

A testimony to God's work through PYV

by Kingsley Davidson

It was in November 2002 that I left the group known as The Fellowship (see <http://www.pcvic.org.au/candn/books/Fellowship.pdf>). In doing so I was leaving behind a lifetime (23 years) of friends and most of my extended family. Virtually the only friends I had outside the group were Kane Georgiou and Josh Humphreys (both PYV champions) - both of whom became pillars of support as I got to know them from August to November that year. Having left The Fellowship I didn't know where to go to church or who to befriend, so I went to Croydon Hills Presy with Josh one week and Melton Presy with Kane the next. Both were fantastic churches with ministers who have hugely influenced my life, but they were too far from where I lived to attend regularly.

Next thing, Josh and Paul Humphreys (another PYV champion) told me I should come to PYV Summer Camp. I'd never heard of it, but it sounded like something I'd really enjoy. So, I went to Summer Camp 2002/03, and it was there that I witnessed about 100 kids having fun and fellowship and serving the Lord. Until then I had been suspicious of some of these people, believing that they were less spiritual than me. In fact, for many years I had thought they probably weren't even Christians (because either they or their parents had left The Fellowship also).

To cut a significant story short, my world came crashing down that week, and I've been on the road to recovery ever since. I was humbled as I witnessed these people studying God's Word, singing His praises, praying, and getting along so well together. The night I came home from camp I wept uncontrollably for about 3 hours - I was just shattered. Virtually everything I'd believed about who I was and what makes me a Christian was exposed as a lie. I thought I was superior to all these other supposed Christians because I was "walking in the light" while they were either walking in darkness or didn't even know how to walk in the light.

It was then that I started to understand the gospel for the first time. I had read the bible religiously ever since I was a kid, but in reality my allegiance wasn't to Christ, it was to the leaders of The Fellowship. I was now learning that Christianity wasn't about me and how holy I thought I was. It wasn't about keeping man-made rules about holiness or following a bunch of men who thought they were closer to God than everyone else. I started to realize that my obedience to God's law and my service to God had no bearing on my spiritual condition in God's eyes. Rather, it was by trusting in Jesus Christ's perfect obedience to God's law, his sacrificial death for my sins and his resurrection that I was able to enjoy peace and a restored relationship with God. I was being severely "pruned" as God's Word - the sword of the spirit - was cutting through all the lies I'd believed for so many years. Since then I've been well fed, nurtured and watered as God's Word has continued impacting my life.

But the blessings didn't end there. God's goodness and grace tend to come in abundance! On that same camp I befriended Michelle Kop who is now my dear wife! She has been a rock solid support through years of anguish and "starting again" as we sort through my Fellowship issues. But our marriage is more than that! It's been a blast. We've had a very happy 2 years together and look forward to many more! 2006 really stretched us as we learnt a lot about loving each other "in sickness and (occasionally) in health", but God continues to reveal His eternal love and faithfulness to us, no matter what our circumstances.

Another blessing from that Summer Camp was that I became friends with Miriam Fishwick who invited me to her church – Bundoora Presbyterian, or "Bundy" as it is affectionately known. I have been a member at Bundy for nearly 4 years now, and it has been a wonderful place to grow in knowledge and service of the Lord.

Some other great PYV memories include:

- ◆ Peter Owen's teaching on relationships at Summer Camp 2003/04. His explanation of the gospel was radical to me. I'd never heard anyone explain (and so clearly!) that every human is represented before God by either Adam or Christ, and that those in Adam will die and those in Christ will live. He helped bring Romans 5 to life(!) just like he did with Galatians 5 when he pulled me aside in November 2002 and told me again and again that in Christ I am a free man!
- ◆ Many enjoyable camps playing music with Burnsy and others.
- ◆ The "Oscars" night at Summer Camp 2002/03 when Boyd, Russ and Nickers did the opening act – one of the most amusing dances I have ever seen and worthy of being in the finals of "So you think you can dance".
- ◆ Meeting so many great people from all over Victoria and knowing they'll be my friends for life.
- ◆ Working with many fine young Christians on the PYV Council as the Treasurer for 3 years, enjoying coffee and plenty of laughs together.
- ◆ Witnessing the growth of many young people in Christian maturity.

I hope this encourages you all to persevere in the faith and keep the good work of PYV going. The Lord has used PYV powerfully in my life and no doubt in the lives of many others.

To God be the glory! Amen.