

Holy Communion & the Cup of Wine

Kim Miller

If we are to understand Holy Communion in the Christian church we need to have some basic understanding of the Jewish Passover, the meal in which Jesus shared bread and wine with his friends on the night he was betrayed.

The Passover Meal is the annual celebration of the arduous journey the Israelites made under the guidance and leadership of Moses to free themselves from Egyptian Rule. The meal is filled with symbolism, such as unleavened bread made in haste without yeast so it doesn't require time to rise. Moses told his people to make bread like this for their journey.

During the Passover Meal this bread is eaten with a paste made from apples and walnuts to represent the bricks and mortar made by the Hebrew slaves. Herbs like parsley are dipped in salt and eaten to represent the tears of the people. There are other symbols, including cups of wine. Four cups are set for each guest and are drunk at certain times through the meal, and a fifth cup is left untouched.

The first four cups of wine are symbolic of Exodus 6:6-7: **"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.**

I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians."

1. I will take you out of Egypt.
2. I will deliver you from slavery.
3. I will redeem you with a demonstration of my power.
4. I will make you a nation.

The fifth cup represents the prophet Elijah. Elijah did not die, he was carried into heaven on the fiery chariot. Jewish understanding is that he will return to announce the coming of the Messiah. The fifth cup of wine is not drunk, as Elijah has not yet appeared with his announcement.

When Jesus was celebrating the Passover with his friends he took the bread and broke it and asked them all to share it as his body broken for them. When he took the cup of wine and asked them to drink from it as the new covenant in his blood, what cup did he use? We see a clue to what is to come in Matthew 11:14: ***"And if you are willing to accept it, he (John the Baptist) is the Elijah who was to come."*** So, what cup?

The answer lies in 1Corinthians 11:25, St Paul's teaching on the Last Supper. The clue is *'after supper he took the cup.'* Four cups had already been drunk. But there was one cup sitting on the table, filled and waiting for Elijah.

That cup was a sacred symbol of the Jewish people waiting for God's redemption through the Messiah. And Jesus was about to

do something very radical. He was about to drink the cup that could only be drunk when Elijah announced the presence of the Messiah.

Jesus picks up that cup and the others look on with a quizzical look, then a frown, then in astonishment as they hear his words. Jesus wants them to drink from the Elijah cup. He wants them to act as if Elijah has announced the Messiah. It is a very confronting moment for them. It is scandalous. But they do it!

Jesus is saying to them, *'Are you prepared to see in me the long awaited Messiah, the saviour from God?'* and they do it. They cast their history and their tradition and their misgivings aside, and they do it. They accept Jesus to be who this symbol says he is.

When we take communion we are faced with the same challenge.

How easy it is to take the bread and the wine without thinking. How easy it is to do something without the challenge that Jesus gave to those original disciples.

There is another story hidden in these symbols of bread and wine. One person was not present.

In John 13:26 Jesus says of his betrayer: ***"It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon."***

Inside this issue:

Holy Communion & the Cup of Wine
Kim Miller

Life House
Russell & Donna
Cunningham

Kevin's Travel

Globe Reach

Fiji
Peter & Jill Schutlz

Argentina
Paul & Veronica Harb

Bali
Michael & Bianca
Zeitch

Ozreach

Tim Costello
Nikki Gibson

Ozreach Conference
October 15th & 16th

Mates in Ministry

Judas leaves the supper soon after.

The same bread that Jesus was to use for communion, the celebration of community, was also used in this symbol of betrayal. Judas shared the bread, but the symbolism was reversed and corrupted. Judas did not share the wine after the supper, he was not there. He was not presented with the challenge that Jesus gave to the others. He was not asked to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, the Saviour from God.

But we are. Jesus gives us that challenge every time we share the bread and the wine.

And now I want to address an issue that Kevin has recently addressed in his newsletter. It is the issue of betrayal and how certain relationships in this church and its leadership were broken through 2009.

I remember well the Sunday that Kevin stood in tears before us and

said that he has resolved to continue in the face of betrayal, although the pain of it was strong within him. And he shared communion with us in bitter tears. And on that day what I have written here was strong in my mind. Perhaps I should have stood and said to you it back then, but I will say it here instead.

