


**Training for
ministry**

**Two new
churches**
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The Church Needs You!

Faced with a rapidly increasing shortage of ordained ministers to serve in placements in Queensland, congregations and presbyteries are looking to retired ministers, specified lay ministers and untrained lay people to fill vacancies.

By Bruce Mullan

A greater number of ministers are achieving ordination late in life and not serving through to retirement. This situation has been described as grim.

This year six ordained ministers have retired from active ministry while only one new Minister of the Word has been ordained and these figures do not cover those who leave before retirement age to take up other work or non-congregational placement.

This is well above national estimates of "one ordained for every three retired" figures and is unsustainable for maintaining the supply of congregational ministers at current levels.

A recent survey of presbytery ministers across Queensland indicated there may currently be as many as 35 funded ministerial vacancies in Queensland that cannot be filled with ordained ministers.

Chairperson of the Future of Ministry Project Team Rev John Mavor has called the church to prayer on Sunday, 7 August which has been set aside as 'Ministry Sunday'.

"We have a real and urgent need for people to offer themselves as candidates for the specified ministries and we need to encourage people to listen for the call of God," said Mr Mavor.

"The issue is particularly about encouraging younger people as the age at which candidates are completing their studies and being ordained has increased in recent years, with the average age at ordination now well over 40 years.

"If we want to reach more young people we need to recruit younger ministers, who are usually more adventurous and creative, and younger families will more easily identify with them," he said.

The task group which reported to the 2002 synod, giving projections for the next fifteen years, identified reasons for the failure to recruit young people as candidates for the ministry including perceptions that ministry is too difficult, demanding and costly to personal and family health, and reluctance to commit to what was seen as a '24/7 lifestyle'.

The situation is also critical for youth ministry and the recent Assembly Ministerial Education Commission Meeting reported that across Australia there is only one

Specified Youth Worker candidate currently in training at a Uniting Church theological college.

Youth Workers attending the National Youth Worker In-Service in Sydney last month were told that Specified Youth Workers were an endangered species and faced potential extinction.

Chairperson of the Queensland Ministerial Education Board Mrs Jenny Brecknell remains positive about turning this situation around.

"In the church the statistics don't tell the whole story and although the task seems a little daunting we live by faith and God is always able to raise people up," said Mrs Brecknell.

"It is not just about individuals hearing a call but about someone putting a hand on their shoulder.

"We need to do our bit by identifying individuals who can take up the call and to look for ways of keeping it in the forefront of people's minds."

Coming Soon

JOURNEY ONLINE



Moderator's view

Journey asked the Moderator, Rev Allan Kuchler to speak on his call to ministry.

To be called by God to Ministry is the greatest and yet most humbling experience of my life. It is humbling because I am far from perfect and yet God has called me, along with many others into service. I try to reflect the presence of Christ in all that I say and do but I am conscious that I fall short of the mark at times.

The call to ministry in the broadest sense has been part of my life since early teens – I am not sure, though, that I expected to be in 'specified ministry' at that time. I enjoyed involvement in the local congregation and wider youth

and young adult activities in the church.

In what I call my period of discernment, I tested the possibility in a number of ways. I began working for the State Government in the clerical branch of the Railway Department, but the desire to work for the church did not diminish and so I left and went to work for private enterprise in the road making field. The desire continued until I decided to settle the issue once and for all and offer my services as a circuit assistant in the Mount Isa Methodist Circuit under the Order of St Stephen.

This experience affirmed my call so I offered for service as Home Missionary in the Methodist Church while preparing myself for candidacy to ministry.

Training

I entered the Joint Faculty of Theology in 1976 as a Methodist Lay Person and graduated in 1978 as a Uniting Church Minister.

Looking back, I can see how each step was important for me as an opportunity to test and affirm the call, a time of preparation and learning and I am very thankful for each opportunity.

It was not in my thinking that as an ordained minister I would have the honour of serving the church in any other way than in congregational ministry. The opportunity to be a Presbytery Chairperson and Moderator as well as ministering with congregations has provided me with a breadth of understanding of how the church works and of the importance of each facet of the life of the church.

Joy of the call

Ministry for me has been a 'mixed bag' of experiences all of which have taught me something about the challenges and opportunities the ministry offers. With a deep sense of honesty I can say that all I have done has been enjoyable. There have been times when I would rather have not faced some of the 'prickly issues' that came my way. But having faced them, I believe they have been opportunities for growth and new understanding.

The one thing that stands out above all the rest is the faithfulness of God even when I have not been as faithful to him as I ought. I have not always understood completely the way in which God was leading but I can honestly say I have not felt bereft of his presence.

The end is nigh

As my terms as Moderator draws to a close, the question most frequently asked of me, and which exercises my own mind from time to time, is where to from here?

At this point, I cannot accurately answer that as I have a few years left before I reach that wonderful age of 65 and I, with the church, am pursuing some possibilities for future ministry.

For people who may be considering a response to God's call my message would be: enter with anticipation into the Discernment Process and listen to what God is saying. Ministry is the most exciting opportunity if that is where God wants you, but the most frustrating experience if God wants you elsewhere.

What is abundantly clear to me from my own experience is if God calls us, he equips us and sends us out with him into ministry.



Journey thanks Rev Allan Kuchler for his willingness to allow his face to be used in this light hearted image inviting people to take up the challenge of ministry in the Uniting Church in Australia. The use of this image does not imply anything other than a challenge for people and particularly younger people to consider whether they might be open to a call to ministry. Thanks Moderator, you're a good sport.

Which School for your child?

Clayfield College

Gregory Street, Clayfield, Brisbane, Ph: (07) 3262 2 599.
Girls: Pre-school to Year 12. Boarding: Girls over 10 years.
Boys: Pre-school to Year 4.

Principal: Mrs Carolyn Hauff, BA, B.Ed.Stud, M.Litt, Dip.Tch, Th.C, OPM (Harv), FAIM, FACEL, MACE.

Somerville House

Vulture Street, South Brisbane, Ph: (07) 3248 9 200. Boarding and day school for girls - Preparatory Class to Year 12.

Principal: Dr Ness Goodwin, MA, B.Ed.St, Ph.D, MACE.

Brisbane Boys College

Toowong, Brisbane, Ph: (07) 3309 3 500. Boarding and day school for boys in Years 4 to 12.

Headmaster: Mr Graeme McDonald, BA, Dip.Ed, M.Ed, MACE, MACEA.

Sunshine Coast Grammar School

Mons Road, Forest Glen. Ph: (07) 5445 4 444. Co-educational day school – Pre-school to Year 12.

Head of School: Mr Nigel J.G. Fairbairn, B.Ed, Dip.Res.Schools. Services, Cert.Bus.Studs(Law), A.Dip.Bus.Leg.Prac., Grad.Dip.Ed. Admin., M.Ed, MACE, MACEL., FAIM.

The above schools are under the auspices of the **Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association.**
Further information from the Principals or:
PMSA, PO BOX 298, Toowong 4066.

From the Editor

The articles on David Tacey in the June edition of *Journey* evoked strong reaction from some readers, including a number of unfavourable responses and we acknowledge that the issues were challenging and confronting.

Journey appreciates constructive criticism and it will always be received with thoughtful consideration whether it is fair or unfair and regardless of whether it is given in kindly or unkindly ways.

It should be noted that *Journey* gave three times as much space to the critique and assessment of Tacey's perspective by Uniting Church theologians and ministers as we did to Tacey's own comments.

It is also salient to note that Tacey calls himself a "post denominational Christian" and *Journey* believes it is not our brief to judge Tacey's "Christianness".

Nor is judgement necessary in order to engage in dialogue with someone such as Tacey who has been publicly and effectively identifying the profound spiritual hunger in our Australian community.

Indeed, Tacey has expressed a genuine desire and commitment to dialogue with the mainstream church in Australia and is quite critical of the more liberal "Jesus Seminar" and "Sea of Faith" movements which he sees as threatening to derail Christianity.

Paul's word to Timothy was that "the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, correcting opponents with gentleness".

It seems to *Journey* that in each generation the followers of Jesus have come to understand more clearly what they believe and how they believe it, by actively engaging with critique and alternative perspectives.

Journey places a high value on constructive dialogue and we are convinced that it is open and generous conversation with our critics, rather than censorship or the bowdlerization of unpalatable ideas, that offers significant hope for the future mission of the church in the world.

Bruce Mullan

Signs of the times



This month's pick for sign of the times is Albert Street Wesley Mission, Brisbane.

Have you seen any good signs lately? Send the text, or better still a good picture to *Journey* for the "Signs of the times" competition. We'll feature a new sign every month and there will be a special prize at the end of the year for the best entry.

JOURNEY

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Next issue of *Journey* will be available in churches on Sunday, 4 September.

Journey

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Moreton Rivers grows churches Dos iglesias nuevas

As part of an emerging new energy in the Uniting Church, two very new and different churches are currently being planted in the Moreton Rivers Presbytery.

Lakes District Uniting Church will meet in the new development at North Lakes, located between Redcliffe and Kallangur on the outer northern suburbs of Brisbane and is part of a bold church planting initiative.

North Lakes will be a community in excess of 25,000 people within the next 15 years and non-stipended coordinator of the project, Rev Stephen Templeton, who will head up the new venture, says there are already about 60 contacts who have shown interest in being part of the plant which will commence worship services in September.

One of these is Paul Francis who has been energized by the experience. "I have never been involved in a church plant before but if it



Beatriz Skippen

does for others what it has done for my faith, I can only recommend the experience; I can not wait for our first service!"

Mr Templeton, who is employed by Blue Care as a Palliative Care/Dementia chaplain, said; "The focus of this church will be to build upon the Uniting Church's strong

history and embrace our traditions while being life related".

Comunidad de la Gracia (Community of Grace) is a new Spanish language Uniting Church congregation at St Andrews UC, Brisbane.

Beatriz Skippen, the leader of this church plant, is a Spanish, Portuguese and Italian-speaking native of Argentina with a background in church planting both in Latin America and Victoria, Australia.

Beatriz and her family are gathering a team around them as they build connections with the Spanish-speaking communities of Brisbane and held their first worship together in July.

Mission Consultant Rev Duncan Macleod is excited about the Spanish-speaking service.

"The Uniting Church can offer a unique niche ministry alongside our partners in the Catholic and Pentecostal traditions," he said.

For more information about Lakes District UC contact Rev Stephen Templeton on 0410 608 674 or email sdtempleton@gotalk.net.au
For more information about Comunidad de la Gracia contact Ms Beatriz Skippen on 0409 612 252 or email dbskippen@hotmail.com

Worship v2 has distinct Australian flavour

Uniting in Worship 2 is set to be released later this year.

The new package, devised by the National Working Group on Worship, will include an updated version of the book as well as a CD ROM.

National Working Group on Worship member Rev Dr Paul Walton is excited about the possibilities of the new format.

"Uniting in Worship 2 isn't just a book," he said.

"It will be a book with a CD ROM which will have a lot more resources. Services and Powerpoint templates will be in the book and on the CD Rom so people can use those resources for the production of local booklets."

The major benefits of the CD ROM are the relatively easy process of updating and ability to include more information.

"The CD ROM will feature resources sent by different language groups, such as creeds and blessings.

"The Assembly is releasing money so *UiW2* can be reasonably quickly translated. That will be a process that happens over time. *UiW2* will go to a language group and they will determine which sections they want translated, so that the Korean version of *UiW2*, for example, will be different to the Samoan version."

Other changes include additional prayers (notably a Pray of Lament

and the use of more 'middle language'.

"Think Bruce Prewer and Dorothy McRae McMahon. It is language we think has struck a chord with Uniting Church people over the years. We're broadening the range of language so there is language for various styles, congregations and occasions. There should be something for everyone."

Australian imagery is also more evident.

"Australianness needs to be seen not just in relation to landscape. It has something to do with the understated simplicity of style and words. We have tried to have more of this in *UiW2*."



Rev Dr Paul Walton

The working group hope to include a DVD (including preparations and highlights of an Easter vidual service) with the first run of *UiW2*.

By Mardi Lumsden

Theological Consultation New Ways in Worship

With *Uniting in Worship 2* resources to be released this year, you are invited to attend a consultation in August which will introduce the new book, as well as canvass new directions in worship.

The consultation will draw on leadership from the Assembly's Working Group on Worship, Otira College, Parkin-Wesley College, CECM (VicTas), the Melbourne Theological College, and others. The consultation is entitled, "New Ways in Worship: Introducing the new *Uniting in Worship 2* book", and will be held at Holy Cross Centre in Templestowe, Victoria, 23-25 August.

Session leaders include: Paul Walton, Rob Bos, Robert Gribben, Anita Munro, Craig Mitchell, Mark Lawrence, Pam Kerr, Howard Wallace, Katharine Massam, Barbara Allen, Alistair Macrae and Sharon Hollis. Come for the whole event or just a day as your schedule allows. A detailed program and the registration form are available from Ruth Crispin at ruthc@nat.uca.org.au or phone (02) 8267 4220.



