

**Synod
2005**

End of
an era

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How are we different?

Caught with a bad case of the jitters after the July 7th bomb blasts in London and the not forgotten September 11th, Australian authorities are contemplating the use of racial profiling as a strategy to deal with terrorism

By Bruce Mullan

Racism has its foundations in the belief human beings belong to different races which can be differentiated by culture, ethnicity, skin-colour, national boundaries, regions, and religion.

This is in direct opposition to the Christian belief that while diversity is a gift from God there is only one human race, and all human beings are created by God in the image and likeness of God.

The Uniting Church in Australia has a long tradition of confronting racism. At the inaugural Assembly in 1977 in a statement to the nation, the church pledged to seek to correct injustices wherever they occur and work for the eradication of racism within our society.

The 10th Assembly, meeting in Melbourne in 2003, again firmly condemned racism by recognising that racism is a sin that reflects alienation from God and one another and is incompatible with the Gospel.

The Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to work to overcome racism in Australia and beyond, and called on the church to model the inclusive love of Christ by building communities of justice and love, and practising respect and equality in all relationships.

Racism is still active in Queensland. *The Australian* reported on 26 July 2005 that a neo-Nazi group on the Darling Downs had admitted waging a race-hate campaign against African refugees and warned that this will be intensified in Toowoomba and elsewhere in Australia.

WhitePrideCoalitionspokesman Terry Davis said his members had plastered Toowoomba and Crows Nest with posters and distributed brochures describing white women as the "world's most endangered species".

"Our Queensland branch has been rather active, I'm pleased to say," Mr Davis said. "When you

get crime in these areas, you know it's going to be the blacks."

Offering tactical advice for young white racists the Coalition's website warns against direct physical or verbal confrontation with non-whites, "at least at this point in time", but suggests that, "The day will arrive when it will be safe to do this".

The advice goes on to suggest young racists should "not mix and procreate with these lesser beings".

Social Responsibility Advocate for the Queensland Synod Ms Heather den Houting said, "Racism is not just about extremist groups like White Pride, it is about the way we respond personally and structurally to people from other cultural groups."

In the words of the last Assembly, "We seek an alternative community in which strangers are welcomed and differences are celebrated; we seek a society where the systems, structures and policies of governments and institutions are racially inclusive; and we seek a country in which all people are valued."

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance have not gone away; it may be up to the church to speak and act out of its commitment to the ideals of equality of opportunity, tolerance, justice and compassion.

"Living in the abundant generosity of God's love is a way of breaking through our fear and prejudices," said Ms den Houting.

"Subverting racism is a prophetic act."

Read more
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Inviting your community to church this Christmas

Full story page 3

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Moderator's view

Rev Allan Kuchler writes to *Journey* for the last time as Queensland Moderator.



One of the most frequently asked questions of me as Moderator has been "What future do you see for the church?"

My response has been and continues to be that I see a bright future for the church.

Many people look at me as if to say "How can you say that with all that is going on?" Let me explain.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge that throughout my term as Moderator there have been and continue to be difficult issues to be addressed.

I am sure that you don't need me to mention the difficulties, they are well known and at times well publicised.

However, to talk only about the difficulties is to tell only a partial story.

The other side of the story is the steps the growth that is taking place in many areas throughout the state.

As Moderator I have travelled extensively throughout this vast state and have visited many congregations and agencies in which the work of the Kingdom is being done.

In some instances these stories are not "world shattering" in content but nonetheless are expressions of God at work – put them all together

and you have a great picture of a 'hope-filled' church.

Having said this, let me not be misunderstood. I am not glorifying human works.

My hope is founded in the God who stands behind all that is taking place and I am constantly amazed how God works even in the midst of difficult situations.

My hope is founded in God who has called us "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

The difficulty with our state is that very few people see the big picture. We see only the area where we are planted to work and at times that can be very mundane and ordinary, but when put alongside all the other things that are happening I cannot come to any other conclusion than the future for the church is bright and challenging.

I believe the church of the future may be very different in structure and organisation from that which we currently know, and may worship, work and witness in a variety of ways that will be in keeping with the needs of people throughout the state.

In smaller remote communities worship may be in shared buildings, even with shared ministers. In the cities maybe some church buildings will be of the past with home groups, coffee club gatherings, and interest or hobby groups being the focus of worship witness and service.

We cannot and must not limit God in the ways HE might lead us into the future.

As this will be my last column as Moderator I would like to take the time to thank the church for the wonderful opportunity afforded to me to serve for the last three years as Moderator.

It was a blessing that I never imagined would be mine to receive, but the opposite was the case and I am very thankful for the privilege to serve in this capacity.

I would be foolish to believe that all that I have said and done has been appreciated by everyone, but I want to say I have done my best and seek forgiveness from those whom I have offended in the same way as I forgive any who may have said or done things that I have found hurtful.

Thank you for the faithful prayer support for myself, the office I hold and for the church.

May I encourage you to continue in faithful service, honouring God in all you say and do.

Thanks

Journey would like to say thanks to the Moderator for his contributions over the past three years, his strong support for *Journey* and also for being such a good sport.

Apology

Our sincere apology to Rev Jan Chalmers who was wrongly identified at the end of her article on the back page of August *Journey*. Jan is a Deacon currently on supply to Blue Care Head Office as the Education and Training Advisor for Chaplains and Pastoral Carers. She is not the Chaplain at Salvin Park Blue Care Facility. She has not been a Deaconess for the last 12 years.

From the Editor

I have to "fess up" that I have racist tendencies. Well, if not racist then at least a xenophobic predisposition. I think deep down, many of us do.

It's not something we are proud of or even like to admit but there is a comfort in the familiar and a discomfort with the stranger.

Recently however, I have been increasingly rattled by the undercurrents in public responses to certain Muslim groups and leadership as a result of the London bombings.

I hear quotes from radical Imams which are not that different to comments emanating from various "looney" fundamentalist Christians over many years and wonder why some are regarded as dangerous while others are simply considered loopy.

It was when I visited the White Pride Coalition website (and I suggest you don't) that I was most troubled.

In articles that referred to non-whites as "lesser beings" and "mud people" and homosexuals as "sub-human animals" I found vitriol that is sickening to the core.

The difficult challenge is to find an appropriate response.

Martin Luther King Jr said laws can be passed to keep whites from lynching black people, or laws can require white people to open up their restaurants, but laws can't be passed that will compel one race to love another.

Ultimately the solution will be found in our own hearts. As Jesus said, it's the log in my own eye that makes it difficult for me to address the speck in the eyes of others and unless I confront my own inherent prejudice I can never begin to demand change in others.

I am proud to be part of the Uniting Church that has placed its opposition to the sin of racism so clearly on the public record.

I pray this edition of *Journey* might encourage all of us to step forward and extend the hospitality of God to one another as we continue to work for unity and reconciliation.

In the end, our diversity as a church and as a nation is not a problem to be solved, but a gift and a blessing.

Bruce Mullan

Signs of the times



This month's pick for 'Sign of the Times' is Windsor Uniting Church which is clearly pitching for family outreach. To enter your 'Sign of the Times' send your picture to journey@uccentre.ucaql.com.au

Which School for your child?

Clayfield College

Gregory Street, Clayfield, Brisbane, Ph: (07) 3262 2599. Girls: Pre-school to Year 12. Boarding: Girls over 10 years. Boys: Pre-school to Year 4.

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

Somerville House

Vulture Street, South Brisbane, Ph: (07) 3248 9200. 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 3500. 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 4444. 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.

JOURNEY

www.journeyucaql.com.au

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Journey

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25th Synod adopts a broad agenda

Eighty people from Queensland Uniting Church multi-cultural congregations will meet with members of the 25th Synod when it meets this month on the Gold Coast.

Synod members will meet with the multi-cultural members in a "Time of Listening" exercise designed to build bridges of understanding with the many cultural groups worshipping and serving as part of our Uniting Church in Australia.

At the request of these congregations, the conversation will focus on issues of same-gender relationships and leadership.

In another attempt to recognise the multi-cultural nature of the Queensland Synod people will be invited to speak in their first language when addressing the synod where translation can be made available.

A leading expert on inclusion of people with disabilities in church life, Ms Darcy Elks from the United States, will deliver The Norman and Mary Millar lecture and call on the Uniting Church in Queensland to develop a more diverse and inclusive church.

Ms Elks believes that while Christians have often started ministries with a very sincere desire to reach out to neglected groups of people, programs are frequently conducted in such a way as to further distance those who are devalued by society.

"While these ministries can be helpful, programs are often held in separate places and at different times from regular church places and times. Many of these ministries

unnecessarily group people with 'special needs' together, putting people into roles and engaging them in activities that obscure their gifts and calling," Ms Elks said.

Outgoing Moderator Rev Allan Kuchler will present his report to the Synod on Saturday morning.

He will speak of his experience of a "mixed bag" including times of celebration and joy, as well as times of disappointment in some matters of misconduct and discipline.

"I want to publicly state that appropriate behaviour by all members of our Church is a requirement, not an option," he said.

The Synod Leadership team will present the 25th Synod with the draft "Vision for Mission" which was included in full in the August edition of *Journey*.

Synod General Secretary Rev Jenny Tymms said, "Conversations are taking place with the Finance and Property Board to secure initial seed funding and to establish a capital base for the generation of new income earmarked for 'Vision for Mission' initiatives."

A report and recommendations will be received from the

Theological Education Task Group which has identified scope for the rationalisation of resources within the current consortium arrangements with the Brisbane College of Theology and with Griffith University.

Chairperson of the Task Group Mr Robert Leivesley says other theological consortia have formed much more mutually beneficial arrangements with universities and that the current arrangements are significantly under-developed.

UnitingCare Board Chairperson Associate Professor Jill Wilson will report to the Synod that significant work has been undertaken to simplify unnecessarily complex governance structures and to reduce multiple layers of responsibility.

There have also been changes in Uniting HealthCare.

"Medical by-laws governing the accreditation of doctors who work in our hospitals and various quality processes have been strengthened," said Professor Wilson.

UnitingCare will also bring a progress report to the Synod relating to issues around its financial contribution to the wider church.



The auditorium at Emmanuel College Carrara is the 25th Synod venue

David Pitman: moderator with attitude

Rev Dr David Pitman, who will be inducted as Moderator of the Queensland Synod on Friday evening, 9 September, is a man with a mission.

