



# LIFE matters

Volume 1

Issue 3

IT'S ABOUT LIFE  
Twists & turns on the journey

CHANGING DIRECTION  
A life changing transformation

WHEN HOPE BREAKS IN  
Discovering true life in the midst of grief

HOPE FOR LIFE'S  
JOURNEY

# Who we are

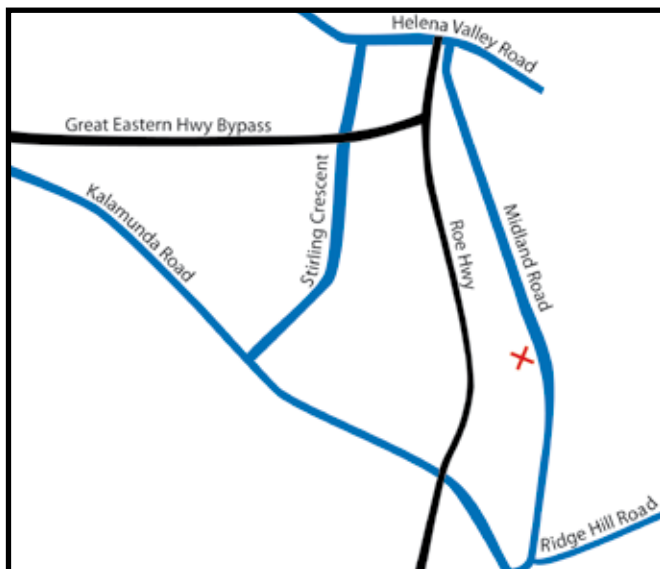
Perth Christian Fellowship is a community based group who meet together to share in the hope of the unity of the body of Christ. That hope is expressed in the broader sense by our close ties with a stream of Christian Fellowships across the country, including an active connection to churches in Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Pakistan.

We believe that God has a plan for everyone and that the gospel is able to restore each person to that plan by embracing the message of the bible. Every individual is encouraged to express themselves in fellowship, prayer and worship in song for the building up of the church as a whole.

We value family life, believing that God seeks to bless every home and see each individual established in the Life of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and to see that Life overflowing to the Church and the wider community.

**You are most welcome to join with us.**

**Communion Service every Sunday at 9.30 am**  
**Perth Christian Fellowship**  
**189 Midland Road, Hazelmere 6055**  
**Phone: 08 9274 3920**  
**Email: [ask-us@pcf.org.au](mailto:ask-us@pcf.org.au)**



# In this issue...



## **It's about life**

Twists & turns on the journey



## **Changing direction**

A life changing transformation



## **When hope breaks in**

Discovering true life in the midst of grief

Editorial .....	2
The Way of Peace .....	5
Just 4 Kids .....	6
Coming Home .....	8
The Hope of Significance .....	12

# Subscription

Would you like *Life Matters* mailed to you?



YES, I want to subscribe to *Life Matters* at no cost.

Hard Copy     E-copy

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I want to subscribe to *Life Matters* at no cost for a friend.

Hard Copy     E-copy

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

P O Box 850 Balcatta WA 6914

I understand that I can  
unsubscribe at any time.

# Editorial

The use of 'journey' as a metaphor for life has become part of our language, and for good reason. 'Journey' describes very well how we commence life at a starting point, then travel step-by-step, inexorably moving towards an end destination, often with detours. Mostly, little clarity is known about what is ahead.

Nevertheless, with the progress of time, the direction of life's journey becomes somewhat clearer (even if only by looking back), and we edge toward a finite end – or do we?

For the Christian, the end of life here on earth is not the end of the journey but an opening of a door to a greater life in eternity thereafter. And in the meantime, there's hope and grace to equip along the way.

'You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.' Psalm 16:11

As in past issues, our feature articles share real testimonies of hope found when life's road has been rocky and tumultuous. This hope is available to all who will find what our writers have discovered – and are continuing to find.

Here is life; here is hope; here is direction.

