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# Hi Ho, Hi Ho

## It's off to work we go

For many of us, the work we do can be a chore, mere gainful activity, a means to an end, or a source of great joy and purpose. This issue of *Journey* looks at work.

From the time humankind was thrown out of the garden it was condemned to the sweat of work in order to provide the basic necessities of life; but it was German political economist and sociologist Max Weber around 100 years ago who first coined the term "Protestant work ethic".

The ethic came from the Reformers - Martin Luther who believed that people could serve God through their work and John Calvin who saw work as an outward sign of salvation.

For Calvin, who saw work as core to God's purposes and the Spirit as the energising powerhouse for life, those who were idle and apathetic were obviously among the damned, while those who were active, austere, and hard-working were clearly among God's chosen.

The Protestant work ethic was seen as a defining value in Northern European societies and other countries where Protestantism was strong, and was regarded by many as the foundation of national prosperity.

A product of his time towards the end of the feudal system, Luther also believed a person should work diligently at their own occupation and should not try to change from the profession to which they were born, as God had assigned each person to their own place in the social hierarchy and to change would be to go against God's laws.

Now, it is estimated that those starting work in 2008 can expect to change jobs seven times during their lifetime and, while Australians are enjoying a level of wealth that previous generations could only have dreamed of, 48% claim they are overworked and 70% say they are working more.

The world of work has changed and will continue to do so; the challenge for the church will be to develop and clarify appropriate theologies of work, and to engage its members in creatively exploring the intersection of faith and work.

By Bruce Mullan

### More about work

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# Called from before we were born

YOU MAY be familiar with the verse from Jeremiah 1:5: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you."

Inevitably there is a fair element of mystery in these words. However, I take them to mean at least that we all exist in the heart and mind of God before our human existence begins at the moment of our conception.

I want to suggest that, if this is the case, then we are called (and "consecrated") to be participants in the life and work of the Kingdom of God even before we are born.

This may be a mystery, but it is a sacred mystery.

From that point of understanding I invite you to leap in your imagination to the time of your baptism, for in our baptism we are marked with the sign of the cross and receive the promise of the Spirit.

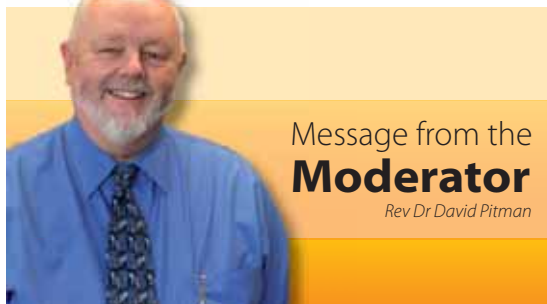
Quite properly, therefore, our baptism is the earthly sign of what God has already accomplished: both our ordination into Christian ministry and the assurance that God will bless us with the spiritual gifts that ministry requires.

Theologically speaking, this interpretation of the meaning and significance of our baptism makes it clear that there is only one ministry into which every one of us is called, and that the exercise of this ministry is life-long.

It is a ministry that will be expressed in many different ways and is not dependent on age, or gender, or degree of life experience; only on our willingness to become what we already are in the mind and heart of God.

A church that understands and believes this will rejoice in and make provision for the participation in ministry of its children.

It will celebrate and affirm and integrate into its life the giftedness



## Message from the Moderator

Rev Dr David Pitman

and energy of its youth and young adults.

It will intentionally seek to identify appropriate avenues of service for those whose primary focus is on family life and the nurture of their children.

It will continue to find ways of engaging older adults in meaningful discipleship that also

**"We always need those willing to offer themselves for full-time ministry, and not enough are doing so at this time."**

allow for the formation of younger people for leadership in the life of both church and community.

I was privileged to spend my childhood and youth in congregations that valued and trusted their young people so much they consistently gave them the opportunity to exercise leadership, nurtured and encouraged them along the way, and affirmed them in what they did. That was more than 50 years ago!

My journey in discipleship took me into ordained ministry, but my initial experience was no different from that offered to my contemporaries in those congregations at that time.

The point I'm making is that Christian ministry takes a great

many different forms, but it is the same call of Christ that we all hear.

Clarity about the nature of our service becomes clear as we follow Christ and pay heed to our sisters and brothers who share the journey with us.

I was greatly encouraged by a conversation I had earlier this year with a 12-year-old boy following a Sunday evening service.

It was very apparent that he already had a clear sense of God at work in his life.

With the guidance and support of his minister he is exploring the implications of that reality for his future.

I said to him what I say to every young person with whom I have a conversation about vocation: "Never forget as you make decisions that will influence the direction of your life into the future, that one of the options available to you is some form of full-time ministry within the specified ministries of the church."

