

MCCIA Bible Study 2019

The second MCCIA Bible Study on the topic of 'Resurrection Hope in the City' was held on the evening of Wednesday 24 July. We were again generously hosted by the Coptic Orthodox Church in their premises in the Eporo Tower in La Trobe Street, with another fine meal. There were about twenty five people present and participating.

The study on Luke 24:13-35 was led by the Rev. Dr. Robert Derrenbacker, Dean of Trinity Theological School and Associate Professor of New Testament. He set the context by showing us the themes particular to Luke's gospel, beginning with the recognition of the story of Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-21) as Luke's understanding of Jesus' mission. The themes of liberation for the marginalised, poor and oppressed, of the centrality of the Holy Spirit and prayer, of geographical features with theological significance (Jerusalem!), of the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy and of meals as a venue for ministry, are notably prominent in Luke's gospel, most of which show up in this passage.

The actual text was illuminated by questions about blindness (not recognising Jesus until the breaking of the bread), about the gentleness of Jesus (waiting invitation for the meal), the connection for us of meeting Jesus in the Eucharist or Holy Communion, and in the observation that 'Emmaus' is a village of no special significance, an appropriate destination for despairing disciples. There was time for a small amount of dialogue on these questions, though we were fortunate to have a list of questions to take away for further thought.

The third study will also be held in the Coptic Church at Eporo Tower. It will be led by the Rev. Dr. Keith Dyer (Whitley Theological College) on Wednesday 4 September. The text will be Luke 24: 36-49.

Notes by Sandy Yule