Blue Care garden makes good sense for seniors

Blue Care Redland Yarrabee has opened a special garden where seniors can smell, touch, taste and hear nature's beauty.

The centre's new Sensory Garden, features more than 200 specially selected plants – from the tang of fresh herbs, through to frangipanis in bloom, colourful native plants and tasty berries.

Yarrabee resident, Joy Gorrell, often visits the new Sensory

Garden on warm afternoons to enjoy the sounds and scents.

"People get the opportunity to just guide themselves around and feel the plants, smell them and get a sense of what they're feeling. It has added a lot to our lives."

Blue Care is a Uniting Church agency which auspices a number of innovative programs for aged people in our communities.

Call to worship as found in UiW2

Our land is alive with the glory of God;
desert sands hum and gum trees dance.
Brown grasses sing
and mountains breathe their stillness.
All created things add their rhythms of delight
and even stones rap out their

praise.
Let our voices mingle with those of the earth;
may our hearts join the beat of her joy,
for our triune God is with us:
the Source of all being surrounds and upholds us.
Christ Jesus walks beside and before us.
The Spirit moves within and between us.
Blessed be God, our wonder and delight.



Lee Kilroy
Customer Service Officer

If you want a no fuss investment with guaranteed returns, open a Term Deposit with U.C.I.S.

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Lee Kilroy



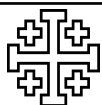
Holiday fun here and there for Redland churches



Jenny More (St George) is helped off the flying fox by Adam Bennie (Redlands) during the Go West program where young people share their faith by leading a Day Camp ministry in a rural community. Young people from the Redland churches travelled to St George to have their horizons broadened, not only by what they saw, but by living in Christian community and serving as leaders and helpers.



Grade six girls enjoyed the diesel locomotive at the Ipswich Train Workshops Railway Museum at the Redland Churches Funfari holiday program. As well as visiting old steam trains and new tilt trains the children went to the movies, tried ice skating, had a day at Dreamworld and travelled to Coochie Mudlo Island.



Crossroads (Qld) is part of UnitingCare Queensland, the Uniting Church in Queensland's community service provider. Crossroads is involved in ministry and community service in the area of disability. It delivers a range of social, recreational and leisure community services. Crossroads currently has the following positions available at our Brisbane office. **People with a disability are encouraged to apply. For both positions, the successful applicant must have a commitment to, and capacity to work within the vision, values and faith foundations of Crossroads.**

Director

In this senior position you will lead all aspects of organisational life at Crossroads, including articulating and promulgating the mission of the Uniting Church through supporting people with disabilities, leading the development, implementation and evaluation of programs and activities which support individuals with disabilities, and collaborating with Crossroads state-wide branches and congregations to build capacity to respond to the needs of people with disabilities.

Trainee Ministry Worker

Is God calling you to ministry, mission and service? This new position will support Crossroads to outreach to congregations across Queensland to help build more inclusive communities for people with disabilities. In this position you will also be involved in the community service work of Crossroads, and other aspects of organisational life. Supervised theological reflection and community service training opportunities will be made available within the position. Theology students seeking field placement of at least 1 year are encouraged to apply.

To obtain a position description for a position please phone Glenys Jay on 3256 4466 or email your postal or email details to gjay@xrdsqld.org.au. Applications **MUST** address the selection criteria in the position description.

Applications close: **Monday, 22 August 2005.**



Bright Sparx kids enjoy fellowship

Congregations work together on quest for children's hearts

Mega-Quest was the theme for the Bright Sparx week-long holiday program for children in Grades 1 to 7 at Holland Park.

The computer-game theme encouraged children to achieve a higher level each day through games, sports activities, crafts, memory verses, daily worship and learning about God, and a "Super Mario Brothers" inspired drama reinforced the main message of God's love.

A family BBQ and closing worship on the last evening pro-

vided a chance for the leaders to meet the parents and families of those who attended. The program also provided an opportunity to build friendships between the two congregations.

Bright Sparx is one of several programs where St David's and Holland Park Central UC congregations work together to achieve a goal that individually may be beyond their reach.

Other joint programs include a Priority One group, a family camp and an Alpha program.

By Nicole Day



A proud Bright Sparx craftsman

In-Service keeps up with youth

Uniting Church youth and children's workers from around the country gathered for a time of sharing and growth at the National In-Service in Sydney in June.

This biennial formation and training event saw many Queensland representatives.

Keynote speaker was Kenda Creasy Dean, an Assistant Professor of Youth, Church, and Culture in Practical Theology and Christian Education at Princeton Theological Seminary (Institute for Youth Ministry).

Here is what some of the Queensland participants thought.

David MacGregor: "National Youth Workers gave me, after a six year 'time-out' from congregational youth ministry, the chance to reconnect with colleagues, gain new insights into youth culture and mobile technology and experience some 'alt-worship'!"

Louise Edwards: "For me NYI was awesome. It was good to catch up with other youth worker friends, to learn new ideas and to share with others about ministry. I have returned refreshed about my call."

Tom Kerr: "The value of sharing ideas with other youth workers across Australia is fantastic. I've been so refreshed and inspired by the great stories of ministry I've heard from others. The teaching on how young people's use of technology reflects their deepest longings and needs was quite an eye opener."

Peter Smale: "Though from many and varied places, and representing a wide age range, engaged between 10 hours and full-time, one thing remained common: the desire to young people enter relationship with Jesus Christ."

"zzttWhile it is true that these workers are with God's help making the disciples that will be the church of tomorrow, if as a church we do not find real and effective ways for them to be the church today, tomorrow may not come!"

Suzie Elliot: "NYI has been an eye opening experience. It has been a time to reflect on the ministry at my church and also my personal call. I'm glad I had this opportunity to take some time out and think about youth and children's ministry in the Uniting Church."



Ministry trainee Suzie Elliot

Pastor Wanted

Lakeshore Community Church of Christ
Sunshine Coast

Lakeshore has changed gears and is focusing on our vision ("We are a dynamic missional church") and mission ("We exist to make, mature and motivate disciples for Christ").

We seek a mature, passionate pastor to lead a committed team of elders and deacons. Our recently enhanced facility gives us ample scope for impacting our high growth community. This exciting opportunity awaits the pastor God is calling! Is that you?

Contact Allen on 0417 723 685 or at altas5@bigpond.net.au by 9 September 2005.

Crossroads revitalised

Broadening opportunities for people with a disability

After almost 30 years of providing devotional, social, recreational and respite services to people with disabilities Crossroads has undergone some significant changes.

Crossroads Director Faileen James said Crossroads' focus was on giving people with a disability more opportunities to participate actively in the wider community and the Church.

"Often people with a disability are segregated from the community," Ms James said.

"To address this, we have introduced new activities that enable our clients to be out and about more," Ms James said.

"We have also shifted to smaller group sizes, and tailored our programs to better meet people's specific support needs, interests and age."

Adult day program coordinator Ms Kathy Sheehan said Crossroads clients had generally responded well to the changes.

"Our group members enjoy everyday experiences that many people take for granted – from going out for coffee or to the movies to creating artworks for our art exhibition. Families also enjoy seeing their son or daughter become more independent and take part in what the community has to offer," she said.

A regular of Crossroads' Young Adults program, Ross Miller believes the move to smaller groups with people of similar ages is working well. "The staff are also younger and fun to be around," Ross said.

Changes we had to have

The recent changes arose out of a 2004 review. Ms James said the review findings recognised the highly valuable work of Crossroads but identified recommendations to ensure its ongoing survival.

"Crossroads has helped to enrich many people's lives and we wanted it to have a strong, viable future," Ms James said.

"But first we had to overcome key challenges, such as updating practices, complying with Government funding requirements, financial problems, poor staff morale, and a decreasing base of volunteers."

"The review involved extensive consultation with people with a disability, their families, staff, Branches and other outside stakeholders such as government agencies. Based on this feedback we developed recommendations that would build on the achievements of the past but modernise and revitalise Crossroads."

These included providing better opportunities for staff and volunteers to enhance their skills and job satisfaction.

"We have linked with Lifeline, UnitingCare's hospitals and Blue Care, which offer training and other support to Crossroads, at little or no cost," Ms James said.

Recognising the vital contribution of volunteers, Crossroads has appointed a Volunteer Coordinator. Kylie Boulton recruits, trains and supports a 30-strong team of volunteers, highly valued for the support and friendship they give to Crossroads' clients.

Greater support is being offered to Crossroads' statewide Branches, which are starting to work in closer partnership with the Brisbane office. Almost 50 Branch representatives met last year to discuss their support needs and how to improve their activities in line with Crossroads' future direction.

"A small number of Branches felt they were unable to work within the new direction for Crossroads, but may instead continue as a fellowship group of a congregation," said Ms James, who is currently visiting all Branches.

Financial struggles

Despite advances, Ms James admits some of the changes have disadvantaged some Crossroads families.



Some Crossroads clients, staff and volunteers having fun at Chermide

"We faced financial disaster and potential loss of our government accreditation unless we fixed up things quickly. But change was difficult, especially when it meant we had to increase program costs and close Crossroads' Brisbane bus services," Ms James said.

"We are now giving more individualised support to people, which requires more staff and increases costs, and plan to submit grant applications for more funding to offer a wider choice of programs for people."

In the meantime, Crossroads has set up a Social Justice fund to help families afford the higher program costs.

Involvement is the future

Friends of Crossroads member Mr Roy Beak says the future of Crossroads lies in its links with the Uniting Church.

"I think it's very important that Crossroads and Uniting Church congregations develop a strong relationship. We need the Church structure to support the important work of the Crossroads, including its Branches," Mr Beak said.

Director of UnitingCare Anne Cross also believes the Uniting Church, with its history of being accepting of a wide range of people, has an important role in breaking down barriers that hinder participation of and relationships with people with a disability.

"Our society creates many barriers – physical, social and attitudinal – that can stop people with a disability from taking part in everyday activities."

People with a disability have always struggled to be fully accepted in society," Ms Cross said.

"Crossroads' founders were very progressive in wanting the Church to open their arms to welcome people with a disability and join



Crossroads young adults enjoying their Easter Holiday at the Gold Coast

together in fellowship with people with disabilities.

"Our goal is to renew that vision for Crossroads and further engage people with a disability in all aspects of the life of the Church. Some Uniting Church congregations have already made people with a disability an integral part of their Church community, but much more could be done."

To assist with this, Crossroads will employ a ministry worker later this year to support congregations, particularly through Crossroads Branches, to become more welcoming of people with a disability.

In addition, a parent of a young adult who attends Crossroads, Alison Semple will set up the first-ever, electronic Crossroads prayer group to offer prayer and support to clients and their families.

People can join by contacting Crossroads or sending an email to prayersupport@xrdsqld.org.au.

"Congregations could encourage people with a disability to take part in worship or join existing fellowship groups, youth groups, prayer groups or family groups," Ms Cross said.

The Former Chair of the Crossroads Commission, Geoff Ross, said the Church as a whole benefited from greater involvement with people with a disability. "When you bring a congregation into contact with people with a

disability in a meaningful way, as is being done at Pine Rivers and Robina congregations, they find out they are really just people like you or me who have a lot to contribute," Mr Ross said.

Thank you to Crossroads supporters

Crossroads thanks the following people and groups for their ongoing support:

Members of the now-disbanded Crossroads Commission, our staff, our marvellous volunteers within our Brisbane programs, branches and tours, Friends of Crossroads group members, UnitingCare Queensland, Blue Care, Lifeline Community Care Queensland, Uniting HealthCare, Commonwealth and State governments, and the many community groups we have forged strong links with.


New Crossroads Centre

Crossroads has moved from Wesley House in Brisbane City to its centre at:

91 Maundrell Tce
Chermide West QLD 4032
Phone: (07) 3256 4466
Fax: (07) 3256 4734
Email: info@xrdsqld.org.au



A great day out at Sea World for Ben, Andrew and Ian with their support workers – John Rae and Doug Wiskar



SOMERVILLE HOUSE

Submissions of interest are invited from suitably qualified and experienced applicants for the following vacancy.

School Chaplain

At the end of 2005 the position of Senior Chaplain at Somerville House will become vacant, following the resignation of Mr Simon Gomersall after eight years of distinguished service. The Council of the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association is seeking an energetic and qualified educator to fill the role of Senior Chaplain.

The Senior Chaplain will provide Christian care and support for students, staff and other members of the School community. The duties include teaching Religious Education in the Senior School, leading the worship program and faith development in the School, with particular emphasis on the students in the Senior School and boards.

It is not required that the successful applicant be ordained, but that would be well-regarded. Queensland Teacher Registration, or the eligibility to attain it, is required.