The reason I always say that is simple.

Every one of us is called to serve Christ faithfully in the context of our daily life, but we always need those willing to offer themselves for full-time ministry, and not enough are doing so at this time.

It may be that you are one such person and have been in the heart and mind of God from before you were born.

You might like to ponder that possibility for a while!

## From the Editor

What are the first three questions people usually ask each other when they meet socially? What is your name? Where are you from? What do you do?

So much of our self identity is wrapped up in the work we do and, unfortunately, our culture has increasingly been built around the need to be defined and valued by what we do, not who we are.

In the work world, many employers require long hours and face-to-face time, and reward us with affirmation, recognition and advancement.

Intuitively we know and even confide to one another that we're sure this was not how "things were meant to be", and many take up a lifelong quest to obtain more harmonious lives.

But we are trapped in a paradox of competition between the desire to be productive and efficient in the work we do, and our need to enjoy a satisfying family, faith and personal life.

Research by the Australian Institute of Family Studies found more than 40% of men and 30% of women aged 30-49 years felt work interfered with home life.

So, some decide that work doesn't really work any more and drop out, but most of us labour on to avoid the ingrained Protestant guilt surrounding any thoughts that we might be indolent, lazy or underachieving.

Long before we entered the world of work, as children and young people we had learned what work was about.

From watching our parents and other significant adults in our lives, we had already developed our attitudes about whether work was a necessary evil, a means to make money, a means to find fulfilment, to do good, whether it was part of our human destiny and defined our very humanity, or whether it was our Christian duty.

Such patterns and attitudes can last a lifetime if we don't take the time to stop and reflect on our life balance.

And the whole question of whether we have a life and identity beyond our work becomes increasingly important as we race towards retirement.

Our work is important but, if we have attached too much significance to our work, we run the risk that it becomes the meaning to our existence.

And when we are no longer in paid employment...

Bruce Mullan

## Sign of the Times



NO, THEY were not having a drug session in their church Sunday afternoon. The Burdekin Uniting Church in North Queensland was following through the book of Acts and their topic for the week was the stoning of Stephen.

Minister Rev Paul Clark said they were being provocative to people's thinking and wondering. Photo by Paul Clark.

Send your Sign of the Times to [journey@ucaql.com.au](mailto:journey@ucaql.com.au).

## JOURNEY

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# New funeral concept dissolves bodies

By Bruce Mullan

WITH GROWING ecological pressure on the funeral industry, a new option of dissolving bodies is creating interest.

The *International Herald Tribune* reports the process known as alkaline hydrolysis was developed 16 years ago to dispose of animal carcasses.

It uses strong chemicals, 145-degree heat and four kg/cm of pressure to break down the bodies in large stainless-steel cylinders similar to pressure cookers.

The sterile, brownish, syrupy residue can be flushed down the drain.

In addition to the liquid, the process leaves a dry bone residue similar in appearance and volume to cremated remains. It could be returned to the family in an urn or buried in a cemetery.

There are no funeral directors currently using the process but two US medical centres use it to dispose of cadavers donated for research, and some in the funeral industry say it could one day rival burial and cremation because of environmental advantages.

"It's not often that a truly game-changing technology comes along in the funeral service," the US newsletter *Funeral Service Insider* said last September but, "we might have gotten a hold of one."

Gaining acceptance for the process is expected to be a major challenge as psychopaths and dictators are typecast as using acid or lye to torture or erase their



Photo by Steve Rabin, iStockphoto

victims and the idea will cause revulsion in many people.

Director of Alex Gow Funerals in Brisbane Mr Brett Gow believes there will be new developments in methods used by the funeral industry but the take-up will be very slow.

"Even cremation is not that old in Western society but it's become a standard now with about 70% of Brisbane funerals being cremations.

"It's tradition and dignity they are up against," said Mr Gow who doubts alkaline hydrolysis would find ready acceptance in Australia.

Mr Gow said British funeral directors were offering "Green Burials" where there is no coffin and people are buried in a canvas bag.

Critics of cremation claim there are air pollution issues, even the fillings in our teeth contribute to the mercury in the atmosphere

and cremation can release dioxin, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, sulphur dioxide and carbon dioxide.

*National Geographic* reported that actor James Doohan, who played the beloved engineer "Scotty" in *Star Trek*, had his ashes shot into space.

Doohan was one of many people who reject traditional burials and choose highly personalised goodbyes.

Mr Gow said many see the traditional funeral as too costly and ecologically unsound.

"People are always looking for different ways and better ways and I'm sure something will come along, but whatever it is will have a slow take-up," he said.

