Sat 10th December, 2011

An opportunity for the community and surrounding area to celebrate our Saviour's birth by enjoying carols on the front lawn at Monavale Homestead.



Capernway Online

Ready to Launch!

Capernway Online, our new distance learning Bible course, has been undergoing trialling over the past few months. The course is interactive and allows anyone, anywhere to study God's Word via the internet, and even better at their own pace!

The trial has enabled us to work through the functionality of the new system as well as review the teaching lessons to make the course as effective as possible. With the trialling period ending, we are excited to announce that we intend to launch officially the Capernway Online course in November this year! The course will initially consist of 2 teaching units (each with a number of individual lessons) with a number of other units to be added in the near future.

Be sure to check out our website in November for the launch!

Here's Hayden!!

– Pastoral Dean

The Rugby World Cup 2011 is now on in New Zealand!! It has been a long four year wait. Teams from 20 countries will play for the "William Webb Ellis Cup" the most prized cup in rugby. In the lead up to the tournament the cup toured parts of New Zealand. When seeing the cup many New Zealanders responded with emotions (cried), intellectual processing and Kiwi pride.



There were flashbacks to the 1987 inaugural tournament that NZ won and the unpleasant memories of losing to France on more than one occasion in subsequent events! It has been a long 24 years since NZ won the World Cup!

However, somebody (RWC), forgot to tell the thousands of people viewing the cup that

there is more than one "cup" and the cup that most people saw was only an imitation. There is the 1906 cup, 1987 cup and each winning country also has a commemorative cup. This issue of the imitation cup has been a continual problem over the years, which has disappointed and confused many fans. Many fans still think they have seen or touched the real deal.

This problem of imitation is not restricted to rugby. Lately I have been reading through First Timothy. Paul tells Timothy in the opening chapter that spiritual leadership of oneself and others involves

remaining totally focused on Jesus.

He tells them not to "teach any different doctrine" v3

nor to "devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies" v4. Paul spent much of his time sharing the good news of grace, peace and the hope we have with God through the life of Jesus. Hence spiritual leadership is holding firmly and lovingly to the way, the life and the truth we have in Jesus (John 14:6). When people move away from the person and work of Jesus Christ they head in the direction of teaching strange doctrines.

Our students have just completed a Bible study on Colossians 1:15-20 where this idea of Christ's supremacy is also highlighted. The word "supremacy" v18 carries with it the idea "to be in the first position" (Louw & Nida). I like the way Jerry Benjamin expresses it: "Christ is the pre-eminent One – not prominent, one among many, but pre-eminent, the One and only".

As Christians living in 2011 we are also faced with contemporary forms of this same danger, allowing ourselves to mix imitations of spirituality into our life with Christ. So let us lovingly encourage one another that true spiritual life and living is only found through the indwelling life of Jesus Christ. Nothing more, nothing less, just victory in Jesus.



New Conference Brochure!

It's colourful, it's glossy, it's sophisticated!

It's our new conference brochure for Monavale Homestead and the Adventure Lodge. Full of information and photos we are showcasing two of our venues.

From conferences, functions, retreats, to camps and even family holidays, we are blessed with the facilities God has given us and feel privileged to make them available to others when not being used by our students. You can download the brochure from our website or contact our office and we'll be pleased to send a printed copy out to you.

.....

DOWNLOAD FROM OUR WEBSITE!

Go to www.capernway.org.nz, rollover the **CONFERENCES & EVENTS** navigational button, click on the 'Conference Brochure' link.

.....

Events in Review

Men's Retreat



We had our fifth Men's Retreat at our Adventure lodge, Lake Karapiro last weekend (August 12-14th) and as always enjoyed the peace and quiet of the setting there (not even the sound of a lawn mower to make us feel guilty!). We especially enjoyed the ministry Ron (Lowery) brought to us focusing on **'The True Nature of a Godly Man'**.

Ron laid out clearly and practically what it really means to 'die to self' and live in Jesus. We had about 25 guys join us for various sessions over the weekend and as well as the formal teaching sessions we had good open sharing times. Some even braved the cold waters of the lake in a kayak and others experienced the new cycle track up to Arapuni and the recommended Rhubarb café there. Others just chilled out.

Men's Retreat is a great time to step back from the usual work-load and everyday responsibilities and more consciously listen to God, His Word and discover more of what it means to have His life indwell us. It's great to commit the whole weekend to really enter into the physical and spiritual 'rest' but even coming for just a part of it, is always well worth it. We anticipate offering the next one in August again – make a mental note to join us...

BaseCamp



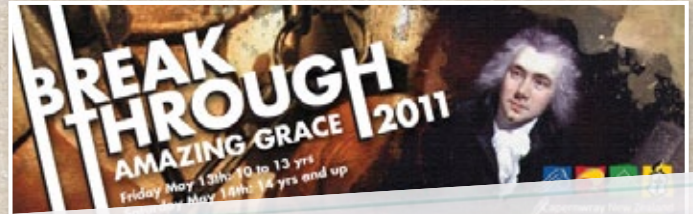
This year's BaseCamp (held in July) was small in numbers but filled with rich teaching, encouragement, deep conversations and fun!



Lew Myer spoke on apologetics and helped open and challenge our minds to really know the Word of God and what we believe. He encouraged us be ready to share and defend our faith with anyone at any given time. His humour kept us highly entertained as well!