On that day the church was faced with a decision. The decision was *'Will you see Kevin as leader, as pastor, of this community? Are you willing to take that risk? Are you willing to allow Kevin to lead you somewhere scary in the days ahead? Will you dare to take that cup that says, What is happening here is of God?'*

I took it gladly. I have deep respect of Kevin and his leadership. It is unorthodox, but inspiring to me.

It is quite a distance from my own leadership style, but there are places in my life that need to be fired up. He has broad vision where as my vision is the person before me at the moment, and my eyes need widening in that respect.

I am not seeing Kevin in messianic terms,

and I am certainly not equating him with Jesus. I am relating to the symbolism of Jesus releasing a betrayer from the midst of that community and of making a challenge to those that remain.

This is symbolism, it is metaphor, it is using one story to try to understand another. It is what Jesus did all the time in his parables.

The challenge on that Sunday was about loyalty to what I believed God was doing in the church and in Kevin as leader. Sometimes these things are so simple. And yet they can be so challenging.



Kim Miller
Chaplain for Samaritans
Member of Life Church

Life House—Russell & Donna-Lea Cunningham

In 1993 the circumstances of my life had reached rock bottom and I spent more than 3 months homeless sleeping on a smelly mattress, in a mouse plagued, condemned garage. God touched my heart and led me to a growing church in Thirroul where I met Kevin Wilcock who inspired me to seek God and His will for my life. I did and I met my beautiful wife Donna-Lea and within a year we were making plans to get married and God called us both to full time service as tent managers for Outreach Australia which consisted of a 1000 seater tent and truck.

We travelled Australia for 5 years and participated in 100 tent crusades, thanks to the support of our church at the time, (South Coast City Church) in Wollongong.

After the tent ministry came to a close for us, I found employment and was

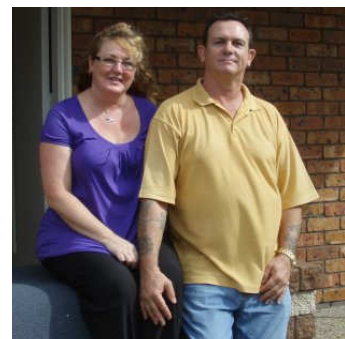
eventually transferred to Newcastle. We joined a church and got involved in everything from cleaning the toilets, greeting people at the door, looking after infants in Sunday school, life group leading, etc. Yet no matter how hard we tried it was hard going and our hearts were not totally into what we were doing.

God began to stir a passion inside both of us for the homeless and destitute, and events eventually led us to Life Church. We asked if we could come and sit in the Church while we waited on God to direct us to where He was calling us. As soon as we became linked to Life Church an opportunity opened for us to become involved in helping re-house the men from Life House as the property had been sold. Well the rest is history now... God doesn't do things by halves, and we have regained the passion we have not felt since we were with Outreach Australia and the tent. It is great to

be back in the service of the Lord and to be a part of a group of such dedicated and passionately loyal people, as God has brought along to Life Church.

We now look forward to working with Life Church, for Life House, to lift the homeless and destitute of Newcastle to a higher level so that they can catch a greater vision for themselves and their future.

Russell & Donna Cunningham
Email: russellcunningham@dodo.com.au



KEVIN'S TRAVEL

5th to 8th May

12th May

15th to 16th May (am)

16th(pm) to 17th May

28th to 29th May

Kev's mobile: 0407 467 798 or email: info@lifechurch.org.au

Perth

Brisbane (Ministers Meeting)

Canberra (AOG Church)

Wollongong

Foster (Men's Camp for the Church of Christ)





GlobeReach some of the works we support overseas

FIJI – Peter Schultz

WELCOME NACA ON TEAM

In March we welcomed our first team member—Naca Tikaduadua. Naca is 34 years old and here he tells his story.

"I am married to a beautiful wife called Laisa Salavuki Tavaga. I am daddy to Rebekah Hadassha (4), Robert Mark (2) and Jonathan Wesley (1). I have been in ministry since 1995 and did on the job ministry training until 1997 when I went to the United States to help plant a church in New York City and in the process got some Bible School training in Florida. I returned to Fiji at the end of 2003 and worked as a DJ and Television presenter for a local Christian TV station called World Harvest Broadcast Network. I produced and hosted a weekly program called "Live Out Loud" which presented both Christian music videos and current youth issues. In 2005 I joined Homes of Hope, an organisation focused on helping and restoring young single mothers and

breaking the cycles of abuse for them and their children. For the 4 years I worked at Homes of Hope, I was the outreach director and was the head of Gideon's Cry, the prevention arm of the organisation which spoke in schools throughout Fiji on 'abstinence and purity'.

