



Journey
awarded



Queensland Synod
Annual Report

Proud to
be Uniting



Page 3

Page 9 - 12

Page 14

Is Chaplaincy the new frontier?

With a critical shortage of ministers available to serve in congregational placements and over 100 chaplains serving in the Queensland Synod, *Journey* asks, "Is this the best way to do the church's work?"

By Bruce Mullan

ONCE SEEN as ministry in the army, hospitals or schools chaplains now serve in a vast range of settings including universities, prisons, colleges, aged care facilities, police, emergency services, sporting teams, businesses, factories, psychiatric institutions, tourist resorts, and even animal hospitals.

Some are lay people, others are ministers or deacons, some are paid professionals and many are volunteers.

Synod Chaplaincy coordinator Rev Graeme Adsett said, "We used to think of chaplaincy in a narrow limited way, now we recognise that there are hardly any limits to the places which could use chaplaincy services."

"The people are not coming to the Church. The Church must go to them. Jesus went to the people. So must we."

Mr Adsett said that Chaplaincy is about being with others in their need and, in doing that, personifying the love, care and compassion of Jesus.

"To be a Chaplain means to be a 'presence with others', to listen carefully, to respond thoughtfully and to love generously. It is sometimes called 'loitering with intent'."

"When the Jesus model of love, care and compassion, is practised humbly, patiently and selflessly in chaplaincy ministry, the health and morale of people in secular environments is enhanced."

Mr Adsett said while significant energy and monetary resources are expended to "hone-up worship into an ever-evolving art form", not as many resources are allocated to engaging the community.

"Because of the scale of its efforts in the 'enclave' very little planning is done to go beyond the congregational setting, and



Wesley Hospital Chaplain Ms Terrie Seymour visiting patient Mrs Olive Cullen from Indooroopilly Uniting Church congregation during her time in hospital.
Photograph by Osker Lau

even when there is enthusiasm, resources cannot be allocated because the demands of the insular congregational machine must be maintained.

"The world we live in now is a different one where individuals have very definite ideas of what they want, and that does not necessarily mean joining a group, especially a church group."

"But, if challenged, they would still admit to a spiritual hunger in their lives."

Recently commissioned to the Wesley Hospital Department of Pastoral Care, Uniting Church lay Chaplain Ms Terrie Seymour ministers ecumenically throughout the wards.

Member of The Lakes Uniting Church congregation, Ms Seymour has found her work at the Wesley Hospital a rich and rewarding experience.

"Chaplaincy for me is like putting on a pair of leather shoes

made especially for me by God's own hand. They are a perfect fit; it's like they were always meant to be on my feet."

"While they may take me down paths I haven't been before I feel protected and supported," said Ms Seymour

"The fit is so right that I don't really see how I could have ever worn anything else."

"Even when my heart might be aching for someone my feet still dance for joy because the shoes were made for them."

Mr Adsett believes Christians generally and Chaplains in particular must be engaging people in homes, in workplaces and in recreational spaces.

"When this happens, a congregation will avoid becoming an end in itself and avoid being spiritually unproductive, inbred and irrelevant."

"The new paradigm has a balance in favour of going out

into the secular arena to stand and empathise with others of all kinds, rather than congregate within to review personal spirituality with others of our own kind."

"A helpful image might be to

strap a water bottle on the hip and move out into the community sharing the life and spirit of Jesus, to avoid wallowing in the low-level spiritual reservoir with one's personal and private Jesus."

More about Chaplaincy

Page 2

Page 6

Page 7

Page 8

Page 20

Moderator and Editorial

Go into ALL the word

A long history of ministry

Pet hospital Chaplain

Chaplaincy training for all

Chaplains in the front line

Journey asks

The church on the frontier

IN A WIDE variety of life situations, our ministers and members are frequently in contact with people who have no regular relationship with a local congregation or any other activity of the church.

Such interaction often occurs in response to personal, family or community crisis and offers a special opportunity to share the good news of God's love and grace along with the provision of appropriate care and support.

As I write I am mindful of the quite superb pastoral ministry that has been exercised by Rev Glen Louttit in Innisfail in the aftermath of Cyclone Larry, and by Rev Iain Watt in the Mary Valley following the announcement by the State Government of its intention to construct a dam at Traveston Crossing.

Such ministries are truly significant because they unashamedly invite people to find faith and hope and strength in the presence and promise of God.

However, there are particular situations that cannot be readily and regularly accessed except by those who have been recognised and accredited for that purpose.

These are mission contexts in which our chaplains are offering care and sharing the gospel. They have access to people that local congregations never see.

Today you will find our chaplains in hospitals and prisons, in industry and the police force, in aged care and amongst those with disabilities, in our schools, colleges and universities, in the defence forces, and in relationship with a variety of sporting groups.

Chaplains have been part of the church's interface with the wider community for a long time.

However, it is only relatively recently that we have begun to better understand the strategic importance of chaplaincy in furthering the mission of the church and to explore what that might mean.



Message from the Moderator

Rev Dr David Pitman

There is still a lot of work to be done in this area, not least in establishing priorities and finding the necessary resources.

But it is imperative that we recognise both the importance and

endeavouring to encourage local management to be proactive.

It also happens that "dream" holidays can be upset by crisis, including accidents, serious illness and even death.

It is at such critical moments that both staff and tourists look to Terry for help, and he is there to offer the pastoral care and spiritual nurture that is needed.

In addition, there are a growing number of permanent residents and therefore the potential for developing a faith community, within which people can participate in worship, be nurtured in the faith, and become engaged in mission themselves.

Terry has developed significant relationships with many of the key people in the area, both professionally and personally.

It is obvious that he is well known and respected in the community.

He has the gift of relating readily and naturally to people he has never met before and a clear vision and a deep passion for his ministry.

Such is the work of chaplaincy. In many different contexts it represents, without doubt, a mission frontier.

As such it demands our best efforts as a church in support of those who exercise this ministry on our behalf!

" It might sound exotic and romantic, but it is demanding and challenging work. "

the potential of this ministry and affirm and support those already engaged in it.

The tourism industry represents one relatively new context for chaplaincy that has exciting possibilities.

Rev Terry Ayling is our chaplain in the Whitsundays. Terry and his wife, Amanda, live on Hamilton Island.

It might sound exotic and romantic, but it is demanding and challenging work. It is also vital and strategic.

The ministry needs are great, not least because of the large number of itinerant young adults working in the resorts, many of whose lives are in disarray.

Work amongst this group is particularly demanding.

This is a key area in which Terry has been offering ministry and

From the Editor

Newly appointed Chaplain with Wesley Hospital's Department of Pastoral Care, Sue Duncan, was one person who reflected on her role as Chaplain for this month's issue of *Journey*.

She said, "When I can humbly meet another's need I accept the challenge and reality of human suffering knowing that I do not travel this path alone. I go on this path with the grace of God."

Listening to the stories from those serving God beyond the walls of our Uniting Church in Queensland has been quite remarkable.

Our Chaplains work with some of the saddest, most disadvantaged, and sickest people in our community and yet they are filled with faith, hope and love.

Jesus said in his famous story about the end times, "I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me".

Then he went on to say, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

In legends surrounding St Francis of Assisi one story tells of his moment of conversion.

Francis encountered a leper in Assisi and instead of fleeing from him as did most people he dismounted from his horse and embraced the man.

At that moment Francis recognised that the leper was Christ himself.

Could it be that Chaplaincy is mapping a new course for our church; that of being the Christ-embracers in our ever-more-troubled and unsettled community?

Our conversations with Chaplains over the past month have revealed a focus and enthusiasm for ministry and the Gospel that is both refreshing and inspiring.

As you read the testimonies of our Chaplains in this issue of *Journey* you will find the kind of authentic encounters between faith and people that many of our congregations ache to experience.

Somehow, while still connected to the church but freed from the responsibilities of maintaining a congregational structure, our Chaplains roam among ordinary citizens witnessing to Christ, sharing grace and being personally uplifted.

It really makes one sit up and take notice. What is going on and how is it happening?

Could it simply be that Chaplains are meeting with Jesus more often than the rest of us?

Bruce Mullan

Sign of the Times

Not all ministries stay in one place for long. This sign was seen on the back of the Uniting Church Nissan Patrol provided for the cooperative work with the Anglican Church in Winton, North West Queensland. Minister Rev Dennis Quinn uses this vehicle to visit outlying station properties on behalf of the Uniting and Anglican churches.

Photo by Bruce Mullan



JOURNEY

Journey is published 11 times a year for the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Opinions expressed in *Journey* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the policies of the Uniting Church.

Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement; inclusion of advertising material is at the discretion of the publisher.

Journey cannot guarantee the publication and/or return of submissions but makes every effort to do so if requested.

Editor
Associate editor / advertising
Designer

Bruce Mullan
Mardi Lumsden
Osler Lau

Production: Communications Services Unit
Printing: Rural Press (QLD) Printing, Ormiston,
Circulation 15,500
ISSN: 0817-4466

Closing date for editorial and advertising for October *Journey* is 8 September
Next issue of *Journey* will be available in churches on Sunday 1 October

Communications Services Unit
Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod
60 Bayliss Street Auchterflower QLD GPO Box 674 Brisbane QLD 4001
Ph: 07 3377 9910 Email: journey@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au
Fax: 07 3377 9796 Web: www.journeyonline.com.au

Queensland overflows with generosity

ALONG WITH their generous support for the victims of tropical Cyclone Larry in March Queensland Uniting Church congregations were equally big-hearted in response to the 2007 Lenten Appeal, *Sharing the hope*.

As congregations across the state responded to the invitation to "go a second mile", a record total of \$80,000 was donated to six projects in Asia, the Pacific and Australia.

Five of the projects were for education and training in Sri Lanka, Bali, East Timor, PNG and with Indigenous Australians.

The other was for urgently needed manse renovations on Thursday Island off the Cape York Peninsula.

Lenten Appeal coordinators Bruce Mullan and Kristine Bromiley were surprised by the response which was a 33% increase over the 2005 appeal.

"This really is a very generous and gracious church," said Mr Mullan.

"People have responded to the needs of others and really picked up on the spirit of the Lent season, reducing their own needs in order to share with others."

"The generosity just keeps coming. I even heard that the congregation at cyclone devastated Innisfail had recently sent a donation to the McKay Patrol Ministry. What a church!"

While some money is still trickling in from congregations the

funds already received have been distributed to the project sponsors so the work can begin.

Thank you Queensland.



Lenten Appeal Coordinator Kristine Bromiley posts the Lenten Appeal cheques. Photo by Osker Lau



Journey staff Osker Lau and Mardi Lumsden with the ARPA awards and winning front page. Photo by Bruce Mullan

Journey commended in religious press awards

THE CONTROVERSIAL "The Church Needs You" cover of *Journey* (September 2005) was highly commended by the Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) at its Annual Conference in Adelaide in August.

The judges described the front page as having eye-catching artwork and standing out from the crowd.

The original artwork of the then Moderator Rev Alan Kuchler as the recruiting "Uncle Sam" was created by *Journey's* graphic artist Osker Lau using Photoshop technology.

Judges said that *Journey* had a great new masthead and front page visuals and that the new front page pointers were engaging.

They also remarked that www.journeyonline.com.au was a great initiative.

ARPA represents over 250 religious publications in Australia and New Zealand which range in circulation from 500 to 257,000 copies.

Each year ARPA offers 24 categories of awards for excellence in religious journalism and publishing.

Executive Officer of ARPA Mr Alan Sauer said the publications, articles, photography and reporting are assessed by leading professional journalists.

"The quality of the magazines and newspapers is a tribute to the commitment of those responsible for their production," he said.

Journey Associate Editor Mardi Lumsden also collected a highly commended ARPA award in recognition of excellence for the most improved newspaper.

Justice on stolen wages: Moderator

QUEENSLAND UNITING Church Moderator Rev Dr David Pitman has called on the government to provide just and fair compensation to those whose stolen wages were controlled by a succession of Governments.

In a submission to the Senate Inquiry into Indigenous Stolen Wages Dr Pitman asked the government to provide a public forum in which Indigenous people can tell their story and adequate resources to systematically and comprehensively investigate and report on the available records.

"The control of the wages of Indigenous people was one of a number of injustices which they have suffered," Dr Pitman said.

"We believe that in order to create true and lasting reconciliation in Australia the truth about these past injustices must be told and, as far as possible, redressed."

Dr Pitman said the Australian community needs to continue to hear the story of the Indigenous people and seek to understand the effect of government policies upon their lives.

"The effects of injustices which the Indigenous people of Australia have experienced continue to be felt throughout the community."

"The Uniting Church believes that Indigenous people have a unique contribution to make to Australia as the first peoples of this land."

For most of the twentieth century many Indigenous people had their wages controlled by the Government.

With up to 75% of their wage held for them in trust, they only received a small amount of pocket money.

This occurred to varying degrees across Australia but Dr Pitman has



Moderator Rev Dr David Pitman. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

a particular interest on its impact in Queensland.

The Queensland Government made an offer of \$2000 and \$4000 depending on the date of the worker's birth.

"The independent evidence suggests that neither of those figures is close to adequate," Dr Pitman said.

He also said many people were reluctant to sign away their legal rights in order to receive this payment.

Dr Pitman called on the Federal Government to "move immediately to facilitate a commission [of inquiry], providing it with broad terms of reference and resources to travel to every state and territory to hear the story of those whose wages were controlled by the government."

"There are many examples of truth and reconciliation commissions which have brought about significant healing."

"Many Indigenous people have indicated that they would be satisfied to know that their story had been heard and their pain acknowledged."

Dr Pitman asked the State Government to engage specialist research teams with the expertise and resources to produce a comprehensive report into Stolen Wages.

"It is important that the truth about this issue is brought into the light of day."

Dr Pitman said a fair and generous compensation system was needed.

"An independent, inquiry based tribunal with dedicated, specialist staff could deal with individuals on a case by case basis."

Income Tax Returns prepared Competitive rates

Telephone Peter Henderson on 3272 8033
for discussion or appointment



Peter Henderson
& Associates

Certified Practising Accountants
Suite 3 Central Park Chambers
188 Algester Road, Algester Qld 4115
Ph 07 3272 8033 Fax 07 3272 8133
admin@alphabusiness.com.au

Are you Giving Direct?

With Giving Direct you don't need to worry about having cash to take to church each week.

You can give your regular tithes and offerings automatically from your bank, building society or credit union account.

You simply nominate an amount to be debited weekly, fortnightly or monthly—so you can fit it in with your income cycles.

The money then goes directly to your church's U.C.I.S account and helps you maintain planned, committed giving all year round—so you don't have to worry about catching up if you go away on holidays.