Alkaline hydrolysis is legal in the USA in Minnesota and in New Hampshire, where one Manchester funeral director is reported to be keen to offer it.



AS DETAILS of the tragic reality of the Burma cyclone continue to emerge, Uniting International Mission, through its relief and development division Uniting Church Overseas Aid, has launched the UCOA Burma Cyclone Appeal.

"For many years the Uniting Church has stood with the Burmese people and many refugees as they have suffered at the hands of, or fled, the repressive military junta. We commit ourselves anew to supporting them in this moment of need," said Rev Gregor Henderson, President of the Uniting Church National Assembly.

"As the doors of Burma open to aid agencies, the UCOA Burma Cyclone Appeal will be a central contributor to the efforts of partners in responding with the compassion of Christ to a devastated nation."

The Director of Uniting Church Overseas Aid Rev Kerry Enright has also urged members of the Uniting Church to pray for the leadership and members of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar, the Methodist Church (Upper Myanmar), the Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar) and the Myanmar Council of Churches.

Donations to the UCOA Burma Cyclone Appeal can be made through [www.overseasaid.org](http://www.overseasaid.org), phone 1800 998 122, PO Box A2266 Sydney South NSW 1235, or email [overseasaid@nat.uca.org.au](mailto:overseasaid@nat.uca.org.au). Gifts of \$2 and more are tax deductible

## Flood recovery help still needed

WHILE THE Emerald community is slowly recovering from the effects of major flooding at the beginning of the year, Uniting Church Minister Rev Russell Reynoldson has said that people are still tender and emotional reserves are low.

Mr Reynoldson said they are making steps in the right direction to enable the restoration of their community and church life but has appealed for some financial support for the congregation.

The Emerald Congregation has an annual income of approximately \$85 000. In their budget for 2008, they planned to raise \$12 000 through fundraising events such

as fetes and market days; however, the Church Council is concerned that there isn't much 'spare' money in the community this year and to try to find that money through fund raising will be an incredibly difficult task.

The May meeting of the Synod Leadership Team approved an appeal to the wider church to assist the Emerald congregation because of the effect of the floods and their reduced capacity to fundraise this year.

Gifts from congregations and individuals can be directed to The Treasurer Emerald Uniting Church PO Box 24 Emerald 4720

## New leaders serving the bush

THE QUEENSLAND Synod has appointed two people to new positions in rural ministry.

As a result of conversations between presbytery representatives and participants at the Rural Summit (held in Rockhampton in 2006) it was decided that two Rural Ministry Coordinators would be appointed to provide ministry services to the rural communities.

Karyl Davison was commissioned as a Lay Pastor and as the Rural Ministry Coordinator for the presbyteries of Mary Burnett and the Central Queensland.

Rev Marius Kruger was inducted into the position of Rural Ministry Coordinator to the Presbytery of The Downs.

Prior to coming into this position Mr Kruger, originally from South Africa, worked as the Scripture Union District Coordinator for outback chaplains.

Ms Davison was born in and spent her formative years in far North Queensland.

She told *2tribes* (a publication of the Presbyteries of Central Queensland and Mary Burnett) she was excited about her new position.

"I look forward to walking with you as together we seek to live out

our faith in our congregations, our communities and the world," she said.

Before taking up the role of Rural Ministry Coordinator Ms Davison

was Associate Director of the ELM Centre, which is responsible for lay ministry education for the New South Wales Synod.

By Mardi Lumsden



Rural Ministry Coordinator Karyl Davison. Photo by Bruce Mullan

## A partnership approach

Established more than 40 years ago, U.C.I.S began based on the idea that by combining our resources and working together we can achieve great things.

Today, nothing has changed; supporting Uniting Church congregations and organisations in achieving their mission is still the core of our business.

Whether it's helping a Treasurer with their church's cash flow, using Giving Direct to manage tithes and offerings, or by offering flexible investments with competitive interest rates, we partner with you to further God's work.

To find out more, call us or visit our website at [www.ucis.com.au](http://www.ucis.com.au).



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# Thursday Island manse takes shape

THE RESPONSE to the Thursday Island Manse Appeal overwhelmed the people of the North Queensland Presbytery and Thursday Island minister Rev Lawes Waia.

The final amount raised was over \$69,000, more than the required amount for the work needed.

The extra money will be put in a fund to assist with the upkeep of the building over the years ahead.

As well as donations, around ten people offered to help with the building itself.

The working party consisted of Uniting Church members from Bowen, the Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba, and was on Thursday Island for two-and-a-half weeks around Easter.

Team Leader Brian Ross said the team gelled well with one another and with the Thursday Island congregation.