Somerville House has a current enrolment of 1200 students from Preparatory Year to Year 12. It is aligned with the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches, the doctrines of which inform the curriculum and faith positions adopted in the School.

Further detailed information concerning the position of School Chaplain may be found on the School's website.

Applications should be forwarded to the Chairman, Somerville House School Council. Applications close on Friday 12 August.

www.somerville.qld.edu.au
PO Box 3357, South Brisbane, Qld 4101

Somerville House was established in 1899, a P-12 boarding & day school for girls & is a member of the Presbyterian & Methodist Schools' Association.

Wulguru sends love message

Wulguru UC Townsville, marked their 50th anniversary on 11-12 June.

People came from far and wide to for a dinner on the Saturday night and the anniversary service on Sunday morning saw the church covered with balloons, which were later released outside by the congregation.

Each balloon had a message of God's love tied to it.

The anniversary cake was cut by two original members of the then Cluden Methodist Church.



Muppets hit Burdekin

Burdekin UC were the proud hosts of a puppet-making workshop with Paul and Becky Clark and local Christian puppet group, the Burpetts.

The workshop attracted people from Townsville and Bowen as well as locals, young and old, from a range of churches.

The day consisted of making a muppet-style puppet from scratch, watching and talking about puppet plays and learning how to bring a puppet to life.

Local students are very familiar with Paul and the Burpetts after their show about bumbling Inspector Clueless investigating the Easter Story was performed to over 1000 students in the 12 local primary schools at Easter.

As a result, there are budding puppeteers all around the region.

It was a fun day of pins, patterns, fabric, fur, glue and giggles. A part of the Burdekin Uniting Church's strategy of being a vibrant, intergenerational church, showing and telling the Good News of Jesus.

Ekka fever... again



Ashgrove Avenue, Ashgrove West and The Gap Uniting Churches this year will continue their great tradition of service to the community... the Ekka community that is.

This will mark the 60th year that the three churches have combining to provide food and drinks to the crowds at the Ekka in Brisbane!

The take-away is renowned as the best value food at the show.

The volunteers prepare food in a jiffy and give service with a smile. Drop in and say G'day while munching a hamburger or enjoying a great cuppa. Have a chat to Convenor Graham Ross and he will be delighted to tell you the great ways you can serve the community and raise funds for your church.

Each year staffing becomes more difficult. It has been suggested that next year the stall be opened to other churches wanting to participate.



Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

Mount Gambier Congregation

Minister of the Word



The Mount Gambier Uniting Church (MGUC), Elizabeth Street, is seeking *expressions of interest* for the role of Minister of the Word. The congregation is enthusiastic and growing in music, praise and worship and children's ministry and is working to grow its youth ministry. Mount Gambier is a thriving regional city 450 km from both Adelaide and Melbourne. It currently has 180 members.

The minister will need to be a **leader**, an **encourager** to unlock the many gifts within the congregation and have the capacity to **build strong teams**.

The key tasks of the minister will be:

- Exhibit deep faith in Christ by preaching God's word
- Continuing to build and implement the church's vision
- Growing leaders
- Consolidating and building an already strong children's ministry
- Equipping the church to take faith to the community of Mount Gambier

For further information, including a **congregational profile**, contact:

Don Dyson: Mt. Gambier Congregation Chairperson. (08) 87257931
OR email don.dyson@bigpond.com

Registrations of interest close 31st August 2005.



**Sunshine Coast
PSYCHOLOGIST**

Family Challenge Charitable Trust (Specialist Psychological Services for **child, adolescent, & family** issues). **Seeking qualified & exp. Psychologist.** Flexible Part or Full Time. Very attractive remuneration. Broad caseload but with opportunity to specialise once established.

Must have: Psychology Masters or PhD (or concluding current studies); Registration with QLD Psych Board.

Desirable: Gifted in working with adolescent boys; Experience in varied psychopathology/disorders; Interest in EEG Neurofeedback and/or Autism; Strong Christian values & committed Church-goer. Involvement in third-world mission projects an option for interested applicants.

Contact Dr Sonderegger on 07 54780202 or send resume with cover letter to Family Challenge Charitable Trust: P. O. Box 1410, BUDERIM, QLD 4556
info@familychallenge.com.au

Uniting Church in Australia Synod of South Australia

Positions Vacant

Four (4) Rural Ministry Mission Planners (Full Time)

Four full-time rural ministry mission planning positions are available working within the Mission Resourcing Network of the Uniting Church in South Australia beginning December 1, 2005. The successful applicants will live in rural South Australia and assist lay-led congregations with leadership and mission development; placement of ministers and other leaders; property and finance development, and new initiatives. They will report to the MRN Team Leader, and be expected to work as a team as well as focussing on the particular area where they are located.

Mission Planner – Ministry with Children and Youth (F/T)

A full-time position assisting the Uniting Church in South Australia develop strategies for developing congregational and other mission with youth and children exists within the Mission Resourcing Network. The successful applicant will have a proven record in helping communities develop new initiatives in this area. They will report to the MRN Team Leader, and work as part of an enthusiastic, creative team of mission planners and consultants.

Mission Planner – Urban Mission (F/T)

A full-time position currently exists for a mission planner within the Mission Resourcing Network in congregational development, new mission initiatives and leadership development. Key to this position is to help congregations develop strategies for interfacing with the community, developing different ways of being church, and engaging in effective evangelism. The successful applicant will report to the MRN Team Leader, and be a part of a creative team of mission planners.

Indications of Interest and Job Specifications
c/- Heather Bald (08) 8236 4236 or email heather@sa.uca.org.au



Assistant Pastor

• Wesley International Congregation

Evangelical in belief, charismatic in practice and part of Wesley Mission, Wesley International Congregation is a large inner-city church catering to over 40 (mainly Asian) nationalities.

As Australia's largest Christian complex, we have 50+ weekly worship services, hundreds of welfare services, an extensive media ministry and growing ministries to children, young people and young adults.

Working in an enterprising team with an exciting vision for the future, you'll preach, teach, visit, conduct services, foster Christian discipleship, oversee the development and operation of our Alpha Program and guide cell group leadership, development, organisation and outreach.

You're a mature-minded, Spirit-filled Christian minister with evangelical convictions, charismatic experience, degree level theological training and a commitment to Wesley Mission's vision and values.

MS Word literate, happy to work flexible hours and passionate about disciplining new Christians and nurturing God's people you're also a team player and an excellent communicator.

Enquire or apply by 19th August, 2005 to Dr Barry Chant, Wesley International Congregation, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000. T: 02 9263 5575. E: Barry.Chant@wesleymission.org.au

Applicants will be required to undergo a Working With Children check. Wesley Mission is a Christian organisation requiring all staff to affirm the Mission's values. Indigenous people are encouraged to apply.



WESLEY MISSION

www.wesleymission.org.au/posvac

JOURNEY

www.journey.ucaqld.com.au

Advertise in Journey

Share your news and product information with over 30,000 Uniting Church goers across Queensland.

For rates and information visit www.journey.ucaqld.com.au or call Mardi on (07) 3377 9795.

Advertising and editorial deadline for September Journey Wednesday, 10 August.

Educating Christians

An A to Z of resources for Christian education in congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Feel free to add your comments to each post or send suggestions and additions to postkiewi at gmail dot com. If you have a Blogger account sign in. Otherwise, choose "other" so you can enter your name and website.

You can subscribe to the Educating Christians email list to receive posts on each resource. Fill in your email address at the bottom of the page.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2005

A Sensual Faith

"Touch God through a hug from a friend, hear God in the laughter of a child, breathe in God through the aroma of the salty sea, see God in the wings of a butterfly, taste God in the texture of bread. Simple experiential exercises and activities inspire participants to reflect on God, life, biblical passages, and themselves."

Settings
Small group, existing or one-off. Can be used in a retreat. Fifth session is held in context of meal.

Styles of Learning
Reading, discussion

Number of sessions
5

Length of sessions
75 - 105 minutes

Aims
This series of five studies sets out to explore the ways we experience God through our senses. Drawing on some of the great traditions of the faith, the studies lead us through an intriguing array of experiences and group

Contributors

- Duncan
- Craig
- Graham
- Ross
- John

Previous Posts

- Dear Kim, This is what I believe
- Growing True Disciples
- Cleansing Stream
- Companions in Christ
- Choosing an approach to sharing faith
- Christianity Explored
- Christianity Explained
- Careforce Lifekeys
- Bible Study Fellowship International
- Bethel Bible Series

Web site of the month: Educating Christians

In response to a request from the last Synod for a review of Christian education resources, Mission Consultant Rev Duncan Macleod has been blogging an extensive catalogue of learning resources for use in congregations and small groups.

Blogs or weblogs are a relatively new internet phenomenon and are predominantly informal journals that are frequently updated and intended for general public consumption.

The author of a blog is called a blogger and Duncan Macleod has



Master blogger Duncan Macleod

Religion on the ABC

Compass – The Religion Report
Encounter – John Cleary
The Spirit of Things – and more!

For a full round-up of what's coming up in religion and ethics on ABC Radio and TV, subscribe to the **free weekly ABC Religious Programs email newsletter**.

Each issue contains program details and web links to online audio, transcripts, news and features.

Just visit
<http://www.abc.net.au/religion>
and click on 'Mailing List'

developed the Educating Christians web site with an impressive inventory of the A to Z of resources for Christian education in Uniting Church congregations.

Listing everything from Alpha to Zadock and with almost 100 resources to eventually be catalogued, this superb site also carries general articles on Christian education and the facility for others to send comments and make suggestions.

People can also subscribe to an email list to receive posts on each resource as it is reviewed.

Details are given about settings, learning styles, session lengths and numbers, age groups, theological perspective, country of origin, leadership requirements, list of contents, technology needed, back-up resources available, web sites and purchasing information.

Most useful are the contact details of congregations which have used the resource so people can speak directly to a user of the program.

You can access this most helpful resource at <http://educatingchristians.blogspot.com>

Having trouble hearing your grandchildren?

We understand, and can help you with -

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- Latest technology digital hearing aids
- A range of solutions to suit every budget.
- Accredited to provide FREE hearing services to eligible seniors* (*Conditions Apply).

Hearing Clinics:

Metropolitan and South East Queensland, and the Wide Bay Region

To make an appointment call

1800 057 220

AUDIO CLINIC QUEENSLAND

Halls open for the homeless

Volunteers are needed for a crash bed pilot program initially being run by seven churches. Lasting for thirteen weeks, the trial program is focused on providing emergency accommodation for homeless women in church halls.

Currently there are not enough beds in the Anglican and Salvation Army women's shelters. Volunteers are needed to be committed to assisting one night per month. Training will be provided by Rev Tim Hodgson, Minister to the Homeless. Interested people should call or email Rev Tim Hodgson on 0407 035 443 or t.hodgson@wmb.org.au.

Volunteer making a difference

Leaving her home church of West End UC, Shelly Houghton will serve as a Uniting Church Volunteer in Mission with the Evangelical Christian Church of West Papua for the next three years. Shelly will undertake community development work, and teach English in the church's ministry college. Rev John Barr from Uniting International Mission is pictured here with Shelly at her commissioning.



John Barr and Shelly Houghton

FIRESTORM

Iona West youth heat up Mackay

It may be winter, but Iona West UC, Mackay have warmed it up with the 3rd annual Firestorm youth rally.

The rally was a time of praise, worship, and spiritual growth. The event was run as an outreach to the youth of Mackay through promotion in schools and with the help of school chaplains.

This year's guest speaker, former Brisbane Lions player Shaun Hart, made it appropriate to promote the event to local AFL Clubs.

Additional assistance came in the way of a \$2000 grant from the Uniting Church Foundation.

Firestorm Chairman Geoff Bearham said the grant made it possible to promote the event well and buy valuable equipment for future use.

"The UC Foundation grant has been an amazing help. We have been able to do a lot of publicity. We have got flyers in schools, we have been able to pay our guest speaker, Shaun Hart, and combined with our fundraising we have bought some sound equipment that we can use for future Firestorms," he said.

Firestorm is organised by the youth and young adults of Iona West UC. The Firestorm band, comprising past and present members of the Iona West band, performed on the evening and at

Mackay High and North High in the lead-up to the event.

After an unsuccessful grant application in 2004, their persistence and determination paid off. Mr Bearham had this advice to grant applicants:

"If you're not successful the first time, just keep trying. I think you need to be able to share your vision on the application. That is the hardest thing, getting your vision across."

Mr Bearham said the Firestorm team have high hopes for the project in the future.

"Our aim is to turn it into a full ministry, not just the one event. We want to take it to smaller towns outside Mackay. I know some churches in the area are keen to get this happening, but they don't have the people to be able to do it themselves."

Other sponsors of the event were Iona West UC (in funds and people power), Mackay Baptist Youth and Christian Bookworld Mackay. Mackay Chaplaincy Committee was a supporter. Firestorm was a Mackay Festival of Arts event.

