

Next Week's Bible Talks

8:30am Bexley

Jason Veitch on

"True perfection - love your enemies"
(Matthew 5:38-48)

9:00am Carlton

Phil Colgan on

"True perfection - love your enemies"
(Matthew 5:38-48)

10:30am Carlton

Phil Colgan on

"True perfection - love your enemies"
(Matthew 5:38-48)

10:30am Bexley North

Jason Veitch on

"True perfection - love your enemies"
(Matthew 5:38-48)

6.30pm Church

Phil Colgan on

"True perfection - love your enemies"
(Matthew 5:38-48)

Events

Prayer Meetings

First Saturday of every month, 8am
Email office@snac.org.au for location.

English for Life

Every Friday during school terms,
9:30-11:30am at St James

Big Day Out

Saturday 25th March
Register at www.snac.org.au/bdo

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 28th March, 8pm at St James

Easter Services

Good Friday 14th April (8:30am Bexley, 9:30am Bexley North, 9:30am Carlton)

Easter Sunday 16th April (normal service times)

Contact Us

General Enquiries

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Sunday Locations

8:30am Bexley (Contact Jason)

Corner of Albyn St & Dunmore St, Bexley

9:00am Carlton (Contact Kevin)

St James' Carlton, entry via Henry St

10:30am Carlton (Contact Phil)

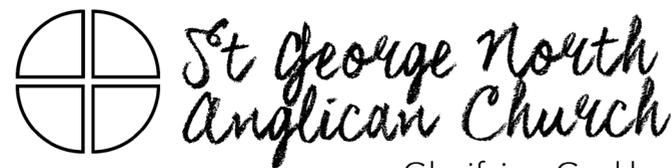
Carlton Public School, entry via Cameron St

10:30am Bexley North (Contact Jason)

Holy Trinity, entry via Carrisbrook Ave

6.30pm Church (Contact Troy)

St James' Carlton, entry via Henry St



Glorifying God by
Proclaiming Jesus | Growing Disciples | Serving Together

Weekly SNAC

Edition 658

5 March 2017

Taming the Tongue

Last week's passage from the Sermon on the Mount has had me thinking all week about the topic of anger. Jesus' inclusion of calling a brother or sister a fool under the commandment against murder is certainly confronting and makes us realise the seriousness of anger in our hearts. So, why do we find it so easy to get angry? And especially, why do we find it so hard to control our tongue from venting forth our anger?



The book of James is especially preoccupied with this struggle. James warns us that:

If anyone thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue, then his religion is useless and he deceives himself (James 1:26). For James, the idea that someone could claim to follow Jesus and yet feel free to abuse others with their tongue suggests that they may not know Jesus at all.

But why is anger such a negative thing? Our world doesn't always see it that way, instead it suggests that to bottle it up is unhelpful and it is cathartic to sometimes 'let it rip'. Irish playwright Sean O'Casey says, 'It's my rule never to lose my temper till it would be detrimental to keep it'. His point was that sometimes you just have to release the valve or you will explode. However, James has a different view. He suggests that anger is so negative because it never works to bring about God's good. So, in James 1:19 he says:
My dearly loved brothers, understand this: Everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger, for man's anger does not accomplish God's righteousness.

Of course, we know James is right. We do work at not getting angry and we are repentant when we do. We do strive to be people who listen rather than rush to speak. Yet, for me at least, it seems like it's often two steps forward one step back. However, James suggests that this is not to be unexpected:

Every sea creature, reptile, bird, or animal is tamed and has been tamed by man, 8 but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 We praise our Lord and Father with it, and we curse men who are made in God's likeness with it. (James 3:7-9)

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Ultimately anger flows from our heart and so this is where change needs to happen. Praise God that he forgives us for our anger and puts his Holy Spirit in us to work to change our hearts. But now as forgiven sinners what steps can we take to 'tame our tongues'? Here are a couple of thoughts:

- 1) Focus daily on the forgiveness we have in Jesus. When we truly understand our own sin and the extent Jesus went to forgive us, it must make us more ready to forgive others.
- 2) Work at listening. We need to take seriously the encouragement to be 'slow to speak'.
- 3) Remind ourselves regularly that all people are made in the image of God. How can we use the tongue God has given us to disparage other people made in the image of the God we praise?

You might have other ideas for how to fight this battle – why not share them over morning tea or after church?

Phil Colgan

Nights with the Turners

The Turner family are back from Tanzania and will be spending some time with us at SNAC, starting on Sunday 5 March. They will be visiting the Carlton congregations from today and then Bexley and Bexley North from next Sunday. This week all of our Carlton Gospel Teams will be combining on the different nights to hear from and support the Turners.

Here are the different times to hear from them this week:

Monday night 6 March – 7:45pm at St James' Carlton

**Wednesday night 8 March – 7:45pm at St James' Carlton
(NB Evening church will have dinner at 7pm as normal)**

Thursday morning 9 March – 'WOT' 10am at St James' Carlton

Thursday night 9 March – 7:45pm at St James' Carlton

Friday night 10 March – 7pm Gospel Team at the Colgan's house

The plan is that all Gospel Teams will attend these nights in lieu of their group that week.

The Turners will also be attending the Primetime/Bible Exploration group at Christ Church Bexley and other events at Bexley North the following week (details in next week's SNAC).

Only 3 weeks until our Big Day Out!!

When you think of gathering together all the members of St George North - adults and kids from each congregation - we're talking about a lot of people!! This will be a big event in the life of our church and we hope it will be such an encouragement to see the way that God has been at work amongst us.

We recently visited Danebank school in preparation for the Big Day Out and it will be the perfect venue for us. We have a large auditorium for the main sessions, plenty of rooms for the various kid's programs, a nice area to enjoy lunch and even an indoor space to set up our jumping castle. It will be a great day so make sure you are there!

Date: Saturday 25th of March 2017

Time: Start is 9:30am. Lunch is 1pm with free time to follow

Location: Danebank School, Hurstville

To register, you can either fill out a paper form on a Sunday or head to www.snac.org.au/bdo to register online.

Church Finances

Praise God for the generosity of his people at St George North. In January our giving was very strong and set us on a good start to the year. However, as we will hear at our AGM in a couple of weeks our monthly required offertories has increased for this year, which means we are slightly behind budget as we start.



Our work can only happen through the generous support of our church members. Please prayerfully consider your giving so that we are able to do the things under God we have planned to do.

January Offertories	\$66,752
Offertories Budgeted	<u>\$69,893</u>
Shortfall ytd	\$ 3,141

For those wishing to give electronically the church's Bank account details are:

Bank:	Westpac
Account Name:	Parish of St George North General A/C
BSB:	032 158
Account No.:	268126