See your church's Giving Direct Coordinator for an information form or visit www.ucis.com.au.

Not sure if your church is Giving Direct? Call us on 1300 655 653.



1300 655 653 | www.ucis.com.au

Generation Y: more selfish but still spiritual

By Catherine Mullan

A NATIONAL Australian survey has found that Generation Y young people (born between 1976-1990) are less spiritually involved than their parents.

The study of people in their teens and twenties was conducted by researchers from Australian Catholic University, Monash University and the Christian Research Association suggested that non religious young people simply reflect the broader secular context and the spirituality of their own parents.

Catholic Priest Michael Mason from Australian Catholic University said of Generation Y, "Identity depends heavily on family and friends rather than churches and scout groups."

"Unfortunately not being part of an institution means having to make all the mistakes on your own," he said.

The three year study of 13-29yr olds found 52.2% of the sample (1272 young people) had no religious identification. This was much lower than reported in the 2001 census results.

The study revealed 80% of those surveyed believe there is "something

out there" and 70% believe that "something somewhere" cares about us.

The results revealed that Generation Y display a high degree of individualism and more are inclined to pick and choose in beliefs than Generation X.

The survey reported that later teens is the most frequent age for Christian conversion with Baptist and Pentecostal churches becoming more popular for young people.

Finding also show that Generation Y were more self centred and, with only 27% involved in volunteer work, show less humanity than older generations.

Queensland Uniting Church Vision for Mission Consultant Rev Duncan Macleod said "Generation Y were raised by a selfish generation.

"Young people perceive the church to be irrelevant, boring and non-human with nothing to offer," he said.

"Our challenge is to help people explore faith where they are rather than waiting for them to come to the church," he said.

2.2 % of those surveyed reported the Uniting Church as their current denomination.



Students Louisa Young, Sarah Bull, Ryan Gillim, and Sholema Moore enjoy living in Uniting Church colleges at the University of Queensland. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

Colleges provide home away from home

FINDING A college to live in while studying can be a daunting task for school leavers, but the right college can enhance a student's experience of University or further study.

Some of the most respected student colleges in Queensland are affiliated with the Uniting Church in Australia.

With five colleges in Brisbane, (four of which are at the University of Queensland's St Lucia campus) Uniting Church colleges offer a diverse range of facilities and extra-curricular activities for residents.

King's College (opened in 1913 at Kangaroo Point) is one of the oldest colleges in Queensland and currently houses 252 male students.

With a strong academic emphasis, King's has produced five Rhodes Scholars, 42 University Medallists and 251 First Class Honours students.

First year Physiotherapy student Ryan Gillim, chose King's College because of the opportunities in sport, but has found proximity to the university and making friends to be the main benefits of living on campus.

"Living so close to uni, you can duck back anytime for something to eat," said Mr Gillim.

He also found that despite the Christian foundations of the

college, religion was not pressed upon students.

"Kings accepts all religions. The fact that it is a Christian college is just a guideline for the way we behave and act."

Grace College was founded in 1970 and accommodates 190 female students from UQ. The College has a strong Christian environment, offering personal support from the principal/honorary chaplain.

Second year Grace College resident Sholema Moore said Grace College has a good community environment.

"I was pleased with the idea of going to a Christian environment where Christian values are upheld."

Ms Moore said living with other people who are not from Brisbane builds a good sense of community.

Cromwell College accommodates 200 UQ students from many different backgrounds.

Cromwell, a co-educational college opened in 1954, is known as the cultural college and often wins cross college events such as debating and chess competitions.

Human Movements student Sarah Bull is in her third year at Cromwell College and chose to remain in college so she could be close to friends and university.

"I was pretty much forced to make friends, and there are so many

opportunities: cultural, sporting, social and spiritual."

Louisa Young has lived at Emmanuel College throughout her law and journalism degree because of the additional support offered to her and her Seeing Eye Dog Jazz, who is a well loved resident.

"They are very supportive of Jazz. He needs grass and a bit of yard, so they've fenced in some of the yard so he can run and there is plastic in my room with food and water and a bed for him."

Emmanuel College houses over 340 students every year.

The only Uniting Church college located away from the St Lucia campus of UQ is Raymont Lodge. Situated in Auchenflower, next to the Trinity Theological College, Raymont Lodge is 4km from Brisbane city and accommodates 120 university and TAFE students.

TAFE Hospitality Management student Dane Olsen said because there is no drinking on the college site there is time to both chat and study.

"It's good because you don't just have drinking friends, but friends you can go have a yarn to."

Uniting Church colleges have the facilities and support to assist students in making their stay in Brisbane as enjoyable as possible.

Catherine Mullan

Grace farewells bursar

IT WAS the end of an era when Grace College said farewell to Carol Hayden who has served as College Bursar for 21 years.

Grace College Principal Dr Sue Fairley said Carol had made an incredible contribution to the College and the 5,000 or so young women whose lives she touched during her time there.

"It is largely because of Carol's prudent management that the College is in such a sound financial state and the facilities have been maintained so well.

"This was not just a job but a vocation."



Retiring bursar Carol Hayden



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.

07 3377 9903

www.raymont.com.au

Studying at the University of Queensland in 2007?

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

Consider the **Uniting Church Colleges** at UQ.

Women:

Grace College www.uq.edu.au/grace

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



ENROLLING NOW

2007

Prep to Year 5 and Years 8 & 9

47 Lomond Crescent
Bellvista Estate
Caloundra West

Phone: 5490 5777

Fax: 5490 5757

www.uc.qld.edu.au

pscaloundra@bne.catholic.edu.au

Getting away with murder

PASTOR ANDY Pawican, aged 30, was murdered by soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Fatima village, in the mountainous town of Pantabangan, around 180 km from metropolitan Manila.

Andy Pawican dedicated his life to spreading the word of God. He was a licentiate pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), a partner church of the Uniting Church in Australia.

On 21 May 2006 while walking home from church with his family, Pastor Pawican was confronted by four armed men.

They claimed to be members of the armed opposition group the New People's Army (NPA). They said they were looking for William Tuping, a friend of Pastor Pawican's who lives near the UCCP chapel in Sitio Maluyon.

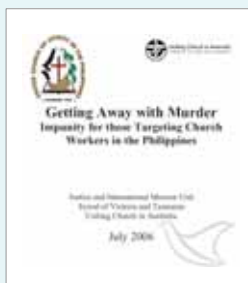
They ordered Pastor Pawican's companions to go on ahead. Pastor Pawican's wife did not protest, thinking he would not be harmed as he was holding the baby.

At around 3pm, the villagers heard gunshots. The four men that had confronted Pastor Pawican were in fact soldiers of the 48th Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The soldiers brought the baby back to Pastor Pawican's wife.

At around 5pm, a villager found the body of Pastor Pawican on the roadside. He had been shot in the right cheek.

The soldiers initially claimed that Pastor Pawican was a member of the NPA who was



killed in an exchange of fire. They paraded the body around the village. They admitted to killing Pastor Pawican. They warned the villagers that the same fate would befall them if they did not cooperate with the soldiers.

On 22 May, the soldiers ordered ten villagers to carry Pastor Pawican's body to the road. Only eight returned.

This is just part of one story included in a new report produced by the Justice and International Mission Unit of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania entitled *Getting Away with Murder: Impunity for those Targeting Church Workers in the Philippines*.

The report documents recent murders of members of the UCCP in the Philippines and the lack of progress in bringing any of those responsible for the murders to justice.

Speaking to the members of the Uniting Church Assembly meeting in July, Bishop Elmer Bolocon of the UCCP said the killings must stop.

"No-one has been arrested. No-one has been brought to justice. No investigation whatsoever."

The Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania are committed in partnership with the Southern Luzon Jurisdictional Area, United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP SLJA) in calling for change in the Philippines.

Mardi Lumsden

Inward change shows right attitude

DAVE ANDREWS has a vision to inspire "an alternative movement of ordinary people who become the people that be, over and against the powers that be, by practising the be-attitudes".

The good neighbour, activist, educator and keynote speaker at the National Christian Youth Convention (NCYC) 2007, hopes to share his vision with the world through a new website www.weacan.be.

Having spent most of his adult life living and raising a family amidst the slums of India, Mr Andrews is not your average Gandhi-quoting old hippie drinking pink grapefruit juice on his veranda. When he talks about being the change you want to see in the world, he really means it.

"I think many of us have tried to change the powers that be, and we've marched in protest, talked to politicians, signed petitions, but very little has changed," he said.

"Many of us feel a bit impotent, but we're only impotent if we try to change other people. The power is in changing ourselves.

"So, the focus is less about changing the church than being the church we want to see. The challenge is less about the policies our government has, and more about embodying the kind of policies we'd like to see in Australia, by the way we treat indigenous people, by the way we relate to refugees, by the way that we advocate for human rights regardless of what the government does or does not do."

The challenge, said Mr Andrews, is to embody the good news of the gospel of Jesus in his everyday life.

"Unless the life we live is good news for the poor, it's not gospel of Jesus".

Mr Andrews and his wife Ange grew up in Brisbane, not far from the area of West End where they now live with their extended household. His father was a Baptist

minister, and Mr Andrews says he took from his father a faith that was "less defined by dogma than it was by a compassion that reached out to other people".

"The challenge for us has been to work out how we live in a way that is good news for people who are struggling," he said.

At the age of 21 they moved to India, started a Christian community on the hippie trail, and began to work with the local community.

"We read the gospels about how Jesus met a rich young person, not unlike ourselves, and Jesus said to him to sell everything, give it to the poor and come follow him. We thought that was word to us," explained Mr Andrews, "so we

" God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change; the courage to change the ones I can; and the wisdom to know it is me. "

sold our house and gave everything we had away and went to India to work with people who were really quite distressed."

Having returned to Australia, Mr Andrews lives in a joint household and is constantly looking for ways to live out his commitment to bring good news to marginalised people.

"We try to connect specifically with local Aboriginal people, people who have come to the country as refugees and people who are struggling with intellectual, physical and psychiatric disabilities," he says.

"Rather than provide services for people, we try to provide networks of friendship, and in the context of those friendships we try to create a culture of trust in which people can talk about the things they are struggling with, and then we try to explore ways we can join them in that struggle."



Agent of change Dave Andrews

Mr Andrews retains his commitment to global concerns through his involvement with international aid and development agency TEAR Australia and by training people locally to work with marginalised people. Over 60 people have moved on from their neighbourhood to long-term mission in other parts of the world, including Cambodia, Afghanistan, West Papua and Iraq.

However Mr Andrews said the important thing was not going somewhere else or doing something dramatic to change the world. The important thing was to change ourselves. He quotes an alternative version of the Serenity Prayer:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change; the courage to change the ones I can; and the wisdom to know it is me."

The message he will bring to young people at NCYC 2007 will be about the importance of being agents for small change.

"Most of us have the idea that to make significant change it has got to be big change," he said.

"But none of us can do big things, it's an illusion and we need to be stripped of that illusion and realise even the people we think are big people aren't big people: they are just little people making their contribution.

"The next choice that we make, the next act that we do can be committed to love, can be committed to justice, and in that there is hope for the world."

Alison Atkinson-Phillips

West End Theatre Management Pty Ltd
Presents
"A Moment in Time"
with
Marina Prior
With the Maestro
Tommy Tycho
and his 30 Piece Orchestra
Showcasing the
Magnificent voice of
Andrew Pryor
Friday 22nd
Saturday 23rd
September 2006
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Southbank, Brisbane
Reservations
Ph: 13 28 49
www.ticketek.com



Presbyterian and Methodist
Schools Association
www.pmsa-schools.edu.au

A ministry of the Uniting and Presbyterian Churches, providing excellence in education in a Christian and caring environment.

EDUCATION AND VALUES FOR LIFE

Clayfield College

Girls: Prep to Year 12
Boarding: Girls over 10 years.
Boys: Prep to Year 5.

07 3262 0262
www.clayfield.qld.edu.au

Somerville House

Day and boarding school for girls
Preparatory to Year 12

07 3248 9200
www.somerville.qld.edu.au

Brisbane Boys' College

Boarding and day school
for boys in Years 4-12

07 3309 3500
www.bbc.qld.edu.au

Sunshine Coast Grammar School

Co-educational day school
Preschool to Year 12

07 5445 4444
www.scgs.qld.edu.au

Moreton Bay Boys' College

(In partnership with Moreton Bay College - a Uniting Church School)
Day school for boys
from Prep to Year 7 in 2006

07 3906 9444
www.mbbc.qld.edu.au

Go into ALL the world

There seems to be no limit to the places where Chaplains serve.

Journey asked some of the 100 Queensland Uniting Church Chaplains to share their stories.

Aged care chaplaincy

REV PAM BATSON, a Chaplain with Blue Care aged care facilities, invited us to go with her into the room of a dying resident.

"There is much that can happen at this time – the resident may just want you to sit with them, hold their hand and listen to music with them.

"They might want you to read special passages of scripture with them or to sing some old favourite hymns.

"They might want to confess to you or to discuss what or how they are feeling about their death.

"They might want to tell you what they want in their funeral and ask you to write it down and give it to their family.

"These are just some of the things that I have had the privilege of being involved with when a resident is near death."

Ms Batson said that at this special time, family members react in many ways.

"I have had many special moments with family members as they come to terms with the impending death or the death of a loved one, as they share their memories of the person, as they seek to have someone baptised before their death and ask questions about what happens after death.

Sometimes, following the death, Ms Batson is asked by the family to conduct the funeral for their loved one but she also conducts a memorial service for the residents so they are able to share their memories of the person and to say their own goodbyes.

"For many residents this is a very sacred time."

As a Deacon in the Uniting Church Ms Batson sees chaplaincy in an aged care facility as a way of expressing God's love, forgiveness, acceptance and compassion with those with whom she is called to minister.

School chaplaincy

REV GRAHAM COLE has served as Chaplain in a school of 1400 students for the past 14 years.

"My overall role is one of spiritual leadership taking responsibility with the headmaster for spiritual life and Christian ethos within Brisbane Boys' College."

Together with an Associate



Brisbane Boys College senior students Benfield Lainchbury, Guillaume Botha and Mitchell Day meet with Chaplain Rev Graham Cole. Photo by Osker Lau

Chaplain and two full-time Christian education teachers Mr Cole has oversight of the Christian Education curriculum and worship within chapels and assemblies.

Mr Cole said it has been particularly encouraging over the past two years to have more Christian parents sending their boys to Brisbane Boys' College because of the Christian ethos.

Over the years Mr Cole has particularly enjoyed telling 'boys own' adventure stories to boarders at 9pm on a Thursday night.