While recognising that there are current issues that he must address during his three years of leadership as Moderator, Dr Pitman is committed to bring a prophetic element that will sometimes confront, critique and challenge the church, as well as bringing encouragement or comfort when it is required.

"The Church must constantly be reminded of its primary calling and purpose under the Lordship of Christ, and not least that we are on a journey of faith in the context of a rapidly changing and very challenging society," he said.

"We must always be ready to witness to our love for Christ and

our desire to live as he has taught us."

Having begun his professional life as a High School Teacher specialising in English and Geography, Dr Pitman was ordained in 1970 and spent 13 years in parish ministry in South Australia and four years working amongst Indian people with the Methodist Church in Fiji.

He came to Queensland in 1983 as Principal of Alcorn College, the then Lay Training Centre for the Uniting Church.

When Alcorn and Trinity Colleges amalgamated, he became a member of the faculty of Trinity College serving as Head of the Department of Ministry and Mission and Director of Field Education.

Dr Pitman served as the Moderator of the Queensland



Synod for the first time between 1996-99 and has since served as Superintendent Minister of Wesley Mission Brisbane.

Dr Pitman has prepared a comprehensive Mission Statement for his time as Moderator.

The text of the statement is available in full on www.journeyonline.com.au.

For relaxation Dr Pitman enjoys fishing, woodturning, reading, gardening, classical music and cooking.



Congregations invited to a partnership this Christmas

Gifts of time and love are the best Christmas presents is the theme of a bold new mission strategy for Christmas 2005.

The Communication Services Unit will be partnering with congregations to produce high-quality, low-cost resources for Christmas outreach in their local community.

Synod Mission Consultant Rev Dr Graham Beattie says Christmas is an ideal opportunity to invite people to re-connect with church because it's a time when they naturally begin to think about spirituality and faith.

"It's particularly a time when people give and receive gifts, a time when they may be more open to acknowledge the special gifts of God's love and grace; the kind of gift we find in the Christ child," he said.

Congregations will be provided with thousands of postcards each printed with the times of their Christmas services and an invitation to attend, together with posters to display on community

noticeboards and shop windows in local shopping centres.

Communications and Public Relations Manager Shannon Short reported a similar campaign by the South Australian Synod last year saw almost 200,000 post cards distributed to households.

"Ninety-one percent of congregations completing an evaluation form though the campaign had raised the profile of the church in their local community," she said.

As part of the campaign every Uniting Church congregation in Queensland will also be invited to have their Christmas services listed on a special Christmas webpage.

This campaign will be backed up by community radio announcements and media releases and will present an image of the local Uniting Church as a great place for families and individuals to worship over Christmas.

For more information and to register for the Christmas Campaign contact the Communications Services Unit on 07 3377 9910 or email journey@uccentre.ucaql.com.au

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Customer Service Officer

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Alex Park extends facilities

Nestled under the canopy of the natural forest the new Alexandra Park Conference Centre bungalows will increase the bed capacity of the centre by approximately one third to 250.

Landscaped gardens and floodlit pathways interconnect the individual bungalows with a conference room. A grassed courtyard provides an area for relaxation and reflection.

After three years in planning, the addition of this third area raises the standard of camp accommodation. The 16 new rooms can be allocated to individual families or on a twin share basis.

The bungalows are a unique style of eight, two bedroom buildings. Each room has a capacity of five beds and is serviced by an ensuite and timber deck entrance.

A 150 square metre conference room with toilet and laundry facilities is located adjacent the bungalows and is equipped with a data projector and screen, public address system, and tea and coffee facilities.

In recent years, the popularity of Alex Park has grown. The addition of the 'challenge' high ropes course and climbing tower and the new bungalows will provide the perfect setting for church retreats, Alpha courses and family camps.

For bookings and enquiries contact the bookings coordinator on 1300 789 192 or visit the website at www.uccc.com.au.



Paul Braithwaite (Architect) and Ian Edgar (Centre Manager) inspecting the construction of the bungalows

Rocking old UC foundations

When you stand outside the Rocks Road Church on Seventeen Miles Rocks Road in Jindalee you cannot help but imagine that you have entered into a time warp.

Despite signs of rapid growth of housing in the area, this quaint little timber church has not changed in appearance in 125 years.

At the 125th anniversary service on 11 September at 2 pm, the people will celebrate with joy and accept the challenge of the renewal of life.

The elderly congregation comes from far and near for the monthly service, 2 pm on the second Sunday of each month. People sing with gusto, pray with devotion and give generously. They have a mission to hand over a living church to the new generation of young families that now encircle them.

They will welcome with open arms any who want to take the opportunity to renew their association with this old cause and anyone new who would want to join with them in facing the future.

Bill Adams
(a recent addition to the congregation, but another oldie)



Rocks Road Uniting Church

Church colleges prove more than just motels

With a 300 year heritage Brisbane university colleges associated with the Uniting Church in Australia are caring for over 1000 students each year in a supportive Christian environment.

Principal of Emmanuel College at the University of Queensland Dr Stewart Gill said that the colleges are providing more than just beds for students to sleep on.

"We are offering pastorally sensitive academic support for the students while they are studying at the university," said Dr Gill.

Matthew came from Bundaberg to Cromwell College without a support base in Brisbane and saw the college option as a good way to get a foundation for life in the city.

"It provided some structure and I didn't have to go out all on my own straight from high school," he said.

Principal Dr Sue Fairley said that Grace College had 13 different nationalities among its student population and that college life was like a "little United Nations".

Ryan, a student from Cairns, said college life had forced him to mix with people from outside his comfort zone.

"I've got friends from all over the world who have all come together at Kings College to form one big group. You don't become so shallow when you see all these different ways of life," he said.

While accepting people of all faiths the church colleges have a spiritual dimension that perhaps does not exist in other accommodation options for university students.

Principal of Cromwell College Rev Hugh Begbie said that during the time that his wife was dying



Students Ashley and Rosemary proudly wear the Grace College label

the college community was very aware that they were dealing with the pain and sorrow as a Christian family.

Rosemary, a Grace College student from Toowoomba, agreed that a belief system is very visible in the way the colleges operate and that pastoral care is always available to students when they need it.

Meaghan from Armidale said that arriving at Cromwell College she had found a group of Christians who had taken her under their wing, invited her to church, and involved her in small groups and chapel meetings.

"Faith is really obvious in terms of Mr Begbie talking about Christian things at formal dinners and the activities which are run, like the 'Beer Pizza and the Meaning of Life' event," she said.

Leadership development is another aspect of college life that is affirmed both by students and

staff and Ashley from Grace said leadership opportunities at college were much more significant than at high school, and that she had developed significant people skills.

Mr Begbie reminds students and parents that college life is not a "risk-free" environment, "These young people are at a risk-attractive age and can be difficult to manage, but college life is an enriching experience which prepares them for a life in the world lived with integrity in the best possible way."

Uniting Church related colleges serving Brisbane universities:

- Cromwell College**
www.cromwell.uq.edu.au
- Emmanuel College**
www.emmanuel.uq.edu.au
- Grace College**
www.uq.edu.au/grace
- Kings College**
www.kings.uq.edu.au
- Raymont Lodge**
www.raymont.com.au

Join a journey of care

When Rev Arthur Preston and his colleagues took the first bold steps to start a service to address the health needs of sick, unsupported and vulnerable people in the community it was a practical vision inspired by the Christian message of care and compassion.

Rev Dr Noel Preston, son of the Blue Nursing founder said, "He was no saint, but the message of his passionate and compassionate life was that the purpose of life is to contribute to building a better world," said.

In 1953 the Blue Nursing Service was founded from humble beginnings within the West End Methodist Mission. "My father lived as if dreams were meant to become a reality, even if that meant defying normal rules of conduct.

"He could mix with all social groups, but his heart went out first to those who were dispossessed, disadvantaged, dependent and

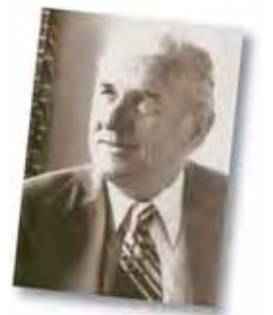
downtrodden. He had a very basic sense of social justice rooted in his compassion for people.

That is still reflected, more than fifty years on, in Blue Care's mission statement which unabashedly declares the organisation's guiding principle to "promote and deliver quality caring services based on the compassion of Christ".

Dr Preston said his father could not have imagined the extent, reach and effectiveness of Blue Care today, but lived by the faith great things would come from generosity and commitment.

"It was the willingness of ordinary people, taking small but significant steps towards his vision for a better world, that made possible the Blue Care we have today."

In honour of this dedication and passion Blue Care has established the Arthur Preston Society.



Arthur Preston Society members send a steady stream of help to people in need. "They are not unlike the highly motivated and enthusiastic congregation, happy to lend a hand and who were in turn able to pull in other supporters when the Blue Nursing Service began. They continue to keep Rev Preston's dream alive today."

To inquire about the Arthur Preston Society, phone Blue Care on 07 3377 3377 or see page 7 for information on how to become a member.

Churches give wave aid

Two Queensland Uniting Church ministers suffered personal loss when the Boxing Day tsunami devastated coastal villages of South India.

Mackay UC minister Rev Satya Yerramsetti grew up in the area and Moggill UC minister Mr Devadosan Sugirtharaj worked in a fishing village that was destroyed by the tsunami.

"I have been affected personally. Some of my friends are gone," said Mr Sugirtharaj.

"The Sunday after the tsunami I had to preach. What do you preach? Do you talk about the love of God? I can't offer any guarantees to these people."

Both churches responded generously and quickly.

Like many churches, the congregation at Moggill UC halved in size over the summer holidays. Despite that they raised almost \$3000 in one day in response to Mr Sugirtharaj's call.

Since then they have raised \$3455 and assisted the Nayakkerkuppam fishing village by donating school bags, books and clothes so children can attend school, sheets, fishing nets, and rice.



Rice donated by Moggill UC to Nayakkerkuppam is much appreciated
Photo courtesy of Devadosan Sugirtharaj

They have appointed a Christian counsellor to help people deal with grief and fear, bought a boat for the community and built a toilet block to maintain hygiene.

Two months after the tsunami hit Mr Yerramsetti visited a fishing village in South India. All their boats, nets and houses were destroyed.

"Buying the nets and boats is the biggest expense for them. I can't even raise enough money for that. But I talked to the Indian

government official in the town three kilometres away and he is willing to find land if I want to build homes for some of the people who lost their loved ones."