Jesse Hein challenged us in our relationships with the Lord, encouraging us to keep in step with our Father. He gave a strong word on giving up our earthly desires and worldly ways to follow Christ wholeheartedly.

Besides the teaching sessions, we had daily small group sessions with great discussion, a café night, games and great food. Overall, it was a weekend where hearts grew and many people left challenged, with an increased desire to seek wholeheartedly after God.



Breakthrough '11 (a letter of encouragement)

I just wanted to write a quick note to tell you how incredibly blessed we are to have Capernwray in Cambridge and to encourage you to keep up the good work that God has entrusted to you.

We have richly benefited from the numerous international speakers that Capernwray brings to New Zealand, the outreach programmers, the staff and the students. Our Church was privileged to have another group of young enthusiastic students walk through our doors last Sunday. I know from the previous students that we will be enthused, encouraged and blessed as we get to know and love them.

My youngest daughter turned ten in May and was so excited to be able to attend her first Breakthrough evening. The theme was Amazing Grace and was based on William Wilberforce and his life time fight to end slavery. I know that the group of tweens I took not only had a load of fun, they also were challenged to stand up for what they believe and were presented with a clear message that God makes the difference.

The kids all listened to a wonderful testimony of a student who shared her own experiences of how empty she was until she had a relationship with God. Everyone of them want to come back to the next Breakthrough and bring their friends.

Thank you and may God continue to bless you as you serve Him so faithfully.

*Fiona Ruthven
Cambridge Baptist*



Breakthrough Cast



Breakthrough Devo

Spotlight On!

Online Store



Streaming Audio Teaching

Recently we have expanded the Online Store to include a selection of 'classic' teaching files by Major W. Ian Thomas that will directly stream and play on your computer. The teaching is foundational to the Christian life, which is Christ Himself.

These files are free to listen to, with the remainder of the teaching available for downloading via our Online Store should you want to hear more.

We will be adding more files to this area in the very near future...so be sure to come back and check out what is new!

Highly Recommended

We're featuring in this newsletter the 'Little Nuggets Series' of booklets by Dr Jerry Benjamin.

Jerry travels extensively in the United States, Canada, and other parts of the world as an 'Itinerant Bible Teacher'. Over the past few years we have been very fortunate to have Jerry as a guest lecturer at both Monavale and The Crossing.

Jerry's teaching is highly recommended and proclaims the simply singular message of the living and indwelling Lord Jesus, and of His pre-eminence in and over everything in our lives.

The '**Little Nuggets**' series capture Jerry's desire as a "**signpost, pointing to the all-sufficiency and supremacy of the all-together Lovely One our precious Saviour, the pre-eminent Lord Jesus Christ – all of Thee and none of me!**"

The series includes 6 individual booklets and is available via the Online Store. The titles of the booklets include:

- Is Christ Prominent or Pre-eminent?
- Coming to Spiritual Maturity in Christ
- Who Has the Right to Rule?
- Why Israel Cannot Find Peace
- What is the First Indication of Turning Away From God?
- What is the Most Important Thing God Asks of Us?



DIRECTOR'S DEVOTION

Famous Last Words

It may just be my age but I'm taking more notice of people dying these days than I used to... We have had some notable people pass away in recent times including Ray Windsor (outstanding missionary leader) and of course John Stott (eminent Bible teacher and Christian statesman). I had the privilege of hearing both of them speak over the years and remember being truly impressed by them as men, as well as by what they said. They were each widely respected in their own way and will be deeply missed by family, friends and the wider community. As Maori people say 'a mighty totara has fallen' meaning an outstanding person like the native tree that has dominated the forest has gone leaving a gaping void.

I am sure it must have been similar when King David died and as many feared the ones that followed failed to live up to anything like the status that David enjoyed when he reigned in Jerusalem. However, the void was only temporary as God had always planned that out of his progeny would come one who would put even the great king David in the shade. David's famous last words in 2 Samuel 23:1-5 clearly anticipate this:

The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me... when one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of the morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth

Most people's last words are usually remembered – even if for unintended and even humorous reasons. Here are a couple

of unfortunate examples:

Don't worry...it's not loaded...

Terry Kath, rock musician in the band Chicago Transit Authority as he put the gun he was cleaning to his head and pulled the trigger.

They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance.

General John Sedgwick, Union Commander in the U.S. Civil War, who was hit by sniper fire a few minutes after saying it.

David was a king (2 Sam 2:4), priest (Ps 110:4) and prophet (Acts 2:30). In an incredibly greater sense of course, Jesus is also a king (John 18:37), priest (Heb 7:21–8:6), and prophet (Luke 4:24).

David could never have claimed to rule in righteousness or perfect fear of God and yet Jesus could and does! So in David's case he left no void and his last words were neither foolish nor ridiculous but have come wonderfully true in the person of Jesus. And Jesus' last words to us include '...go and make disciples of all nations...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age'. The impact that men of God like Ray Windsor and John Stott have had on so many of us is because by the Spirit, they did allow Christ to be their righteousness and served him with reverent fear and the fruit of that is new light and new life. If we know Christ we have the same calling...

What famous last words to take note of!

Peter Thomas – Director Capernwray New Zealand



3553 Cambridge Road, Cambridge, 3495, New Zealand

Phone: +64 7 823 1800

www.capernwray.org.nz