Naca is now working alongside Peter in Nasinu prison. There are a number of strengths that Naca brings to the work of Operation Foundation in our ministry to prisoners. We are blessed to have Naca with us.

BREAKTHROUGH

It's hard to describe the feeling when our patient work with a prisoner starts to take root. In the past few months we have been thrilled to see the evidence of real breakthrough. We have seen men admit, confess, own and repent to stuff in their lives that for years they have denied. In that brokenness the wonder, beauty and power of Jesus is revealed—it's so exciting!

FAMILY

The family are well. All the boys are progressing well with their studies. Both Oliver and Edward are involved in a local youth group and their

circle of friends in Fiji is slowly expanding. Oliver got the opportunity to spend a day with a documentary film-maker recently which was a great experience. Abel's latest adventure is pulling apart fireworks and re-creating his own so at the moment it's safer being inside than out. Jemimah is on holidays from kindergarten and after a very positive teacher-parent interview we are considering extending her hours. With the addition of Naca to the team and the relinquishing of Peter's preaching load we are all able to finally consider weekend's as family time.

Thanks for your prayers and support

Peter & Jill Schultz

Email: peter@operationfoundation.org.fj



ARGENTINA – Paul & Veronica Harb

Greetings to you, all the way from San Juan—Argentina. We hope and pray that you are all doing fine.

CHILE EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

There is no need to tell you of the disaster, as you have seen and heard through the media. Chile is on the other side of the andes mountain from where we are in San Juan. It is only a 6 hour drive there. As the earthquake happened, we felt it very strong also in our city in Argentina. It woke us up at 3:30am with the houses and roads swerving all over the place. San Juan has tremors 2 to 3 times a month. In 1944 and 1977, San Juan was hit with massive

earthquakes killing over 10,000 people, so the people here are quite used to it and quite prepared during tremors and earthquakes.

We have organized a relief aid campaign to take food and clothing over for the earthquake victims ASAP. We also have personal contacts from our church in Chile.

CHILDREN'S OUTREACH CAMP

What a wonderful time we had, organizing the camp. The children were from 4 to 11 years of age. Half of the children were from unbelieving parents. The kids love it so much that they would not stop talking and telling the parents

about how much they enjoyed the camp. As a result we have more relationship and contact with the parents and some have started to congregate. Many have also asked us when is the next camp on.

Paul & Veronica Harb

Email: him_ministries@hotmail.com



BALI – Michael & Bianca Zeitsch

Hello dear friends and family! We have got lots to share with you all these last 2 months have been very eventful. Papa continues to constantly look after us, thank you to all who pr for Jiah. She had a skin infection in her neck that turned into an absys and it had to be operated on. But all is great now and she has fully recovered thanks to all of Papa's goodness.

This past month we have also had a very big ceremony here in Bali called Nyepi. All the rituals and festivities of the celebration are meant to expel the evil spirits and demons from the Earth and thus prevent them from harming the New Year. The temples are crowded with people on this day. The priests can be seen chanting hymns and prayers to drive away the

evil spirits and send them back to heaven. These prayers are accompanied by the sound of drum beats and the screams of the villagers. You can also get to see people running with lighted torches on the streets and in the field. Effigies are also burned. This is basically done to make sure that all the evil spirits are driven away. The next day, which is the main Nyepi day or the Day of Silence, the entire city of Bali is shrouded in silence. People stay in their homes in the dark and no one can come out. This happens so that the evil spirits will pass over the island and because they will not see any lights they will not disturb anyone. We stayed in our house for this time with Ella and it was really great to experience and spend time with our Balinese family and also to be able to share to

them they don't have to be so scared of spirits when we show to them we aren't scared because we have someone much stronger to protect us.

We also had a great break over Easter as Michael's family came and stayed with us. Was so amazing to see them all and having them stay and meet all our new friends and experience our life here in Bali.