"We had great fellowship, lots of fun and laughter, and serious times

of prayer and devotions," he said.

Despite moments of chaos in the house, Mr Waia and his wife Kay were very thankful for the work that had been done.

"We thank the gifted men and women... who came, saw and conquered all," said Mr Waia.

"You all were amazing and extraordinary in the way you displayed your natural and spiritual gifts and talents.

"We also enjoyed your company with us over the two-and-a-half weeks you gave in the renovations work and also in worship and fellowship."

Mr Waia also thanked North Queensland Presbytery Minister Rev Bruce Cornish for his leadership and support.

"It is hard to find people these days of such calibre, but when you find them, make use of them."

Mr Cornish was also amazed by the support from the greater Uniting Church.

"Your generosity reflects the generosity of God who sent Jesus to be our Saviour," he said.

"We are so grateful."

Mr Waia said, "We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for thinking of us in our time of need.

"We can also say that the Uniting Church in Australia is a great church of people always ready to help and reach out to those in need."

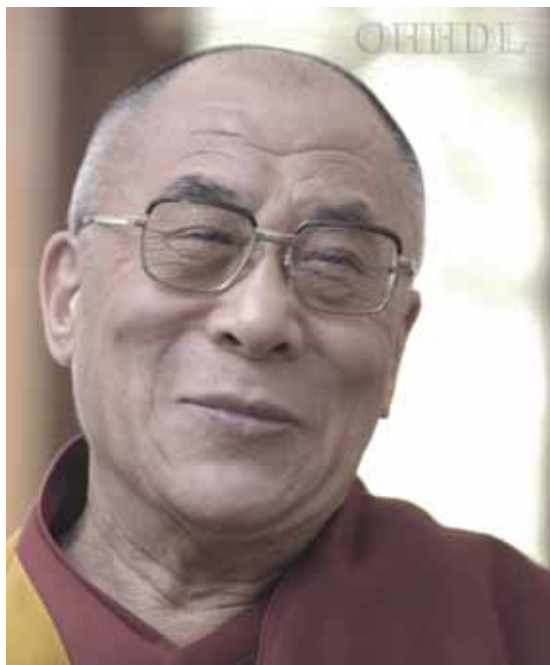
The work party was Brian and Lynn Ross, Sandra Shepperd, Denise Williams, Kevin Schneider and Colleen Plane from Kawana Uniting Church, Jennifer Loats from Maroochydore, Bruce Chamberlain and Barry Smith from Bowen and Neville Brown from Toowoomba.

Mr Cornish also thanked the builder Dave Kennedy and his son John for their good work and very cooperative manner.

By Mardi Lumsden



On the job: some of the working party on Thursday Island.  
Photo courtesy of Brian Ross



Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and exiled Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama.  
Photo courtesy of [www.dalailama.com](http://www.dalailama.com)

## Dalai Lama's followers maintain inner serenity

NOBEL PEACE Prize Laureate and the world's best-known Buddhist monk the Dalai Lama is the political and spiritual leader of Tibetans worldwide and, by tradition, is also Tibet's absolute political ruler.

After the invasion of Tibet by China in 1950-51, the Dalai Lama fled the Tibetan capital Lhasa and was given asylum across the Himalayas near Dharamsala in India.

There, in McLeod Ganj in Himachal Pradesh (the Himalayan state of India), the Dalai Lama and many other Tibetans live in exile and have established a modest Buddhist temple.

In April the Director of the Queensland Synod's Pilgrim Learning Community Rev Dr Robert Bos travelled to Northern India where he met with some monks at the temple who told him a little of their plight and, in

particular, of the recent violence against their people back in Tibet by the Chinese authorities.

"While they no doubt grieved deeply at the pain of their people, the still exhibited an inner serenity which astounded us," Dr Bos said.

"A few hundred metres down the road, several dozen Tibetan student hunger strikers were in the seventeenth day of their hunger strike.

"They had been brought up in Tibet but had come across the border for education.

"We found one who spoke good English and he told us how deeply pained they were at the recent crackdowns by the Chinese authorities."

Dr Bos said the student told them of the one million Tibetans who had lost their lives under the People's Republic of China.

"The students demanded the recognition of an independent

Tibet, the cessation of killing and torture, and the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet as the legitimate spiritual and political leader of the nation.

"We felt a little helpless, but assured them we would pray for them, and that we would contact our own government and the Chinese embassy in Canberra to lend our support."

By Bruce Mullan

## Ipswich church proves ageless

IN APRIL Ipswich City Uniting Church celebrated 160 years since the commencement of regular Methodist worship.

Almost a week of celebrations were had around the event which remembered the first church service in Ipswich (then called Limestone) and the subsequent commencement of regular worship in 1848.