*Jeff Baldock*

Perth Christian Fellowship



# it's about *life*

## Twists & turns on the journey

by Pauletta Watson

In life we face many significant situations – getting married; graduating from university; the birth of a child; the death of our parents; divorce; a serious medical problem and the list goes on. In times of reflection we often like to think of the good things in life and not dwell on the difficult for fear of bringing up past pain and suffering.

It's been said that life is a journey full of twists and turns. When we start out on our life, nothing is known about what is to come. As a child, security is sought from day to day and the future is of little concern. We just want to know that our immediate needs will be met.

During these years, I would never have imagined that as a teenager I would lose my mother to cancer. My parents chose to shield my brother and me from the ugliness of it by keeping positive and not talking much about the difficult things. The day I found out she died, I was going about my usual day, playing sport at school and was surprised to see my Aunty walking towards me, about to reveal the devastating news.

Immediately following there was a period of immense grief and a sense of absolute loss, almost an inability to process the situation. Then the questions began, in particular, “why”.

When the questions couldn't be answered, anger appeared and it felt like I was almost going to be consumed. Somehow, in the emptiness and absolute despair, we go on living each day.

Not long after, in my late teens, I began to consider what was the source of this life? I discovered that Jesus is the true source of life; He is the beginning and end of all things. I was able to find a rest and peace in God that helped me accept the unanswered questions. I realized that this was a part of my journey in life and learnt to walk through it with God and the support of those around me. No longer did I need to feel alone but I had found hope and purpose in life, living as a child of God. As it is written in scripture, Jesus said ‘I am come that they may have life and that they might have it more abundantly.’ John 10:10.

The Lord has walked with me now for some 25 years and there have been other significant events along the way. I still have unanswered questions, but I am learning to trust God and give my life to Him fully by letting go of control of the circumstances that surround me. The Lord has a place for me to belong and a life to live.

Of course, as I reflect from time to time, I miss my Mum terribly. She was not there on my wedding day; she was not at my high school graduation; she did not see the birth of my three beautiful children, but God was with me through it all and will continue to be throughout all my life's journey. ■



## *Christian Womens' Fellowship*

Invites all women to join for ...

~ Encouragement in word, testimony, song & prayer ~

~ Fellowship over supper ~

Please join us for our next meeting on  
Friday 22nd October  
at 7.30pm

189 Midland Road, Hazelmere

For more information  
Phone Judy: 9471 9399

# the way of peace

by Greg Gale

There are many means by which we try to find peace in life. With the storm of life raging about us, finding peace has high priority.

Jesus promised His disciples 'Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you'. His promise was to give to them a peace which was beyond human experience. He was offering them His Peace.

Birthing in the relationship of perfect love where the Three (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) are equally seen as One, His peace is demonstrated by His capacity to lay down His life, by the Spirit, in offering to do the will of His Father. Even at the point of the cross He was able to commit His life into Their hands.

By the cross He opened a way for us to know this peace in our lives.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians declaring that Christ has created in Himself one new man.

Through the cross Christ has broken down every barrier that would keep us from Him. The power of every sin has been broken and now there is no longer any reason to be separate from Christ. We who were once dead in sin and trespasses, we who were without hope, being far from God, can now be brought near and be saved. He has made peace.

God the Son has opened a way whereby He can be our peace. Yes 'He Himself is our peace' Eph 2:14. Not only is Jesus offering to give us His peace, He Himself actually is our peace.

If we will choose to come to Him, not just wanting to know about Him but rather to join ourselves to Him, we will find in a very real way that He is our peace. Yes, the storms of life will continue around us, but once we find Christ we find we have touched the capacity of His peace - to live our lives for Him. ■





# JUST 4 KIDS +

By Taylor Watson

## CODE CRACKER:

This month's Just 4 Kids is a code cracker! Try your best to solve the following code, an excerpt from Romans (part of the verse) using the letter - symbol table below. So grab your friends and family, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and come and have fun while learning about the bible with Just 4 Kids!