Michael & Bianca Zeitsch

Email: Thirroul@sccc.com.au





OzReach P.O. Box 2021, Dangar NSW 2309

www.ozreach.org.au

Tim Costello- Newcastle

Kev and I have connected with a group called Newcastle and Hunter Homelessness Interagency Network (NHHIN), which is a strong, established interagency that has existed for a number of years.

Over 1,500 people from across the hunter region identifying as homeless or at risk of homelessness attended a one-stop-shop of essential services – accommodation and housing, financial, legal, health and wellbeing. It was an extraordinary day that showed us the importance of coming together for the benefit of our community.

To follow up from the day we decided to bring together key decision makers in service delivery (government and community, including business leaders) to network and think about other ways we can improve service delivery to people who are marginalized.

We had Tim Costello share with us on social justice and the importance of a whole

community. He shared a story of one of his workers being in Africa and not being able to drive to his destination as there was a large tree blocking the way. The Africans tried everything from pushing to chopping but the tree was too big. When the worker saw this frail elder come join them in pushing the tree he thought to himself: *"a fat lot of good he could do."* But then the elder started to sing a song and the others joined in. As the song came to a climax they all pushed and alas the tree moved an inch. They continued to sing and again at the climax of the chorus they all pushed, and within half an hour they were able to move the tree and continue their journey.

Tim left us with a resounding statement that is still echoing in our heads today, *"may you find the song for Newcastle that you sing together that causes you to move in unison and move the obstacles that are in*

your way of fulfilling the purpose you have together in serving and working amongst the marginalized."

There are some very good things happening in Newcastle and we are excited to be a part of a group that works together, including government, non-government agencies, and local businesses. We are becoming more and more busy, it feels like our building is bursting at the seams with groups joining us such as Legal Aid and Centerlink as they set up office in our café once a week.

We are waiting on people like New England Hunter Health and the Housing Dept to bring their services to the café. Wow, were becoming a bit of a hub.

Nikki Correia
*Oversees:
LifeShapers
OzHarvest
Soul Cafe
And lots of
other stuff*



Ozreach Conference—*"Not either or, but both and."*

When: Friday 15th & Saturday 16th October 2010

Where: Tuggerah Lakes Christian Fellowship, 22 Adelaide Street, Tumbi Umbi

Register: Via email to: info@lifechurch.org.au or phone 4961 0211



DARRYL GARDINER

Darryl has been involved in youth work for more than 25 years. He ran a boys' home for 16 years. He is part of Incedo, a national youth organization, an Anglican priest, and a married father of two children. He is a regular speaker and trainer in New Zealand and overseas. Has spoken in Singapore, Australia, Britain, Europe, America, Fiji, and South America. In his spare time, he likes to fish and scuba dive.



DAVID & ALIX MORSE

Alix and I share an ever-increasing love for the local church. We are convinced that The Kingdom of God will most effectively advance through the influence of flourishing, empowered local churches; churches just like yours. Through our churches, we believe that communities will be transformed and lives reconstructed as an environment of truth and justice increase through the love and grace of Jesus Christ. More than ever, in these exciting times, we need each other. God is connecting leaders across cities, nations and across the globe so that we can advance The Kingdom to a world that needs its liberating message in increasing measure.



KEVIN WILCOCK

Kevin has pioneered and pastored a number of growing churches. Kevin's realness and relational ability to the Australian culture has allowed him to travel extensively across the nation and beyond. He now serves as Team Leader of Life Church Newcastle and Ozreach Incorporated. Kevin, his wife Tracey and two daughters, Faith and Rachel, are currently based in Newcastle.

Mates in Ministry

When: 12th May 2010

Time: 12:00noon to 2:00pm

Venue: Café Dockside/Asia Spice,
1/35 Ferry St, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane QLD

Cost: The price of your food and coffee

Speaker: Rod Irvine & Kevin Wilcock

To book in Phone Life Church office on 4961 0211

OZREACH NEWS!

"I am pleased to inform you that OzReach was proclaimed by the Governor General as a recognized denomination under section 26 of the Marriage Act 1961 on 24th March 2010." Australian Government Attorney-General's Department.

For Ministers who are part of OzReach or connected to OzReach and requiring a marriage license please submit your request to Life Church office at P.O. Box 2158 Dangar NSW 2309 or via email to: info@lifechurch.org.au and we will speak to you further about the terms and conditions of this license.