Mackay UC are hoping to raise at least \$16,000 so they can build eight houses for the local people.

"Small communities escaped the attention of charity groups because they were not main headline news. The Lord laid on my heart to do something. I am going back to India at the end of this year with the funds I have received so far and start building whatever I can."

Mackay UC is also hoping to build a multifunctional community centre to be used as a school and a venue the community and church can use. That project may cost another \$15,000.

Look out for Mr Yerramsetti's display at Synod 2005. Cheques can be written to the Project Shelter and Hope and mailed to Project Shelter and Hope, PO Box 835, Mackay 4740.



Boats and nets run aground after the tsunami
Photo courtesy of Satya Yerramsetti

Beenleigh party helps renovate Rarongo

Beenleigh Working Party member Mrs Rhonda Middleton believed that even they arrived, there was the sense that they were involved with something greater than renovation of some buildings at Rarongo Theological College.

The group continued working on the two buildings that a work party from Pittsworth had began.

This involved walls, floors, roofs plumbing and electrical work, then the painting and also stock-taking in the library..

"We talked with college staff, students and their families. Locals catered for us and we were able to learn their life," said Mrs Middleton.

"They shared stories of hardships: little money for sending children to school, dressings and medicine, and the problems that come with a tropical climate.

Mrs Middleton was mindful of the huge transition that PNG people have undergone the last century or so.

"They are still in the transition stage and many still live in villages continuing a traditional life style."

At the worship services, college ministers and students spoke of the need to take responsibility and carry on with what had been started.

"We had a great time working together but barely touched the surface of what needs to be done. It was even greater to know we were a part of something bigger than this project," said Mrs Middleton

"I thank God for the opportunity to be a part of the project and trust that we will continue to pray for the college and its people."



Hard at work on Rarongo Theological College



Kay Josephs Australian Community Nurse of the Year

Blue nurse tops community

Queensland Blue Care clinical nurse consultant Kay Josephs has won the inaugural Australian Council of Community Nursing Services Community Nurse of the Year award.

Ms Josephs won the award for her outstanding work in the continence field.

"Because talking about incontinence is such a 'taboo' topic, many Australians needlessly suffer in silence from this problem," she said.

"I see being Community Nurse of the Year as an opportunity to support and educate people about incontinence and encourage them to lose their fear, ask questions and reach out for the help they need."

Presbytery caring for its own

Inspired by intense feeling at the March presbytery meeting, many North Queenslanders have responded to the needs of Australia's northernmost congregation on Thursday Island.

The most eastern congregation, Magnetic Island, donated over \$1000 towards materials. Bruce and Rosemary Chamberlain (members of the Bowen Congregation) volunteered to help paint the church. The presbytery provided airfares. More volunteers will follow to fix windows, repair the manse and upgrade the electrical system.



Bruce and Rosemary Chamberlain with roller and paint brush in hand

Studying at the University of Queensland in 2006?

Looking for a Safe, Secure and Supportive Environment in which to study?

Consider the *Uniting Church Colleges* at UQ.

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Men:

King's College www.kings.uq.edu.au

Women and Men:

Cromwell College www.cromwell.uq.edu.au

Emmanuel College www.emmanuel.uq.edu.au



YACMU has secrets to share

Strange things are afoot in the life of the Uniting Church in Queensland in youth and children's ministry.

YACMU Director Michael Jeffrey reports hearing positive stories about ministry in many areas.

"Day camps in the last school holidays were as large as they have ever been and youth workers are feeling good about their ministry and excited about the growth of young people and children in their congregations," said Mr Jeffrey.

He reported that four young adults had arranged meetings with him in the last month to have a conversation about their sense of call to the ministry.

"This is not the cynical and sarcastic church I have known for many years," said Mr Jeffrey.

"Perhaps it is just me and the ears through which I hear the stories but there is a resurgence of energy in the life of the Uniting Church in many congregations in youth, children and family ministry."

YACMU regional staff are excited by what they are seeing take place, although some local



YACMU Director Michael Jeffrey

congregations report little ministry with children or young people and a lack of resources to do anything about it.

Mr Jeffrey says YACMU has some exciting new ministry options in the pipeline to help congregations

that feel they have nothing to offer in youth and children's ministry.

"I can't divulge the information in public just yet but I can tell you about it over the phone." Contact 07 3377 9786 or send an email to michaelj@yacmu.com.au.



Order of St Stephen candidate Emma-Kate Moore

New recruit joins an old order

Emma-Kate Moore recently joined the Youth and Children's Ministry Unit as a candidate for the Order of St Stephen, which begun in the 1950s as a way of allowing people to serve sacrificially in ministry.

Director of the Youth and Children's Ministry Unit Michael Jeffrey says the Order is a perfect vehicle for Emma-Kate to give a year in active service while she explores her call to ministry.

Talking about her new role, Emma-Kate says, "I believe I'm in a season of life where God has called me to serve in menial and practical ways, where the focus is not primarily on the complexity of the tasks.

"This gives me time to focus on relationships, grow in character and learn some of what it is to truly love others from my heart."

Emma-Kate who has previously used her creative talents as a script writer with the *Enhance* project will be supporting the training and networking of Youth and Children's leaders in South East Queensland as well as writing and editing resources.



Rev Allan Kuchler enjoys Forest Lake College's birthday celebrations

Forest Lake College keeps growing

Moderator of the Queensland Synod Rev Allan Kuchler unveiled a shield representing the Uniting Church during Forest Lake College's twelfth birthday celebrations.

The College was a landmark development both for the Forest Lake community and the Uniting and Anglican Churches, the first time the two churches had formed a partnership to operate a school.

A set of shields, each representing one of the auspicing churches, will be placed overlooking the central courtyard at the College Avenue Campus.

Since the College was established in July 1993, student numbers have risen from 66 to almost 1400.

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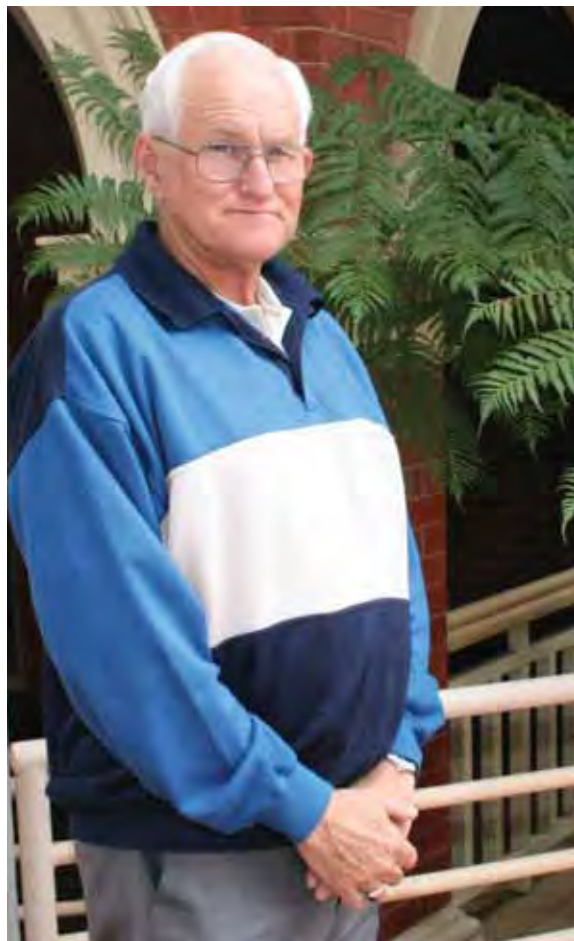
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A retired and relaxed Charlie Greer

Chaplain makes parole

After twenty-four years in prison ministry in Queensland, lay pastor Charlie Greer retired in July confident that prisons were not the answer to minimising crime.

"I am convinced there is a better way of doing it and it is not locking people away for longer. I heard the Premier espousing his prison policy and he said 'what a wonderful policy we have, we are locking up more people for longer'. I thought you fool, you just haven't got any idea."

At his retirement, Mr Greer was responsible for chaplaincy in all Queensland prisons. He has worked in every prison in southern Queensland, from super maximum-security to open prisons, both public and private.

"My mum used to say if I kept mucking around with the young fellas I did, I'd end up in jail!" he laughed. "Maybe that was my preparation. Once I walked into a prison, I was sure. Oddly enough, I felt comfortable."

"It is front line ministry but it's not in the minds of congregations where people sit and feel comfortable and aren't challenged."

"People are locked up because they are supposedly bad. I think that is the wrong concept. Prisons

don't work. You lock people up and you make them worse. They get out and they are less able to cope with society."

So what is the key to prison ministry?

"You have got to handle rejection. I have been trying to talk to one guy for eighteen years and I baptised him six months ago. He was so angry he just wouldn't talk. Anger is a very big part of it and if you allow it to become a personal thing, then you're never going to get anywhere. You need to sit with them and walk their journey."

"Too many people go in with their own agenda. They are going to convert the prisons. It doesn't work. You sit beside them and walk their road and eventually they'll say 'hey, what's all this about' and you get a chance to share the gospel practically and then verbally."

Mr Greer said the church struggles with accepting Christian inmates after they are released.

"Some people are afraid these people have been putting on an act and maybe they haven't changed and maybe their house will get robbed. Some churches are very open armed and welcoming but most are at arm's length."

"We had a fellow who was a brilliant doctor who committed

crimes against his patients. I met him on the point of suicide. He eventually became a Christian. He wanted to go into ministry and the church's idea was 'that's great, but he should perhaps do it in Western Australia because he won't be known there'. I said if that is the church's idea then we are a failure."

"If we can't believe in the possibility of God changing lives then what are we about? In the Bible so many of the top guys did time, or should have."

Ways of getting involved with prison ministry include writing letters, visiting inmates who don't get visitors and assisting finding accommodation when people get out of jail.

"There is little accommodation and a man can't get out unless he has a residence. There are fellas in there with bits of paper that say your parole has been granted, just give us a place where you are going to live."

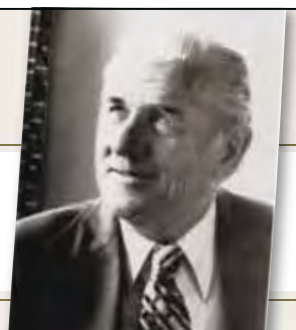
In retirement Mr Greer will continue his involvement with prison reform and reacquaint himself to life on the outside.