° ∩ ► ← ♥ ◀ • ✓ Ω × ☹ € ♣ ☹ 🎵 ☀ ♂ ♀

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R

☹ ♀ ☹ ☹ = Σ = ☹

S T U V W X Y Z

“ ° ☹ ← ✓ 🎵 ☀ ♥ ← 🎵 ♥ ☹ ☹ 🎵 ♀

\_\_\_\_\_

← Ω ☹ ° ☀ ☀ 🎵 Ω ☹ ♀ ☹ ☹ “

\_\_\_\_\_

Clue: Romans 5:5 (Part)

See page 13 for answers.

# changing direction

by Nada Dunstan

I came to Australia from Lebanon at the age of seven. My family culture was very rigid – more so for my sisters and me.

At the age of 16, my marriage was arranged by my parents; I didn't know who the man was, and had no say in the matter. The marriage lasted 27 years, and was very testing and cruel and couldn't last. But I don't wish to linger there, because my story is not one of defeat and sadness, but one of hope and victory!

Several years ago, I found a life which I want to tell you about. The Lord has given me Graeme, a loving Christian husband to grow with, and together we walk in the Lord's light and we've come into a church fellowship where I can be myself, and be encouraged by those who are knowing His love too.

It's only when I look back to where I have come from that I truly understand how I have been changed by my relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ as I become closer to Him each day. The road my Lord leads me is so refined, it's sifting the old 'me' as I walk each day's journey. Here I receive the fullness of each day's trials and tribulations, not using that day for being idle, but knowing that the Lord will guide me on the right path through all circumstances.

When at times I fall by the wayside for a short time, I'm picked up, my stubbornness and pride is dusted off, and I come back to the altar to be forgiven and renewed. The fragile person that I was now grows stronger in faith each time I repent and ask forgiveness.

It wasn't like this in my previous life. I didn't know hope and I didn't know Him, my Lord and Saviour. When I open my heart to Him I know I will be heard. He sustains me and I have life in Him.

The Lord's provision for me is full; my cup of blessing runs over. I am truly blessed. ■

visionone.org.au

Have you visited the VisionOne website?

At [www.visionone.org.au](http://www.visionone.org.au) you'll find a variety of Christian music and publications available online.

Kinote Series

fruit of the vine

4 Teens

THE LIFE OF JESUS SERIES

Last Days

Journey to Song

# coming home

by Elja Maurice

**‘We all have times when we need to ‘come home’, even if we are walking as committed believers’**

‘Behold what manner of love the father has bestowed on us that we should be called the children of God’ 1 John 3:1.

I had a school friend who knew God when she was a teenager, and came back to him in her thirties. She committed herself again to the Lord and a fellowship of believers. When I asked her how she felt she said ‘It’s just like coming home’.

We all have times when we need to ‘come home’, even if we are walking as committed believers. Who do we come home to? We come home to a father who loves us and is waiting for us. Even as committed Christians, we don’t always live with an awareness of God’s love for us. We are not, as the above scripture encourages us, beholding the love the Father has for us. We are not living as ones who are loved.

This is when we need to meet the Father again in the ‘secret place’ of prayer, as Jesus encourages us to. ‘Pray to your father who is in the secret place, he said, and your father who

is in secret, will reward you openly.’ Matt 5:5. We find one of our greatest rewards is in knowing we are loved.

For some people, the thought of coming to know God as a father is difficult, because their experience of fatherhood has been limited, or even negative. The Bible says that every good and perfect gift comes down from above, from the father of lights, in whom there is now shadow or turning. God our Father is completely trustworthy and relational. Even those who have had a positive experience of fatherhood will find that their minds can be renewed to understand the love of God properly.

I love the verse that says ‘We love, because he first loved us’ 1 John 4:19. The power to love is in being loved by Him. This will not be based in a once-off experience, but a lifetime of walking with God the Father, just as Christ did. God wants us to know his love personally, and He also wants to pour His love into our hearts so that we can love others.