"They are a real hit and often the older boys will ask is it story night tonight. During Term 4 we run a Christianity Explained lunch time course. It is so encouraging to see a number of boys make personal commitments at the end of that."

"This course is actually taught by students in year 10, 11 and 12 to younger boys and their peers."

Mr Cole said one of the more recent directions that God has given him is not to do it all himself but to involve students in ministry.

"At our final house Chapel services we have students preaching. We sit down together to fine tune what they will say. I would have to say that it is a real blessing to me hearing the boys preach."

The Chaplaincy team embraces a variety of worship experiences at the school so together with Christian education teacher Matt Smith, Mr Cole leads a Christian meditation where about 25 or 30 boys bring their pillows and lie on the floor in the chapel.

"Worship music is quietly played and then quietly we speak out affirming passages of scripture over the boys' lives."

"The boys always leave so refreshed after half an hour."

Police chaplaincy

FOR REV DOUG FOSTER, serving as a Police Chaplain is being part of a team with a very clear description of what the role entails.

"There is a keen expectation that we fulfill it to our best, and we are encouraged and supported as we do."

"It is knowing that when a community disaster occurs my role is to provide pastoral support, and expertise in helping lead public grieving."

Mr Foster also has the privilege of caring for Police families in their times of grief and conducting the funeral of those killed in the line of duty.

"There is the regular activity of what is called 'walking the floor'."

"These conversations can cover a wide range from key personal issues through to how particular incidents affect them and their colleagues, to just how the Cowboys and Broncos are going this year."

As a Chaplain, Mr Foster believes it is all part of building up the trust and confidence necessary for the difficult times.

Hospital chaplaincy

FOR LORRAINE LUMSDEN involvement in pastoral care in a parish situation led to a two year pastoral care course and ultimately to the Ecumenical Hospital Chaplaincy Course during which she found her calling to chaplaincy.

"As a Uniting Church chaplain, my ward visiting has been mainly to patients who have nominated

the Uniting Church as their denomination of choice.

"Hospitalisation places people in a vulnerable situation and a chaplain is seen as someone in a neutral position who can listen to their concerns."

Ms Lumsden has served as a volunteer chaplain at Princess Alexandra, QEII, Mater and Greenslopes hospitals in Brisbane.

She spoke of one woman who has battled for a long time with her illness and ultimately had to succumb to radical surgery.

"Her strong faith was a witness to all who met her."

"She was a blessing to me as I hope I was to her."

Ms Lumsden said as a pastoral carer in the Emergency Department she needed to relate on an ecumenical basis to patients of all faiths and denominations who require care.

"Witnessing the anguish of a Muslim father at his daughter's distress and being asked to pray to God for her was a special privilege."

Ms Lumsden said it is a privilege to journey with patients, their loved ones and staff whether they have a faith or no faith at all.

"I believe chaplaincy is a mission field, a cutting edge, where people may be reached and encouraged to have that sacred space within each one of us filled with the love of God."

Tourism chaplaincy

TOURISM CHAPLAIN Rev Terry Ayling told *Journey* about a remarkable woman whose body was riddled with cancer.

A resident of Hamilton Island

and a part-time staff member, she was a regular at All Saints Chapel, the only regular church service in the Whitsunday islands.

"She relished the freedom to ask questions and to explore and express her faith, often in the most colourful of ways."

"Sharing the Lord's Supper each week really seemed to nourish her but in those times that we received the communion bread from her hands and heard the words, 'the body of Christ', it nourished us in ways we had not often experienced."

The Sunday afternoon following her death Mr Ayling led a "celebration of her life, love and laughter" in All Saints Chapel.

"Families came, women touched by her life, children from school, friends and fearers of grief themselves."

"We shared stories of her life, remembered how she reminded us of Jesus, enjoyed our memories and allowed faith to nourish us again."

One girl came with a butterfly that she wanted to release as a memory.

"It was a simple and moving spiritual act."

That night in the Chapel as Mr Ayling listened to the Scriptures being read and prayers being offered by the residents, staff and guests who had gathered for worship, he noticed the little butterfly still there, hovering above the rafters and smiled, remembering that we are not alone.

"To be able to share in this moment and all moments like these, even unknowingly, and to be reminded of God's presence in and with and through us is the gift of the Chaplain."

Chaplaincy: long history of ministry on the edge

By Bruce Mullan

WHILE OFTEN regarded as a "second" strand of ministry and not as central to the church's life, the kinds of ministry that Chaplains offer to the sick, the poor and prisoners were of particular concern for Jesus.

Many Chaplains claim the ministry in which they find themselves is closer to the New Testament patterns than are the ministries typically exercised in traditional congregational settings.

Chaplaincy has a rich and long tradition dating back before 1677 when instructions were given for the local Anglican priest to hold services of Morning and Evening Prayer in Newgate Prison Chapel (England).

The fact that there was already a chapel in existence suggests that there was some form of prison ministry long before this and during the 18th Century the custom of appointing Chaplains to the major London hospitals developed.

Reputedly at the insistence of William Wilberforce and others on 24 October 1784 Rev Richard Johnson was appointed as Chaplain to accompany the First Fleet to Botany Bay.

Johnson held services on two of the ships at sea and at Cape Town.

On 3 February 1788 he conducted the first service of worship in Sydney under some trees and preached on Psalm 116: 12, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me."

Chaplain Johnson was one of the busiest men in the colony conducting services and providing baptisms, marriages and funerals, and attended the execution of condemned men.

The number of Chaplains has risen dramatically in more recent years with changing employment and institutional contexts demanding ministers, both lay and ordained, who can orient their service to particular environments.

Chair of the Synod's Chaplaincy Commission and Presbytery Minister Rev Dr Ray Reddicliffe said that chaplaincy is becoming increasingly diverse with chaplains now serving in general, psychiatric and aged care institutions; correctional and educational institutions; industry; police and armed services; and more recently tourism and sport chaplaincies.

"This trend towards diversification has inadvertently fuelled the development of specialisation even within the categories of chaplaincy," Dr Reddicliffe said.

"For example, within hospital chaplaincy there are those who have sought to acquire knowledge and pastoral skills which pertain to specific areas for which they are particularly suited and where they make the most positive contribution as chaplains."

Dr Reddicliffe noted that chaplaincy was one area where ecumenical work was embraced and many chaplaincies are cooperative ventures in ministry.

Over the last ten years Dr Reddicliffe observed that chaplaincy was now often being exercised in multi-faith situations.

"Previously we focussed on the Anglo-Christian contexts but now we have to take other faith traditions into account," he said.

Perhaps the most marginal are those military chaplaincies which minister to the Army, Navy and Air force.

These have often been seen by the pacifist members of the church as acting contrary to the promotion of peace that they, as pacifists, believe to be an essential mission of the church.

This section of the church holds the view that the church should have nothing to do with the military and while Christian pacifism dates back to the earliest church so does the participation of "Chaplains" in the armed forces.

Once Christianity was embraced by the Roman Empire members of the clergy served in the armies of Christian Rome and in later history priests accompanied the soldiers in the Crusades of the Middle Ages.

Even today many Military Chaplains struggle with the tension of serving as officers of the military institution which employs them and their role as ministers of the Gospel.

Presbytery Minister Rev Kaye Ronalds has served as an Army Chaplain for 14 years and recently provided chaplaincy support to the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

"My role was to offer pastoral care and lead worship on Sunday," said Ms Ronalds who finds conversations with Chaplains or "God botherers" often takes on a spiritual quality.

"From time to time I was invited into their search for meaning. People reflect on how they have to learn to function without their loved ones but at the same time keep their relationships sustained while they are away."

Regardless of the sector in which they serve Chaplains actively seek the recognition of the church for the tasks they perform and see ministry as public and representative rather than individual and private.

In all they do Chaplains seek to proclaim Christ in word and deed, offer the sacraments of the church as a sign of grace and provide pastoral care to sick, bereaved or troubled people.

As Methodist theologian Donald E. Messer said, "Only when the church begins to move out in service and witness, inviting others to participate in God's mission can the Church find new life."

"Evangelism based on waiting for people to drop in on Sunday morning hastens doomsday."



Pet hospital Chaplain Rev Barbara Allen with her cat Buber and dog Primo. Photo by Kim Cain

World's first chaplaincy offered to pet hospital

IN ONE of the more unusual twists a Uniting Church minister has been appointed as a Chaplain based in an animal hospital.

Former dean of field education at the Uniting Church Theological College in Melbourne Rev Barbara Allen will take up her appointment at Lort Smith, the largest animal hospital in Australia.

The Chief executive officer of the Victorian hospital Rev Ric Holland, also a Uniting Church minister, said 80,000 animal patients and 150,000 people pass through the hospital annually.

With 300 pets a month being put down there is a lot of human grief for the Chaplain to support.

"Life and death are happening here every day and that's what prompted me to think about the need for a Chaplain," said Mr Holland who had been touched by the distress of one particular family with four children facing the death of their pet.

"They were all standing around crying. They didn't know what to do. They were in total disarray."

Ms Allen's chaplaincy responsibilities at Lort Smith Animal Hospital will include

being a resource person for the hundreds of staff and volunteers and providing pastoral care for grieving families.

"For many people animal companions are members of their family," said Ms Allen.

"For others their animal companion is their only family so when their animal dies the grief can be overwhelming and disabling."

The Uniting Church in Australia's new liturgy resource *Uniting in Worship 2* includes two pastoral prayers listed as resources for the death of a pet.

Training for chaplaincy is open to all

"Learning the Language of Healing" LAB 1 and LAB 2 provided by Calling and Caring Ministries in 13 countries across the world consists of 50 hour intensive training events which teach in-depth listening skills. LAB 1 trains participants to be effective listeners and carers and is useful in all areas of life: family, church, chaplaincy, work and school. LAB 2 is for trainers and teaches the same 11 listening skills at a more advanced level.

Contact Rev Bruce Henzell, the Calling and Caring Ministries Australia Trainer on 3849 4845 or email bnr_bnzl@bigpond.net.au.

The Ecumenical Hospital Ministry and Pastoral Care Course is available for people interested in chaplaincy ministry in health care settings but skills gained can be used in local church ministry and all chaplaincy areas.

This year-long course integrates theory and practice through lectures and supervised visitation in health care settings and provides cross credit with some universities.

Offered in Brisbane and beyond each year the course is also available by distance education.

Contact Course Coordinator, Rev Kevin Bachler on 3232 7289 or email kevinba@wesley.com.au.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is an action reflection process of professional education focused on enhancing pastoral identity and pastoral skills.

Offered by the Queensland Institute of CPE, it provides opportunities for supervised pastoral interactions with people in a variety of settings.

12 weeks for full-time students. Also available part-time. CPE is offered in Brisbane and beyond and can cross credit with some universities. Contact Capt Noela Fanshawe on 3378 4778, email cpe@modratec.com or visit <http://qicpe.modratec.com>.

Chaplains in front line for the church

By Mardi Lumsden

REV GALE HALL speaks fondly of his band of Defence Force chaplains.

These men and women give up time with their families to minister to troops on the front lines of conflict. However, even though these chaplains give their time and energy to serve the Australian Defence Force, they don't necessarily agree with military action.

"None of us agree with war," said Mr Hall. "We all want to live in peace; all the chaplains would want that and I think most of the service personnel do too. They don't mind doing their duty and going overseas but there is still that feeling of 'We wish we didn't have to do what we have to do'."

"When you get into an Iraq situation where the community is divided often that conflict is something the chaplain has to deal with for themselves as well as some of the people to whom they minister.

"There is the whole question of violence: how it is used and when it is used and what is acceptable. It is always a question as a church we have got to wrestle with and particularly our chaplains have got to wrestle with because they wrestle with it continually.

"Immediately when you give a weapon to a service person, you put that person in a conflict situation because they now have something that is designed to kill people so they have to think about what that means for them. As they battle with that, the chaplains battle with them in a way in which they are trying to support and bring some sense to the situation. Sometimes there is no sense to it.

"To stop violence, to stop people killing each other is often difficult and sometimes you do have to use violence to stop others using violence but the how and the when are always difficult questions."

The ratio of chaplain to officers is around 1:1000. That number

reduces when troops travel because, as Mr Hall said, more intense support is needed when troops are away.

The Uniting Church currently has 19 full-time Defence Force chaplains. Two of those chaplains are serving overseas indefinitely.

John Marshall is on a Navy ship and David Jackson is a chaplain who visits troops in continuing areas of conflict.

For 14 years Rev Kaye Ronalds has been a part time Army Chaplain. Last year she was invited to provide chaplaincy support to the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). One weekend a month for five months she left her congregation in Central Queensland to visit Australian soldiers in Honiara.

Ms Ronalds said conversations with soldiers often focused on how they can learn to function without their loved ones, "But at the same time keep their relationships sustained while they were away. At least there were email and telephone facilities for this deployment."

She told the story of an experienced officer who was finding this deployment difficult because his children were now old enough to miss him. His five-year-old asked if his Dad would remember how to find his room.

Ms Ronalds said being deployed

in a small Pacific nation made soldiers appreciate the wealth of a society like Australia.

"I could identify with many of the soldiers who expressed some sense of guilt about being wealthy and then complain and argue about the smallest things. Part of my agenda was to make sure that when they took home their money and their medals they would also take home an adjusted sense of place in the world community."

While Chaplains are away there are procedures to support them and their families but Mr Hall said the system was not flawless.

"It is not perfect and sometimes people feel they are not cared for adequately, but there is a structure for that and most of them do feel cared for."

Defence Force Chaplains continue their work despite being away from their families and having the responsibility of caring for the spiritual needs of people in environments of conflict and war.

"Their loyalty is to their calling to God and the people they serve. They know they have got to go and probably, like a lot of people, they wish they weren't there. They still know that that is where the duty is at this time and the duty is to support people even in a situation that is not what we want it to be."



Rev Gale Hall. Photo by Kim Cain

Now the Bible is on iPod

A REVOLUTIONARY communication tool that is a cheaper, sturdier version of an iPod or MP3 player was designed by Australian Tom Treseder a past state director of the Bible Society in Australia.

Originally designed for use by the blind and illiterate, the MegaVoice hand-held audio player can broadcast readings of the Bible in any language and prices start from just \$33.

Approximately the size of a credit card the audio player fits easily in a pocket, wallet or purse.



MegaVoice designer Tom Treseder displays the new iPod Bible

The Bible Society in Queensland has been leading the push to raise funds to purchase 9,000 MegaVoice audio players to send to the Gulf States.