Celebrations also involved a mayoral reception hosted by Councillor Paul Pisasale, which was attended by around 140 people.

Other activities included an evening of Methodist hymn singing, displaying a collection of church memorabilia from the past 160 years, and a worship service with guest speaker Uniting Church President Rev Gregor Henderson.

One of the pieces of memorabilia was a remarkable Minute Book from the Lay Preachers' Meetings from the 19th Century detailing the keen and dedicated involvement of lay people, usually men, in the life of the church.

The celebrations will continue at Ipswich City Uniting Church in July when their building, the oldest in continuous use for Christian worship in Queensland, will be 150 years old.



Ipswich City Uniting Church in Ellenborough Steet.  
Photo courtesy of Rev Robert Walker



Southport, Gold Coast  
UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

### MINISTER OF THE WORD

The Southport Uniting Church is located right in the heart of the rapidly growing Southport Business District which is becoming the second major centre of high rise residential and business development on the Gold Coast. It is seeking a full time Minister of the Word, commencing early 2009, to lead the ministry team. This Church in the City which has at its base a wide and varied ministry has the opportunity to pioneer urban ministry in a growing and increasingly diverse community.

The Church has a history of growing its congregations and has developed a detailed strategy to maintain this growth and increase its outreach, service and witness, so as to help people discover their life transforming relationship with Christ. The congregation is committed to being a risk taking people of faith. It is looking to extend the present empowering leadership enabling it to continue to undertake this ministry of discipleship.

The congregation is totally committed to "Connecting to the City Heart" and invites applications from persons interested in accepting the challenge.

Further information may be obtained from our website: [www.southport.ucasweb.com.au](http://www.southport.ucasweb.com.au) or email — [sportuc@internode.on.net](mailto:sportuc@internode.on.net)

Apply in the first instance to  
Secretary Placements Committee, UCA Qld Synod, GPO Box 674, Brisbane Qld 4001  
not later than **14th July 2008**



# Toowong young adults do church online

THE YOUNG adult congregation at Toowong known as TEA Party is continuing to discover new possibilities for church on the internet.

TEA Party member and website creator David Weddell said that in biblical times the Roman road network assisted early Christians in their ministry and today it is the Internet.

"People like to know what to expect before showing up to church so it's great to have a website that reflects who we are," said Mr Weddell.

The online ministry began simply with emails offering encouragement, appreciation and news.

"As TEA Party grew, keeping everyone 'in the loop' became more difficult, so an e-group was created.

"When an email is sent to the e-group every member gets a copy," he explained.

Now back home in Norway after a year as a TEA Party member, Carrie Anderson is still reading emails off and on just to see what's going on in Toowong.

"I love catching up on all the TEA Party news through the e-mails and look forward to dropping in when I can," Ms Anderson said.

Encouraged after hosting last year's internet broadcast of Australian Christian leaders interviewing Howard and Rudd, TEA Party is trying out the idea of having online conversations.

"Interaction is an essential part of community. The mutual sharing of thoughts and experiences plays a vital role in our Christian journey," said Mr Weddell.

"Church is one hour in a 168 hour week.

"It's great that people who can't make that one hour because of work, study, family or travel can still be part of our community."

Mr Weddell is also interested in the possibilities of facebook and social networking, and how to use them for relationship building and evangelism.

He recommends a free e-book *Facebook for Pastors* at [www.ministrymarketingcoach.com/free-e-books](http://www.ministrymarketingcoach.com/free-e-books).

"It is relatively short at 31 pages but it gives a bunch of good tips for people interested in using facebook.



David Weddell doing church online. Photo by Neil Waldron

The book also proposes that this should be used by every minister."

Mr Weddell said his own facebook site is not that great.

"But I do have plans and would also encourage others to consider the possibilities.

"There may be a church out there whose ministry is growing fantastically and who are quite happy to ignore a growing community of young people - because their church is already overflowing with young adults.

"But for the rest of us, it could be quite handy."

According to Mr Weddell the possibilities are endless.

Visit the TEA Party website at [www.teaparty.org.au](http://www.teaparty.org.au)



John Frankling and Byrn Loneragan of South East Uniting Community: We're building a cathedral! Photo by Candice Marshal

## More than a day of difference

By Phil Smith

AS THE labourer said to the architect Christopher Wren, "We're not just laying bricks we're building a cathedral!"

John Frankling of the Eastside Trinity congregation was one of many Uniting Church members pitching in at Coorparoo Secondary College 'Day of Difference' in May.

The group gave the local school a complete makeover.

"This is about linking with the local community and making

Christ's face visible," said Mr Frankling.