It is extraordinary to think that God’s love can become part of us. What a hope, and what a responsibility! ‘And hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.’ Rom 5:5. ■

# you're Invited...

## SON SEEKERS

children's ministry material

**WHO:** Children aged 4 - 12

**WHEN:** 11.00am each Sunday  
(excluding School Holidays)

**WHERE:** Perth Christian Fellowship  
189 Midland Road  
Hazelmere 6055  
08 9274 3920



Please join us for a wonderful time of learning what the Bible has to say about your life today. At Sonseekers we build friendships, listen to Bible stories, play games, make fun crafts, eat yummy snacks, and find true life.

Please contact us on 08 9274 3920 if you have any questions. We hope to see you soon! We would love to meet your family and friends too. At Perth Christian Fellowship we have something for everybody!

# when hope breaks in

by Jenny Gale

When I had just turned 21 life was good. I had just finished my studies and would, in the coming year, begin a new job working for the Disabilities Commission. This was an exciting time for me as I loved the chosen profession in which I was about to embark. At this stage in my life I enjoyed myself immensely and everything seemed to be coming together for me. However things were about to change!

While socializing at a friend's house, I received one of those phone calls that you hope you never get. It was my Dad telling me that my 22 year-old brother had attempted suicide and had been taken to Royal Perth Hospital. His prognosis to live was not looking good so the next 24 hours were spent willing him to live. Unfortunately he passed away, leaving my family deeply in shock and pain. This was so unexpected and turned our lives inside out.

We seemed to live out the next days before his funeral in slow motion. Together with my Mum and Dad we prepared the funeral to say goodbye to a beloved son and brother. After the funeral, life went on but our hearts were raw and burdened. I felt much for my parents at this time and as a family we wondered how

we would go on with the normality of life. Then I became aware of a still small voice that began to gently whisper. I heard the words clearly in my heart 'This will not be for nothing, for you shall know the Lord your God'. So I began to look for God and I can truly say that I found Him and, in this moment, hope began to break in. I continued on to seek Him and the Lord my God met me richly.

...a still small voice  
that began to gently  
whisper... 'This will not be  
for nothing, for you shall  
know the Lord your God'.

I had looked on God from afar but now I knew He was right there in my circumstances - real and approachable. I couldn't get enough of the Bible and found scriptures ministering to me in a way I had never known before. I knew a love and care of a Heavenly Father who had chosen to break in on my life. I was so grateful and thankful. My grief was still very much before me, but I knew that I no longer walked that road alone and whatever happened in the future, my life was found in Jesus Christ.

The need to be fellowshipping in a church with other Christians and to be hearing God's word began to be felt. This seemed like it may be a hard task, but the Lord directed my path to a place where I could find Him and walk with others. This was a rich time for me; a time to heal; to learn about God and to learn to laugh again. The Lord placed some precious people in my life that cared for me and loved me dearly.

I thank the Lord for His leading in my life. Grief still rose up at times and I missed my brother so much - he and I had always been great friends and we had loved each other dearly. There were also many questions for my parents and myself that we knew would never be answered. It was also difficult watching my parents in their grief. I so wanted to make it better for them.

So much had been lost in one sense, but I realized I had gained so much more in my new found relationship with Jesus Christ. Psalm 30 says 'You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, To this end that my glory

may sing praise to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.'

I can confess that this is truly how I felt (and still feel today) and I thank the Lord that He chose this time of pain and grief to break in and place His hope deep within me. I am just an ordinary person who went through a painful experience and heard that still small voice that called out my name. God broke in on me bringing hope and a way forward for my life. I just needed to respond and God was right there to meet me in His great mercy and love.

