



Seeds Bendigo
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Dear

As you know, part of my vocation is to think! I named my website "*Thinking My Way Through*" because I believe part of my calling is to think about what living out the call of Jesus means in our time and place. Last year I wrote a little about my desire to write more as a way of thinking about what we do here in Long Gully. That has developed into a desire to complete a master's degree (some way in the misty future!). So, I'm doing 1 subject a semester at Whitley College, which is really stimulating my mind!

Lately, I've been thinking about "transience". Transience is a common thing these days – ironically, maybe one of the most stable things in our lives is the fact that people move, travel and change at a rapid pace. This has an impact on all of our lives, and the way we reach out to others. What do you do when all the people you are serving want to leave!? We may be committed to long-term relationships, but that doesn't mean our neighbours are. Many of them are keen to move from Long Gully as quickly as possible, or circumstance demands that they do.

We all start any venture with an end in mind, but as Gertrude Stein said: "*When you get there, there isn't any there there.*"!

Do we invest more intensely, take more risks, because people may move out of our influence soon? Or do we simply go on as before, trusting that wherever they are, God is also? Recently, a couple of people I've spent a fair amount of time with have up and left quite suddenly. Arguably, their lives have improved because of that move, but I am still left with a sense of annoyance and loss. You have probably experienced something similar – I think our feelings originate in our sense of heroism, the individualism that pervades our age, and our lack of connection with the Trinity. (I've written some more thoughts on this at davefagg.com.au, so have a look)

The great thing about discipleship is that most of our struggles have been described and predicted in the Bible. In the face of transience, we need to remember that we are also sojourners in this world, not hoping for escape from it, but remembering that we hope for a different world. The things we try to hold onto (status, career, the identity we have carefully cultivated) are all transient in the eyes of God, who calls us to be rooted in him rather than in things that change and pass away....you can see I've been studying some theology!

Many thanks for your support, in so many different ways. Kylie, myself and all the Seeds Bendigo mob appreciate your part in God's economy in Bendigo, which includes not only money, but prayer, concern and solidarity.

In grace & truth,

Dave Fagg
Seeds Convenor

Outdoor Edge

Outdoor Edge is having a break for a few months while I get stuck into Praxis. I'll be evaluating the program with young people and their families over the next few months.

New Seeds Members!

Paula Glassborow (right) joins us this year. Paula is a colleague of another of our Seeds members (Peter Noble), and works with him at the Community Legal Centre. She also attends Bendigo Baptist Church. We also welcome **Reuben**, who was born to Ali and Di in early February.



Community Garden & Toy Library

St Matthew's will have a couple of great programs happening – a community garden and a toy library, made possible by the generosity of the Victorian Government, RegionalOne Credit Union, Fosterville Mine, Gospel Resources and the Inger Rice Foundation.

Delwyn Riordan, a Seeds member here, will be working on the Toy Library, and we will be employing someone very soon to work on the Garden.

Dave Speaking

I've had the chance to speak on a number of issues close to my heart lately:

- *Regional Mission*: at the Surrender gathering, I spoke with Brent Lyons-Lee about doing Christian work in regional and rural settings
- *Political Evangelism*: we had a speaker organized for Seeds Seminar who had to pull out, which gave me the opportunity to put into words some thoughts about political action. I spoke on "Political Evangelism". If interested, go to davefagg.com.au to see the text, or call me for a copy.

Points to Pray/Act on

- Thanks that the landscape plan for St Matthew's is now complete – pray for energy and resources to enact it.
- Thanks for the grant from Gospel Resources to start a toy library
- For Finn and Esther as they leave Seeds Bendigo this year. Pray that they would be guided by God in all they do.
- For Paula, a new member of Seeds, as she gets to grips with the animal that is Seeds!

Wish List...

- Van for community & Seeds use
- Money, materials and/or expertise to replace the roof on the church



Colour the Gully: at left is the launch of Colour the Gully, an art project that will install colourful panels around the local area. It's brought loads of people to St Matthew's. Ben Winspear (middle) is co-ordinating it.

By coincidence (or providence!) he is a Christian, and it's been great to have him around.