"God has made it really clear it's time, but I don't know what's on the other side yet. Whatever comes along I'll consider it."

By Mardi Lumsden



ARTHUR PRESTON SOCIETY



ARTHUR PRESTON

"He was no saint, but the message of his passionate and compassionate life, which made an indelible impression on me, was that the purpose of life is to contribute to building a better world," said Noel Preston, son of Blue Nursing founder, the Reverend Arthur Preston.

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Noel Preston



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Surfing the state for stories of justice

The result of years of work, *Making Waves: Dreaming Justice Today* has been released as three publications: the *Making Waves* book, a companion study guide and resources for worship.

From Warwick to Thursday Island the book contains fifteen stories from every region in the state about ways people are involved in social justice.

There are stories from an inner city mission food van and a women's shelter in an indigenous community, a mining

town congregation standing in solidarity with citrus farmers and a small group of volunteers seeking a radical approach to prison ministry.

The stories tell of God's call to justice lived out in everyday situations, together with thoughtful and provocative reflections on the history and theology of social justice.

The study guide complements the book and includes biblical reflections from members of the Uniting Church. The resources

for worship include prayers, songs, children's stories and sermon ideas to help local congregations think about how they can participate in social justice.

The resources for worship are available on the social responsibility website now: www.socialissues.ucaweb.com.au. Books (\$7.50) and study guides (\$4) are available (\$10 for both) through Vision Books at Broadwater Road Uniting Church, 481 Broadwater Road, open 9am to 2pm Monday to Friday or contact the office of the Social Responsibility Advocate (07) 3377 9911, andrew.johnson@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au.

A story from *Making Waves*

"Angel Tree" is a program of Prison Fellowship which last year provided over 1000 Christmas gifts for children who have a parent or parents in prison. Gifts are given by supportive churches on behalf of the parent. Here is one story.

When I arrived the first person I saw was a huge man standing on the veranda. He had red hair, and a long beard, with many tattoos... he wasn't smiling. My knees were shaking. I smiled, and said, "I have a gift for Jamie. I rang earlier in the week." A woman appeared. I showed the gift. The lady wanted to know why I was bringing the gift, and I was able to say, "I'm representing Prison Fellowship. We have organised gifts for children whose parents are in prison as my Church wants you to know about the love of Jesus." They both smiled, said how pleased they were to receive the gift, and I floated back to the car, pleased that I was able to bless someone with the message of God's love.

People wear their passion on their wrist

Saturday, 10 September marks the second White Armband Day to help 'Make Poverty History'. The aim of the campaign is to increase public awareness of the millions of people living under the poverty line. Armbands are available through Micah Challenge and Oxfam.



Vilami Mila and Rev Teofilo Ioane wearing their Make Poverty History armbands

Humbled and intrigued by an Indian experience

Ten Uniting Church members were thrown into a melting pot of faiths, cultures and languages during a cross-cultural adventure northern India in June/July.

As guests of the Church of North India (CNI), a partner church of the UCA, the trip enabled participants to experience the mission and ministry of the CNI in Kashmir, an area claimed by both India and Pakistan.

Group leader Rev Dr Rob Bos and the team spent the bulk of their time as guests of the Tyndale-Biscoe/Mallinson school in Srinagar which provides education for 6000 students, the vast majority of whom are Muslims.

A visit to a hospital where both militants and the military are

treated with the same degree of care was an inspirational demonstration of the work of the church in very difficult circumstances and its achievements in the area of social justice.

Participant Lyndall Moore said the trip was "Intriguing, enchanting, daunting and in-your-face. A land of confronting contrasts".

Also inspired was minister Jan Reid. "To be exposed to another culture was a privilege and to be in the presence of many gracious hosts during our travels was a humbling experience," she said.

Further interactions of personnel from both countries for longer periods may become possible in the future.



A hand of welcome for Australian visitors - Photo by Lyndall Moore

The road to recovery



Independence in East Timor was a long time coming. Forgiveness and restoration may be an even longer road, but as this small country navigates the way, the lessons learnt will be invaluable for those involved and for those watching.

Agustinho de Vasconcelos is a minister in the Protestant Church in East Timor and a member of the

Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in East Timor.

The Commission is a non-government body that advises the government on ways to move forward in the peace process. Rev de Vasconcelos sees the country's history as a valuable tool.

"Sometimes East Timor people look in our past. It is sometimes very hard because for 450 years we were colonised by the Portuguese. After Portuguese left, we were invaded by military Indonesia. So already there were so many conflicts not only political leadership. That is why it is very important to the Commission to learn from the past so we move to the future."

At the height of the struggle for independence in 2002, Rev de Vasconcelos was President of Youth Department of the Protestant Church in East Timor. He said the feeling among the youth of East Timor has changed.

"They feel different because it is free. There are no questions so everyone can express their thoughts. Now you can walk around East Timor, no problem. Before, if you did not have a travelling permit, you couldn't get around. It was very dangerous for us.

"For twenty-five years we were frightened of the military and the new regime with President Suharto. But I think it was the regime and the military, not the Indonesian people.

"So many people from East Timor studied in Indonesia so we don't look at them like our enemy, but as our friends."

East Timor is now a young country with young leaders. Their understanding of the past is crucial to the future.

"I feel that sharing our experience is very important because we have experience in the community, not theory. We talk about how we can solve and how we can forgive each other so we can move to the future."

Is peace a lie?

Zack Sabella

Christian Palestinian Zack Sabella lives in East Jerusalem. Around him the 21-year old sees the Israeli 'Separation Wall' being built higher each day.

The wall, which was condemned by the United Nations in 2004, separates Israel from Palestine and in some sections reaches as far as 6 km into Palestinian territory.

Mr Sabella grew up separated from Israeli's until he chose to attend university in Israel.

Speaking in Australia as a member of the World Council of Churches 'Partners for Peace' program, he has seen how people of different faiths can work together to achieve a common goal.

"I lived in Israel for three years and had the chance to study with Israelis [at university] and live with them normally. That changed a little about how I think and how I perceive Israelis.

"My experience in Israeli society did not change my anger towards the injustice that Israel's politics impose on Palestinians," he said.

Mr Sabella (along with many others) continues to strive for peace in an area that has seen little of it.

"Peace today is just a word unfortunately. We tend to talk a lot, and preach a lot and give lectures. Peace is something that is supposed to be there but is not.

"Peace is something that you work hard for. It requires compromises, sacrifices and people are simply too blind, too extreme today to achieve peace.

"You cannot achieve peace by building walls and controlling people and adding to people's suffering.

"You can't do that! How do you expect people to react?"

Mr Sabella said Western media is particularly pro-Israel, which makes it hard to see the conflict from all angles.

"You have to ask the question: why are Palestinian 18-year-olds going and blowing themselves up in Israel? I mean, they are human. What they are doing is inhuman, but they are human.

"How would someone get to this point of frustration, of lack of hope, of depression that he or she are willing to go and blow themselves up.

"The West looks at Palestinians and unfortunately generalises and

says 'these are freedom haters, they want to ruin our way of life, the way we think'.

"I don't believe human beings can hate freedom. Everybody wants freedom. That is why I'm here.

"As an Australian I don't know if you can really understand this, but you really have to live the experience of a poor Palestinian, under occupation behind the wall who has suffered personal loss as a result of occupation. Then you might understand.

"The war on terrorism which is in Iraq and Afghanistan, which is supposed to make the world a safer place, apparently did not do its job. It just added to the hatred and frustrations.

"When George Bush uses the word 'crusade' in one of his speeches, really what do you expect from people? People are very sensitive; they want to keep to their religion and their way of life.

"When one can simply go and invade a country and justify it because terrorists are there or Sudan Hussein has weapons of mass destruction (which are still not there) it just keeps proving to people that the West is not fair, has



self-standards and does not abide by international law. That is what breeds what they call terrorism, those acts and those events.

"Because I am a Palestinian and I have lived both experiences I understand it. I don't justify it, I don't accept it, but I understand it."

So while we watch and read news coverage of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, Mr Sabella is a reminder of the many people of different faiths not building a wall, but a bridge to peace.

By Mardi Lumsden

Curing racism starts closer to home

By Rev Dr Gordon Preece

When it comes to attitudes to Aboriginal people non-indigenous Australians seem to have a massive blind-spot.

Despite legitimate debate in the History Wars precipitated by Keith Windschuttle's controversial writings one wonders whether the real reason in his denying the validity of Aboriginal oral history and missionary advocates on their behalf is so we can avoid seeing or hearing the evils of racism in our history.

In reacting against so-called "black armband" history we have lurching to "white blindfold" history. While we individually may not have been there and been individually guilty, we share a sense of social and historical shame. We are part of a corporate entity and history. If we identify with the heroic feats or defeats of the Anzacs, or even of our sporting heroes present and past, we should also share in the more ambiguous parts of our history.

Our unwillingness to name this shame renders Aboriginal people invisible and inaudible, private, not public. For the first time since PM William McMahon we do not have a full-time minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Meanwhile Labor has sought to keep Aboriginal issues

as a small target and ... has had six shadow ministers in the portfolio in the past two years.

Both parties have abandoned the principal of self-determination and representation. We now have a government selected group of relatively voiceless Aboriginals on the new National Indigenous Council and the restoration of the previously discredited notion of mainstreaming of Aboriginal services.

Larissa Behrendt said: "As a result, the majority of Aboriginal people, while critical of ATSIC, have been left voiceless, despite the fact that they are the ones who will have to live with the experiments of shared responsibility agreements and mutual obligation."

This is all part of a broader de-voicing of society and the Church on biblical social morality. Bedroom morality is OK but not boardroom or ballot-box morality.

Aboriginal people are only selectively visible and audible if they are sporting heroes like Evonne Goolagong-Cawley, Cathy Freeman or Michael Long. Or if they engage in protest, like Michael's Long Walk to Canberra to talk to the PM or the Redfern and Palm Island riots after the tragic and brutal deaths of young Aboriginals in altercations with

the police; in the Redfern case seemingly accidental, in the Palm Island case more doubtful. Or if they lay down on the road to be run over or suicide after petrol sniffing as several have recently in the Northern Territory and South Australia respectively.

The most moving funerals I took when at Malabar Anglican were those of young Aboriginals from the La Perouse Mission, opposite the white birth-place of Australia at Captain Cook's landing in Kurnell. They often died of drug or alcohol related causes. Funeral directors, like many Australians, couldn't handle the visibility and the voice of their grief.