What are you facing right now? Perhaps you have been though, or are going through, a painful experience? Maybe you feel alone and hopeless? I can honestly say that I know how you are feeling - I truly do - and urge you to look for God, for He is real and He longs to break in on your life with hope. To have hope in Jesus Christ changes everything. The path set before you will be different to mine. It will be uniquely yours to walk, but God will show the way forward for you if you look for Him today! ■



# *the hope of significance*

by Catherine Brett

**I**t seems to be human nature to want to pursue the feeling of significance, as if it was something essential to living. And so, we attempt to pursue it until it is found. But how do we know whether it can be found? Somehow we must inherently know it's there to be found and that we'll eventually locate it. But where is significance found, and why is it so desperately pursued?

The need to find significance is like a bottomless pit, or even better, a trap door that initially looks so solid and worthy to stand on, but before you know it the floor falls out from beneath you. It never really satisfies. Significance pretends to promise us meaning, a sense of purpose, even justification, but it never really satisfies. Instead the search leaves us frustrated, empty and without hope because it could not provide us with what it promised.

The pursuit of significance seems to be inherent, even from very young. Perhaps we wanted to be the 'bestest' monkey bars swinger, the greatest twirler, the best footballer with the biggest kick, the fastest runner, the smartest kid, the prettiest girl, the toughest boy, the most loved one, and the list goes on.

So what is wrong with wanting to feel significant, to have a sense of belonging to someone or something? Maybe it's the pursuit that is the problem. If anyone wants to gain from this pursuit, he or she will fall into the trap of deception - a trap that only convinces, or reinforces, the need to feel significant.

Several sources of significance have been referred to already but despite how important those things may be, significance is not going to be found there. So where? God tells us to pursue peace, righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness. All these things come from God. He gives us these things when we pursue Him because they help us in our lives. Peace to tell us who we are, righteousness and godliness to give us an understanding of how we should live, faith to believe and know God, steadfastness to keep on going and gentleness to help us relate to one another.

I think it's when we leave the pursuit of our own significance and begin to pursue God and His promises that we actually find significance. Because we belong to God and His family, we begin to know His plan for us and we can have a hope for significance in our lives. ■



# CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

In your local community offering an opportunity  
for men of all ages to meet for fellowship.

Saturday evenings from

6.30pm

on the following dates

25th September

6th November

Some of the activities in the program include:

- barbeques - table tennis - carpet bowls - board games -

Perth Christian Fellowship

189 Midland Road

Hazelmere

For more information

Call Greg on 0411 481 564

# A place for you at PCF

## Communion Service

### 9.30 am every Sunday

Our Sunday Communion Service is an opportunity for all to gather and express the life of Christ in Word, Testimony and Song. We have no restricted membership and invite all who believe in Christ to participate in the communion elements with us.

## Bible Study

### 11.15 am every Sunday

Bible study sessions run weekly on Sunday mornings. In this time we look at historical aspects of the bible and their practical application to our daily life, with a view to encourage each one in walking the life of a Christian.

## Sunday School

### 11.00 am every Sunday

'Sonseekers' kids programme runs every Sunday during school term. All kids aged 4 to 12 are welcome. We learn about people in the bible and build friendships through games, songs, creative craft and exciting stories.

## Coffee, Craft & Chat

### 10.00 am on the first Wednesday of each month

Ladies of all ages are welcome to join us for craft, sewing, knitting or just a chat. Morning tea is provided and, for those with young children, there is a playground.

## Christian Women's Fellowship

### 7.30 pm on the third Friday of every other month

Christian Women's Fellowship is a group of women of all ages committed to Christ. Our vision is to see every woman at the heart of church and family life, sharing and finding genuine friendship together. Our gatherings are an expression of the unique life of faith and fellowship that we share.

## Home Groups

### 7.30 pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month Maida Vale (08 9454 4345) & Gwelup (08 9243 7267)

Home Group meetings are run as a context for families to participate in a further expression of the communion life we share. The emphasis at these meetings is on "breaking down" the communion word to facilitate a more complete understanding and application.

**Phone 08 9274 3920, or email us at [ask-us@pcf.org.au](mailto:ask-us@pcf.org.au),  
for more information.**