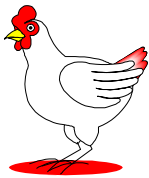




Newsletter December 2007

The chicken and the pig

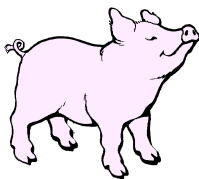


An old farmyard fable about a chicken and a pig was used as the basis for our special November weekend about the topic “*Conversion and Commitment*”.

There was once a farmer who was very kind to his animals. They were thankful for this and decided to form a committee to decide what they could all do for the farmer to show him their appreciation. The farmyard animals chose a chicken and a pig to determine their course of action. The chicken came up with a great idea – “Let’s serve the farmer a bacon and egg breakfast.” The pig did not share the chicken’s enthusiasm and replied “For you that’s a day’s work, but for me that’s total commitment.”

The lesson to be learnt from this fable is that if we want to show our appreciation to our Master, it is going to take more than a day’s work. It needs to be total commitment.

Over the weekend we looked at examples of various people in the Bible who converted (changed their ways) to follow God. We found that some people (such as the apostle Paul) had sudden changes in their lives, whilst others gradually realized what they must do in committing their lives to God so that they would be saved. The challenge of the weekend was for us to be like those faithful people in the Bible who truly dedicated their lives to God. Throughout the weekend the question was asked many times: “Which are you – a chicken or a pig?” God has promised eternal life to his true followers – will you follow him?



One of the activities on Saturday was making some of the conversions of people in the Bible come alive. This was done through pictures, poems and a small skit. Read some of the poems on the back of this page.

Note our Christmas holiday hours

The Dandenong Bible Education Centre will be open until **Friday 21st December**. The shop will reopen on **Tuesday 15th January**.

Christmas service

Come and join us on Christmas Eve (24th December) at 7pm for our Christmas service. Enjoy Bible readings, join in singing carols, and meditate on God’s great gift of the birth of the saviour of the world.



Christmas course

Book now for the Monday night Christmas course. **December 10 & 17, 8pm.**

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 to share lunch with us. God willing the topics will be:

- Dec 2** *Jesus is coming – are you ready?*
- 9** *The Holy Spirit: the power of life*
- 16** *Christmas and the Christian*
- 23** *Bible quiz morning*
- 30** *New life in a new year*

Next year’s courses (term 1)

Your next newsletter should arrive towards the end of January, with the courses for Term 1 2008 enclosed.

Learn English through the Bible

The “Learn English through the Bible” course is finished for 2007.

All our plans are “God willing”

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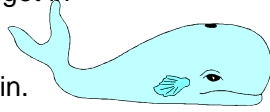
Poems about conversion and commitment

The following poems were written by the young and not-so-young people attending our special weekend about conversion and commitment.

Conversion and commitment of Ninevites

Read the book of Jonah for the full story

There once was a great city of sin
Which Jonah needed to get in
Vomit, bile,
fishes and style
God saved Nineveh's skin.



Conversion and commitment of Moses

Read Exodus 2 for the full story

There was an old fellow called Moses,
Who lived in the palace of the king
With cushions and royalties and roses,
He was happy enough to sing.



One day he saw his fellow men,
Slaves, working so hard.
He was in his comfortable den,
While they were rather scarred.

He decided to leave his easy life,
His cushions and royalties and roses,
To help those who were in strife.
A humble man was Moses.

An Egyptian was whipping an Israelite,
Giving him pound after pound.
Moses stepped in and finished the fight.
The Egyptian lay dead on the ground.

An Israelite wronged his brother,
Moses just had to stop it.
"Oh, just be kind to one another,
Or you may have to cop it"

So he was told, loud and clear,
"Yesterday you killed an Egyptian."
He fled to Midian, for his life was dear,
He was now a converted man.

Conversion and commitment of Cornelius

Read Acts 10 for the full story.

Peter was staying in Joppa
When he was called to see a copper.
He was disturbed by a dream
And told eat the unclean:
A Big Mac, thick shake and Whopper!

He took the north road with three men
Who took him to the centurion
Peter explained that to eat
Or even to meet
Would cause trouble in Jerusalem.

But God taught him to baptise all;
Everyone is welcome, short and tall,
Black, white, yellow or green,
Jew, Roman or Mycene--
Each person must respond to his call.

Christmas crossword

ACROSS

- 2 The place where Jesus slept
- 3 These told the shepherds of Jesus' birth
- 6 The father of Jesus
- 7 They visited Jesus
- 8 The king who tried to kill baby Jesus

DOWN

- 1 Where Jesus was born
- 2 The mother of Jesus
- 4 Where Jesus grew up
- 5 The husband of Mary
- 6 One of the gifts given by the wise men