Allied with other local churches, businesses, service groups and the P&C committee, Rev Yvonne McRostie's team built up retaining walls, dug over garden beds, planted and then provided morning tea for 200 labourers.

Members of the three congregations in the South East Uniting Community (Coorparoo, Eastside and Morningside Uniting Churches) jumped at the opportunity when the giant school working bee was suggested.

"More than talking about community once a week," said Ms McRostie, "we're being part of it.

"It was also a great learning opportunity for families to teach their children about giving and serving in the community."

The church hopes differences will be noticeable long after the high school students have graduated.

Chair of South East Uniting Community John Loneragan reckons his people only knew the theory of block laying.

"But we're learning a lot of practical skills in building community."



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

# Research finds keys to keeping youth in church

FOLLOWING CENSUS reports identifying a sharp decline in youth and religious affiliation in the last decade, Australian Catholic University (ACU National) has established a research study into the triggers that maintain a connection between young people and the church.

The "Engagement of Youth in Churches" study was conducted by sociologists and psychologists from ACU National and research partner Monash University to better understand the qualities that youth ministry programs require to successfully engage young people.

Headed by ACU National Professor Ruth Webber, the study drew insights from youth ministry leaders across several congregations including Catholic, Anglican, Uniting and Church of Christ denominations.

Results showed a multitude of factors resulting in successful youth ministry including high numbers within youth groups, a balance between having fun and providing service to others, a split between age groups to encourage exposure to people of diverse ages and the development and maintenance of strong links with local schools.

Professor Webber found groups were able to grow most effectively when skills and knowledge could be transferred from older youth to younger members.

"This study has shown that youth ministry requires a professional approach that provides regular and systematic training for both young people and leaders to enable them to mentor others," she said.

"Within this model, 16 year-olds can help pass on their skills and knowledge to 14 year-olds, who in turn can do the same for younger members; it is about creating a talented, caring and responsible community of young Christians."

The study also uncovered the underlying mechanics which result in thriving youth groups, with the 'bottom-up' method - whereby a small number of young people are provided with programs based on their personal interests and values - proving most successful.

Among the most notable findings was the need for strong support of youth ministry by the parish or clergy and the professional training of youth leaders, which were seen as higher priorities than issues of funding.

Australian Catholic University was established as Australia's only Catholic, national, publicly funded university.

The University empowers its students and staff with a strong sense of social responsibility and concern for the moral and ethical dimensions of their study and their professional and personal lives.



Erika Meercaid (St Peter's Catholic Church), Rev Heather Griffin, and Sarah Klowden (Voices for Justice) shared their experiences at the Micah Challenge breakfast. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

## Micah challenges churches on justice

MICAH CHALLENGE supporters shared their achievements and struggles at an annual breakfast in Milton, Brisbane in May.

Amongst those who were asked to share was Sherwood Uniting Church minister Rev Heather Griffin.

Queensland Synod Justice and International Mission Advocate

Andrew Johnson said the event assisted people to meet with and share ideas with like-minded individuals.

"The Micah Challenge Breakfast was a wonderful opportunity for people from across the Christian traditions to share their passion for justice and, in particular, the eradication of extreme poverty," he said.

The Micah Challenge is part of a global movement of Christian agencies, churches, groups and individuals inspiring and equipping Christians to speak out against poverty and injustice.

For more information on the Micah Challenge visit [www.micahchallenge.org.au](http://www.micahchallenge.org.au)



### Rural Resource Minister—Eyre Peninsula

The Presbytery of South Australia has established six Rural Resource Minister placements to provide resourcing and mission planning functions on a regional basis to rural congregations. These six placements constitute the Rural Ministry Team under the oversight of the Mission Resourcing Network of the presbytery.

Each of the six placements resources a defined geographic region of the state, working collegially with Ministers in placement to resource the whole area, mentoring Lay Pastors, Community Ministers, and other lay ministers, and resourcing lay-led congregations in cooperation with Mission Networks.

Applications are invited from Ministers of the Word, Deacons, or appropriately gifted and trained lay persons for the position of Rural Resource Minister in the Eyre Peninsula region of South Australia.

Applications should be submitted to Rob Stoner, Mission Resourcing Network, UCA in SA, GPO Box 2145, Adelaide SA 5001, email [rob@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:rob@sa.uca.org.au), phone (08) 8236 4244, from whom a detailed job specification is available.

Closing date: June 20, 2008.

Uniting Church in Australia Presbytery and Synod of South Australia



## Website of the month *sermons4kids.com*

[www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com) is a great website if you are looking for a lectionary-based resource for preschool and primary school children.

The site was founded by Charles Kirkpatrick, a Baptist minister in the United States.