As the grief counsellor Mal McKissock reminded us years ago, Australia will never be healed until we join together in mutual grieving, Aboriginals for the loss of their land, loved ones, livelihood, and lifestyle, white Australians for their continuing sense of exile from mother England's (or Europe's) 'green and pleasant land'. Perhaps Aboriginals can teach us how to recapture a biblical sense of lament, so prominent in the psalms.

Without lamenting and coming to terms with our ambiguous racial history we will be unable to move forward and face contemporary issues concerning other races.



Rev Dr Gordon Preece

These issues include asylum seekers' mandatory detention, anti-terrorism advocate's racial profiling of those of 'Middle Eastern appearance', and the spurious racial stereotyping by Macquarie University law professor Andrew Fraser saying 'an expanding black population [in Australia] is a sure-fire recipe for increases in crime, violence and a wide range of other social problems'.

We will only deal with the question of race with grace, and hospitality not hostility, if we allow ourselves to see the face and hear the voice of the Aboriginal and the other as our brother or sister (Matthew 25:31-46).

Rev Dr Gordon Preece Director of Macquarie Christian Studies Institute (www.mcsi.edu.au) which offers on-line and intensive Christian courses for credit and cross-credit at Macquarie University, Sydney.

Uniting Church commitment is biblical

The following is an extract from 10th Assembly (2003):

Racism is a sin that reflects our alienation from God and one another and is incompatible with the Gospel. Christians believe that all human beings are created in the image of God.

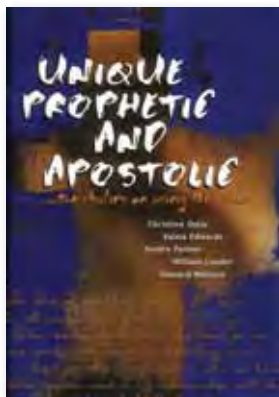
To discriminate is to deny the creatorship of God (Genesis 1: 26, 10: 32) and the Gospel of Christ. (Galatians 3:28)

In Jesus Christ the divisions that separate people from each other are broken down – people are reconciled and a new unity is created among us.

In Christ, we discover a family resemblance not based on colour, language, ethnicity or race.

The Book of Revelation (7:9-12) offers a vision of an innumerable multitude of every nation, tribe, race and language each speaking in their own language. The rainbow mix of people is a gift from God, and can be seen as a foretaste of life in the heavenly kingdom. Knowing that we are called to journey together as sisters we reaffirm our commitment to combat the sin of racism in our land and beyond.

Reviews



Unique Prophetic and Apostolic:
Six studies on using the Bible
By Christine Ostle and others
Uniting Church Press
Melbourne, 2000.

So why am I reviewing a five year old book of studies? Because they are now available at no charge as a 516kb download from the Uniting Church Assembly website <http://assembly.uca.org.au/agencies/publications/pdf/UniqueProphetApostolicTe.pdf>.

Our home group recently worked through this series which was produced to help Uniting Church groups to understand and use the Bible. The studies don't just look at what the selected passages say but specifically deal with how the Scripture is being used in the passages and what that teaches about how to use the Bible.

As we worked through the studies together we found ourselves learning from the Bible itself about how the Bible is to be used and understood.

The studies can be photocopied for groups and use a process of

reflection, discussion, study and prayer. We found them challenging, informative and stretching. And the bonus was the price!

Bruce Mullan

I Can Say "Don't"
By Chris Parker
Harvest Christian Products
RRP \$14.95.

Sadly one in four girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused this year. In 93% of the cases the child already knows and trusts the offender. *I Can Say Don't* plays a vital role to help keep our children safe.

In a child friendly way Ms Parker makes it clear to children that they are very special to their Creator and he wants them to feel safe. Ms Parker helps children understand that their private parts are covered by their togs. This is important as it defines for children what their private parts are. She clearly states that both people children already know and people they don't know may want to touch their private parts. She explores what the perpetrator might say to help keep it a 'secret'.

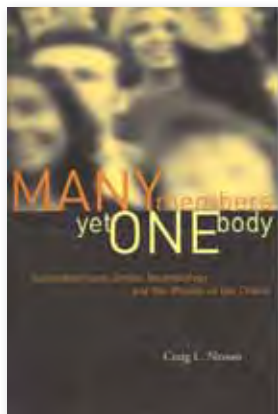
The book helps children identify who they would tell if someone is



touching them inappropriately and helps children understand they can say, "Don't!"

Ms Parker's book provides useful ideas for parents, ministers, youth workers and all members of a congregation to help children protect themselves. By the church using this resource, it enables us to be proactive rather than reactive. I encourage all congregations to purchase a copy and read it to the children in their care.

Steve Kersnovske



Many Members yet One Body
by Craig Nesson
Augsburg-Fortress
RRP \$17.95.

The sexuality "debate" in our church has at times seemed to have implied that those with whom we disagree are not Christian, or do not respect the Bible. It seems that there are two views - mine which is always right, and the other which is always wrong; mine which is biblical and the other which is not.

Craig Nesson would have us remember that we are not required to have unanimity on every ethical issue and that there are issues where church members hold irreconcilable views - abortion, alcohol, peace and war - without fracturing the body. He would have us note that the Bible also belongs to those with whom we disagree.

Like the UCA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is debating issues relating to human sexuality. In *Many Members yet One Body*, Nesson offers a way

forward that avoids glossing over our differences while helping understand those with whom we profoundly disagree.

When it comes to the interpretation of the "regular" texts that are used in the debate, the author reflects that he finds himself agreeing with completely contradictory views. "There is not just one Christian position" he says, but "a whole spectrum of views".

A bibliography, a glossary, questions for personal reflection and for use in groups as well as a suggested process for use in a congregation makes this short, easily read, 96 page book a useful resource.

Bob Warrick

Luther
Directed by: Eric Till
DVD available for rental not yet for sale.

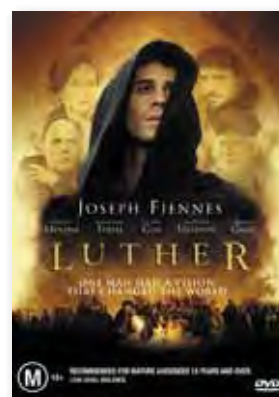
First released to the big screen in 2003 the story of Martin Luther, 16th century German monk turned church reformer, maintains much of its impact on DVD.

The story begins with Luther's dramatic survival in a terrifying storm and tells the story of his discovery of God's grace, his excommunication and the resulting dramatic and violent social upheaval.

Joseph Fiennes does a fine job of the title role but it is Peter Ustinov's superb portrayal of Prince Friedrich which steals the show.

Luther wasn't a big box office success but it offers some excellent insights into the man, his context and his story. As modern movies go, it is fairly light on sexual content and profane language, but the violence is graphic enough to rate it as M.

A weakness of the film is trying to cover such a complex and detailed life in the space of two hours which results in a cursory treatment of a more profound story. While close to the historical accounts and with much of the dialogue true to the written records, the film only hints at Luther's lifelong struggle with



depression and completely ignores his notorious anti-Semitic attitude.

Despite its shortcomings *Luther* is a powerful film created on over 100 sets across 20 European locations and provides an entertaining history lesson about an historic figure whose work was the catalyst for the Protestant Reformation.

Bruce Mullan

Read more online


journeyonline.com.au

Slow Steady Heart by
Leo Nine. CD review by
Mardi Lumsden.



Which Gospel? Three New Testament Perspectives
by Rev Dr Dean Drayton
MediaCom Education, 2005.
RRP \$19.95
Review by Rev Professor James Haire.





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deadline for
October *Journey*
Friday, 9 September.

What does your church really care about?

It is more important to change what people care about than what they believe was the message at the Creating a Healthy Church DNA Conference held at Logan Uniting Church in July.

The presentation by key speaker (and Senior Pastor of Gateway Baptist Church) Tim Hanna focussed on strong leadership approaches for regional style churches.

Coming from a completely unchurched background Mr Hanna claims leadership is the ability and capacity to develop ethos which becomes culture and which in turn becomes the DNA of the local church.

Mr Hanna believes that while theology and doctrine are important, it is ethos that will transform a congregation.

"We will struggle with this idea, but the key question is: What does your church really care about?" he said.

Conference participant and minister at St Columba, Pakuranga, (a regional church in Auckland New Zealand) Rev Andrew Norton was ambivalent about Mr Hanna's use of DNA as a metaphor for church health.

"We can talk about technique and skill but you can't actually change who you really are very well at all," said Mr Norton who felt there was more work to be done on the metaphor of DNA.

Mr Hanna said, "We are not on about growing big churches, we are on about growing big people and developing maturity."

"There are only two kinds of people the passionate and those without passion and it is easier to restrain a maniac than resurrect a corpse," he said.

Tarragindi Uniting Church minister Rev Peter Arnett found the conference encouraging and helpful.

"The question about DNA is key for us. We've nailed who we are but unless we develop we will never realise the potential our congregation has," he said.

Mr Hanna is committed to a culture of grace in all church dealings.

"We should have weird people in our churches and we should also have immoral people in our churches, and unless we are dealing with issues of heresy and morality in our churches we may well have missed the grace boat.

"It's about developing a culture of non-compromise but full acceptance. It's a juggle and it will seem sometimes that grace is lacking or that we need more rules but we are committed to that tension."

In a warning against relationally saturated church members, Mr Hanna said: "People are not looking for a friendly church; they are looking for friends."



Rev Tim Hanna explores church DNA. Photo by Bruce Mullan

Fast News

Corkin reappointed

A recommendation will go to the 11th Assembly that the Rev Terence Corkin be reappointed as Assembly General Secretary until 31 December 2009.

Richmond reappointed

Rev Helen Richmond has been reappointed as National Director of Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry until 31 December 2008.

Assembly sexuality deadline

Proposals related to sexuality and leadership for the 11th Assembly to meet in Brisbane in July 2006 must reach the Assembly General Secretary by 31 December.

Helen Begbie Memorial Bursary Cromwell College

The Cromwell College Foundation is pleased to announce it will be offering one half-fee bursary for 2006 to help a needy student and to honour the memory of Helen Begbie, the wife of current Principal Rev Hugh Begbie, who died in 2002.

The bursary is for Australian citizens undertaking their first degree and is restricted to those whose financial situation is such that coming to Cromwell would be otherwise difficult.