Mr Treseder says the MegaVoice has been developed as the Bible on one single microchip. "MegaVoice is as revolutionary as the Gutenberg press!" he said.

Mr Treseder set out to develop an audio player that would overcome the problems of sharing Christianity in remote locations with traditional audio technology.

The goal was to develop durable, low-cost, digital audio solutions for Christian evangelism in the developing world.

The players vary according to their unique features. The basic player is called the Ambassador. Then there's the Messenger.

Marketing material for the Messenger declares: "Put your message in everyone's pocket - the new MegaVoice Messenger is the ideal size to dynamically convey your audio message to any audience - literate or illiterate."

Nursing to faith

A NEW form of lay ministry that couples the specialised skills of a Registered Nurse with some basic theological education is steadily growing in Australian churches.

A Church Nurse or Faith Community Nurse aims to empower people and their families to better manage their health and make the most of their quality of life and stems from the principle of wholistic care.

Church Nurses may be appointed by congregations, church schools or other church institutions to serve as health counsellors, educators, advocates, or coordinators of caregiving volunteers.

They assist people to understand the close relationship between

lifestyle, attitudes, faith and physical wellbeing. They promote wellness through education programs, counselling, liaising with community health organisations, and training volunteers.

Coordinated ecumenically by the Australian Faith Community, the Church Nursing program grew from the vision of the late Dr Granger Westberg, a US clergyman, hospital chaplain, theological professor and teacher of medical students. His work was based on the belief that healing involves the soul and the mind as well as the body and recognised the vital role nurses play in people's physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

A four-day introduction to Parish Nursing course will be held at St Paul's Lutheran church, Nundah, on 15-18 November.

Further information about this course, or about the role of a Church Nurse, is available from AFCNA chairperson Mrs Lynette Wiebusch on ph (08) 8336 3936 or email lynette.wiebusch@lca.org.au.

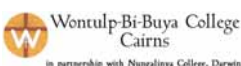
PRINCIPAL

Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, Cairns

Expressions of interest are invited for the position of Principal to commence in 2007. The College is a partnership of the Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Uniting Churches and trains Indigenous church and community leaders and ordinands for Qld Indigenous churches.

The position requires theological qualification, Indigenous person or cross-cultural skills, teaching and pastoral skills, computer and administration skills.

Position Description is available from David Thompson: wontulp@zoomnet.com.au, 07 4041 4596, or Assistant Principal, PO Box 960N, North Cairns Qld 4870.



MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Sunshine Coast

Lakeshore Community Church of Christ is seeking a Senior Pastor with a strong missional heart, a mature well developed faith, and a passion for people. Candidates will have a record of success, stability in ministry, and the giftedness to build a significant regional church over time. Long term change management skills, and a consultative relational leadership style are necessary. Contact David Ellaby on 0410 610 662 or at dpellaby@yahoo.com.au

Applications close Friday, October 6, 2006.



Riverina Presbytery Synod of NSW

Interested in new forms of ministry? Wanting a challenge?

Become the Riverina's Presbytery Mission Development Officer!

An exciting opportunity exists in the Riverina Presbytery for a passionate person committed to mission development in rural areas. Based in Wagga Wagga, the largest inland town in NSW and with all facilities, the presbytery officer will be involved in developing the ministry and resources within the four sectors of the Riverina plus placements work.

For applications and further information contact Rev Geoff Flynn,

Email: geoffwwu@bigpond.com
Phone: (02) 6921 4275

This position is open to ordained or lay people. Applications close with The General Secretary (Ministry), Synod of NSW, 30 October 2006.

WANTED

Donation of one 34cm small size television set and one small mains powered radio to assist Journey and Uniting Church Queensland Synod Communications Services Unit with media monitoring of news and current affairs.

Contact Bruce Mullan on 07 3377 9801 or email journey@uccentre.ucaql.com.au

ANNUAL REPORT 2005



The United Church in Australia Queensland Synod



The United Church in Queensland is alive and well!

This Annual Report offers a variety of snapshots that reflect the richness and diversity of church life and witness across the State.

Read the stories and be excited!

Read the stories and be amazed!

Read the stories and be encouraged!

It is my hope and prayer that these stories will motivate you to give thanks to God for what is happening in and through the congregations, groups and service agencies of our church, to value what has been achieved, to share these stories with others with a sense of pride, and to continue to faithfully pray for your brothers and sisters across the life of our church.

One of the highlights of our Synod Meeting last year was the sharing of stories from around the church reflecting the great variety of ways in which our people are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action.

If your story appears in this report – thank you!

If you have a story to tell that has not yet been told – share it with us so that we can share it with others.

David Pitman

Rev Dr David Pitman
Moderator

Making a difference

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

God is working through the United Church in Queensland in small rural congregations, offering ministry in local communities, through to huge hospitals bringing healing to the sick and critically injured. The church is at work across our vast state offering the good news to those who are spiritually hungry and care and compassion to those who are hurting and in need of support.

When a congregation member visits the local hospital, a chaplain counsels a bereaved family or a Blue Nurse cares for an aged person in their home, the United Church is there where it counts, making a difference. It is all part of being a caring church and we give thanks to God.

This annual report tells just a few stories of the many transforming ministries undertaken in the name of Jesus Christ by United Church congregations, agencies and staff. In the power of God great things are happening and will continue to happen through the ministry of this very wide-ranging and diverse part of God's church.

The church is richly blessed by the generosity of United Church members and careful stewardship of the many resources available to the Synod. These funds are used to support both local congregations and the wider work of the church, providing strong leadership, effective governance and dynamic ministry and mission across the state.

But the work is not yet completed and your gifts to the Mission and Service Fund made through offerings in your local United Church will enable more people to hear the good news, more needs to be met, more leaders to be trained and more ministries to be resourced.

You can also contribute to this mission of God through your savings in the United Church Investment Service or give direct to the Queensland Synod of the United Church at GPO Box 674, Brisbane QLD, 4001 now or through a bequest.

Please contact us on 07 3377 9777 or email gensec@uccentre.ucaql.com.au for further information about how you can support the work of the United Church in Queensland.

2005: a year of making a difference

New congregations planted with the support of the Seeds of Hope network

New United Church Queensland news website www.journeyonline.com.au to keep United Church members up with the latest news each day

Development of the Vision for Mission project to encourage creative and courageous initiatives in ministry and mission

Increased participation by young people in meetings of the Queensland Synod

Development of new employment policy manuals and processes for Synod, presbyteries and congregations

Appointment of regional youth and children's ministry staff persons

Vastly expanded distribution of UC Information newsletter to keep congregations informed about events and resources

Reductions in cost for United Church property conveyancing work

Significant extension of tourism ministries

New Educating Christians website www.educatingchristians.unitedchurch.org.au to assist congregations with their education and small group ministries

New Indigenous leadership development program offered

Appointment and resourcing of lay ministry teams in remote and rural communities across Queensland

Establishment of a unified UnitedCare board to oversee the work of United Church service delivery

Better policy conditions and considerable premiums savings for United Church Insurance customers

Continued growth in lending and deposits by the U.C.I.S. United Church Investment Service.

Significant growth in supporting internet website development by congregations through UCAweb

All United Church Queensland conference centres achieving accreditation from the National Camping Association

Increased efficiencies in the Synod payroll services for ministers and other church staff

Synod Directory produced on CD ROM

Local call number 1300 UCAQLD now available for rural congregations to call the Synod Centre

Further development of the United Church Investment Service (U.C.I.S.) as a specialist church based financial institution

Appointment of two ministry trainees in Central Queensland

Increased ecumenical cooperation in western Queensland congregations

Development of integration seminars to encourage future ministers in the habit of an ongoing theological reflection

Improved access to U.C.I.S. accounts by telephone and internet.

Gifts of Time and Love Christmas project saw 250,000 post card invitations delivered

Making a difference – God at work

*So deeply do we care for you
that we are determined to
share with you not only
the gospel of God but
also our own selves.*
1 Thessalonians 2:8



Developing new ministry options

The Presbytery of the Downs stretches from Stanthorpe in the south to Taroom in the north and Birdsville in the west. The Presbytery strives to support people in rural areas during times of joy and struggle and does so with limited resources and few specified ministerial agents.

Presbytery Minister Rev Evan Stenlake is supporting the development of Lay Ministry Teams in different ways for different places and pointed to a number of Ecumenical developments during 2005.

"Injune and Arcadia Valley congregations are worshipping with the Anglicans and seeing themselves more and more as Christian communities in their areas while in Wandoan and Taroom it is the Lutherans and Uniting Church members who are worshipping and working together more closely," he said.

Your contribution to the Mission and Service Fund enables ministry in rural and remote areas to happen in innovative and exciting ways.



Prison chaplaincy

Lifeline Community Care and the Uniting Church Prison Ministry is an innovative service working within the Queensland Correctional Service System. Its mission is to walk alongside inmates and build relationships with the community in order to create opportunities, motivate inmates and to support successful, supervised and gradual integration into the community.

Marc Renton met Prison Ministry Chaplain Ms Beatriz Skippen just months before finishing a 13½ year sentence. On release, Mr Renton went straight to a Uniting Church and found a welcoming and encouraging environment.

"What a good church," said Mr Renton. "I was welcomed straight away. Without that it would have been very hard for me. It is hard for me to explain the overall effect prison chaplains have on people...If it wasn't for them, I would still be lost."

Your Mission and Service Fund contribution helps prison chaplains make a difference to those in the Queensland correctional system, their families and the community.



Training ministers and church leaders

Trinity Theological College trains future ministers, youth workers and deacons within the Uniting Church. New integration developments in the formation program provide time, space and guidance for candidates to reflect on how their participation in the academic and short course programs informs their growing understanding of ministry and their intended ministry practices.

Minister of the Word candidate Stanley Tuilovoni said the formation program makes a difference to the way students are educated in the Christian faith. "It helps me to develop as a Christian, broadening my understanding of the Christian faith and how that is practised in ministry. I enjoy it because we get to know the other students who we journey together with."

Your contribution to the Mission and Service Fund assists future Uniting Church ministers, youth workers and deacons understand and identify with the Uniting Church, its traditions, its mission and its gospel-based values.

UnitingCare

UnitingCare Queensland is the community service arm of the Queensland Synod and is one of Australia's largest not-for-profit organisations and Queensland's largest group of care organisations. In 2005 UnitingCare helped 1 in 5 Queensland families, and employed in excess of 14,000 Queenslanders, with 5,000 engaged in volunteer support activities.

Blue Care made an average of 5,000 community support visits each day to frail older people and people with disabilities, a staggering 1,823,248 visits throughout the year. Together with the Wesley Missions, Blue Care assists elderly people to stay at home rather than enter residential care even when they have significant health and care needs. New partnerships between our hospitals,

Blue Care, congregations and volunteers are developing to provide even better palliative care for older Queenslanders.

Uniting Church hospitals, Lifeline Community Care, Blue Care and Crossroads are all part of UnitingCare's commitment to make a difference for children, youth, families, older citizens and people with disabilities in the name of Christ.



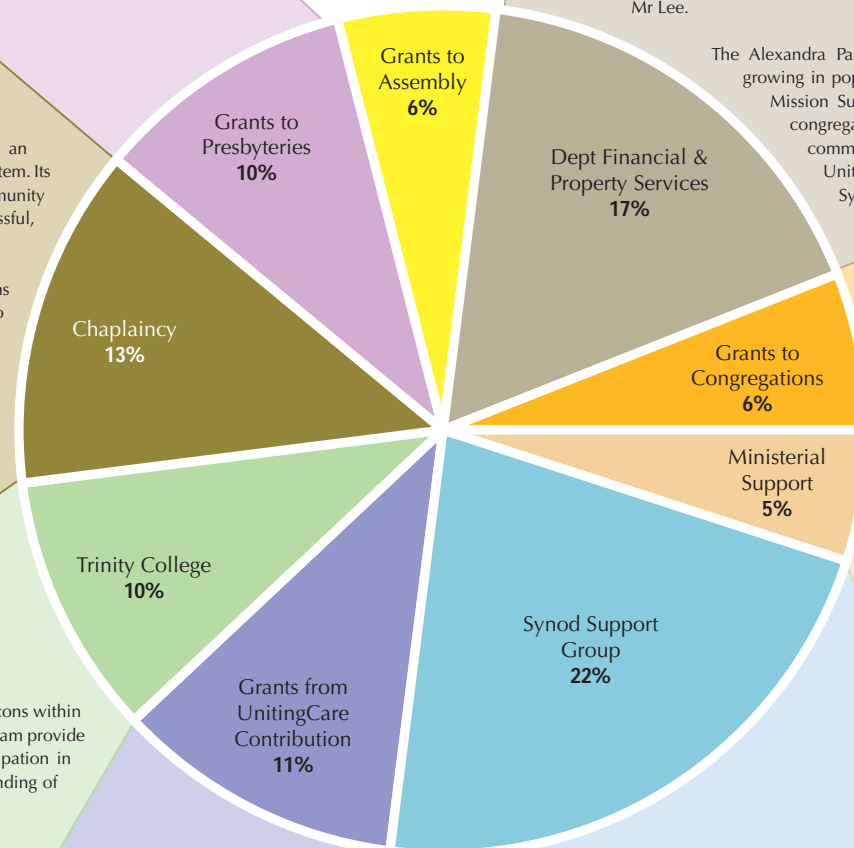
Providing somewhere to stay

The provision of short-term accommodation at Camps and Conference Centres and long-term residence at Raymont Lodge for country students living away from home and studying in Brisbane, are both arms of the Mission Support Enterprises provided by the Uniting Church for congregations and the wider community.

One of the key projects for 2005 was the extension of the Alexandra Park Conference Centre facilities. Nestled under the canopy of the natural forest the eight new two bedroom bungalows increased the bed capacity of the centre to 250. Each room has a capacity of five beds and is serviced by an ensuite and timber deck entrance. Manager of Mission Support Enterprises Mr Mark Lee said that after three years in the planning the addition of this third area raised the standard of camp accommodation as the 16 rooms can be allocated to individual families or on a twin share basis. "Landscaped gardens and floodlit pathways interconnect the individual bungalows with a conference room and a grassed court yard provides an area for relaxation and reflection," said Mr Lee.



The Alexandra Park Conference Centre is growing in popularity and is one of the Mission Support Enterprises serving congregations and the wider community in the name of the Uniting Church Queensland Synod.



Supporting Indigenous young people

The Riverview community in Ipswich has been blessed by a Calvary Presbytery project that assists Indigenous youth transition from primary and secondary school to work, training or higher education.