For more information on Firestorm go to www.ionawest.ucaqld.com.au/firestorm.

To download a UC Foundation grant application go to www.foundation.ucaqld.com.au.

Latest Uniting Church Foundation grant recipients

It is thanks mainly to the wonderful people whose Wills have resulted in an unrestricted bequest being received for God's work, that the Foundation has been able to disburse its tax-free interest earnings on such funds as general grants.

Closing date for the next round of general grants is September 30 for disbursement during December. For more information about bequests to the Church and for grant application forms, please contact the Development Manager on (07) 3377 9777 or visit www.foundation.ucaqld.com.au.

Applicant	Project	Amount
Boonah Uniting Church	Rural Band tour	\$2000
Chaplaincy commission	Develop competency standards for aged care chaplains	\$6000
Eternal Life Fellowship	NQ Indigenous Christian Youth Camp	\$1870
Fassifern UC	Rural outreach program	\$1400
Fassifern UC	RE at Maroon Primary	\$400
Glasshouse Country UC	Christmas outreach festival	\$3000
Iona West UC	Firestorm youth rally	\$2000
Kawana Waters UC	Community outreach	\$4450
Moggill UC	Mothers group seminars, resource materials plus advertising	\$3500
Moreton Rivers Presbytery	Church plants from Pine Rivers to Morayfield	\$5000
Redcliffe UC	Missional leadership project	\$4000
St George UC	District "Drug Proofing your Kids" program	\$4000
	Total	\$37 620

VISION FOR MISSION



DRAFT

Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod

The **task** ahead

Every minister, every congregation and faith community, every presbytery, every committee, council, board and task group, the Synod Departments and all the service agencies and institutions associated with the work of Uniting Care, every school and college (including the Theological College), all Synod staff and those elected to serve the Uniting Church in Queensland in positions of leadership, along with the Synod in Session, will regularly and vigorously evaluate their work, their policies, their decisions and actions in the light of this Vision and the values that inform and guide it, and in reporting to the church will give particular attention to the manner in which this is being accomplished.

In seeking the realisation of the Vision we will:

- Identify existing congregations, faith communities and other activities of the church that are already functioning effectively in a manner consistent with the Vision, and offer such ongoing support as they may require in order to further develop their ministry and mission.

• Recognise, affirm and continue to support those aspects of our ministry and mission that we believe to be essential, even though they may not be, or ever can be, financially self-sufficient.

We also commit ourselves as a church to the establishment, development and nurture of new ventures in ministry and mission that clearly demonstrate a commitment to the values and objectives of the Vision, with particular regard to:

- Developing initiatives in ministry and mission with a focus on cultural or common-purpose groups;
- Using relational approaches to evangelism that equip people to actively share their faith in Christ in appropriate and intentional ways;
- Providing opportunities specifically designed to help people grow in their faith and become active disciples of Christ;
- Making significant connections, and intentionally building relationships, with individuals and groups in the wider community in a variety of settings;
- Establishing new congregations or faith communities and supporting them in whatever ways are

necessary to ensure their continuing growth and effectiveness;

- Encouraging and supporting new and innovative approaches to ministry and mission, particularly where these are undertaken collaboratively, ecumenically, or by groups and teams of people;
- Maximising the use of owned properties, including shared use by congregations/faith communities, other agencies of the church, com-

munity groups and other Christian denominations;

- Exploring the potential advantages of renting property;
- Considering creative alternatives to the employment of fulltime persons;
- Continuing to develop and support initiatives in community service that pursue justice for, and enhance the quality of life of, the aged, the poor, the homeless, the refugee, those with a disability, and other disadvantaged people in our society;
- Offering continuing training, formation and support for those evidencing the personal qualities, skills, maturity and spiritual gifts for leadership that are essential for the realisation of the Vision;
- Attending to generational differences and allowing for youth and early adults to embrace, and participate in the realisation of, the Vision in ways appropriate to their experience, giftedness, and preferences for the manner in which things are done.



Moderator Elect Rev Dr David Pitman outlining the vision

The Gospel imperative

We believe that the biblical witness reveals a God who loves us unconditionally and invites us into a life-changing relationship. We see this reality most clearly and powerfully revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. As Christians, our identity is determined, and our purpose is defined, by the relationship we share with him.

We receive through scripture and tradition the imperative to communicate this good news with others, wherever and whenever we can, though always sensitively and respectfully. It is our deep desire that others will come to know Christ for themselves, put their relationship with him at the centre of their lives, become active participants in some part of the Christian community and committed to public witness and service in the name of Christ. This Vision is dedicated to that purpose.

Key questions

Believing that God is already in the world, and is calling us to live the Gospel in word and action in that world, this work has been undertaken in response to three key questions:

1. *What kind of world is God calling us into, as bearers of God's Good News?*
2. *How do we engage with God in this world, in obedience to God's call?*
3. *What resources will we need in order to respond to God's call?*

In order to implement this Vision, the Synod (under the oversight of the Synod Leadership Team) will:

Consult with the Presbyteries as to how best they and their congregation might be resourced and supported as they seek the realisation of the Vision within their areas of oversight

Encourage the continued growth and development of key networks of congregations, faith communities and agencies, and the formation and support of new networks as these may be required

Respond to requests and/or opportunities to establish, support and give oversight to new ventures in ministry and mission that are consistent with the Vision but do not readily fit within our existing structures

In relation to its own areas of responsibility, continue to pursue the key strategies outlined in the *Intentional Mission Strategy (a future with Heart and Soul)*, endorsed by the 24th Synod in May 2004.

Actively pursue both immediate and long-term strategies to ensure that resources, both human and material, will be available for the realisation of the Vision.

Explore with other churches the ecumenical possibilities of sharing the Vision and look for ways in which it may be realised together

Undertake regular and efficient collation of information, statistics, and other data that will assist, in the first instance, in identifying situations in which a strategic missional response is required, and then in the thorough and effective ongoing assessment and evaluation of any ventures that have been implemented.

In our changing world, in response to the imperative of the gospel and our experience of God's grace, we are called to share with God in transforming the world.

The Synod will...

Give priority, in the application of our human and material resources, to those missional activities that are clearly dedicated to the fulfilment of the Vision, and are consistent with its values and principles

Review our structures and decision-making processes in order to make them less complicated and more flexible, and address our management systems with a view to empowering both individuals and groups to pursue the realisation of the Vision in a framework of transparency and accountability

Develop and maintain effective and efficient systems of information technology, communication and media relations that will help to enhance our ministry and mission, create a positive public understanding and awareness of what our church represents and achieves, share stories of what is happening across the church in the realisation of the Vision, and develop a greater sense of connectedness and unity within the church

Give particular attention to the biblical and theological education and formation of all the members of our church, encouraging and supporting their growth in Christian discipleship and their capacity to bear witness to the Gospel in the life of the world. To that end we will prepare men and women for the specified ministries of the church in a manner that will equip and enable them to undertake this task as a matter of priority

It's all about having a vision...ay

by Garry Hardingham

The other day, I was talking on the phone to a bloke from Melbourne who was thinking of coming through Cloncurry as a grey nomad doing the 'Big Lap' and during the conversation he said to me, "Whenever I think of your ministry, I think of how not much has changed since John Flynn's day."

Funnily enough, this is not the first time I've heard this comment and there seems to be a sense that, whilst the rest of the country is being invaded by buildings and roads and development, the outback is still the place of dusty towns, akubra hats and blokes hanging over the veranda of the pub ending every sentence with the word 'ay.'

Yes, I concede that in some places this is still true...ay. But you know, I was reflecting on the comment about it being like John Flynn's day; because I reckon that even John Flynn didn't live in John Flynn's day.



Rev John Flynn

You see, for me John Flynn should not be remembered as an icon of the outback just because of what he did with outback missions and the Royal Flying Doctor Service, but because he was a visionary.

Flynn had a vision; not of what is, but what can be; in this sense he lived, not in the outback of the 20's and 30's, but of the 21st century.

But John Flynn was not the only visionary. People are surprised when they visit the outback and find just how modern it is with pretty well every cattle station having one or, more likely, two computers connected to satellite broadband.

I spend a lot of time visiting stations and installing wireless networks while discussing the drought.

They have satellite TV with more channels than you could possibly want or need and every kitchen gadget found in the second drawer down in most kitchens in the city.

With new electronic ear-tagging on cattle, the station owner can know just how much each beast is worth and when it's the best time to muster and ship them out to get the very best price.

They pour over satellite pictures of their property to see which paddocks have the best grass and use satellite phones to 'talk' to bore pumps to make sure the water's still flowing.



Rev Garry Hardingham carries on the vision of outback ministry

And each one of these innovations has come about because someone had a vision for what can be in the outback.

Indeed, many bush folk complain that the city people are backward when it comes to technology.

Vision is also the most important part of who we are as Christians because it calls us to stop asking "Why?" and start saying "Why not!", and moves us from shaking our heads at the world around us to shaking our fists at the injustices.

It moves us from, "Why are our pews empty?" to "How do we help fill empty hearts?"

This is why I'm excited about the Draft Vision for Mission, because I see it as a vision that calls on all of us to stop living in the past

and start dreaming of what can be in the future while acknowledging the journey that has led us thus far.

If, as a Church, we become visionaries, then neither distance, nor bureaucracy, nor politics, nor self servitude, nor inequality, nor fear, can stand before the almighty power of God working through us to make Christ's message of love known to all people.

It's a grand vision, but so was the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

If you haven't read the Draft Vision for Mission, take the time to do it... and no, I was not part of its drafting; I'm just a bloke who flies around the outback witnessing to what a difference having a vision can make... ay.

Key themes of the Vision for Mission

- The church of the future will be different to the church of today.
- Mission is always contextual.
- The unity of God's people and the development of strong communities committed to risking the way of Jesus is foundational.
- The vision encourages new ventures in ministry and mission.
- The vision calls for flexibility in our structures, planning processes, decision-making and mission initiatives.
- Strong, focussed and intentional leadership is integral to the vision.
- Priority in the application of our human and material resources will be given to those aspects of our ministry and mission consistent with the Vision.
- Emphasis is given to the ministry of the whole people of God.
- The ecumenical vision of the *Basis of Union* calls us to ministry and mission with other churches.

Through human witness in word and action, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ reaches out to command people's attention and awaken faith; he calls people into the fellowship of his sufferings, to be the disciples of a crucified Lord; in his own strange way Christ constitutes, rules, and renews them as his Church.

The Vision for Mission has been shaped by these guiding values and principles

The Uniting Church "risks living the way of Jesus". We are a "pilgrim people", called by God to be a fellowship of reconciliation and an instrument through which Christ transforms the world. We constantly seek to discern, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, where God is calling us and leading us as we bear witness in, and seek to serve, the world for which Christ died.

We are committed to God's transformation of the Church and understand that the viable future will be different to the Church as we know it. Living this adventurous life of faith will mean fragility, tension and risk, but will also be characterised by openness and flexibility. We are committed to

journey in partnership together, valuing our theological and spiritual diversity and celebrating our oneness in Christ.

The Church is focussed, purposeful and proactive about creating space for thinking and planning for our mission and ministry. We value generosity, hospitality, inclusiveness, community, justice, compassion, evangelism, stewardship and ecumenism, and these gospel values inform and guide our thinking, planning and action.

As we seek to be the Church in answer to God's leading, we will be open and transparent, permission-giving and faith focussed. We will worship, witness and serve together as a people called, forgiven

and renewed by the love and grace of God.

We understand that in order to truly be the church we must look out beyond our existing structures and fellowship groups to the world around us, a world in which Christ is already fully and actively present, and into which he calls us to be his faithful and courageous disciples. Therefore, we must endeavour to understand that world as well as we possibly can, recognising how incredibly complex, confusing, disturbing and confronting that world can be. It is a world in which no one way of sharing the gospel will ever be fully adequate or appropriate.

We are committed to support, and work with, the indigenous

people of Australia (and the UAICC in particular), in accordance with the covenantal relationship into which we have entered, and with members of the various migrant-ethnic communities who have made Australia their home;

We affirm the commitment of the Uniting Church, at the time of its inauguration, "to enter more deeply into the faith and mission of the Church in Australia, by working together and seeking union with other churches," and will therefore actively seek for ways in which we can pursue a greater degree of ecumenical partnership and share more closely in worship, witness and service with the members of other Christian churches.

In a spirit of faith, hope and love we dream an emerging future church in which there will be some elements of our worship, witness and service that are familiar and much that will be new and different. We dream a future with "heart and soul" in which, individually and corporately, we will be prepared to let go of everything that hinders our commitment to respond to the way in which the Spirit leads us, so allowing Christ to "bring into being what otherwise could not exist", and "looking for a continuing renewal in which God will use our common worship, witness and service to set forth the word of salvation for all people."