Contact (07) 33771300 or visit www.cromwell.uq.edu.au

Broadwater Road bookshop

Broadwater Road UC in Wishart has opened a bookshop. The shop will stock mediacom publications and UC Resources.

Opening hours: 9am to 2pm Monday to Friday. 481 Broadwater Road, Wishart. Phone and email orders available. 07 38498548 or email mguca@ozemail.com.au.

Brother Roger tragically killed

Brother Roger, founder of the Taizé monastic community and one of the 20th century's leading ecumenical figures, was stabbed to death during worship on 17 August. The 90-year-old died immediately. Brother Roger founded the community in 1940. Today Taizé has more than 100 brothers, including Catholics and Protestants, from more than 25 nations.

UCA partners with East Timor

A partnership between the UCA and the Igreja Protestante Iha Timor Lorosa'e (Protestant Church in East Timor) was formalised in Dili on 9 July by UCA President, Rev Dr Dean Drayton, and IPTL Moderator, Rev Francisco de Vasconcelos.

WCC 9th Assembly

The Uniting Church in Australia is sending three delegates to the World Council of Churches 9th Assembly to be held 14-23 February 2006 in Brazil. Attending will be:

Assembly President Elect Rev Gregor Henderson, Uniting Justice Director Rev Elenie Poulos and youth delegate Heidi Stabb. UC members are invited to attend a Mutirão, or coming together, to coincide with the WCC Assembly. Three thousand participants are expected to be involved through exhibitions, workshops and cultural celebrations.

Mega rush 2005 rushes out

96five has cancelled Mega Rush, due to Dreamworld's association with the Big Brother program. 96five General Manager Jason Berry said the program "is not conducive with the 'pro-family' charter 96five exists upon



Dave Andrews

NCYC finds Queensland change agent

Queenslander Dave Andrews will be one of the keynote speakers at the National Christian Youth Convention in Perth in January 2007.

NCYC 2007 revolves around the theme 'Agents of Change' which will empower delegates to change and cause change.

Dave Andrews has worked in India where he founded Dilaram, a Christian community. In Australia, Dave and his wife have been involved in a variety of community initiatives working with the disadvantaged. He is now highly involved in the 'Make Poverty History' campaign and with Tear Australia and the group Micah Challenge.

Tim Costello, World Vision CEO, was also named as a keynote speaker.

For more information on NCYC 2007 go to www.agentsofchange.org.au

Renewing RE teachers

The Renew Conference, 10 October, focusing on how religious education nourishes our community will be hosted by Clairvoux MacKillop College in Mt Gravatt.

The conference is for RE teachers, chaplains, children's ministry and workers with keynote speaker Professor Brian Hill.

Other workshop leaders include: Carole Danby (Ministry Education officer) and Wina Wintour (Youth and Children's Ministry Team) both from the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane, Paul Yarrow (Uniting Church YACMU team), Terry Williams (Scripture Union), Wes Fittel (OAC Ministries), Jonathon Sargeant (Anglican Children's ministry and RE team) and Jane Connolly.

The cost is \$25 including morning tea and lunch. Group discounts are available. Registrations close 5 October.

More information visit www.childrensministrynetwork.org.au
email renew@cmn.org.au or write to:
21 Wesley Crt, Roachdale South 4123

Experiencing Taizé

Taizé Brother Ghislain will visit Brisbane 27 to 30 September. He will be leading talks and discussions on the Taizé Pilgrimage of Trust on Earth as well as prayer services.

The Taizé community seeks to give people an experience of God in solidarity with one another so that they might find ways to continue to work for reconciliation, peace, unity and ecumenism in their own communities.

Best known for its music and worship, Taizé sees itself as a 'vision of hope for the future of a world united in peace and harmony'.

Br Ghislain will be leading a prayer service at St Andrew's Uniting Church Brisbane on 27 September. There will be an introduction to Taizé worship for youth leaders at Bardonia on 28 September from 3 - 5 pm. Please contact Glenine Hamlyn, Queensland Churches Together, for further information on these events. Brother Ghislain will be at the Brookfield Centre for Christianity on the 29 September.

Details of Br Ghislain's appearances are in What's On



Taizé prayer in action

What's On

September 3, 6.30pm till late. Multicultural Festival. Unity House, Wesley Kangaroo Point UC. Multicultural recipes plus terrific entertainment. \$15.00 adult/\$10 Concession/\$40 family (2 adults, 2 children). Contact Mili Tuinora 07 3371 9394 / 0411 878 154, email mtuinona@hotmail.com or visit www.wkpuc.org.au.

September 5, 10.15am. Annual Synod Service arranged by UC Adult Fellowship Qld Synod Committee. Broadwater Road UC. Guest preacher Rev Bruce Johnson. Morning Tea from 9.30am. Enjoy BYO lunch after the service.

September 8-10. Laidley Quilt and Craft Expo. \$3 adults/50c children. UC Complex- 45 Patrick Street Laidley. Bark painting, pottery, sculptured cards, antique car displays plus more. Contact A.E Brimblecombe 07 5465 3222.

September 9-14. Queensland Synod meeting.

September 10. White Armband Day to help Make Poverty History.

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

September 15-17. Craft Fair, Sandgate UC 116 Board St, Deagon. Exhibitors, craft demonstrations, gifts. Thursday 9am-8pm, Friday 9-5 pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. Wheelchair access, parking at the rear of church. Gold coin admission.

September 23-24. Spiritual Authority and Leadership Conference with Dr Charles Kraft. School of Intercultural Studies at Fuller Seminary (USA) professor and former missionary in Nigeria. \$90 full 2 days. Friday 7pm session free & open to public. Contact Liz Taylor on 3290 1277 or liz.loganuc@tpg.com.au or visit www.springlife.org.

September 24-25. Order of Knights & Comrades Reunion. Toowoomba. Call Don Hutton 3264 6241 or Paul Coker 3288 0535.

September 25, 6.30pm. Conversation at West End UC preceded by meditative worship: "Homosexuality and Christianity - pathways to inclusiveness". Enquiries to westend@ucaqld.com.au or phone 07 3844 3557.

September 27. Prayer service at St Andrew's UC Brisbane led by Br Ghislain of Taizé.

September 28, 3-5pm Workshop for youth leaders with Br Ghislain of Taizé. Mercy Place, Simpsons Road, Bardon, Cost: \$30.00. RSVP by 16 September to qctadmin@tpg.com.au.

September 29, 10-12.30pm. Workshop with Br Ghislain (Taizé) at Brookfield Centre for Christianity. Quiet afternoon from 2-5.15pm concluding with prayer service, Brookfield Chapel 7pm. Workshop and afternoon \$15 each/\$20 for both. Contact Brookfield Centre on 3878 3348 or admin@brookfieldcentre.org.au. BYO lunch/dinner. Visit <http://www.taize.fr/> to read more on Taizé.

September 30, 9.30am-4.30pm. Father Stephen Bevans (Chicago Theological Union), "How can the church better proclaim the Gospel to the people of the 21st century?" Mercy Place, 371 Simpsons Rd Bardon, \$25. Contact Mary Lowcock on 3336 9239 or cathmiss@bne.catholic.net.au.

October 2. Spiritfest. Festival of church choirs conducted by Dr Robert Boughen. St Stephen's Cathedral, Elizabeth St, Brisbane. Massed choir rehearsal 1.30-4pm. Festival 4.30-5.30pm all welcome. Contact Ralph Morton, 3336 9104 or email mortonr@bne.catholic.net.au.

October 7-8. Brisbane Preaching and Teaching John's Gospel in the Year B. Trinity College lecturer Dr Malcolm Coombes provides a tour of major theological themes of John's gospel and their relevance for preaching and teaching in the coming year. Fri day evening and all day Saturday. Chermide Kedron UC. Bookings essential. Contact Rev Michael Skinner on 07 4681 2173.

October 7-9. North Queensland Presbytery young adult camp. Theme: "Soul Whisper" with speaker, Mark Cornford. Take some time out to relax, have fun and to be with God. Contact Stephen Kersnovske on 4036 4440 or email stevek@yacmu.ucaqld.com.au.

October 9, 2pm. Welsh Hymn Singing Festival. Community singing in English and Welsh. Bayside UC, Wondall Rd Manly West. Contact Rene on 3341 4819 or Bronwyn (A/H) on 3876 0091.

October 13. Leadership That Really Makes a Difference In People's Lives, evening for Children's, Youth and Family Ministry leaders, 7-9pm Indooroopilly UC. Speaker Rev Dr David Pitman. Contact Tom Kerr on 07 3377 9935 or email him at Tom.Kerr@yacmu.ucaqld.com.au.

Want to promote an event?

Email mardi.lumsden@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au with the subject 'What's on' or fax (07) 3377 9796.

Christmas comes in July at Living Room



Living Room participant Scott enjoys an early Christmas

Christmas in July was held to acknowledge the fantastic support and response to Living Room events at Ashgrove Ave, The Grove Uniting Church.

Local member of parliament Jim Fouras, Councillor Geraldine Knapp and Moderator Rev Alan Kuchler joined the festivities and were presented with art by regular participants Norman Betteridge and Ross Madden. The continuing support of the local community and volunteers was also acknowledged.

Living Room meets on Tuesdays at 10am. For more details contact thelivingroom@ucaqld.com.au.

Crossroads' bright thinkers

In a celebration of the diverse talents of artists with a disability, Crossroads Chermide organised the second annual Coloured Thoughts Art Exhibition in July.

Thirteen artists displayed recent works produced with the assistance and encouragement of Crossroads and Access Art.

Many of the artists drew from popular culture and music for inspiration. Naomi Fletcher's 'Mr Guy' draws on the inspiration of popular musicians such as Guy Sebastian.

Edith Beak's use of the colour pink to express her strengths as a confident woman is evident in her work 'Delta Splash'.

The artwork was diverse in style and meaning. The large number of works sold on opening day was a tribute to the artist's and organiser's hard work.



Ruby from the USS Blue Ridge ship's hospital cleaning flyscreens



Artist Edith Beak with her work 'Hands'

USS anchors at Barnabas House

It was all hands on deck as 10 American sailors from the USS Blue Ridge rolled up their sleeves for some maintenance at Barnabas House where people with disabilities are part of the community.

USS Blue Ridge is flagship for the 7th Fleet based in Japan and the sailors fixed toilets, gutters and fly screens, and enjoyed a BBQ with the Barnabas residents at the end of the day.