The Dinmore-Riverview Youth Project also assists disengaged youth to make the transition back to school or employment and/or training. Uniting Church Youth Worker Richard Cassidy said that since initiating the program he had seen a succession of Indigenous school leaders in the Dinmore-Riverview area and two have served as school captains. "One student at risk of dropping out in Year 9 aspired to get into the military. With support he became Academic Chairperson for his school in Year 12 and is now serving as an army officer," Mr Cassidy said. "Those kids who achieve their dreams spur you on to be part of this important project."

Your Mission and Service fund contribution makes a difference to Indigenous youth helping them realise their potential and aspirations by making successful transitions through education to work while staying connected to their local community.

Ministerial support

The synod assists congregations and presbyteries with the provision of ministerial and staff support. Helpful synod staff look after payroll, superannuation, workers compensation insurance, placements arrangements and moving ministers from place to place.

When Rev Bradley Foote moved from Bulimba Congregation to Ashmore Uniting Church the Synod provided for Bradley and Cheryl's removal expenses. It took a huge truck and many hours of work to shift the Foote family of seven children and all their goods and belongings south to the Gold Coast. Not having to worry about removal expenses means congregations can

concentrate on finding the right minister to share with them in their mission.

In 2005 there were 36 removals for ministers and their families with the furthest being Deacon Intern Michelle Cook who shifted from Brisbane to Weipa in the far north.

Shifting ministers around the state and making sure their welfare is well cared for is all part of your contribution to the Mission and Service Fund.

Communications

One of many Synod Support Services provided for the church is the Communication Services Unit which produces Journey, the Queensland Uniting Church monthly newspaper; the Synod's website, www.ucaqld.com.au; and the Journey website, www.journeyonline.com.au. The Communication Services Unit also provides assistance with internal church communications and promotes the Uniting Church throughout the Queensland community.

In 2005 for the first time the Communication Services Unit provided congregations with resources to publicise their Christmas worship. "Gifts of time and love make the best Christmas presents" was the theme of almost 250,000 postcards and posters distributed around Queensland promoting Uniting Church congregations and their Christmas activities.

Your contribution to the Mission and Service Fund makes a difference to communications in the Uniting Church in Queensland and helps promote the church's ministry and mission in the wider community.



Financials

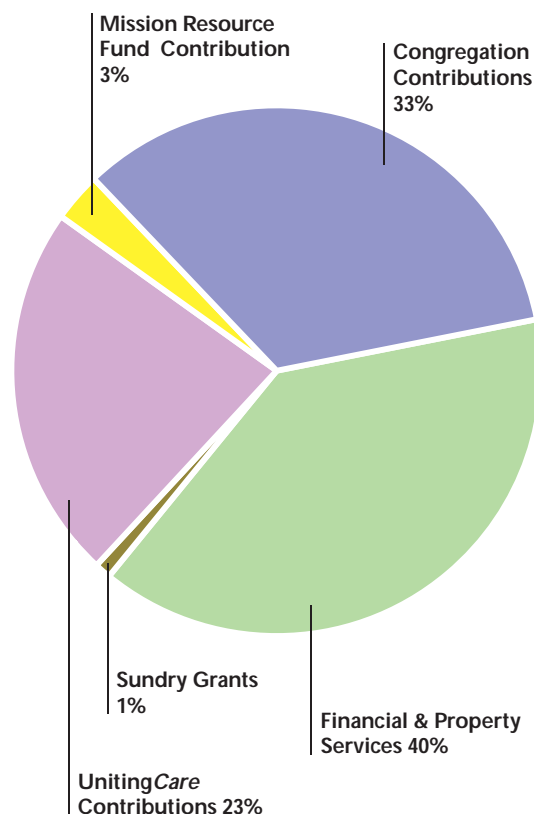
Concise Consolidated Statement of Financial Performance

	2005	2004
Revenue	14,792,242	15,225,361
Other income	448,254	8,310,585
	15,240,496	23,535,946
Employee benefits expense	(5,933,222)	(5,855,417)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(630,230)	(737,219)
Finance costs	(52,835)	(66,422)
Gifts, donations and grants	(1,715,587)	(2,412,646)
Lease expenses	(135,958)	(112,106)
Other expenses	(4,315,803)	(4,414,625)
	(12,783,635)	(13,598,435)
Surplus from continuing operations	2,456,860	9,937,511
Surplus (deficit) from discontinued operations	(2,515)	(2,101,074)
Surplus for the period	2,454,345	7,836,437

Concise Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	2005	2004
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	15,221,413	13,670,166
Trade and other receivables	4,437,094	4,504,127
Inventories	37,998	39,390
Total current assets	19,696,505	18,213,683
Non-current assets		
Trade and other receivables	1,493,688	1,604,495
Other financial assets	26,629,305	22,716,932
Property, plant and equipment	32,921,218	33,570,866
Total non-current assets	61,044,211	57,892,293
Total Assets	80,740,716	76,105,976
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	9,439,672	6,842,729
Short term borrowings	0	815
Short term provisions	419,210	383,256
Total current liabilities	9,858,882	7,226,800
Non-current liabilities		
Long term borrowings	16,907,138	17,307,228
Long term provisions	213,895	287,368
Specific Purpose funds	1,609,893	1,628,828
Total non-current liabilities	18,730,926	19,223,424
Total Liabilities	28,589,808	26,450,224
Net Assets	52,150,908	49,655,752
EQUITY		
Contributed Equity	791,288	794,986
Reserves	19,611,489	17,732,178
Retained Earnings	31,748,131	31,138,588
Total Equity	52,150,908	49,665,752

MISSION & SERVICE FUND INCOME 2005



Stephens Uniting is a small congregation bordered by the Brisbane River including the south side suburbs of Yeronga, Fairfield, Annerley, Yeerongpilly, Tennyson and Dutton Park: a predominately older congregation of caring, cohesive people, slowly seeing an increase in numbers as younger people move into inner suburbs.

We are facing new ministry possibilities as God opens us to the community.

We give thanks to God for his transforming grace in our lives as we see people joining our number and ask for patience as God's plan is revealed to us.

Please pray for the world situation with war everywhere. For those driven from their homes and those too frightened to return.

Particular prayer for rain and as much as we need water, please, ask for that water Christ supplies from which we will never thirst. May the Holy Spirit rain on our state and bring revival.

Please lift to God his Uniting Church, that it might be a voice

PRAYER DIARY

standing with the oppressed, searching as a people on the way to be more like Christ. Also, the Wesley Mission Day Care Centre that works from premises within our complex and for the many community groups who use our complex weekly.

We also give thanks for the Pastoral Care lunches, the Night and Day fellowships, home group, the prayer chain and the Hearing Impaired Worship Service with an interpreter that is held monthly and our ability to present Christ at the Yeronga Primary and High Schools through RE. Please pray that God will continue to guide and direct us and that we might have hearts to listen.

17 September:
Aitkenvale

We invite other members of our church to join with us as we pray for the following:

For the leaders of our Churches that they will be faithful shepherds of the sheep.

For the unity of the Church so that together as followers of Jesus we may faithfully witness to the Gospel of reconciliation and love.

For the Uniting Church in Australia and the Church throughout the world; giving thanks for those faithful servants who through the ages have been agents of God's love and justice; and for those who today bring healing and hope to those in despair.

That in a world in which bigotry, hatred and violence seem only to increase and prosper, and where people are violated physically and psychologically, we may be peacemakers and agents of grace, not only seeking justice for those who have been damaged by violence but also seeking healing for those who do violence.

That we may be granted wisdom as we seek ethical answers to those scientific issues of our time such as the use of stem cell technology.

That the Uniting Church and other Churches in Australia and throughout the world may find truth in understanding on matters relating to our sexuality in a spirit of love and humility.

24 September:
Blackwater

The Blackwater Uniting Church is a small congregation with a big heart located in the Southern Coal Fields of Central Queensland.

Blackwater, like so many mining towns has a transient community. Many of the families have moved to the bigger towns or the coast, which means the 'bread winners', reside here part time.

Our worship is led by lay people on the first Sunday of the month.

We are able to celebrate Holy Communion with our lay president with the permission of our presbytery. We also celebrate baptisms.

The congregation is heavily involved in community: eg seniors, Christmas appeal, and combined churches committee (all 7 of us).

We give thanks for those who have come before us and led the way by forming and sustaining the church and the church building in Blackwater.

We give thanks for the ones whom God has sent to educate us on 'being community' and 'survival'.

We give thanks for the ones whom God continues to send to encourage, assist and affirm us.

We ask prayer for the continuation of the RE program in our shire and for the Combined Churches Committee that organise it.

We ask prayer that our minds and hearts be open to God's will for our community as we work towards goal setting for 2007.

Catherine Mullan



Members of UAICC with new chairperson Vince Ross and UCA President Rev Gregor Henderson. Photo by Kim Cain

UAICC sets sights on strong leaders

'TOMORROWS LEADERS Today' was the theme for the triennial national conference of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress held at Alexandra Park on the Sunshine Coast from 26 June to 1 July.

The largest UAICC conference to date (attended by over 150 Congress participants from around the country) was evidenced by a strong sense of determination by all present to identify and implement the avenues and measures necessary to affect positive change to their lives and communities.

Participants converged in mixed and regional groups to chart their present environment and create a ten year vision for their respective regions.

Whilst the vision for each region was different, they had the common goal of creating spiritual, social and economic opportunities that would lead to a better quality of life.

The conference theme reflects the growing importance the Indigenous community and Congress is placing in identifying and nurturing its own leadership to drive and sustain change.

Congress media officer Ramon Peachey said strong leadership is needed now more than ever.

"In an era when stagnant and even declining socio-economic statistics still continue to confront Aboriginal and Islander people, the need for effective and visionary leadership from within our own communities is more than ever critical."

Congress youth articulated their hopes and dreams for the future and brought to the floor some very timely proposals that will no doubt spearhead the creation of opportunities. Elders shared their years of wisdom and were recognised for their special place in the life of Congress.

Vince Ross was elected new UAICC National Chairperson and Ken Sumner as Deputy Chairperson. Congress offered respect and gratitude to outgoing Chairperson Rev Sealin Garlett.

Uniting Church President Rev Gregor Henderson and Assembly General Secretary Rev Terence Corkin also attended the Conference to share in worship and meet members of the UAICC.

Methodists agree on salvation through grace

WORLD METHODISTS agreed to endorse a 1999 Lutheran / Roman Catholic agreement on the doctrine of justification (how human beings reach salvation) at the World Methodist Council (WMC) in Seoul, Korea 18-19 July.

Members of the governing body met in advance of the World Methodist Conference to sign the joint declaration stating that salvation is achieved through God's grace which then encourages Christians to undertake good works.

General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation Rev Ishmael Noko said the agreement was groundbreaking.

"We have overcome a theological difference which has divided western Christianity since the time of the reformation."

Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican's top official for promoting Christian unity, agreed saying, "Today is one of the most significant dates in the history of our churches."

During the Council, John Barrett from the United Kingdom was elected President and Paulo Lachman from Brazil as President elect.

The conference was attended by 3000 delegates who discussed key issues including Korean re-unification, the conflict in the Middle East and church attendance numbers.

Reportedly, first-world countries with liberal theological emphasis and formal traditional worship styles are seeing numbers drop dramatically. However, the World Methodist Church has grown by one million members per year for the past five years.

South Australian Uniting Church minister Rev Ken Anderson said the friendship and hospitality of the host city was beyond anything he had experienced.

Rev Anderson said he was, "Incredibly grateful to God for the opportunity of attending as one of the small Australian delegation."

Delegates made the front page of the *Seoul Times* when they released 500 balloons after a worship prayer vigil on the boarder of North and South Korea.

WMC priorities for the next five years include evangelism, communication and technology, youth ministry, justice, peace and poverty, the environment and supporting churches.

Catherine Mullan



Balloons about to be launched at WMC. Photo by Steve Francis



**PRESBYTERY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**
RESOURCE/ DEVELOPMENT MINISTER
NORTH WEST REGION

The Presbytery is seeking a Minister of the Word or Deacon for Resource/ Development ministry in the North West congregations of Port Hedland, Karratha and the North West.

This is a challenging, exciting ministry requiring an innovative approach and outlook in this rapidly expanding mining/export area of Western Australia.

Is God calling you and your family in a new direction?

Enquiries and applications with profile should be directed by 6 October, 2006 to Associate General Secretary (Pastoral), Presbytery of Western Australia, GPO Box M 952, PERTH WA 6843. (Ph: 1300 736692; email: marion.millin@wa.uca.org.au.

Flying in for a fly wedding

Another tale from the Uniting Church's outback flying pardre

By Garry Hardingham

I really love a woman who knows her own mind. Or as one of my mates used to say, "a tough Sheila!"

You know a woman who makes her mind up and then lets neither flood nor famine deter her in her quest.

A few months ago, Teresa and I flew a School of the Air teacher down to a station called Craven's Peak south west of Boulia, on the edge of the Simpson desert, for a home visit.

While we were there drinking tea and having a good yak, the neighbour, Shae, from Carlo came over and joined us.

As we were chatting Shae asked whether I did baptisms.

"Of course I do", I replied. And so we organised a date for the baptisms of her two children.

After another cup of tea and a yak she asked, "I don't suppose you do weddings, do you?"

"Of course...why?"

"Oh...no reason...just curious."

After another cuppa, Shae left in a cloud of choking dust and we settled into a wonderful lunch.

About 2 hours later the roaring of an engine and the re-emergence of the cloud of dust announced the return of the neighbour.

But this time she brought a bloke along with her.

"Right", she said, "This is Woody and here's all the paperwork stuff we need."

With that she pulled out all the birth certificates and stuff she

needed as well as the 'Notice of Intended Marriage' ready to go... talk about organised!

I looked up at Woody and asked, "Are you right with this mate?"

With a typical laconic drawl he replied, "Yeah...suppose so...we've been shackled up for a while...and we got the kids...best we got hitched I suppose."

Now this was probably as close to an affirmative I was gonna get and so we filled out the forms and set the date for wedding, the same date as the baptisms.

The day arrived and the mob gathered at Carlo for the big day with their utes and cartons of beer and swags...it was gonna be a big night!

But they weren't the only ones who came along for the celebrations.

So did 47 million flies!! (No, I didn't count them...just an educated guesstimation).

They were everywhere and where they weren't originally they soon got to!!

Up ya nose, in ya ears, in ya eyes, down ya throat.

They were shocking!!

But in typical bush fashion, nothing was gonna spoil the big day.

Whilst Woody was attired in his favourite hat and some duds drawn out of his 'Saturday night at the pub' selection, Shae had spent the last four weeks driving to Mount Isa and damaging the credit card on a wedding dress and shoes and hair and all that other stuff that I'm dreading when my girls get hitched...eventually....Reminds me, better start saving now!