Five wise men bringing gifts of theological education



Trinity Theological College

The faculty of Trinity Theological College educate both professional church workers and others for the mission and ministry of the church.

Principal of Trinity Theological College Rev Dr David Rankin says the faculty work intentionally to develop capacities for spiritual discipline, theological reflection, study, research skills and communication.

"We are committed to providing appropriately equipped ordained and other specified ministers, and ensuring access to quality continuing education," Dr Rankin said. "We are also committed to resourcing a discipleship and educational focus for the church."

"The opportunity for people to study, reflect, interpret and understand God's revelation in Christ is central to the nature of our Uniting Church."

Along with St Francis' Theological College (Anglican) and St Paul's Theological College (Catholic), Trinity is a member college of the Brisbane College of Theology and is also part of the Griffith University School of Theology.

As well as preparing candidates for ministry in the church Trinity also teaches Graduate Certificate, Diploma, Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral programs in theology and ministry.



Rev Doug Jones is Director of Studies in Old Testament at Trinity Theological College and heads up the formation program. His research interests include the use of the Old Testament in the New, and particularly Paul's use of Isaiah in the letter to the Romans. A former Director of the Uniting Church's Department for Community Services, Rev Jones teaches a range of Old Testament courses including Isaiah, Jeremiah and the Psalms. Currently on study leave, Doug Jones is an avid collector of old books who has more recently been distracted by renovation fever.

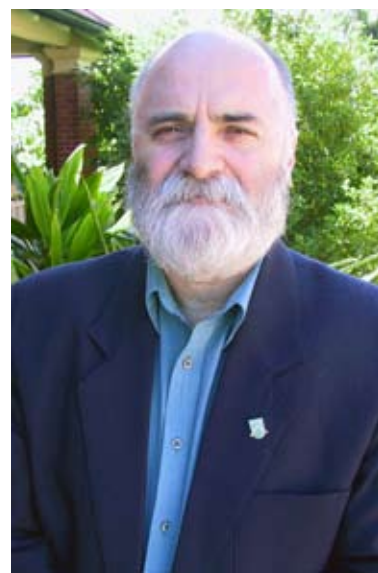
Rev Dr Geoff Thompson is Academic Dean and Head of the Department of Systematic Theology at Trinity Theological College and believes that theology is one of the best kept secrets in the Australian church. His doctoral studies focused on the significance of Karl Barth's account of truth outside the church, with particular reference to non-Christian religions. Originally an agricultural scientist, Dr Thompson spent several years working as an agronomist in Pakistan. Notwithstanding the move north he has no intention of abandoning his long suffering support for the Western Bulldogs.



Rev Dr Neil Sims is Director of Studies in Ministry and Mission at Trinity Theological College and provides oversight for student field education placements. With doctoral studies in ministerial leadership, his teaching areas are in Worship, Pastoral Care, Mission of the Church and Ministry, and he is researching how the quality of supervision and theological reflection enhance candidates' learning during their field education. A former congregation minister, Dr Sims enjoys working with students as they are formed in ministries, as well as watching his grandchildren grow and develop. He is exploring his genealogy and family tree, watches *The Bill* and doesn't barrack for any particular football team.

To learn more about Trinity Theological College and courses that are available call 07 3377 9950, fax 07 3377 9824, visit 47 Cadell Street, Auchenflower, ttc@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au or visit the web site at <http://www.trinity.qld.edu.au>.

Rev Malcolm Coombes is Director of Studies in New Testament at Trinity Theological College and his research interests are focused around the Epistles of John and Revelation. A former physicist working in radiotherapy, Mr Coombes enjoys getting out in the bush, spending time with his family and basking in the Blues' win in the 2005 State of Origin. He has a passion to encourage more people to read the scriptures regularly and seek to understand them as pointers to life in Jesus Christ.



Rev Dr David Rankin is Principal of Trinity Theological College and Head of the School of Theology at Griffith University. He is Director of Studies in Church History and teaches in that field. Dr Rankin has completed two Doctoral degrees, one of which looked at the anti-democratic movement in Late Fifth Century Athens and the other which examined Tertullian, the early church father of Carthage. When Dr Rankin is not teaching early church history and his famous "Fathers and Heretics" course, he reads Brother Cadfael books and supports the Collingwood Football Club.

Church planters train on-the-job

With a new emphasis on local mission initiatives a very different type of training is being offered for local mission leaders.

Mission Consultant Rev Duncan Macleod explained that training for leadership of Uniting Church missional communities is field-oriented and works best when there is small gap between learning and doing.

"Students are not removed from their vocation, family responsibilities or settings but receive 'just-in-time' training focusing on the ministry needs of the individual leader," he said.

"Effective church planters become mentors of the new church planter and each team leader is provided with a coach from the *Seeds of Hope* network."

Mr Macleod outlined a number of current training options for new church leaders, all biblically based and culturally appropriate:

- *Reframe* is a weekend workshop on 'missional church community' which explores the mission of Jesus and develops 'missional habits' such as dialogue and serving.

- *Launchpad* is a weekend workshop tailor-made for church plant teams.

- *Forge Missional Training Network* provides year-long internships with monthly mentoring, assignments and three 'intensives'.

- The *Pines Training Centre* in Buderim provides certificate and diploma-level training for mission leaders.

Mr Macleod's own short course on *Generational Change* draws participants together for two weekend workshops.

"Over the ten weeks in between, participants take a group of local leaders through a process of conversation around personal experience, Biblical texts, popular culture, and writing on generational culture," he said.

For more information on the *Generational Change* course or training for missional leaders call Rev Duncan Macleod on 07 3377 9809 or visit visit the *Seeds of Hope* web site www.seedsofhope.ucaqld.com.au





Rev Christy Allen and Rev David Fender participating in the recent Focusing Leaders Course

Firm in the belief that the key to transforming a church is refocusing its pastoral leaders, Synod Mission Consultant Revd Dr Graham Beattie has led over 50 Queensland ministers and youth workers through the Focusing Leaders program.

“Focusing Leaders is a life and ministry changing experience which works on character formation, ministry formation and skills development,” said Dr Beattie.

“When people ask me as a church consultant, ‘What is the most helpful leadership development resource for church pastors you’ve come across?’ without any hesitation I respond, Focusing Leaders.”

Redcliffe UC minister Rev Peter Armstrong found Focusing Leaders a helpful tool kit for many areas of mission and ministry.

“It challenged my personal praxis in evangelism, spiritual nurturing and leadership development, and the work I did back in 2002 is still being worked out in 2005,” said Mr Armstrong who continues to reflect on the commitments he made as a course participant.

Dr Beattie believes that the program helps leaders gain insight into how God has been shaping ministry potential over their lifetime; assists leaders in clarifying their future ministry direction; and provides them resources that will enhance their ministry effectiveness and encourage their empowerment of others.

“It does all this in a way that respects the unique calling, theology and leadership style of each participant,” he said.

**For more information about Focusing Leaders contact
Rev Dr Graham Beattie on 07 3377 9818
graham.beattie@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au**

Big questions about how we train ministers

The question of how to best prepare women and men for the ordained ministries in the church has generated considerable debate across the Uniting Church.

Some contributors to the debate are driven by a missional agenda with advocates like church consultant and futurist Thomas Bandy saying that there is no longer any need for church leaders but rather a need for “mission movers”.

Bandy claims that this has led to widespread frustrations with the modern denominational education systems.

Others, like South Australian Uniting Church minister Nick Hawkes, believe that the problems are doctrinal with denominational colleges being too theologically liberal and ecclesiologically conservative.

“There is little hope for the institutional church if theological training if it is not Christocentric and orthodox,” he said.

Academic Dean and Head of the Department of Systematic Theology at Trinity Theological College Rev Dr Geoff Thompson

argues that the issues are more basic than this.

“As with most contentious issues in Christianity, debates about ministerial education are likely to be ciphers for divisions, disagreements and disputes about much deeper and more fundamental issues such as the nature of ministry, the purpose of the church, the nature and location of God’s presence in the world, and even just what salvation is,” he said.

There is also debate over the best context for ministry training with some believing that the traditional linear, classroom, seminary education has been outpaced by the post-modern world.

“The day vafter you learned the skill, the world changed and it won’t work any more, and the afternoon after you thought you learned the truth, the perspective changed and it doesn’t interpret reality anymore,” said Bandy.

Mr Hawkes argues for the apprenticeship models of leadership training to be an increasing feature of theological training.

“There is no need for formal theological training to be longer

than three years. This should be offered whilst the student is also working with a leader in an effective church” he said.

Dr Thompson believes, while acknowledging the potential strengths of the apprenticeship model, that it risks failing to orient the local church to the whole church.

“The obvious question to put even to the generic idea of apprenticeship training is whether it can form ministers who know how to resist parochialism and how to develop ministries which are something more than mere reflections of the needs of their own immediate context,” he said.

Dr Thompson claims that it is time for the Uniting Church to re-claim its theological tradition, and its inheritance of scholarly theology.

“Should we fail, I see little prospect that we will end up as anything more than a pale and confused imitation of the free-floating, fundamentalist, moralistic churches preoccupied with their place on the denominational league tables and with how fast they are growing.”

Everyone can use the Trinity College library



Trinity College Librarian Alethea Hubley

Would you like to read a book on pastoral care, view a video about famous theologians or read the latest articles on biblical studies?

The Trinity Theological College Library can help you. Here’s how.

First, you can search the online catalog at www.trinity.qld.edu.au for the resource you need. Then register as a borrower. You can either visit the library yourself or arrange to have resources mailed to you (postage costs apply). The

librarian and library assistant are always willing to assist you and provide extra information.

The collection includes a wide selection of books, videos, CDs and electronic resources, on worship, preaching, lay ministry, pastoral care, youth ministry, the mission of the church, theology, biblical studies, church history and philosophy. The joint catalogue with the Roscoe Library at St Francis’ Theological College opens up an even wider choice.

The two libraries also operate in a consortium with the St Paul’s Theological College collection and the Banyo Library, Australian Catholic University. Helpful online resources are also available via the library website.

The library is located on Level One of the Uniting Church Centre, 60 Bayliss Street, Auchenflower. During semester, it is open from 8.30am to 6pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4pm on Friday. Non-semester hours are 9am to 1pm weekdays.

Trinity Library caters primarily to students, many of whom are taking courses offered by the college. For enrolled students, the library service is free. For clergy and lay members of congregations, a \$25.00 annual membership applies.

This special library is funded from various sources. Major funding comes from the generosity of congregations throughout Queensland via the Mission and Service Fund. Always appreciated are the kind donations made by individuals, associations like the Synod Lay Preachers Association and congregations.

The Trinity Library is your library. You are welcome to visit any time, in person or online.

**For further information, contact the librarian, Alethea Hubley
Trinity Theological College
Library GPO Box 674,
Brisbane QLD 4001
Ph: 07 3377 9961
alethea.hubley@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au**

Candidates step out

As Trinity College mid year graduates take the next step in their ministry, they reflect on the valuable lessons learnt.



Michelle Cook

Deacon graduate Michelle Cook will be working on the Weipa Patrol in North Queensland for Frontier Services. “I was originally going to study Ministry of the Word, but during my period of discernment I spent some time with the Iona Community in Scotland, and it was there that I realised God was calling me to work outside the congregation, in the community.”



Rosalyn Smaill

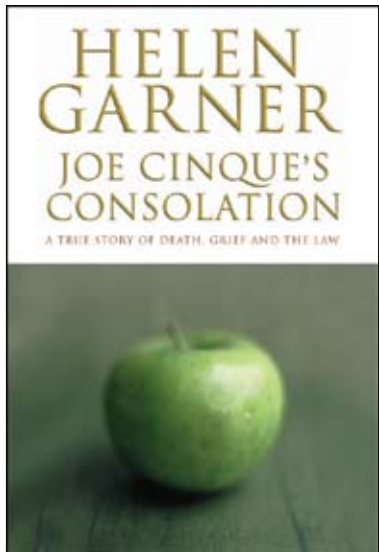
Rosalyn Smaill, Ministry of Lay Pastor graduate, said studying at Trinity was rewarding and challenging. “The Lord has revealed a lot to me during my studies and keeps surprising me. I have received a lot of spiritual encouragement while I have been at Trinity. I’m looking forward to working together with a congregation and learning as we go.”



Rob Callow

While studying Rob Callow, Minister of the Word graduate, appreciated learning to think of the bigger picture. “One major thing is thinking about who we understand God to be and how that influences who we are and what we do,” he said.

Reviews



Joe Cinque's Consolation: A True Story of Death, Grief and the Law by Helen Garner, Picador Australia. RRP \$30.00

Helen Garner's analysis of the 1997 killing of Canberra student Joe Cinque by his girlfriend, Anu Singh, includes a discussion on the relationship between law and ethics.

Garner interviews Justice Ken Crispin from the ACT Supreme Court about the murder trial. One

of the key questions they examine is the extent to which a 'duty of care' has legal implications.