Ever feel our world needs more miracles? Angel did...

We live in a broken world. And though we try to make a difference – sometimes it seems like we need a miracle.

Like Angel. He's blind from cataracts and his parents can't afford medical help.

Through CBMI, you can give a 12 minute miracle to one of the world's poorest people!

He can't go to school and chances are he won't survive childhood. Too often, that's the fate of children with disabilities in poor countries.

Angel needed a miracle.



Check for your miracles kit in this issue!

CBMI's Eye Clinic had a miracle with Angel's name on it. Dr Luz Gordillo removed Angel's cataracts and restored his sight in a 12 minute operation. The miracle was a gift – thanks to people like YOU.

Through CBMI you can restore an adult's sight for just \$32. And for a child like Angel it costs \$200 (with general anaesthetic).

From October 1-10, we Aussies are leading the way in raising enough money to do 100,000 miracle cataract operations worldwide.

Please join us in this amazing ministry opportunity. When you give the gift of sight, you give a miracle... for life!

1800 678 069
(FREE CALL NOW!)
cbmi.org.au



- At CBMI we're inspired by the example of Jesus. We welcome and willingly serve all in need – regardless of religion, race, age, gender or politics.
- CBMI has served people with disabilities in the world's poorest countries for nearly 100 years.
- Last year 557,600 people received miracle cataract operations through CBMI!



Aussie doctors Roger and Noriko from Wollongong are providing the miracle of cataract operations in Afghanistan through CBMI. They are supported by the prayers of 10,000 Australians!

- We are committed to meeting the very highest standards of accountability and integrity.





PRAYER DIARY

18 September:
Beenleigh

Beenleigh area encompasses one of the fastest developing small business and housing areas in the State with the current population of about 50,000 likely to double in the next 10 years.

Uniting Church Beenleigh Region is facing the challenge of what it means to be local church in the midst of this huge number of non-church people.

We want your prayers as we discover what it means to join Jesus in his ministry among the many broken and marginalized people who call Beenleigh home, and at the same time sustain a vital congregation. Please pray for:

- A staff person to head up the Children and Family Ministry, to be established more vibrantly in 2006.
- The Refugee Learning Circle as it assists our congregation support new families to Australia.
- Our Teen Spirit Racing Team as it learns how to share faith with the many non-church families involved.
- Our Property and Finance Group as it moves our parking and buildings into a 21st century mission context.
- Our Blue Care as it desperately seeks Registered Nurses for crucial nursing roles.
- Our Leadership team as we work strongly together to lead this local congregation through the rocky yet fruitful path of mission.
- Us as we partner with other community agencies and churches to share in God's call to be about reconciliation in the midst of community.

25 September:
The Hills

Pray for The Hills as we seek to become more involved in outreach to others, learn to care and share the love of Christ when and where it is needed most - Kids Club, Twinkles playgroups, refugee support group, through RE in our schools, and through our youth group.

Pray for school chaplains and the Scripture Union Chaplaincy program. Chaplains do a wonderful job and really need our support.

We ask for prayer for the congregation and our neighbours as we head into our building refurbishments. We recognise it will mean a lot of disruption and will require understanding and a big process of change.

Pray for us as we begin to arrange a second service, to get the core group of people together, and for the support of the rest of the congregation. We value prayer as we seek to refresh our Christian education program.

Pray for people to embrace and support what we are already doing and to remember that everyone from the very young to the aged all have important views and ideas and can all contribute in many ways.

As you pray this month for these congregations, please pray for success in all their godly endeavours, so that many lives may be arrested from the broad road that leads away from God, and turned around by the most effective roadblock that exists: the outstretched arms of Jesus on the Cross. Mark Bateman, Prayer Diary coordinator.

4 September:
Townsville Central

We are a congregation with a deep passion to work with other churches in Townsville to advance the Kingdom of God. We value prayer for the Impact World Tour organized through YWAM, in which most Townsville congregations are participating.

Stable on the Strand is coming up in December. This is a Townsville wide Christmas Pageant on Townsville Strand. It takes lots of people, money and resources to run and gives a highly visible opportunity to show the unity of the Body of Christ in Townsville and personal interactions with other believers.

Our motivation is to see lives changed. Our ministry CHES (City Heart Education and Support Service) services our community with counselling, healing and education. Recently we added a financial education component. Reaching into the community always needs prayer. We try living Ephesians 1:23. The church is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.

We are searching the heart of God about what our purpose is as an inner city church. To date there are some opportunities that have come our way, such as CHES, and we need prayer cover so we are guided in further directions. We have a playgroup and youth group which need plenty of support.

By the time you read this, our Family Camp (3-4 September) will be drawing to a close. Pray we go on in an active faith to implement our theme: "Exploring alternative models of economics and community".

11 September:
Oxley Darra

We give thanks for the almost 150 children and youth ministered to each week through our Boys and Girls Brigades, Youth Group, Priority One and Sunday School. Pray for the leaders of these groups.

Please pray for discernment of God's future direction in the area of youth and children's ministry as we seek to grow disciples of Christ amongst these young people.

Pray for connections made with our community through our groups for adults, including a Garden Lovers Group, Craft Group and Crossroads branch. Pray that we may be intentionally listening to the Spirit of God to see opportunities to share faith.

Planning is currently underway for our participation in the Oxley Street Party in October. We hope by operating a coffee shop we will be able to give our neighbourhood a place to share together and for us to share the love of Christ with the people of our suburb.

Our Darra English speaking Congregation is growing in age and declining in numbers. God's direction is sought for the future. Your prayers are valued.

We support, financially and in prayer, the United Church of Papua New Guinea's Papuan Island Regional Enterprises project in Milne Bay Province. Give thanks to God for the progress of work so far in this area in helping people become financially self-supporting and pray for continued growth.

Pray for our Vietnamese Congregation at Darra and the task they have of proclaiming Jesus to the Brisbane Vietnamese community. Pray for the spiritual and numerical growth of this congregation.

Baptisms in black and white

Rev Ian Lord presided over three baptisms of Sudanese members of Bayside Uniting Church congregation in July. The families were among those who had escaped the ravages of the horrific warfare and fled as refugees to Australia. Since the beginning of Sudan's second civil war, in 1983, over two million black, southern Sudanese have been killed. Read more about the situation in Sudan in John Yakuac's story on page 16.



Raymont Lodge Residential College

Fully furnished, single room accommodation for students undertaking tertiary study in Brisbane. The College is located 4km from the heart of Brisbane and in close proximity to the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology. All meals provided, internet access, individual telephones, common room, and swimming pool.

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QUEENSLAND CHURCHES TOGETHER

A PILGRIMAGE OF TRUST
with Brother Ghislain, Taizé Community, France

Evening prayers and music in Taizé style

St Andrews Uniting, Ann St. Brisbane - all welcome.
Tues. 27th September 2005, 7:30 pm

Taizé workshop for youth leaders

- Learn more about Taizé
- Learn to hold Taizé-style meditation with your youth group
- Meet others interested in Taizé

Wednesday, 28th September, 2:00 - 5:30 pm

Mercy Place, 371 Simpsons Road, Bardon
Contribution to costs: \$ 30.00

RSVP: by Friday, 16th September to: qctadmin@tpg.com.au
or: QCT, PO Box 2045, Milton BC, Qld 4064, ph. 07 3369 6792

Please phone us if you can distribute flyers.



PREACHING AND TEACHING FROM JOHN IN 2006

A preaching and teaching workshop focusing on the major theological themes of John's Gospel and letters presented by Rev Dr Malcolm Coombes.

Dates:

October 7/8, 2005, Chermide-Kedron Community Church, 590 Gympie Road, Chermide.

October 28/29, 2005 Rockhampton North Uniting Church, Berserker St Rockhampton.

Friday evening sessions start at 7 pm.

Saturday sessions run from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Costs:

\$65 for full catered weekend.

\$58 without Saturday lunch.

\$30 for one session.

Bookings essential - for further enquiries and bookings, contact Rev Michael Skinner on (07) 4681 2173, or visit the Theology and Worship website at www.tandw.ucaweb.com.au

Wrong debate on Res 84

I have been following with interest the discussions about Resolution 84 in the Synod's e-group. What concerns me is that we are having the wrong debate. I believe the first question we should ask is 'what does it mean for sinful people to participate in God's community of reconciliation?'

In Jesus' ministry, what got him into trouble was not his definition of sin (he did not agree with adultery etc) but his definition of grace (basically that God loved 'sinners' anyway and wanted to include them in his radical Kingdom of grace).

For example, Jesus did not particularly like prostitution or unjust tax collecting, but the very people engaged in these activities were the ones he sought to include in God's Kingdom. I am not saying Jesus never wanted their lives/lifestyles to change, but I don't see that he made their changing the condition of entry into the Kingdom of God - instead it was their reaction to him as the messenger of grace that counted.

I believe if we start asking what it means to be sinful people in God's community, we might get struck by the strange notion that there are a lot of weird, wacky, hurting and 'sinful' people out there that God wants participating in our churches. People who don't share our lifestyles, who might be gay or drink too much or live with their (unmarried) partners but who might respond to Jesus - what will we do then? Wait till they change their lifestyle, or invite them in as co-sinners and journey with them in what it means to be sinners in Christ's church as we walk the (slow) walk of becoming more like him?

Mark Cornford
Redcliffe

LETTERS



Military image loses respect

As one of an age able to recognise the image used on the front page of the August issue of *Journey* I must express my disappointment that the allusion to the United States military was chosen to portray a call to Christian ministry.

Even a cursory viewing or reading of media reports and articles gives a picture of aspects of US military activity and policy that require critical consideration.

The News Hour on SBS lists the dead US soldiers in Iraq and it is clear that many young Americans are losing their lives in a cause many find dishonest, illegal and inopportune.

To use the recruitment poster image of a military force which has lost the support and respect of so many was for me grating and inappropriate.

Dawn Reilly
Graceville

Howard on Crossroads

As someone who shared the journey with the Crossroads community as Director for over four years, it was exciting to read of the developments taking place. The challenges facing Crossroads were very significant and major changes were needed to

ensure the future of this ministry of our church.

Change usually involves some pain and the courage to take unpopular steps which may be necessary. I am not aware of every action or policy decision which has been taken, and I'm sure there would be some which I couldn't support, but I believe we owe a debt of gratitude to the Director and Board of UnitingCare and to Faileen James for their efforts on behalf of Crossroads.

