

Listening to the Language of the Bible

Exerpts from a book by Lois Tverberg.

8. Hebraic insights that deepen our thinking – **Yeshuah Salvation in this life**
Our Greek-thinking background tends to make us think of this world as worthless and evil, instead of the biblical attitude that creation is good and that human life is meaningful. We can think of our lives simply as waiting – waiting for Christ to come again, or waiting to die and go to heaven. The Bible's Hebraic idea of salvation (*yeshuah*) gives a different perspective. Being saved from judgement is only part of the biblical picture of salvation, which also includes *restoring a relationship with God in this life*. When we see salvation as beginning in this life, our picture of God is more likely to be of God as a shepherd searching after his sheep or a father desperate for his son to come home. If we are already living in eternity, do our lives show it?

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The Australian Financial Review reported yesterday that the Government is considering further cuts to aid.

After \$7.6 billion was stripped from aid in the May Budget (more than 21% of total cuts), we need to let the Government know that finding budget savings through yet more cuts to aid is not OK.

Some people in the Government see the aid program as an easy target for cuts. Yet we know that Australian aid makes a world of difference. It helps some of the world's most promising people lift themselves and their communities out of poverty. (cont. across)

ROSTERS FOR 21 December

Portarlington

9.00 am

Managers: David & Lorraine Hughes

Morning Tea: Elaine & Ken Farnell

Pastoral Care & Prayers: Brenda Vohmann

Readings: Graham Vohmann

Power Point: Pammi Pryor

Drysdale

9.00 am

Morning Tea: Wayne's Team

Counting: Ian McLaverty

10.45 am

Duty Elder & Prayers: John MacGillivray

Readings: Vince King

Door: Margaret MacGillivray

Morning Tea: Lavinia Howard & Merrilyn Lloyd

Flowers: Audrey Shepherd

St Leonards

7.00 pm HC

Welcoming: Miriam Tobin

Reading: Sandra Giddings

Prayers: Marj Wilson

Brass & Flowers: Margo Jones & Marj Wilson

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The two Ministers who will be responsible for these cuts if they go ahead are the Treasurer, Joe Hockey, and Finance Minister, Mathias Cormann.

Micah Challenge has some suggestions about what we can do. Go to link: www.micahchallenge.org.au/dont-cut-aid

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

Advent 3

Sunday, 14 December 2014

The One who restores Israel is the One who brings good news: release to the captives, help to the oppressed, and joy to the broken hearted. The One who restored Israel's fortunes in the time of Isaiah is the One who sent John to make straight the way of the messiah. Now is the time to rejoice, to pray without ceasing, and to prepare for our salvation.

Abingdon Worship Annual

LECTIONARY

14 December Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 or Luke 1: 46a-55
Advent 3 1 Thes 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28

21 December 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Romans 16: 25-27
Advent 4 Luke 1: 47-55 or Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26 Luke 1: 26-38

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Village Walk Drysdale

5251 3640

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 14 December

Portarlington

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham HC
Loose change & food bank

Drysdale

9.00 am Wayne's team
10.45 am Brian & Thelma Shaw
5.00 pm Messy Church – invite friends
and neighbours

St Leonards

9.00 am Combined Holy Communion
Anglican

Monday, 15 December

7.30 pm Port. Advent Study - *Making
of the Messiah*

Tuesday, 16 December

10.30 am Worship at Drysdale Grove
7.30 pm Drysdale Advent Study – *We
are all your people*

Wednesday, 17 December

10.00 am Drysdale Coffee & Chat

Thursday, 18 December

9.00 am Portarlington Choir practice
9.30 am Drysdale Choir practice
10.30 am Carol Singing in Safeway
11.00 am Worship at Ann Nichol House

Friday, 19 December

9:15-10.00 am Drysdale Friday School

Sunday, 21 December

Portarlington

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham
Choral Service

Drysdale

9.00 am Jenni's team
10.45 am Rev Marion Latham

St Leonards

7.00 pm Christmas Story in Song,
Portarlington UC Choir
Loose change and food bank

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Loose Change

Our final offering for the year resulted in
\$157.50 for Samaritan House.

Church Council agreed that the offerings
over the year be rounded up to \$1,500
as our contribution to this very special
project for 2014.

Thank you to all.

Messy Church

Tonight at 5.00 - 6.30 pm with the theme
of "Animals at Christmas." There will be
six creative craft activities to undertake
whilst considering a related question,
followed by a short service in the church
and then a shared meal.

It is a great way to introduce non-church
people to an informal church setting.
Please come along and support this
initiative.



Carol Singing

The Choir will be singing at Safeway's
on Thursday, 18 December, 10.00 am to
11.00 am and would like members of the
congregations at Drysdale, Portarlington
and St Leonards to join us. Please bring
your hymn book if possible.

Drysdale Flower Roster for 2015

A provisional flower roster is on the table
as you go out from Worship this morning.
Please see if the dates are suitable.

If you are unable to do the flowers any
longer please cross your name off.
Anyone not on the roster, but is willing to
do the flowers, write your name
alongside the dates you can fill in.

Wilma Mansell

Empty Christmas Tree

Our empty Christmas tree is again in
church for us to place gifts under.
The gift can be for a boy, girl, woman or
man of any age. Please leave the gift
unwrapped under the tree.

These gifts will be taken to Uniting Care
Geelong for distribution to those in need.

ST LEONARDS

Christmas Story in Song

At 7.00 pm on 21 December at St
Leonards Uniting Church, Dudley
Parade, the Portarlington UC Choir will
be bringing to us the Christmas Story in
Song.

Everyone welcome. Supper after the
performance. Further information from
Marj 5257 1096.

ALL CONGREGATIONS

Weekly News Sheet

Next week will be the last news sheet for
2014 and will contain the readings for
January.

Thanks to the team who prepare the
news sheet each week on a roster basis.
If you feel you could help out with the
news sheet please speak to Val
Lestrange, more help would be
appreciated.

The news sheet will start up again on
Sunday, 25 January 2015.

God by all names,
you have called us by name.
When asked
"Who are you?"
by your name
we stand up in the wilderness
crying make straight the way
for Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen

Bob Eldan, Lander, Wyoming