In other words, does the moral lesson which is drawn from the Good Samaritan parable also have ethical weight when it comes to judging those who witness, but do not intervene, in another person's suffering.

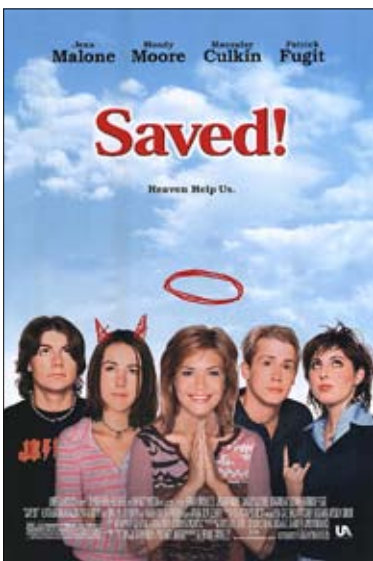
Crispin is a committed Christian with training in both the law and ethics, as well as personal experiences of grief and tragedy. Garner's encounter with Crispin is just one of the profound engagements that emerge from this harrowing investigation.

Helen Garner is a novelist and essayist who uses a keen understanding of her own perspective to unravel ethical knots from real-life tragedies.

Garner sets herself an ambitious task and, in this important book, achieves an amazing empathy with and insight into the situations she observes and the people she encounters.

A powerful parable in itself.

Mark Young



Saved director Brian Dannelly, DVD version. RRP \$24.95

Central character Mary discovers her boyfriend is gay and, after a "vision" from Jesus, goes to bed with him to redeem his sexuality. The rest of this film works through Mary's resulting pregnancy with her senior year friends at an all-American Christian high school.

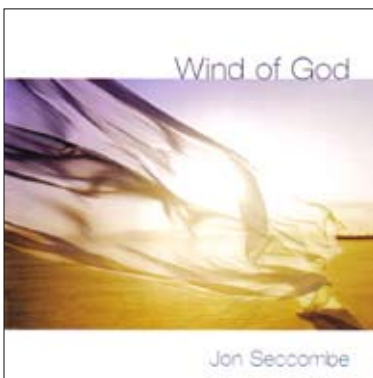
Featuring Mandy Moore, Macaulay Culkin, Jena Malone and a host of teen movie stars, *Saved* is both a complex and superficial movie which expands the old Danish proverb, "Better to be a sinner than a hypocrite".

Saved satirizes the rigidity of intolerant ultra-fundamentalists rather than Christian faith but the targets are too easy, and director and writer Brian Dannelly doesn't really give his stereotypical conservatives a chance as he champions the cause of spiritual hospitality.

There are moments of amusement and sometimes joy which run out of steam well before the somewhat contrived ending. Nevertheless it is a fun 90 minutes of entertainment; the comic barbs may be more that some can stand so, if you can't laugh at yourself, don't watch this DVD

The DVD comes with the usual audio commentaries, deleted scenes and bloopers.

Bruce Mullan



Wind of God by Jon Seccombe www.arndell.com RRP \$29.95

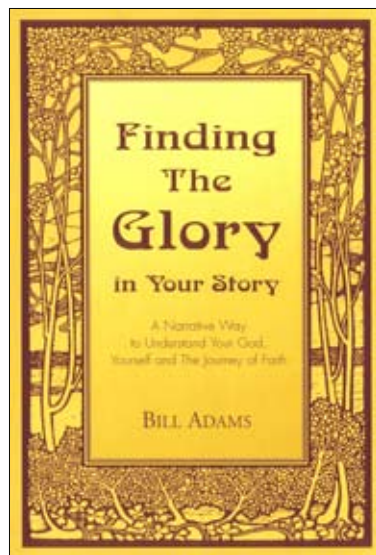
Wind of God is an impressive new worship music resource. The 2 CD collection features not only 10 vocal tracks written by Australian songwriter Jon Seccombe, but also a variety of 'tools' to aid the use of these songs in the local church. Among the songs is *All My Desire*

which is also found on the NCYC 2001 CD.

It's refreshing to find contemporary worship music that is broader than praise ... praise and more praise! Seccombe's songs explore, more overtly than much other current material, the events and struggles in the writer's life and the hope God's grace offers to those situations.

Wind of God's material is best suited to the 'presentation' of songs in worship, rather than congregational singing; alternatively as soundtrack to a data-projected visual or creative dance. Included on the double CD are full backing tracks, 'stories' behind the songs, sheet music, lead sheets, overhead masters and instrumental tracks.

David MacGregor



Finding the Glory in Your Story: a Narrative Way to Understand Your God, Yourself and the Journey of Faith by Bill Adams, CopyRight Publishing. RRP \$12.50

Bill Adams is a storyteller with a purpose who has used story throughout his ministry to help people understand Christian faith and to cherish the scriptures.

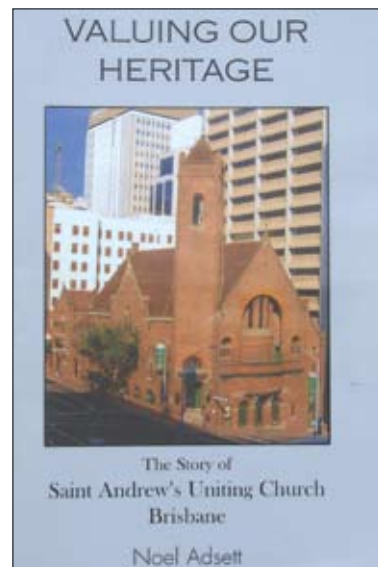
In an era when the Church is trying to understand post-Modernism, when many people have given up on the Church, and when evangelism no longer seems fashionable, Bill Adams sees story as the point of contact.

Finding the Glory in Your Story aims to help people to read the Bible as story, and to link God's story in Jesus Christ with their own story so that faith can come alive.

This is an easy-to-read book full of good stories that preachers will want to use. It's a book you could give to a sceptical friend at work, a grandchild who is having serious doubts about the faith, a neighbour or to someone in your congregation.

John Mavor

Available on-line from saintandrews@saintandrews.org.au or Rev Dr Bill Adams, 15 Coolaroo Crescent, Jindalee, Qld, 4074. Phone (07) 3715 7735 bpadams@optusnet.com.au \$13.00 including postage.



Valuing Our Heritage by Noel Adsett CopyRight Publishing Co. RRP \$27.50

Valuing Our Heritage is a scholarly work. It is well written; it is meticulous in its historical detail. It is heart-warming in its very human biographies of ministers. At the same time, it captures the dynamic spiritual ministries that the denominations brought to the city as well as to their congregations.

With a very human touch, the book follows the struggles of the ministers and congregations to establish churches for their denominations.

The book brings to its readers the highs and lows of Christian experience from the early days of the Moreton Bay Settlement, as committed Christians sought to establish the church as a vital part of the development of the character and fabric of the city.

Valuing Our Heritage is rich in the history of the Presbyterians and Congregationalists in Brisbane. It is also a valuable piece of literature. Perhaps most of all it is a heart-warming story of the people of God. It values our heritage through almost two centuries, and in particular it celebrates the richness of St Andrew's as a house of God in every facet of its hundred years.

Norma Alcorn

Available from St Andrew's Church office, 131 Creek Street, Brisbane or phone 32212400. \$35 inc packing and postage.

More new reviews available on-line

www.journey.ucaql.com.au

Virtual Christianity: Potential and Challenge for the Churches by Jean-Nicholas Bazin and Jerome Cottin.

Oscar X-Ray Calling by Betty Scarlet.

Jewish – Christian Relations by Maurice Ryan.

The Thoughtful Guide to the Bible by Roy Robinson.



Rev Ian Gillman

Another founding father of the Uniting Church died on 3 July. Rev Dr Ian Gillman, aged 78, was an eminent scholar, author, teacher, preacher and liturgist.

Well known for his wicked sense of humour, Dr Gillman came to Brisbane in 1962 to the Presbyterian Church's Emmanuel College Theological Hall, having accepted the position of Professor of Theology and Lecturer in Church History. Soon after Church Union, Dr Gillman went to the University of Queensland where he later became Head of the Department for Studies in Religion.

As a Presbyterian member of the Joint Commission on Church Union, Dr Gillman was an enthusiastic advocate for the *Basis of Union* on which the Uniting Church in Australia was founded. When the decisions regarding union were before the Presbyterian Church Assembly in the 1970s, Dr Gillman presented the case.

Former Moderator Rev Don Whebell said Dr Gillman was one who contributed much to the lives of many.

"We are grateful for his faith, insights and personal gifts, and for the profound contribution he made to the drafting of our *Basis of Union*," he said.

Sir Ronald Wilson

The President of the Uniting Church, the Rev Dr Dean Drayton, paid tribute to the life of the fifth President of the Church, Sir Ronald Wilson, who died in July.

Sir Ronald (Ron) Wilson was the first lay President of the Uniting Church during a term which lasted from 1988 to 1991 and was also a judge in the High Court and President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

"Sir Ronald was a person of deep Christian faith who offered compassionate and insightful leadership for lay and ordained



Micah takes on Live8

Over one thousand people attended the live broadcast of the Live8 concert at the Southbank Piazza in Brisbane to celebrate White Armband Day on July 2.

Organised by the Queensland working group of the Micah Challenge and Oxfam, the event drew people, young and not so young, to make a stand against poverty. Queensland Synod Social Responsibility Advocate Ms Heather den Houting was one of the many volunteers on the night.

"Over a thousand people attended, all called to be part of the global movement to share wealth equitably across the world. The Micah Challenge takes its name from the biblical prophet who calls all Christians to act justly and love mercy.

"What an opportunity for the church to respond to this call," she said. "Each day of our lives we have the opportunities available to us to make a difference."

The night is over but the work of the Micah Challenge and mission is far from finished. The next White Armband Day is in September.



Social Responsibility Advocate Heather den Houting



Make Poverty History guru Dave Andrews with two of the enthusiastic volunteers on the evening

members of the Church alike but his presidency will be most fondly remembered for the leadership he showed in areas of public policy, especially his unwavering commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Australians," Dr Drayton said.

"Sir Ronald's great love for the Uniting Church and his involvement in public policy should be a reminder to all Christians that faith calls us to advocate justice and equity for the most disadvantaged in society."



Iona Abbey and one of the many Celtic crosses on Iona
Photograph by David MacGregor

Bushwacker plays Iona boomwacker

Boomwackers in the abbey was just one highlight for Indooroopilly UC minister Rev David MacGregor who visited the historic Iona Community in early June.

Visiting Iona for refreshment and help on his Masters thesis, Mr MacGregor explained that boomwackers are a series of short didgeridoo-like instruments struck on the floor as a symphony of percussion to the singing of short African chants.

"In a technique known as 'drum circles', participants would play all sorts of intricate percussive rhythms together, each of us with our own unique sound, each of us with our chance to come to the fore, each of us with our time of silence while others were prominent, each of us learning to listen to the other, each of us finding our 'voice'," said Mr MacGregor.

"Not till one sings the songs, shares the prayer responses, participates in the distinctive services offering prayers for healing or commitment do the words of the *Wee Worship Book* take on a new and deeper dimension," said Mr MacGregor, who had worn out his original copy of this favourite resource.

"Together we would share music, daily chores, the sound of strange birds called corncrakes, harmonica choirs, haggis (fair dinkum), the Iona island pilgrimage and, of course, sightseeing. This was 1 Corinthians 12 in action."

Churches invited-screen for justice

Church communities throughout Australia have been invited to participate in 'The Day of Courage' and many local church communities will screen *Punished Not Protected*, a film examining the history of government policy and its effects on those fleeing war, torture and persecution.

The screenings will be part of the National Council of Churches of Australia's Refugee and Migrant Sunday, 28 August 2005.

Punished Not Protected features interviews with refugees, concerned citizens and leading Australians including former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, Professor of Politics at La Trobe University Robert Manne, and Rev Tim Costello – all of whom are committed to seeking a fairer and more just treatment of all asylum seekers.

The enormous strength found in church, mosque and synagogue communities around the country will ensure the commitment and participation of potentially hundreds of thousands of Australians in 'The Day of Courage'.

The simultaneous screening of *Punished Not Protected* is a simple, cost effective and cohesive demonstration of support for continuing reform to Australia's policy for all asylum seekers.

Distribution rights to *Punished Not Protected* are owned by Ronin Films. The company has waived the usual exhibition fee of \$120 and instead has made DVD or VHS copies available for sale at \$30 for this event.

DVD or VHS can be obtained from RONIN FILMS
www.roninfilms.com.au Ph: 02 6248 0851 Fax: 02 6248 1640.

PRAYER DIARY

7 August: Caloundra

Caloundra, on the Sunshine Coast, is a popular destination for tourists and retirees. Our congregation is mainly in the older retired age group, but still young at heart. Most of us are involved in church and home and community activities.