It made me proud to see the accomplishments of people with disabilities at the recent Crossroads Art Show during Disability Action Week [featured on p12], not only in their works of art and sculpture but also in their key role in organising the display.

Finally I want to say how pleasing it is to note that Crossroads is seeking to appoint a ministry worker to support congregations and branches as they seek to foster the fuller participation of people with disabilities in the worship, witness and service of the church.

The Albert Street Wesley Mission sign featured in *Journey* showed the kind of initiative which can be taken to include people with disabilities.

Rev Col Howard
Ferry Hills

Guideposts to Peace

"...rather than achieving freedom, by ordering our lives by measured, autonomous time, we have enslaved ourselves to a tyrant of our own making. Time rules our lives through apportioning our working day. By the very act of time measurement, chronocracy (ordering life by a measurement of time) makes us feel guilty if we 'waste' an hour; it claims inherent value by teaching that 'time is

money..." (Paul Mills, *Cambridge Papers*, Vol 11 No 4, Dec 2002)

"Time is money" is an aberration of God's ownership of time; it declares that the only good use of time is time used in production and consumption and it ruthlessly impounds us to a life of slavery, to a kind of madness that drives us to a stress induced stupor and a living coma, existing in a spiritual void.

Who do we blame? Benjamin Franklin penned the phrase (time is money), but he too was a slave to a mentality that values the creation of time more than the Creator of time.

Liberation means to be emancipated from all that enslaves. Jesus came to liberate us and the best liberation is the liberty to have a life focused, directed and inspired by the Creator of all things. Therefore, fret not about your life; is life not more than things and doings? Life is nobler than that.

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;

In feelings, not in figures on a dial.

We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives

Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.

(Philip James Bailey)

Rev Craig Mischewski
Townsville

Ordination numbers up

Because we are in the transition stage caused by the introduction of the Intern Phase of Ministerial Education - which means that candidates exiting college will not be ordained for at least 12 months though they will be in ministerial placements as Interns - we will possibly only have some ordinations at the end of this year from among the group who exited at the end of 2004.

The one person ordained thus far in 2005 was a mid-2004 exit candidate who had been awaiting placement and came under the old rules.

At the end of 2004 four ordinand candidates exited the college (ordinations to take place from the end of 2005, presbyteries willing), three exited in the middle of 2005, and two will exit at the end of this year.

In the same period (mid-2005 and end-2005) we have seen or will see the exit of one Ministry of Youth Worker candidate and four Lay Pastor candidates.

Rev Dr David Rankin
Principal
Trinity Theological College

Historically Speaking



FROM PADDLEWHEELERS TO THE CITY CATS

Today, sleek, fast City Cats, with aboriginal names associated with areas of the Brisbane River, dart to and fro, up and down the river, while many continue to mourn the loss of the city's cross-river ferries.

One special cross-river ferry was the steam-driven paddlewheeler vehicular vessel, the Hetherington, which saw more than 40 years service on the river. Named after a Brisbane City Council alderman, the Hetherington initially linked Kangaroo Point to Charlotte Street in the city in a service which operated from 1913 to 1921.

From 1925, this slow, but stable lady of the river moved downstream to the Bulimba reach, linking Oxford Street, Bulimba to Commercial Road, Teneriffe. Her original passengers were intended to be horse-drawn vehicles but her latter years coincided with the arrival of the car in numbers and the construction of the Story Bridge, which, ultimately, contributed to her demise in 1953.

Alex Gow Funerals

A Brisbane-owned family business, established in 1840.

Phone 3852 1501

Lay Preachers' Association seminar afternoon and evening

Are you seeking new ways of presenting the Christian Gospel?
Are you a RE Teacher?
Are you wanting to present dramatic readings of Christian Scripture?
Do you want to know, "How do I apply Christian Scripture to my life?"
Do you want to understand why Christ used stories so often?
Do you want to understand Biblical storytelling?
Come to the seminar afternoon and evening.

For more detail contact Grahame Tainton:
gwtandwt@bigpond.net.au or (07) 3279 0185.



October 8th Graceville Uniting Church 2.30pm to 8.00pm

CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOMMODATION

Beachfront Cottage. Currumbin Beach Queensland. Sleeps 4 to 6 people. Phone 3376 4247.

Bribie Island Holiday Unit. Welsby Court No. 4, overlooking Bribie passage, 2 b'rm, LUG, reasonable rates. Frank & Elva Dixon Ph 07 3264 8080.

Coolumb Beach Holiday - 3 bd f/s/c brick house, walk to patrolled beach & shops. Newly renovated. Website for details & photos: <http://users.tpg.com.au/coolumb> or call 0418 889657. 10% disc church members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Induction of Rev Dr David Pittman as Qld Synod Moderator. Friday 9 September, Emmanuel College, Carrara. 7.30pm.

MINISTER IN COMMUNITY

Living Water Uniting Church Darwin

Living Water Congregation is seeking a person with a heart to work with them in a new and developing mission within Darwin's rural community.

We began a pastoral ministry in high schools in 2004 and wish to further develop this caring ministry with students, staff and families within local primary schools. We operate an Op shop, 40 place Outside School Hours and Vacation Care program and offer life courses such as Boundaries with Kids and Careforce Lifekeys. This new placement will link closely with all our community care programs.

For a full job description and more information, contact:

Kevin Davis, Northern Synod
Phone (08) 8982 3400
kevin.davis@ns.uca.org.au

JOURNEY asks...

Tell us about your experience of racial prejudice...



Sandy Huang

I come from a Taiwanese family and when I was a teenager, my family decided to immigrate to Australia. I was excited when we arrived as everything was new: new country, new neighbours, new houses, new friends... and new schools.

I started attending a high school near home hoping to make more new friends but things do not always go as we wish. "Go back to your country!" some students shouted at me and other Asian students. "Leave Australia!" I was shocked when I heard it.

When I was on the way home after school a student threw a roll of newspaper at me from the other side of the street. "Go back to

your country!" he shouted. Another student walked towards me and spat at me.

I was so upset, and the only thing I could do was to quickly go home. I thought this country and people did not welcome me.

These experiences stayed in my mind for a long time, and I refused to make any Australian friends and wished to go back to my hometown. Then, when I got older, I met Jesus and heard, "Forgive as the Lord forgave you". I started to look at things from a different angle; why did I keep getting angry about something that high school students had done?

I knew that teenagers often do silly things and the Lord said, "Love each other as I have

loved you". I knew that should not reject the whole population because of a few people and, when I tried opening my heart, I was surprised to find that people around me loved and cared about me.

I am now working in an environment where I am the only Asian in the office and no longer encounter the racist incidents I experienced 13 years ago.

I thank God for going through this with me; and know that God loves me and wants me to love others. If I love people, people would love me back, regardless of race.

Sandy Huang
is a member of the **Brisbane Taiwanese**
Uniting Church Congregation.



Elizabeth Law

As an Aboriginal child growing up in Western Queensland we were never taught what racism was but I remember occasions. When I was 9 or 10 some of the kids in our school used to call us names and I would get angry and chase them.

I didn't know what was happening except that it was offensive because we didn't have a name for it but, as the old saying goes, "sticks and stone can break your bones" and it does hurt. It's an extremely painful experience and you carry the scars right throughout your life.

As a teenager I can remember being separated from the white people in the local picture theatre and not being allowed to sit with a white friend. There were certain shops you didn't feel you could go into and Aboriginal people were only accepted in some parts of the local hotel.

There was and still is a great divide between indigenous and non indigenous people in terms of housing, health, employment and education.

Between the 1970s and 1980s when I was the first Aboriginal person to be employed in a local school as a teacher's aide I was told parents didn't want their kids coming to a school where there were Aboriginal children and staff.

Even up to that time Aboriginal people in my community were living in substandard dwellings on the fringes of town and when our local Aboriginal Housing Co-op was formed it faced racial opposition.

It is when you experience racial prejudice in the church that you have the most awful feeling; when you hear comments from people and your ministry is not accepted because you are an Aboriginal person.

You feel like you're at the end of the branch and that kind of isolation drives you back into your own community.

I didn't come from a church background as a child, but as an adult Christian the scripture that brings me courage and hope is John 15 where Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches". That encourages me to feel connected to Christ and I also draw courage from John 14 where Jesus promised that he will prepare a place for us.

Racism is still very much alive and well but I think people who have never experienced racism are not as alert to the comments as those who have experienced racism.

When I hear other Australians making racist remarks about our own indigenous people as well as refugees who have joined us from other countries I still find myself in shock.

Elizabeth Law is a member of the **Zillmere Congregation.**



John Yakuac

I was born into non-Christian family in Sudan but my father taught me during my childhood that there is only one God in heaven. He told me, "Don't believe anything on the earth except 'God in heaven' (kuoth nhual inNuer)."

It has been a privilege to experience racism because, as a devoted Christian, it has strengthened my own daily life and provided opportunities to share my God.

My first experience of discrimination was from my own parents, relatives and friends. There was little development in the remote areas around my town so in 1978 I traveled from Akobo to Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan, to find a job and better education.

Soon after arriving in Khartoum, I met with young friends, particularly southerners (black people from South Sudan), who told me about a centre called the American

Mission or Comboni College operated by Italian and Egyptian Evangelical Christians. They said it was a good school so I joined immediately.

There I learnt the Ten Commandments and was baptized. I read Luke 24:47-48 where Jesus said to his disciples that repentance and forgiveness of sins was to be preached in his name to all nations.

God responded to my prayer by empowering me, by revealing his love, fellowship and harmony, so I decided to go back to Akobo to begin preaching to my family and friends.

On my return my people, including my own brother, launched a fierce attack on me saying, "This young man is mad and is urging us to believe white people's God". I was isolated and there was serious tension and the planning of evil things.

My family took me to court because I believed in God. They persecuted me by

telling the elders in the community that I was lying and deceiving them by telling them they must believe in God.

Aware that Satan uses tricky strategies I simply responded to the severe situation with prayer. I kept on praying until God answered my prayers through my mother's declaration, "Accept and believe the God of my son". Then the rest of my family and friends came to believe in the Living God as I preached to them.

God reveals his love to us through his only Son Jesus Christ and allows us to experience difficult circumstances and, when we are tempted, overcome our temptations. God's love and the power of the Holy Spirit can change hearts, minds and evil plans and bring people into fellowship and baptism.

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