Each week the site includes a variety of downloadable copyright-

free resources that are based around a theme.

There's an outline for a children's talk and a variety of worksheets that can be downloaded and photocopied. There are colouring-in sheets that are ideal for preschool children and a selection of word puzzles for primary school aged children.

All puzzles and worksheets are archived, so it is also a helpful website if the lectionary is not followed.

While the site will never replace a fully-resourced children's ministry program, it is a helpful tool that can be used to supplement local resources.

Reviewed by Shannon Short



# Training the master's apprentices

By Mardi Lumsden

DO YOU think you might be called into the ministry?

Have you finished school and are contemplating where to go next?

Then youth worker and Queensland Synod Traineeship Management Coordinator Paul Yarrow may have the answer for you.

The Synod Ministry Traineeship program is for people aged between 17 (having finished Grade 12) and 25 years of age who wish to serve for one or more years in full-time church work while they work out whether God is calling them into full-time ministry.

Mr Yarrow said young people allocated a traineeship undertake a Period of Discernment and a range of tasks which provide opportunity to exercise ministry, usually in a local church.

Tasks can include anything from teaching Sunday School and R.E. in schools to organising events, supervising church property usage, office management and community development activities.

"The purpose of traineeships is to help us as a Synod in recruiting younger people in to full-time ministry, giving them a taste of what ministry is about," said Mr Yarrow.

"The benefits of it are that people who are in it get the chance to live what it is like to be in full-time ministry, not just observe it.

"It is also a chance for the congregations to shape young people in ministry and to contribute to someone in their vocational life, whether that be in full-time ministry or just helping them for volunteer ministry in another place in another time."

Stephen Rothery is currently doing a traineeship with the Moggill and Karana Downs Uniting Churches (with financial assistance from Kenmore Uniting Church) as well as studying part-time at Trinity Theological College.

"All three congregations are very excited to have a part in this, he said.

"It is very beneficial to have them there supporting me, but I think it is also helpful for them to see it playing itself out."

One of three synod trainees, he said the biggest lesson he has learnt so far was what full-time ministry actually looks like.

"I feel now that you can never really fully appreciate what full-time ministry actual entails until you do it," he said.

"There are things it allows you to do that I didn't even think about.

"For example, visiting people, actually going into their homes and having a conversation with them.

"If I am dropping something over to someone's house and they want to chat for 45 minutes, we can do that."

Trainees receive a small wage but, while it cost congregations, it also benefits them in many ways.

Chairperson of the Synod Future of Ministry task group Rev John Mavor said hosting a trainee was a wonderful opportunity for a congregation to sponsor the growth and development of a young person seeking to discern a call to ministry.

"It gives the trainee a wonderful opportunity to prepare for the possibility of candidating for a specified ministry of the church or equip them for significant future lay ministry," said Mr Mavor.

For Mr Rothery, being paid means he can focus his time and efforts on his passion.

"It is more than just getting paid to do it; it is more having the freedom not to have to earn money in some other way.

"You are free to do what your passion is.

"You don't have to spend 40 hours a week to enable yourself to do that."



Ministry trainee Stephen Rothery. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

For more information or an application form visit [www.traineeships.ucaqld.com.au](http://www.traineeships.ucaqld.com.au), email [traineeships@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au](mailto:traineeships@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au), or contact Paul Yarrow, Traineeship Management Coordinator, on 3848 6201

# Barnaby Joyce talks about work

*DO YOU believe your vocation is a way of expressing your faith or is it something that is separate from your faith?*

Politics is very much influenced by my faith - not a blind faith but one that I believe is based on truth, and the more I question the truth the more evident the truth is.

Politics is the battle between ultimate truths, as hard as they are to face, and a convenient avoidance and confusion of causes for lesser motives.

Politics should be a sign of continued reflection on the truths of our nation and the strongest commitment to our nation over the vested interest of self-serving pressure groups.

*What came first: your faith commitment or your political position? Is one coloured by the other?*

Faith first and then the issues that become primary because of faith, such as protection of innocent life.

The ultimate way to pursue these issues is through politics and, furthermore, if you have a strong faith then political involvement is a manifestation of that faith.

There is no such thing as politics without an ideology.

*Has your faith been tested while at work? How did or do you work through such a situation?*

"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." Is this not the message of our Lord telling us

of the reality in all our lives?

My faith is challenged, tempted, and at times empty, but at the conclusion of all events it is a compass beyond comparison whose avoidance will deliver you to your own personal reef of rocks.

That voice in the back of your heart is there to be listened to and if you read it in your Bible, listen with the greatest intent.

