



DANDENONG  
**Bible  
Education  
Centre**

# Newsletter

## June

## 2006

### **“Happy faces” Parent and toddler playgroup**

This new group is due to start at the Dandenong Bible Education Centre in Term 3, God willing, and will run fortnightly during term time.

The group is open for all ages of preschool children from babies to kinder age along with their mums/dads/grandparents. We plan to share simple craft activities, short Bible stories and singing together. There will also be time for free play where Mums/Dads can sit back and enjoy new friendships with a cuppa and morning tea. Morning tea will also be provided for the children (drink, fruit, cheese and biscuits).



*Alison, one of the leaders of the playgroup, with Laura, playing with a puzzle.*

If you're looking for a new playgroup to attend that has a Christian background or you are not able to get out much because you have a child at home, we want you to know that we care and we ask you to join us.

All are welcome.

**“Happy Faces” will start, God willing, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 10:30am – 12 noon at the Dandenong Bible Education Centre**

Dates for term 3 are:  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> August, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Enrolment forms will be available from the front desk from 1<sup>st</sup> June or enrol at your first session.

A gold coin donation box will be available to contribute towards the cost of running the group and for buying additional equipment.

Why not come and try it out for a session? We'd love to see you.

If you have any questions or queries about “Happy Faces” please leave a message for Trina or Alison at the Centre on (03) 9791 1699

or email us at [info@dandenongbec.org.au](mailto:info@dandenongbec.org.au).

### **Bible Explorers**

Don't forget that if you have children beyond playgroup age, we have an interesting program of Bible learning for them each Sunday from 11.30am - 12.30pm. The focus of the Bible Explorers in Terms 3 and 4 is on the life of Jesus. We will be looking at what Jesus and his disciples did, finding out about many of the miracles Jesus performed, and learning some special stories Jesus told, called parables. From these Bible stories we will learn lessons for our lives – how we should live and behave in the twenty-first century. The children enjoy hearing stories, singing songs and doing craft activities. We welcome new children to our classes.

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## The New Life class

Each Sunday from 11.30 – 12.30 we hold a class covering a variety of Bible topics. All who attend are invited to stay and share lunch with us. The topics for June are:

**June 4** *The Bible's View – racism*

**11** *The Bible's view – the environment*

**18** *The Bible's view – war*

**25** No class – night meeting 7pm

## Roman roads

When we travel around Melbourne, or out into the country, we take for granted that there will be good roads to drive on. Sometimes there are holes or bumps in the road, and we complain about the poor state of the road. "Why doesn't somebody fix the road?" we grumble. However the relatively smooth roads we enjoy have not always been common. Rough cart tracks were more normal. These sorts of roads would have been slow to travel on – they tended to bend and twist around trees or beside winding rivers. We talk of distances "as the crow flies" but these roads would have been much longer.

In the time of the Roman Empire, which included the time of Jesus' life, there were about 85,000 kilometres of very good roads. The Roman Empire was a large empire, stretching from England through Europe all the way to Iraq, and down to North Africa. To be able to control such a large area, it was important that troops of soldiers be able to travel quickly. If there was a revolt in a town, the soldiers needed to be there to settle the trouble before it became too big to handle. Their solution was to build very good roads so that the soldiers could march straight to any trouble immediately and swiftly. This meant they needed fairly straight, strong and smooth roads.

What does this have to do with the Bible? We read in Romans 5:6 (NIV):

*"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."*

God chose to send Jesus about 2000 years ago. No doubt God would have had many reasons for choosing that particular time. In the book of Acts we read of the time when the good news of Jesus and of the kingdom of God was spread over a very wide area. One feature that helped this spread immensely was the high quality of roads available. Just as

troops of soldiers could move from town to town rapidly, so the disciples could travel relatively quickly and easily, taking the gospel to a large area. There was also some protection from danger because there were troops stationed along the roads. God knew that the condition of the roads would greatly help in the spread of his message of hope – it was "just the right time".

The Roman roads were so well made that there are many places where they can still be seen today. Now the top surface has worn away, and cobblestones leave a bumpy road, but two thousand years ago these roads were masterpieces of engineering in their day – they even had drainage at the sides.



*The remains of an old Roman road near Philippi – now about two thousand years old.*

## Rote learning – a great way to keep your brain working well!

Scientists are finding that the more you use your brain in certain ways, the better your brain will work. The saying "use it or you'll lose it" is true of your memory. One thing you can do is to learn things off by heart, otherwise known as rote learning. Why not try to learn a part of the Bible? Here are some suggestions:

Psalm 23 (a famous Psalm of David beginning with "The Lord is my shepherd").

The beatitudes of Jesus in Matthew 5:3-12. (These are blessings).

The fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (a passage about love).

## Watch for Term 3 course leaflet

We are planning an interesting variety of courses for Term 3. If God blesses our planning, the leaflet outlining these courses will be sent out with the July newsletter.