At this time, there is significant growth in population within the Caloundra area, and we struggle to find ways of contacting people in the new development suburbs. We would value your prayers for us, as we seek to become more involved in outreach to others, and learn to care and share more of the love of Christ when and where it is needed most.

Please pray specifically for:

- Unity College: a joint Catholic/Uniting Church school which will open in 2006, and establish a new non-sacramental faith community.
- Our Social Justice group: members of the congregation are involved in many social justice issues, and the congregation has also raised significant contributions for overseas aid projects. In August, we are attempting to raise awareness of human trafficking, and funding to support those who work against it.
- Our monthly cafe church: here we attempt to make contact with younger families, and provide a different worship style.
- Wisdom in knowing how to work in new development areas.
- School chaplains in the area: a prayer lunch was held on 25th July, and the support group meets regularly for prayer.
- The BlueCare service in our area-domiciliary and in retirement and nursing homes: we will be holding a special service on 14th August.

14 August: Inala

Settled predominately with European immigrants in early 1950, Inala began as a 'Multicultural Community' and has since remained long before 'multicultural' became the 'in' word. Worship Communities were therefore formed of 'Anglo' roots. Inala has since experienced many waves of immigrants.

Today there are seventy resident Nationalities, among which are the largest Indigenous, Vietnamese and Pacific Islander People in the South East Corner.

Multiculturalism is enriching yet also difficult. Ignorance of different cultures and values create barriers and a natural trait is to guard one's own 'history'.

Inala has one Catholic Primary, one Special and six State Schools, one Secondary Education Centre and a TAFE Campus.

Joined by a Samoan congregation taking up Uniting Church membership in 1989, Inala church presently enjoys two congregations worshipping at 8:30am and 11:00am in English and Samoan languages respectively, holds several combined services through the year and meets under one Church Council of equal representation from each congregation.

With sound teaching, Rev. Lalomilo Lima encourages the church to 'worship' God in the understanding of different cultures.

Please pray for:

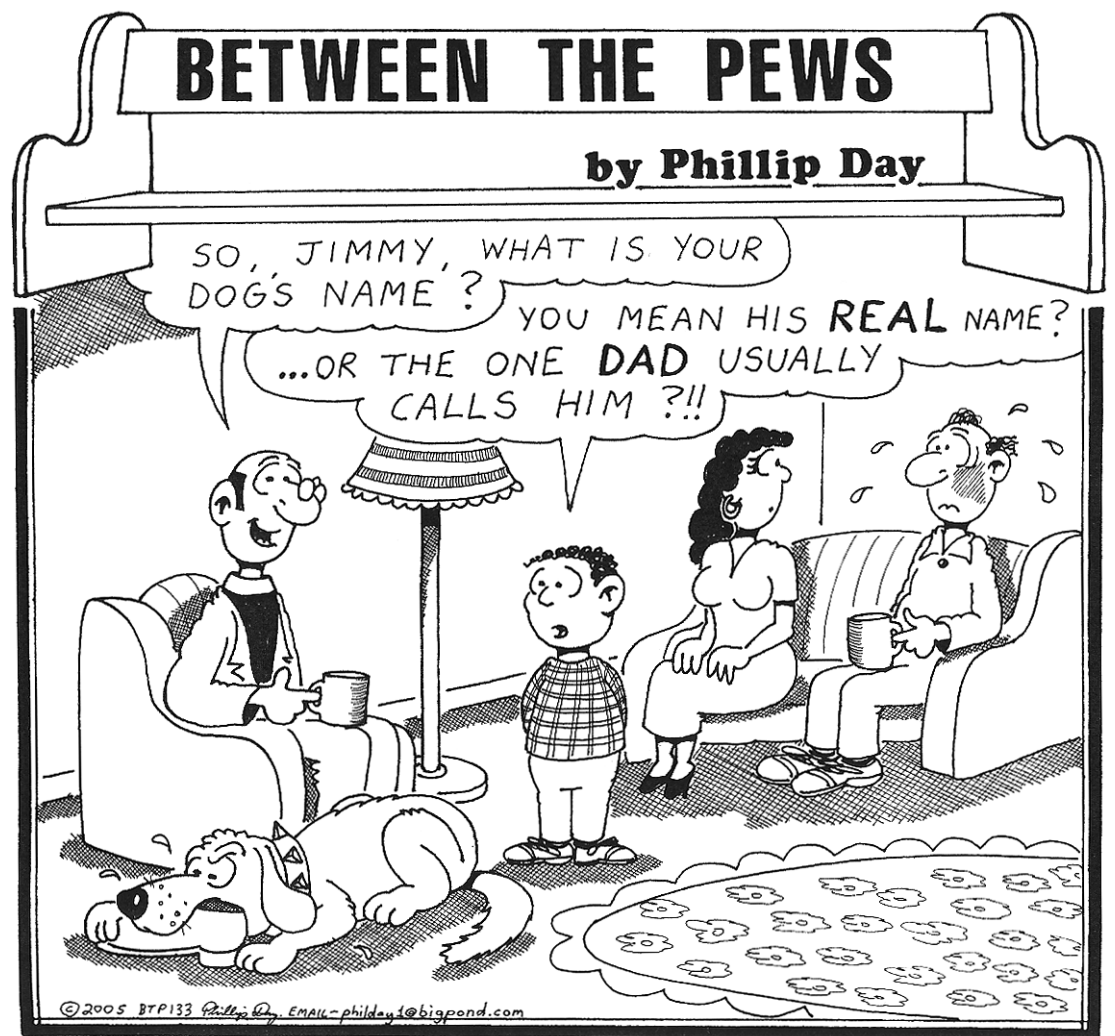
- Our Multicultural Community: in love and respect, to live and share one another's cultural values
- Religious Education Program in Schools: that the Gospel be truly proclaimed and accepted, that teachers be equipped to love children with Christ's love



finally...

a station for the whole family!

96.5 FM Family



• Churches in Inala: "be in but not of the world" Romans 12:2

• Inala Congregation: "do what is just...show constant love...live in humble fellowship with God"..... Micah 8:6

21 August: Nanango

The Nanango Parish is located in Queensland's South Burnett region and is part of the Mary Burnett Presbytery. The Parish consists of the towns of Nanango, Yarraman and Blackbutt and their surrounding districts. A monthly worship service is also held in the community of Pimpimbudgee.

Whilst predominantly a rural area, industries such as forestry, electricity generation and coal mining are present as well. The number of people choosing to retire in the area is also of significance.

The current minister and congregations have been together since the beginning of this year and there appears to be a good and lively sense of community within each of the congregations. Since the beginning of the year, there has been a major focus on developing a sense of who we are as the people of God and how this will impact on our various communities.

- Thank God for a number of young people in the Parish who are willing to serve in ministry with other young people and with children, and who are willing to take steps to develop and grow their faith.
- Thank God for significant, recent rainfall but pray for tenacity and endurance for the congregations and members of the farming community in dealing with the challenges of rural ministry and living.
- Pray for ongoing recognition by each congregation of who they are called to be as the people of God and for them to celebrate this in ministry to the communities in which they live and work.

WHAT'S ON

The Heart of Christianity Study programs at the West End Uniting Church. Contact Rev Bob Griffiths on 38443557 or at westend@ucaqld.com.au.

August 7 Bill Adams book launch *Finding Your Glory in the Story* will be launched at St Andrews UC, Brisbane. Email bpadams@optusnet.com.au.

13 August 2:30pm Brisbane Welsh Singers Variety Concert, tea and soup meal. St Albans Church. Cnr Milton Rd and Weinholt St, Auchenflower. \$10.00 Contact Rene on (07) 33414819, or Bronwyn on (07) 38760091.

14 August National Day of Courage Support for asylum seekers, refugees and their children; and to assert Australian core beliefs in social justice for all.

14 August 2pm 14th Annual Hymnfest Redcliffe UC. Offering to School Chaplaincy. Contact Keith Lawson on (07) 3203 1788.

15 August The Rollie Busch Memorial Lecture Dr Kathryn Tanner, Professor of Theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School speaking on her book 'Economy of Grace'. 7:30pm at Broadwater Road UC 481 Broadwater Road, Wishart supper will be provided (07)3849 8548

18 August The Rollie Busch Memorial Lecture Dr Kathryn Tanner 7:30pm at Campbell Street UC, Rockhampton supper will be provided (07) 4921 3213

18-20 August Rummage Sale Uhl Hall, Weller Gardens, Chermside. 8:30am - 3pm daily. 8am - 12noon on Saturday Clothes, knick-knacks and books.

21 August 3pm St Andrew's Centenary Concert The Sanctuary Choir, Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's and Sinfonia of St Andrew's combined Enquiries to the Church Office 3221 2400 www.brisbaneconcertchoir.com

25 August 7:15pm Public Lecture by Rev Dr Andrew Dutney in St Andrew's UC. Dr Dutney is Principal of Parkin-Wesley Theological College in Adelaide.

28 August 9.30am 100th Anniversary Service and luncheon at St Andrew's. Guest Preacher- Rev Dr Andrew Dutney. Queensland Governor attending.

28 August 2pm Hymn Festival St Andrew's UC, Creek St Brisbane. Sing your favourite hymns with choirs from Moreton Bay College and Brisbane Boys' College and brass players from the Queensland Conservatorium of music.

30 August 10am-lunch. Retired ministers their spouses and widowed members meeting. The Gap UC Speaker Moderator Rev Allan Kuchler. Ian and Margaret Florence on 3264 8690 ianmargf@bigpond.comSeptember

3 September 6.30pm till late Multicultural Festival 2005 Wesley Kangaroo Point Uniting Church. Multicultural recipes plus entertainment. Mili Tuinora (07) 3371 9394 / 0411 878 154 mtuinona@hotmail.com www.wkpc.org.au.

5 September 10.15am Annual Synod Service Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Queensland Synod Committee at the Broadwater Road UC Preacher Rev Bruce Johnson. Morning Tea from 9.30am. BYO lunch.

11 September 1pm-3pm Partners in Ministry afternoon tea Lakeside Lounge, Robina UC. Acknowledging the life, witness and support of the spouses of retiring ministers. Speaker UCA president, Rev Dr Dean Drayton RSVP Laurie Kuchler 3378 6912 or Hazel Bachler 3848 8267.

LETTERS

David Tacey

The articles in the June edition of Journey about David Tacey's presentation in Brisbane generated a lot of correspondence and comment. David has written indicating that he would like a chance to face and dialogue with his critics. This is an extract from a much longer letter dealing with many specifics about the articles by Geoff Thompson and Duncan Macleod.

I only received the paper *Journey* today with "Christianity at the Crossroads". Cross roads, pun: We are on the road, and Geoff is cross.

I am happy to try to put the views of the majority of Australians (who don't want supernatural religion), even though hardly anyone else in this country seems prepared to speak up, for fear of what? Instead, people tend to just pull away from churches, and go their own journey.

This is not good enough for me, as I would like the church itself to be on a journey, and I still think, even now, this is possible.

God is not a supernatural being, doing supernatural events in history. This is a child's perception of religious reality, and as soon as people grow up, they leave it behind, and the church in many cases.

I agree with Paul Tillich: God is not "a" being, but "Being" itself. If the church cannot go this way, history will be very kind and unsentimental to it, and will just roll over and destroy it...

As to my "thinly Christianised" discourse – I don't want to get into a debate about who is the "better" Christian. As you know, religion is full of paradox, and reversals: the first will be last, and the last first.

My "thin" Christianity may be the genuine article, but many would not realise it...

David Tacey
Melbourne

After reading the June issue of *Journey* I was amazed. According to David Tacey I would probably be a literalist, I believe that Jesus was the Son of God, being the image of the invisible God.

I want to know what gospel is being preached here, and if it is not the gospel of Jesus Christ crucified, and raised from the dead and ascended to the right hand of God, why are we listening?

There is a place for discussion and diversity and freedom but please don't make it an excuse for accepting everything, especially where it is directly contrary to the will of God which has been revealed in the Bible.

Don't throw aside the grace of God for some form of modern spirituality.

In creating our own modern form of spirituality to make "Religion" more accessible/desirable for the world we are digging broken and worthless cisterns, there is no power to save, and we are leading people away from the one person who can save them, Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life, without whom no one can come to the Father.

Tim Everett
Chapel Hill

At the last Synod I was going to bring a proposal which asked the Synod to make nine basic faith statements. Among others these included, "Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone" (See the *Basis of Union* paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 6, 10); our "preaching of Christ should be controlled by the Biblical witnesses" (see *Basis* 5) and "Jesus was physically raised from the dead" (see *Basis* 3, 9). In the end I did not bring my proposal, because to be honest, I like the quiet life.