With the sun setting over the radio tower and the dust finally

settling, Woody, myself, family and friends and 50 million flies (yeah, they heard there was a celebration going on so they invited their mates) waited for the cloud of dust in the distance that would announce the arrival of the bride.

Now, a tip for people who don't like bush flies...wear a white wedding dress.

Cause whilst everyone else looked like they were dressed in chocolate chip biscuits, Shae had not one fly on her dress...not one.

Mind you her hair, shoes, legs, arms and face were coated with the blighters...but not the dress!

The wedding vows went something like...

"I Woody...spit spit...take you...pewhew...Shae...damn flies...to be my...O bl*dy hell...wife...swat swat...to have and to...O buzz off ya sods!!...hold"...and so on.

You get the picture. At one stage the bride stood there gagging on a fly that managed to get past her gritted teeth.

In the end I couldn't but help say, "and so in the presence of God and your families and friends and 60 million flies (they also heard there was gonna be tucker there too) I pronounce you husband and wife." I think even the flies cheered.

The baptisms followed and you can imagine how that went...especially when it started by fishing 7 drowned flies out of the baptism bowl.

And to top it off we had cheese, bikkies, damper and beer to celebrate.

And I was glad the sun was going down, cause I really didn't want to know whether the black spots on the damper were currents or...well you can guess!!



John Gill serves on the ministry team at Merthyr Uniting Church. Photo by Kim Cain

Proud to be Uniting Church

By Mardi Lumsden

AT A TIME when some were threatening to leave the Uniting Church, one new-comer left ministry in a Pentecostal church and found what he had been looking for at the Uniting Church.

Pastor John Gill said in the Uniting Church he saw a community that reflected the Gospel; a community that wasn't perfect and wasn't scared to admit it.

"I witnessed a church which truly tried to reflect the Apostle Paul's notion of unity through diversity."

As the minister in a Brisbane Pentecostal church Mr Gill did some theological training through the Australian College of Theology.

"Suddenly the fundamentalist approach to Scripture, God, and life, didn't ring true for me any more."

"Nor did I feel comfortable with the theology of the movement any longer."

"I knew without doubt, that I was called to be a minister, but no longer with my previous church, so I commenced searching, thinking, and praying, over a number of years."

When he started looking into the Uniting Church, Mr Gill found many aspects excited him.

"I could walk the difficult but true middle road, and minister as I felt God was calling me to."

"And that unlike the schisms of church history, I saw before me a church that was actually formed by coming together in union, despite their differences, rather than being torn apart by side issues that had

nothing to do with the gospel...I pray this continues."

But there was one issue that particularly interested him in the Uniting Church.

An issue he says he could not even discuss in his former denomination. The issue of homosexuality.

"In an age where gay people have been marginalised, persecuted and condemned for their struggles, particularly by the churches, I find it refreshing that a church would be bold enough to even contemplate discussing the issue, and what that might mean for us as Christians."

"I don't believe we have to walk the fundamentalist or liberal path, and the question is not about "pro" or "anti" anything...its about: what is the gospel, and what can we do to be faithful followers of Jesus?"

"We need to remember the place from where we have come; a place where diversity has joined in union... the union that attracted me to this church...a union that Jesus promised will continue to witness to the world, that we are his disciples."

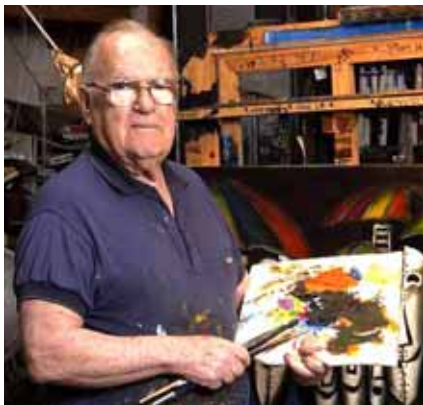
After a year of working in partnership with Rev Chris Holden at Merthyr Uniting Church, in New Farm, Brisbane, Mr Gill continues to be excited to be a part of the church.

"I am proud to be a member of the Uniting Church!" he said.

"We have a great church."

"Let's love it, support it, struggle to keep it honest, but let's remember what we have, and let's not forget the wonderful history of union, because it is our future in following Jesus, as his gospel works in and through us."

Pro Hart: Painting light out of dark



PRO HART whose exuberant paintings of outback life delighted generations of Australians died in his home town of Broken Hill earlier this year.

A sturdy and uncomplicated Christian he was nevertheless a complex man.

He was an inveterate scientific experimenter.

He called himself a stirrer and held robust political views.

As a lover of fine art he acquired a multi million dollar collection of top Australian and European artists, one of the biggest in Australia.

A man of immense wealth he remained an open hearted soul.

He gave and gave on a scale to match the boundless horizons of his beloved Mundi Mundi Plains and Barrier Rangelands, with never a thought for public acknowledgement.

He made millions of dollars and he donated millions to charities, appeals, causes and battlers.

While his art was exhibited and sold on the world stage, he gave expression to his religious ideals as a Gideon in a humble way at home in Broken Hill by hand-painting and giving away thousands of New Testaments, each decorated vividly with his favourite symbol of the dragon fly.

Aged nineteen in 1947 he had gone from the station property of his youth to work underground as a miner at Broken Hill.

It frightened him but it also inspired some early serious paintings of the world below.

He said that in painting the flickering lamp-lit territory of his fears he was able to "get light out of dark".

He was wary of church hierarchies and aligned himself with no denomination.

When asked about his faith and his painting, he said, "I don't consider myself anything. It's only Jesus in me."

"I truly believe in my heart that God has allowed me to reach this place of success to honour him."

"All this fame puts me in a great place to bring glory to God."

Originally published in *FrontierNews*

D T Niles: an evangelist in dialogue

By John Roberts

DANIEL THAMBYRAJAH
Niles (1908-70) was a Sri Lankan Methodist minister who became a popular preacher, evangelist, and ecumenist.

Like E. Stanley Jones he was an advocate of indigenising the gospel.

His image of the gospel as a pot-plant needing to take root in the soil of local culture became widely known and used.

Niles first set out his position on the relationship of Christianity to other religions in the Lyman Beecher Lectures which he delivered at Yale Divinity School (USA) in 1957.

In Niles' view the missionary must enter the world of other religions not with the approach of comparative religion or

"The teachers of other religions are concerned with winning acceptance for the truths they teach."

Niles held to the necessity of conversion, to work and pray that people of other faiths and no faith would turn to Jesus Christ.

But he asked: "Can we convert?" And he answered: "No, and we are not asked to."

"Our task is to lift Christ up in word and in life, and it is his promise that he will draw men to himself."

While Niles proposed an evangelistic approach to Buddhists, this was to be no brow-beating form of evangelism.

He did not consider other religions devoid of worth. Indeed, he held there is a hidden presence of Christ in other religions.

An in-depth study of other religions is necessary in order to discover this hidden presence.

Further, Niles held that Christians must also enter into dialogue with believers of other religions to learn more about Christ.

"An evangelist who in the process of evangelism does not himself learn more about Jesus Christ from the man to whom he is talking...is not engaged in evangelism."

"He is engaged in propagating Christianity, which is a very different occupation."

We can learn a good deal from DT Niles to help us in our modern inter-religious journey.

In his earlier years he had a fairly dogmatic stance toward other religions but it softened over time.

While holding to the importance of evangelism, he asserted that other religions are of worth and Christians could learn from them.

Nevertheless, his overtly evangelistic approach would present difficulties in inter-religious dialogues today.



comparative religious psychology but with evangelism and missionary responsibility.

Fundamental to Niles' vision of Christianity and other religions was a distinction between proclamation and teaching. "The Christian faith can be proclaimed.

"The other religions can only be taught...The Christian evangelist is primarily concerned with evoking obedience to Jesus Christ.

Discerning God's will in the Uniting Church

JOURNEY ASKED Broadwater Road minister Rev Bruce Johnson how the Uniting Church determines what is the will of God.

It was no surprise that Mr Johnson began with a quote from the *Basis of Union* to explain that when we want to explore how the Uniting Church seeks to govern its life, we have to begin with our understanding of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

"Paragraph 15 of the *Basis of Union* says that, 'The Uniting Church acknowledges that Christ alone is supreme in his Church, and that he may speak to it through any of its councils,'" said Mr Johnson.

"Unfortunately we tend to think that the UCA is a democracy, so people want to use surveys and questionnaires to find out what the majority think, and say that this is what the church should do.

"We have come to believe that

the will of the people expresses the will of God, however the Bible clearly shows that very often the majority of the people, even God's people were wrong.

"Sometimes it was the lone voice that spoke God's word for God's people."

Mr Johnson said the first thing to understand is that the Uniting Church has a series of inter-related councils (Congregation, Church Council, Presbytery, Synod and Assembly) and that these councils are not there to determine what the majority think, but to discern what God thinks and what God is saying to his people.

"In the Uniting Church each council of the church has its own sphere of responsibility, and while each are expected to listen to the insights of the other Councils, one cannot interfere in the areas of responsibility of another."



Nudgee College Students Luke (left) and Jackson (right) with stall coordinator Graham Ross.
Photo by Mardi Lumsden

Ekka food fare from faithful flock

ONCE AGAIN The Gap Uniting Church, the Grove Uniting Church and Ashgrove West Uniting Church provided food and drinks for thousands at this year's Royal Brisbane Exhibition.

The stall, at Machinery Hill, was a hit with many 'Ekka' goers particularly because of the healthy food options as well as typical Exhibition fare.

Church volunteers worked tirelessly to cook, clean and serve and with the help of students from Nudgee Secondary College, the stall was a great success.

JOURNEY

Advertise in Journey

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

For rates and information visit www.journeyonline.com.au or call Mardi on 07 3377 9795

Advertising and editorial deadline for October *Journey* Friday, 8 September

WHAT'S ON

Wednesdays (during Term time), 9.15-11.30am. GUCCE – Gap UC Craft Experience, 1050 Waterworks Road, The Gap. Contact church office on 3300 2712 or email thegapuc@iinet.net.au.

August 8-October 22, 2pm. Search for Life (A Life Keys Course).

An adventure in growing deeper through personal spiritual development. Redcliffe Uniting Church. Contact Louise Hobson on 3283 4066 or redcliffec@doventq.net.au.

August 17-November 30, 6.30-9pm. Living the Questions DVD and Discussion series. West End UC. \$30 for 12 sessions. For more information visit www.progressivespirituality.net.

August 25-September 16. 40-hour Calling & Caring Lab 1 course. Trainers Rev Peter Arnett and Mrs Pauline Thomas. Registration form and details available from Emmanuel Church office email euca@doventq.net.au or phone Rosemary on 3355 2162.

August 26-September 16, 9am. Operation Encounter. Three workshops on "How to have faith conversations" Saturday 26/8; 2/9 and 16/9 9am - 12pm. Exploring world views through behaviours, values and beliefs. Redcliffe Uniting Church. Contact Peter Armstrong on 32834066 or redcliffec@doventq.net.au.

August 30-September 1. Trinity North Queensland short courses 'Leadership.' Townsville Central Uniting Church. More details contact Trinity NQ Co-ordinator Rev Hedley Fihaki on 4032 3966 / 0401 698 934. hedley@ Cairns.unitingchurch.com.

August 31-September 2. Sandgate Uniting Church Craft Fair. 116 Board St, Deagon. Phone Bobbie 3269 6565 or Jean 3265 2412.

September 2, 11am-4pm. Bremer Brisbane Fun Day. At Allawah Scout Park, Allawah Rd, Chuwar (UBD 173 Q9). Contact June Rice on 3202 7045.

September 4. Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Annual Service at Boonah Uniting Church, 10.30a.m. Morning tea from 9.30a.m.; Praise singing at 10.15a.m. BYO Lunch and enjoy fellowship with others after the service.

September 9, 7-9am. Dealing with the changing world for men. Redlands Sporting Club, Wellington Point. Speaker Doug Winten is a family therapist and ordained minister. \$10 inc breakfast. Book by 6 Sept. An activity of churches in Capalaba, Alexandra Hills and Birkdale. Contact Geoff & Ruth Alcorn 3824 4204.

September 16, 9.30am. Nostalgia Fun Day at Caloundra Uniting Church, Cnr. Queen & Ulm Sts. Parade and display of vintage cars. Fashion parade, displays, demonstrations, children's games. Refreshments available.

September 21. International Day of Prayer for Peace. This year the World Council of Churches calls all churches to join faith communities worldwide September 21 in observance of the International Day of Prayer for Peace. Prayers and resources available on the Decade to Overcome Violence web site: <http://overcomingviolence.org/en/about-the-dov/international-day-of-prayer-for-peace.html>.

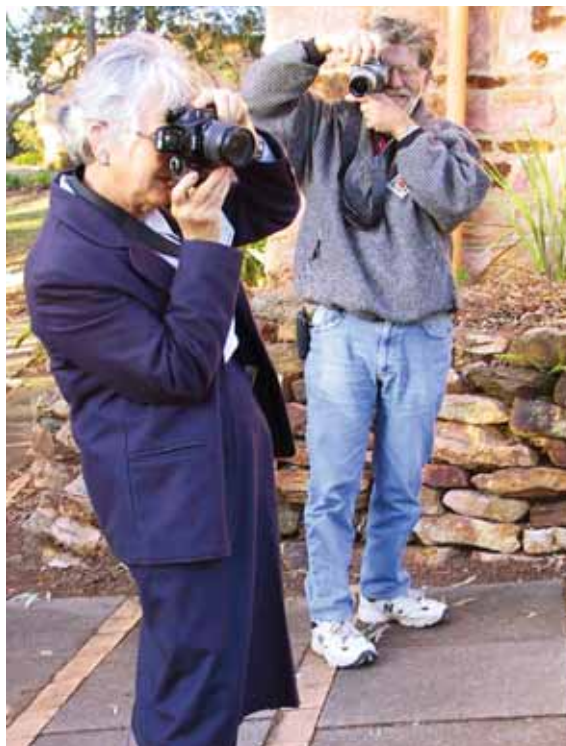
September 29-October 1. Visionaries art exhibition. Opening night Friday 29 September, 6.30-9pm. Saturday 30 September, 10am-4.30pm. Sunday 1 October, 11am-3pm. Artists' dedication service, Saturday 5pm. Merthyr Uniting Church, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm. Contact Geraldine Wheeler, 3437 8743.

October 17. Anti Poverty Week. White Arm Band day.

October 20-22, Asia Focus Weekend - OMF International (Qld) at UC Alexandra Park. Information and prayer about East Asian countries where OMF is at work. Bible study leader: Mark Robinson, Director of Intercultural Studies, Bible College of Qld. Induction of Peter and Mary Chen new Qld State Director/s on Saturday night. Inquiries to OMF Qld office 3359 2758 (Tues-Thurs).

29 October, 5.30pm- late. JAM at Emmanuel Uniting Church, 249 South Pine Rd Enoggera. More info at www.emmanueluc.unitingchurch.org.au.

Want to promote an event?
Email mardi.lumsden@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au
with the subject 'What's on' or fax (07) 3377 9796



Shirley and Thom Holm work on their photographic technique.
Photo by Bruce Mullan

Media trainees get the picture

SHIRLEY AND Thom Holm from Stanthorpe practised their skills in digital photography at the Media Training Day in August hosted jointly by *Journey* and the Brisbane Anglican paper *Focus*.

Workshops also provided training in writing press releases, using email communication and local church web design.

The training day exposed local congregation newsletter editors and staff to the professional skills of religious journalists and communication experts.

Journey and *Focus* staff understand the importance of church newsletters as this is one of the first things people see when attending a church service.

The day was designed to assist people who make these congregational publications achieve the quality they strive in an up-to-date format.

This cooperative venture in media training will be offered again in 2007 with an expanded ecumenical base.

West Papua appeal launched

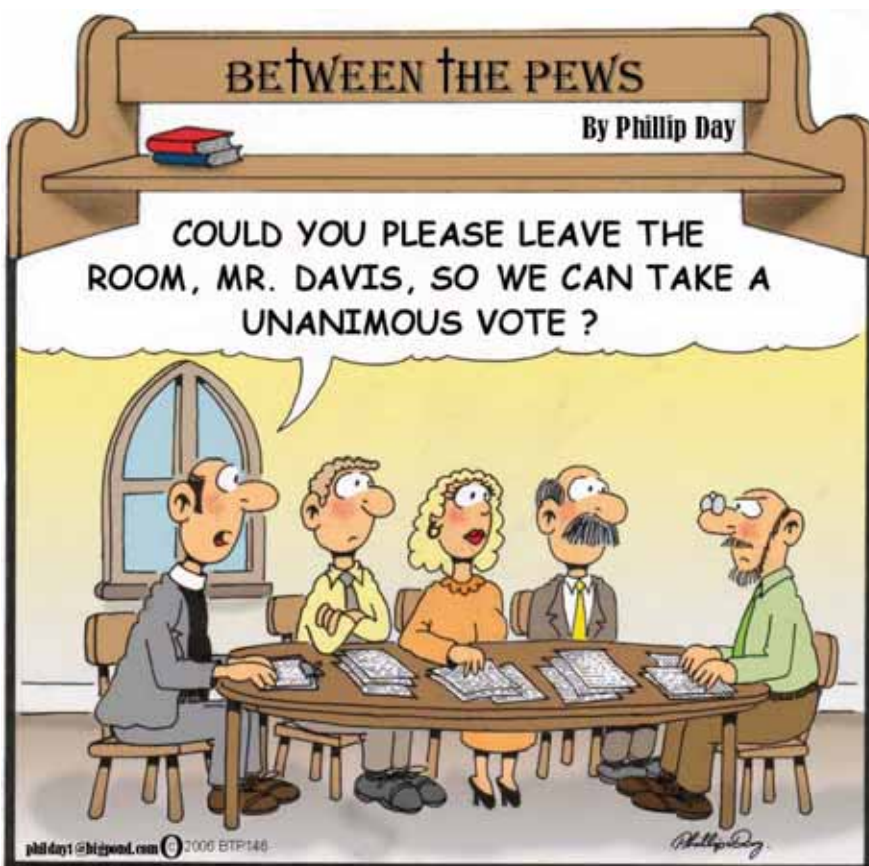
UNITING CHURCH President Gregor Henderson launched a national appeal for West Papua at the recent Assembly Meeting in Brisbane. The appeal suggested a retiring offering be taken and many congregations have already done this.

A resource book has been produced and mailed to all congregations. It contains worship resources along with background information explaining the situation in West Papua. This resource book can be downloaded from <http://uim.uca.org.au/uim>.

Congregations that have not yet made use of this resource are encouraged to do so and to make a contribution to support the work of our partner church in West Papua.



Uniting Church President
Rev Gregor Henderson



Retired Uniting Church Minister Rev Dr Bill Adams provides a fresh and inspiring look into the sayings and parables of Jesus in his latest book *The Radical Kingdom*.

The book is designed to provoke and excite readers with the counter cultural impact of Jesus' message about the ever in-breaking reign of God into human society.

Dr Adams claims that Christians and the church have all too often buried the raw edge of Jesus' teachings, "They have been put to bed by a sleepy church that simply wanted things to stay as they were, they have been passed over by gung-ho evangelicals who didn't understand how evangelical they are."

They have been hidden by ecclesial revisionists and they have been buried by people like me. It's time to open them up again."

And open them up he does! In 13 short chapters Dr Adams dives straight into many of the familiar

teachings and stories of Jesus but usually with an insightful twist or a personal confession that gives the well known words an added poignancy and challenge.

"Radical" is an apt descriptor because the book goes straight to the jugular; tapping the very roots of Jesus' teachings about God's rule in everyday human affairs. Loaded with personal anecdotes *The Radical Kingdom* expresses how Jesus' parables provide meaning, focus and power for living beyond our personal comfort and safety zones.

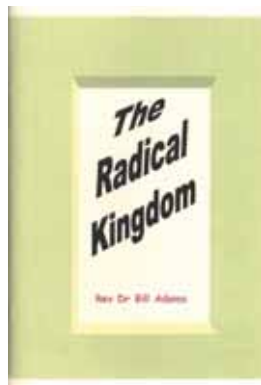
Challenging in content, and grounded in solid biblical scholarship, *The Radical Kingdom* is nevertheless an easy read, conversational in tone.

In 86 self published pages, Dr Adams has provided a great resource for group discussion or personal reflection. Each chapter concludes with a set of questions that makes it very leader-friendly for small groups.

REVIEWS

With a fresh approach that challenges traditional assumptions *The Radical Kingdom* will also be valuable for use in groups that include agnostics, spiritual seekers or people of other faiths as well as Christian believers.

Graham Beattie is a mission consultant with the Queensland Synod



Home with God in a life that never ends.

By Neale Donald Walsch
RRP \$24.00 (paperback)

This book is the conclusion to the "Conversation with God" series and represents a considerable challenge to the hope of salvation through Jesus.

All the books in this series are presented as unaltered transcripts of a dialogue between the author and God.

Home with God in a life that never ends records a divine dialogue about questions of death, and what happens after death. In the process Walsch and "God" cover much about the purposes for life and the universe.

Astonishingly Walsch manages to craft a comprehensive belief system that presents life as an eternal adventure in oneness with God, yet denies the existence of sin, evil and thus the need for salvation.

In the process the book also gives insights into the aspects of Christianity that have been presented and received poorly in the emerging western world.



Home with God in a life that never ends uses everyday language and is a comfortable read, but it should be read with care as the informal style can allow you to forget that you are reading a book designed to radically change your Christian perceptions of God.

I hope that there are Christians out there willing to engage in the questions and possibilities that this book raises.

Like previous books in the series it will be both representative of, and influential on, the beliefs of the new age (new spirituality) movement so it provides an excellent idea of what we will face in evangelism into the future with regard to beliefs on life, death and salvation.

Tim Trudgen works with Indigenous Australians as a cross-cultural consultant and is currently studying anthropology and theology part-time

Compassionate Community Work

By Dave Andrews
Piquant Editions
RRP \$39.95

This is a dangerous book. It looks clean and safe and predictable. But it isn't. It's sneaky. It starts to mess with your head and your heart in unsettling ways.

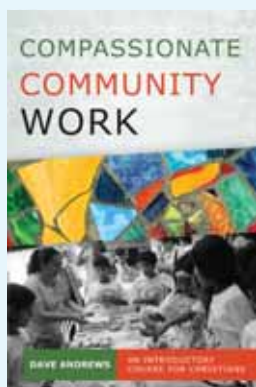
I'd only got to page six before I started to feel deeply stirred inside – an unsettling combination of a deep ache, a deep longing, and a deep hope. I could feel all the contradictions, the pain, the frustrations, the outrage, the boredom, the disappointment, the desperation, the sheer why-the-hell-do-I-keep-bothering-with-it-all? and why-is-it-so-hard? – all the feelings I had about my experience of church – starting to churn somewhere in the depths.

Because that's where Dave had asked me to go – deep down – to reflect on something that was both precious yet painful.

I did manage to keep my nerve and only a few pages on, I began to feel a little inspired by the possibility that, in the gospels and in its theology, the church has both the foundation and the potential for being the kind of radical Christian community that I have felt drawn to but unable to build in to the circumstances of my life.

And from there, I was hooked – by turns inspired, provoked, confronted and surprised, and, in the end, challenged by the sheer practicality of engaging in compassionate community work.

Compassionate Community Work is written as a course text book, but unlike any text book



I've read, it doesn't keep its subject matter at arm's length.

It challenges me about instrumental friendships – about a preoccupation with church – about making the focuses of my life everywhere else other than the very place where I live. It plunges me deeper into my own life – my faith and my ideas – and it calls forth a response that means I may not be the same person at the end of this book than when I started.

Compassionate Community Work is an easy read, but not a comfortable one. It is very engaging and absorbing, yet you constantly have to put it down because you need time to assimilate and wrestle with the ideas that clash with – or sometimes clarify – your own preconceptions.

I commend this as a book that takes seriously what it is to be truly human, from the pen of someone who tries harder than most to live it.

David Busch is a religious broadcaster & commentator. *Compassionate Community Work* is available from www.lastfirst.net or www.tear.org.au



Carlton Draught's Big Ad
Commercial Television
A commentary

It is over a year since Carlton Draught's *Big Ad* appeared on Australian television screens. It's the familiar commercial with thousands of men dressed in yellow, red and white kaftans running through a valley somewhere near Queenstown, singing about being in a big ad to the tune of Carl Orff's rendition of *Carmina Burana*.

The *Big Ad* came close to winning the top award at the Cannes International Advertising Festival this year and helped grow sales of Carlton beer in New South Wales by nearly 23 per cent.

Part of the attraction of the *Big Ad* is sheer bigness. 300 actors were turned into an army of three thousand using Massive, the same software used in the making of *Lord of The Rings*.

A small group of people can have a large vision and pull it off, with the help of a few creative people. A classical Biblical example would be Gideon's army of 300 men in the book of Judges, who overwhelmed their opponents with the use of lighting effects.

Many Australians warmed to the *Big Ad* because it poked fun at the advertising industry itself. Here was a promotion that didn't take itself too seriously.

I was reminded of this at the Assembly public gathering in Brisbane in which Sue and Chris Chapman with friends performed hilarious sketches written by Tony Pitman.

Younger generations in particular respond to forms of irreverence that make true reverence accessible.

The Uniting Church shares the challenge of effectively communicating good news with the Australian community. We can learn a lot about how Australians think and respond by taking note of effective television advertising.

We can do that while remaining true to the call of Jesus to be true to God's big vision for the world.

Duncan Macleod reviews television advertisements every day on his blog, Duncan's *TV Ad Land*, www.duncans.tv



Read more online

www.journeyonline.com.au



THE RADICAL KINGDOM



12 Studies by Bill Adams on the Parables of Jesus, for private or group use.

Here are words to turn the world upside down and secrets more exciting than a Dan Brown novel, amazingly relevant for us.

Just \$7 incl postage. Email: bpadams@optusnet.com.au or ph: (07) 3715 7735

LETTERS

Getting them done is not good enough

Parents, with one simple proposition in mind, make a move from home to Church. "We want our baby done".

The Church, a specialty business, acts with the facility of a convenience store. It is not a question of exploring needs, but a repetition of "I want". No refusal, and no fee.

Hundreds knock on church doors each year, a busy congregation, on average, handling more than one a week.

After the ceremony the parents kiss the church goodbye, never to be seen again! Promissory absenteeism! Evidence that exposes them. Declarers of public vows which are now lightly held, or abandoned.

To be sure, a tiny bit of faith is at work in our clientele. They believe enough in the church to come to it!

They have their deep feelings and good intentions. Baptism of their child seems timely, right and proper.

But not quite enough faith for parents to put a halo over their life and home.

Here they are – coming as strangers, confused and shy. Tip-toeing through foreign land.

Their assumption? That getting the baby "done" was dead easy! Just another shop transaction!

They are now learning some of the implications. And a little responsibility! They come to us from a pleasure-loving, enticingly secular world – prisoners of culture.

When they asked the church for a favour, "please make it simple" they had in mind a "dead easy" ceremony.

Now they are facing demands, vows and promises.

What they most fear is becoming too religious!

They recall, from a dim past, that the church is waging war against the world, the flesh and the Devil.

Now they were into it – involved by choice!

In the ceremony they are expected to give public assent to the belief "that the Gospel enables us to turn from the darkness of evil and to walk in the light of Christ". Wow!

Baptism, at any age, is the start of a new and never-ending adventure. That is why "getting the baby done" is such bad language. It means "over-and-done-with". Complete. Finis.

It is a common mistake. The ceremony is far from the end.

According to the Church, it is the start – a whole new set of experiences and relationships.

There is no doubt: Too many of those who committed themselves to baptismal vows let the show down. A pastoral question arises: Would it be wiser, more courageous if a fitness standard was introduced?

Philip Ramsay
Manly West

This is an extract from a very long letter which can be read in full at www.journeyonline.com.au

Have your say

Letters to the Editor may be edited due to space limitations.

Post: Journey GPO Box 674 Brisbane 4001

Email: journey@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au

CLASSIFIEDS

Accommodation

Fantastic location for beachfront holiday in charming cottage at Currumbin Beach, Qld. Vacancies available 2006. 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.

Holiday unit, modern, pool. 100m from Kings Beach Caloundra from \$300/wk. Ph Ray 0427 990 161.

Announcements

Passover & Easter next year in Jerusalem. Join Rev Dr Geoff & Mrs Lorraine Pankhurst on pilgrimage to Israel, Greece & Turkey, including Gallipoli & Churches of Revelation. Details ph 4698 7824.

Journey would love to receive donations of the following working equipment to assist with daily press monitoring. One 34cm (small portable type) television and one (electric powered) radio. Contact Bruce Mullan on 33779801 or email journey@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au.