My proposal was intended to encourage unity by reassuring the more conservative folk in our church that we all still hold the same basic beliefs no matter what

our difficulties with sexuality and leadership. Given several issues raised in the June issue of *Journey* I am not so sure that this is true. If I had brought my proposal perhaps I would have caused more division. Frankly, I do not know whether to laugh or cry about all of this, but at least I know that God loves me, so I soldier on.

Rev Andrew Gillies
Clermont

Adherents

It happened a long time ago at Christchurch. A Methodist boy was encouraged by parents to stay for the "the sacrament of the Lord's Supper", spectator only. We had, by this time, three hymns, prayers, a children's address and a sermon. He was eager to learn what was under the white cloth. To his surprise, but obviously on cue, a good third of the congregation left quietly. Why the exodus? Surely not a feeling of unworthiness, for I knew them. Some were Sunday School teachers. They were vital, happy, Bible loving believers, rejoicing in Christ. Although a frequent invitation "to stay" was given "to all who love our Lord Jesus in sincerity and in truth" I was told, in a whisper, "they are not members". I reflect often on this 'tribe' which was such a rich reservoir for evangelism and leadership – non-members, spiritually alive, and our only link we between "the saints" and "the outsiders". We are the losers! (Methodists in N.Z. are still hurting).

Congregations, here, may have wondered "Where have all the Adherents gone"? Holy Communion continues, of course. But here is my point: We now assume that every person present, the first Sunday each month, will "take Communion" – including uninstructed children.

In Kingdom terms, and over a long time, there were other losses – catechism teaching, the 'Class Meeting', the unashamed altar calls. The prayer meeting continues, but limps. My concern, however, is this one particular loss. Has Australia suffered similarly? I ask because I know not.

Phillip Ramsay
Manly West.

Letters in Brief

Resolution 84 in June Journey

"But there was this missing whopper: the disregard for the rank and file. Every official and other survey of UC members results in an overwhelming negative to Res. 84. Often there is an implication that the members out there are split 50/50 down the middle, like a well balanced see-saw. It isn't a case of the "messy middle": it's the messy edge, with the see-saw becoming a slide! How can this overwhelming imbalance go unacknowledged?"

Bruce Gulley

Multicultural Church in July Journey

Great job with *Journey*, thanks for finally making it interesting and worth reading. I think Lu Senituli hits the nail on the head when he talks about the need for the Uniting Church to begin taking multiculturalism seriously. Unless we begin to do this, listen and take notice of their opinion in the church's discussions, our understanding of justice is sugar-coated and patronising.

Simon Jockel

David Tacey in June Journey

"When the front page feature article is the summing up of a man who has apparently stated that our Lord Jesus need a demotion, one can only wonder how that is a help to the ordinary man and woman in the pews. Thank you for including some criticisms of what he had to say."

Ted Butler

"Makes one wonder how the church has survived for two thousand years against crossroads, tumults, wars, isms, intellectuals, and doubters. Christianity is a way of life, not a religious argument."

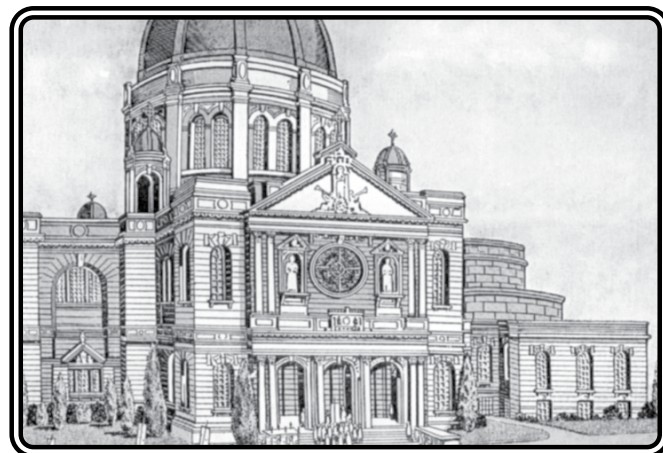
E Illmann

Have your say!

Letters to the editor may be edited due to space limitations. **Post to Journey**, GPO Box 674, Brisbane Qld 4001.

Email:
journey@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au

Historically Speaking



THE CATHEDRAL WHICH NEVER WAS

It was to have seated 4,000, its Romanesque basilica dominating Brisbane's skyline. Inspired by a cathedral of the same name in Chicago, the Cathedral of the Holy Name had been the vision of Catholic Archbishop James Duhig.

The long-serving archbishop, known as James the Builder, laid the foundation stone of the cathedral in 1928. Such was his passion for the project, he was prepared to demolish his own residence, the imposing Dara, to ensure the realisation of his vision.

For many years, the city held its breath, awaiting word of the commencement of construction from within the sandstone walls. But in the late nineties, the site was sold for a multi-unit development.

All that remains of the vision are the architectural drawings for the cathedral that never was.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Induction of Rev Dr David Pitman as Moderator of the Qld Synod Friday, 9 September Emmanuel College, Birmingham St, Carrara 7.30pm

EMU stands for a UCA where biblical authority counts. Ph 3408 0347.

JOURNEY asks...

Tell us about your call to ministry



Matt Smallbone

It's a godly mystery that I find myself in an international ministry; even stranger that God chose me to be a rock'n'roller for him! Rather than 'hearing the call', I suspect that I find myself on the right path because I was raised to involve God in all decisions. Dad would say, "Let's pray about that". And pray we did.

The Bible is clear that the prerequisite for discerning God's will for our life is to renew our mind. I suspect that a combination of making godly choices (staying a virgin, not smoking, drinking, swearing etc.) as a teenager and attempting mind-renewal as a zealous twenty-something enabled

me to respond to God's whispered call to ministry.

So, I now find myself playing around 200 concerts a year, seeing salvation wherever we perform and operating in a prophetic gifting that leaves me mystified. I've come to understand that God doesn't call the qualified, but rather qualifies the called.

Ministry is not always easy. It's disappointing when you visit a town where the churches refuse to sit in the same building for reasons of theological disparity. I mean... for goodness sake. We're called to love each other... right? It disturbs me that Alabaster Box can walk into a church with a swag of pictures of starving kids, offer the opportunity to help, and leave

without seeing one precious little one sponsored. I promise you this, the church that doesn't care for the poor and widowed puzzles the outside world.

When it is all laid out, however, I am left feeling optimistic. You can't help but be positive when you know that God is your dad and that heaven is your final destination.

Authentic Christianity is very un-rock'n'roll. It's more about giving a cup of cold water to your thirsty neighbour than chasing blessing. We currently have the balance wrong, but by the grace of God I'll do all I can to ensure that this Christian generation gives it a red-hot go.

Matt Smallbone is guitarist in the band Alabaster Box.



Tim Griggs

Looking back now, I can see the times where God began calling and preparing me for ministry. During the significant times of formation in my late teenage years, everything from the high school ISCF group, Scripture Union and Uniting Church camps, Chrysalis flights, beach missions and youth group leadership were part of my journey towards ministry with young people.

While in another line of employment, I realised that I had a huge passion for working with and helping people. During this time I had a number of people encourage and challenge me in a variety of areas of life, faith and ministry. There are heaps of people who have inspired and taught me from a variety of walks of life. Firstly, my parents Ken and Gaye have been a major part of my formation, my wife Andrea and her family, friends, ministers and leaders that I have worked with over the years, youth worker networks and young people themselves have all influenced me positively.

There have been far more joys than frustrations. I guess one consistent frustration is when people lose sight of the main thing: worshipping and serving God together. So many of the joys have been when 'we', the church, remember and focus on this main thing.

As I write this I celebrate 12 months today since finishing college and beginning full time ministry. I realised early my passion for bringing young people closer to God and to each other, so when I heard about the Bachelor of Theology/Youth Work degree at Trinity Theological College, it was an easy decision to make.

Looking back, I have been blessed by God through experiences and people more than I could have ever imagined. To God and to those people, I give thanks!

Tim Griggs is a Specified Youth Worker serving with the Bayside Congregation.



Viliami Mila

Fakatapu moe talamalu 'oe Fonua mo Ha'a – Taki Lotu kau hūfanga atu ai. 'Ihe tau 1999 neu ausia ai ha Ūi pea fai mai leva 'e fononga 'ihe ngaahi founa 'oku tu'utu'uni ke fou ai 'e kau 'Ako-Faifekau kotoa pe 'ihe UCA aia 'oku ui koe Period of Discernment 'ihe tau 'e taha – koe tefito'i fakakaukau ke fakapapau'i hoto Ūi. Kaikehe, hili 'e tau kakato 'e taha 'oe POD neu fou leva 'ihe tepile fktaha'anga 'ae Siasi [Church Council], Presbytery, pea moe Sinoti. 'I he 'aho 18/10/03 neu hoko leva koe tokotaha Kanititeiti 'o lolotonga teu'i 'ihe Kolisi Tohitapu 'ae Siasi [Trinity College] ki he ngaue faka-sevaniti ki hono Sino – Hamai ka koe Siasi 'ihe kahau.

'Oku 'ikai fakatataua 'ae KELESI kumi mai 'ae 'Otua 'oku te ausia. He 'oku ne tokoni'i hoku vaivai, pea ko 'ene Folofōla 'oku ne fkhinohino au ki he hala totonu. Koe taha 'oe faingata'a 'oku te iai koe malae 'oe Ako. He 'oku te ako 'ihe lea kehe meihe lea na'ate tupu hake moia. Koe taha foki 'oe ausia 'oku te iai koe fe'ohi, moe lotu 'ihe kau papalangi aia 'oku nau kehe mei hoto matakali. Pea koe ako lahi 'oku te fai mea tekinautolu he 'oku ou Tui koe kongia ia 'oe Misiona – kete fe'ohi, tokoni, 'ofa pea mo tufaki 'ae Ongoongo Lelei 'o Kalaisi ki he kakai kotoa pe.

Mole ke mama'o ha'aku polepole 'iha me'a na'a te lava pe lolotonga ausia – he na'e 'ikai ha me'a ia neu lava. Koe 'ausia 'oku te lolotonga tofanga ai koe 'OFA 'ata'ata pe ia 'a Langi. Koe Ūi ko'eni 'ihe'eku mo'ui 'oku ne to'o hake au mei he vanu 'oe mate moe palaku, 'o lilingi 'ene meesi keu fakatu'amelie 'ihono Ta'ata'a ka koe Lami Mate noa – Kalaisi. Koe faka-feanga'i fakaaho malo pe. Koe 'Ako malo pe. Ka ko'ene 'OFA 'e 'ikai ngata pe 'osi. Mo'oni 'e Apositolo ko Paula; 'kainga, 'oku 'ikai teu lau au kuou ma'u ka koe me'a pe taha 'oku ou fai 'oku ou fakangalongalo'i 'ae ngaahi me'a kuo tuku ki mui, kau kakapa atu ki he ngaahi me'a mei mu'a; ou tuli atu pe ki he ngata'anga, ke mau 'ae pale 'o hoto Ūi mei 'olunga na'e fai 'ehe 'Otua 'ia Kalaisi Sisū. Tua'ofa'eiki atu.

Viliami Mila is a candidate for the Minister of the Word. An English translation of Viliami's story can be found at www.journey.ucaqld.com.au.

Jan Chalmers

My call to the ministry of Deacon began before 1975 as I studied for the Lay Preacher's Certificate. 2 Corinthians 5: 17–19 "if anyone is in Christ he/she is a new creation, the old has passed away, and the new has come. Christ had made this possible and has reconciled us to himself, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation".



I was being called to a ministry of reconciliation, even though I did not understand what the may mean for me.

In 1975 at the Methodist Conference Youth Night the words of *Scripture in Song* number 41 confirmed a call to a ministry of reconciliation. God had forgiven me, I was to go out to share God's love as he had told me to. Freely had I received, now I was being asked to freely give.

The ministry of service to which I was called was to be present in the places where people of all sorts live their everyday lives, as a sign of the presence of God there, particularly among people who are marginalised, oppressed, suffering, the forgotten and the unlovely. I was to be a sign of the justice and mercy, judgement and forgiveness, compassion and saving grace, the suffering and victory of God.

Throughout 27 years this call to exercise a ministry of service has involved church and community development programmes over a period of 15 years at Balmoral and Coopers Plains.

The next 12 years were a ministry of service as a Chaplain with Blue Care, in the areas of palliative care and frail aged with emphasis on ministry with persons with dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.

I have been on a journey. I was called, am being called, and will be called to a ministry of service.

I have experienced frustration and tensions from within the Church as I have encouraged the community of faith to engage with and serve the broader community in a spirit of unconditional love. To be there for the other without strings attached.

It is as if for me I have no alternative but to exercise the ministry of a deacon: a ministry of service, justice and compassion. Jesus urges those who believe in him to become compassionate as his Father in heaven is compassionate.

Jan Chalmers is a Deaconess serving as Senior Chaplain at the Salvin Park Blue Care Facility.