Email your classified advertisements to mardi.lumsden@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au or fax 07 3377 9796

Thanks for liberation

It was so liberating to hear that there is no original sin (May Journey), no Adam or Eve and that death, sickness, suffering, animal killing animal and human killing human in this world has been going on for 4.5 billion years (age of earth at this time, it keeps changing) is all part of God's design and plan for His creation.

Also to now find out that it is not our fault but just part of God's creative method (survival of the fittest, my genes must be passed on) is such a relief. There is nothing to be forgiven for.

In my 30 odd years of Christian walk no one has told me that the *Basis of Union* and the Bible are wrong so thank you for enlightening and liberating me from this deception.

Well I must go, might see you in church one Sunday..... hang on! No sin. No Redeemer. No need for salvation. Blow this I'll play golf on Sunday or take the kids camping.

Trevor Gaulke

Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea

John Wesley's wisdom

"In like manner she will listen to the preaching of John Wesley in his Forty-Four Sermons."

So says the *Basis of Union*.

There is a Wesley quote familiar to many Methodists: "I am not afraid that the people called Methodist should ever cease to exist... But I am afraid lest they should only exist ... having a form of religion without the power. And this will undoubtedly be the case unless they hold fast ... the doctrine, spirit and discipline with which they first set out."

As we are being advised by Assembly to live in unity/diversity and relegate doctrine, it is interesting to see what Wesley said in the applicable Sermon 34, Catholic Spirit.

It is a most challenging message on living in loving acceptance of others.

However, doctrine is not ignored to the extent that he says that "a catholic spirit is not speculative latitudinarianism."

"A man of a truly catholic spirit has not now his religion to seek... He does not halt between two opinions."

It is clear that Wesley says that if your doctrine is not based on the apostolic witness to the person and work of Christ in scripture then all the talk about unity is not applicable.

Bruce Gulley
Moggill

Peace via obedience

Answering a knock on the door there they stood, you know who I mean, they visit us all. Their question, "Is it possible to have peace in the world?"

My answer, Ladies it's possible to have peace in the world and in the church within five minutes, if we all follow a simple formula.

Just obey the rules as written in God's word.

Sadly some write their own rules, some twist the meaning of God's word, some ignore God's word altogether, and some try to obey God's word.

Success in the church and in the world depends on our obedience, and without obedience we end up with the mess that we have today. People doing their own thing.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "the call to discipleship demands a response of obedience, not a confession of faith, not the saying of a particular creed, not even the making of a religious decision, but obedience to the word of God and determination to live the way He bids us to live".

EC Willmann
Capalaba

Reshaping creation

Greg Cooney in his letter "Reshaping Creation" (August Journey) shows a lack of understanding of evolution.

I am not saying that evolution is easy to understand, but where does Greg get his information from, *The Watchtower*?

I have often heard Jehovah's Witnesses debate like that - have you ever seen a monkey change into a human being?

There is no question that shows greater ignorance of the theory of evolution than the above!

And if that surprises any reader they should read *The Origin of Species*.

Need I tell you that Jehovah's Witnesses are not even allowed to read it!

Science is beholden to telling the truth even if the truth offends the believer.

Science is not interested in destroying religious beliefs, but we have a problem if we accept that God is the God of all truths.

If we get to know the Bible and its metaphors we need not see religion and science as incompatible or contradictory and God remains the God of all truths and all can rightfully worship him in union.

Len Notenboom
Elanora

Tapping into prayer

Television reported the Heads of Churches with the Premier of Queensland exhorting us to 'pray for rain' to overcome the desperate situation facing south-east Queensland.

This was followed by a letter to the editor in *Journey* calling us in the same direction with the old caption 'prayer changes things'.

Over my life-time I have noted that when we are in a desperate situation we press the panic button of 'prayer' looking for God to answer at our bidding.

With this concept of God and prayer no wonder so many people see the church as irrelevant.

I want to say emphatically that prayer does not change things.

What I do believe is that God can bring change in human minds which will enable us to face difficult situations that gives us wisdom to see new ways of facing a difficult problem, and gives to humanity the ability to change and find new directions.

Prayer is more than words offered to a divine being, it is being in an intimate relationship with God, it is being in tune with God, living my life with dependence on the divine resources of the Spirit, and offering my life to the way of Jesus Christ.

Rain is but one solution to our water crisis. God has given us the minds to develop technologies to purify sea water and waste water that can be used with no risk in human consumption yet we allow this answer to the need for water to be another political football.

We allow our prejudices, our fears, and our political survival to control our inaction, while God has supplied an answer to our crisis.

Yes, my friends, I will not pray for rain as if God were a tap to be turned on or off as we might desire, but I will pray for wisdom to move forward, so that the needs of all will be met.

Rev David Lowry
Wurtulla

A note of thanks

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the musical articles in August *Journey*.

It was good to read that music is so important, not just for the pleasure of making a joyful noise, but in comparison with the spoken word in worship.

Thank you for such an interesting issue.

Jan Maxwell
Stephens Uniting

Ian Jones joins *Journey* each month with his cartoon *Pearly Gates*



FAST NEWS

Celebrating 50 pioneer years

A LIFETIME of commitment and dedication by many local families has provided care to the elderly in the community for half a century.

The dream of pharmacist and member of the Barolin St Methodist Church in Bundaberg—Mr JB Heaps and of Rev TG Lithgow, minister at Bundaberg, led to the building of the Pioneer Memorial Home for Aged People.

On 14 July 1956 Pioneer

Memorial Home was dedicated and officially opened before a crowd estimated at 3500.

The 50 years since have seen the faithful growth of the facility to provide the foundation and the resources managed by Blue Care today.

To those Pioneers, the Bundaberg community and especially the older generations, owe a great debt of gratitude.



Rev TG Lithgow signs the building contract for the Pioneer Memorial Home for Aged People in Bundaberg in 1955



Left to Right: Jann Stuckey MP (State member for Currumbin) Dave Thomas (Chaplain), Margaret James (Principal) Judy Campbell (Chairperson of TLCT)

Pastor now official school chaplain

SCRIPTURE UNION has appointed Pastor Dave Thomas, Community Minister at Tallebudgera Community Church, as Chaplain to Tallebudgera State School two days per week, a move the school has enthusiastically supported.

Margaret James, Principal of the Tallebudgera State School said, "This will provide an important and significant additional resource to our school community".

Rob Davey, Gold Coast Regional Manager of Scripture Union said, "Mr Thomas has established effective connections

with kids, parents and teachers alike."

Mr Thomas and the congregation at 'Tally' see his ministry with the school as part of the church's mission and witness into their community.

"Why try and run extra programs for kids at 'church' when there is a well respected, existing and substantial 'kids community' already happening just down the road? It's about being a presence and allowing our actions to speak of the lifestyle choices we have made. It's a wonderful, exciting and challenging ministry."

Edna makes 100

A GOLD COAST woman who witnessed the beginnings of Uniting Church agency Blue Care 53 years ago has celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends.

Edna Brandon whose husband Norm managed the finances for the Methodist Mission in West End, inner Brisbane, which began Blue Care (then known as Blue Nursing) is now a resident of Blue Care Pineshaven facility at Elanora.

"Blue Care is my home. The staff here are wonderful – they tell me all the time I don't look a day over 80, which is always very flattering," Edna said.



Living treasure Edna Brandon at home with Blue Care

Emma-Kate gets marching orders

ORDER OF St Stephen candidate Emma-Kate Moore finished her work for the Queensland Synod's Youth and Children's Ministry Unit in August.

After spending a year working at YACMU, Ms Moore was surprised by the things she had achieved.

"I think it is amazing to see what comes out of giving your time to serve without any agenda about what might transpire," she said.

"I ended up publishing this journal called *The Fridge*. I never came here thinking I would be co-author and graphic designer of a book!"

The Fridge is part of the YACMU's Growing Apostles concept, a five year discipleship focus, and is the hands-on tool for youth, young adults

and youth leaders to provide practical ways to live out the different characteristics of discipleship.

Ms Moore said the Order of St Stephen allowed her to find her true calling.

"I have really enjoyed the opportunity to grow in character and to take the focus off career. There is so much emphasis on performing and following the onwards, upwards into glory trajectory of life."

She said it was great being able to, "Take time out where you can just serve and focus on growing in character and all the things you need to just serve when it is not your own ambition that you are following.

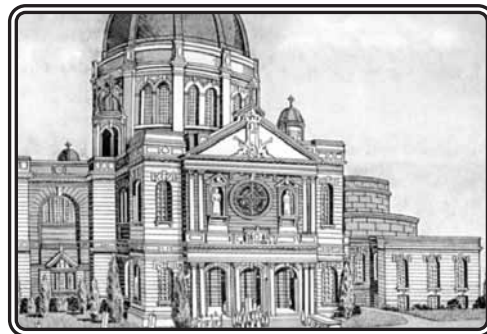
"I think that is really valuable for finding out truly what is you and what you really feel called to.

"It is totally worth it for the badge!"



Authors Tom Kerr (YACMU) and Emma-Kate Moore (Order of St Stephen) work on the final draft of *The Fridge*. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

Historically Speaking



THE CATHEDRAL WHICH NEVER WAS

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

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

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

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

Alex Gow Funerals

A Brisbane-owned family business, established in 1840.

Phone 3852 1501

JOURNEY asks...

How do you experience the Gospel lived out in your role as a Chaplain?



Craig Collas

BEING A Chaplain with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and a minister of the word in that environment has been a remarkable challenge.

The Uniting Church has been described as a church that "shares with the Australian people in the search for meaning, purpose and community in life and is committed to justice and reconciliation between people."

This is a great description of the job of being a chaplain.

I walk beside people in their times of need and confusion, journey with people as they ask the big questions, and walk beside the families and friends of people who have lost their lives in the service of their country and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

I draw confidence not just from my faith but also from what I know of the Church.

In journeying with the people of the RAAF I don't see myself as separate from the church but as part of the church sharing with people in their search for meaning and purpose in the Australian community.

In a conversation earlier this year a person said to me, "I don't go to church. I don't know if I believe, but..."

That "but" turned out to be a well thought out faith statement.

It is in these conversations as people seek meaning and purpose that I believe the church is present through the ministry of chaplains.

The ADF has a clear vision of what it believes faith can do in people's lives and this is interesting as it shows some of the ways the vision of the church is held beyond the church walls.

In its official documents the ADF describes faith as something that enables people to act with courage in adversity as well as an enabler of ethical decision making and behaviour.

Recently in the hills outside Ballarat on a planning exercise for a search and rescue mission I was asked to start the day with prayer.

Now these people, from various Christian denominations and some from none, were eager to hear a word of encouragement.

They sought strength for the long long day, so they could focus beyond the pain of going up another hill to the reality of being there for someone else.

I see my ministry in the RAAF very much in the terms of who the church is in its mission.

I also believe that this is not my task alone but one that we are all called to by the Lord of the church.

Captain Craig Collas is a Minister of the Word serving as a Chaplain with the Royal Australian Air Force.

Rose Joyner

WHEN I first went in to Woodford, I wondered how I could possibly connect with these fellows whose lives were so different from my own.

I commented to one young inmate that I had no idea what life must have been like for him and his reply was that he had often wondered what a normal home would be like, having spent his young days either around the streets of Redfern and in various boy's homes in Sydney.

Now he had begun to realize what a waste his life had been.

This fellow had started coming to the church services there and was beginning to discover his need of God and a different way of living.

I was able to connect with one chap through music.

He was playing a guitar and singing a great song when I came across him. It was a song he had written himself.

We talked about what wonderful therapy music is.

He turned up at church some time later and was obviously in a deep pit of despair so I made a point of going to see him and discovered that his partner had said she no longer wanted anything to do with him and that also meant losing contact with his children.

Everything that was important to him had been taken away.

He said he was at the crossroads of his life and he knew he had to follow the way of Christ.

He no longer wanted to make music unless he could be authentic.

We talked at length and prayed together. He knew the way ahead was not going to be easy, but he knew it was going to be different.

There have been so many instances when I have felt that I have just been in the right place at the right time.

In conversation with one guy recently I said "Your life is on hold while you are in here."

His reply was: "I will be even more angry when I get out, because I will be treated like a leper."

"No one wants to know you, including your family, and no one will employ you."

"Even my own father no longer trusts me."

When you sit with these "outcasts of society" among the garbage of their lives it feels as though you are on holy ground for Christ is truly present.

Rev Rose Joyner is a Deacon serving as a Prison Chaplain at Woodford Correctional Centre.



Helen Prior

CHAPLAINCY IN the mental health unit has become one of the highlights of my week.

Originally something I approached with a degree of uncertainty as to what I should be doing and how I should be interacting with patients (or consumers, as they're known in the system) I now approach it with anticipation that I will be challenged both in regard to my own capacity to interact appropriately, and in my own personal growth.

While I provide pastoral care to individuals in the unit on request I also lead two weekly discussion groups, one in each wing.

The groups begin with my asking if anyone has anything they would like to discuss.

As a result, we might major in just one issue, or we might cover several.

Discussions can be quite profound, or very disjointed and hard to follow if there are



a number of delusional people in the group. One of the most memorable groups

I participated in involved a very diverse membership: agnostic, Muslim, Buddhist and Christians of various persuasions.

At least half the group had attempted suicide at least once.

An agnostic woman asked us to discuss whether or not God exists, which led on to a discussion of the nature of God.

The amount of agreement in the group was surprising, and some of the insights about the nature of God were profound.

In fact, some of them brought up aspects of God I had never considered before, and am still contemplating. (I have found that people with a mental illness are often very spiritual and have thought deeply about God in relation to suffering, and so for them to expand my thinking is not unusual.)

At the end of the discussion the woman who had asked the original question told us she was being discharged on the weekend,

and had intended to take her life but, as a result of the discussion, she had changed her mind.

Various members of the group then gave her encouragement and offered support to help her live rather than die.

Recently the opportunity to work with some members of the therapies team has become available, and so together we are working on a programme which is to include sessions on topics such as peer support, forgiveness, and loss.

This is also exciting and opens up more opportunities to minister to, and receive ministry from, this group of people who are so often marginalised and neglected.

Being a chaplain in this area is a privilege I am indeed grateful for.

Rev Helen Prior is a Minister of the Word who has served for 12 years as Chaplain at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane.

journeyonline.com.au is the online news service of the Queensland Synod.

In addition to articles from the print version of *Journey* you will find extra articles, extended versions of articles, more reviews, opinion, links to other news and events, discussion groups, what's on and full PDF downloads of back issues of print *Journey*.

Bookmark www.journeyonline.com.au on your browser now, or sign up for an RSS feed, to keep up-to-date with all the latest Uniting Church news as it happens.

JOURNEY