*When you consider Jesus and some of the other leading Christian figures, is it possible to separate faith and politics?*

Mathew 22:21 warns us that we should not make religion an excuse to break laws. So we have to influence them.

That can be far more difficult

as it requires concerted effort and commitment.

To separate religion and politics is to desert our religion and accept another.

The creation of a vacuum in philosophy and religion will not remove religion; just remove our religion to be replaced by another.

*What is your understanding of the Christian faith in regards to the early constitutional fathers of Australia? How do you think they thought the Christian faith would (or would not) be ingrained in the constitution?*

The Christian culture was instrumental and, unfortunately, we take it for granted.

It would be ludicrous in the extreme to think Australia would

be the same if settled by Saudi Arabia, China or Japan.

*What would you say to those who say Christians shouldn't be involved in politics?*

If you are not involved, who will be and what views will they espouse?

What will be the answer that is given for the change to the culture of our nation: Christian non-involvement and other religions or philosophies involvement?

Ultimately in Canberra you can have all the beautiful arguments but give me the numbers any day.

Are you part of the Christian numbers, or do others have to cover for you, or does it not mean that much to you to live in a Christian country?

Interview by Mardi Lumsden



Senator Barnaby Joyce delivering his First Speech in Parliament House on August 16, 2005. Photo courtesy of [barnabyjoyce.com.au](http://barnabyjoyce.com.au)



Redcliffe Uniting Church  
UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

## ADMINISTRATOR

This is a Leadership role within the life of our Church to give oversight to the Office and Facilities functioning and the development and equipping of a volunteer base to achieve this. This is a part-time position.

Please contact the Redcliffe Uniting Church Office Tuesday – Friday, 9am – 12pm for a Position Description and Selection Criteria documents. Ph: 3283 4066 or email [redcliffeuc@dovenetq.net.au](mailto:redcliffeuc@dovenetq.net.au)

Please send your application with two professional referees and one personal referee marked "Administrator Position" to Attn: Mr. David Brown, 1 Richens Street, Redcliffe, Qld 4020.

**Applications close: 12pm 16th June 2008.**

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# Why do we work?

By Bruce Mullan

A KEY question for all human beings is the exploration of the meaning of life and the activities which make up our lives.

With work being such a big part of our lives it is important that the meaning of our work is sufficient to sustain us over time as worker.

On a most basic level work is what, for most people, puts bread on the table and, possibly for many, a wide screen television in the lounge room.

As material people, we look to meet our needs for shelter, food, security and transportation and, as aesthetic people, we want to surround ourselves with beautiful things.

We are also competitive and can often be tempted to enhance our self-image and define our achievements by accumulating more material possessions than our neighbour.

As they say, the person with the most toys wins, but the risk of that kind of competitive activity is that it can put us on a relentless treadmill to meaninglessness.

In Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass*, the Red Queen and Alice find themselves constantly running, but stay in the same spot.

"Well, in our country," said Alice, still panting a little, "you'd generally get to somewhere else - if you run very fast for a long time, as we've been doing."

"A slow sort of country!" said the Queen. "Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"

Others will seek meaning in the contribution their work makes to the corporate life of the community, both our own families and the wider civic or church community that we serve.



Rather than simply working for ourselves, we seek to live Christianly by seeing our work as being of benefit to others.

While that may give us a richer meaning for our work it is dependent to a large extent on how long the results of our work might last and whether the benefits to the community are permanent.

In contrast, Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School in Connecticut Miroslav Volf wrote for *Zadok Perspectives* in 2006 suggesting Christians might find ultimate meaning by seeing their work as not being for themselves or

their community, but as an offering to God.

We can see ourselves having been given "dominion over the world" with God as our employer and our work about achieving God's purposes in the world.

Volf claims that when we work for God's interests we are working for God and that our work in cooperation with God gives meaning to that work. In essence we become God's co-workers.

"We make decisions in boardrooms, we flip hamburgers at McDonald's, we clean houses, we drive buses - and by doing that, we work with God and God works through us.

"No greater dignity could be assigned to our work."

Volf claims that God will preserve and make sure that none of what is true, good and beautiful in our work will be lost and the results of our cumulative work will be preserved in the years to come.

"Even in the world to come, I could not meet Gutenberg and not think of the printing press he invented, or meet Einstein and not think of his relativity theory."

Volf says the results of our work may be preserved just in God's memory or as building blocks of the new world.

"The work of each one of us is then a small contribution to the grand tapestry of life, which God is weaving as God created the world, is redeeming the world, and will consummate the world.

"This is the ultimate meaning of our work."

## To think about...

One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important. (Bertrand Russell)

Work joyfully and peacefully, knowing that right thoughts and right efforts will inevitably bring about right results. (James Allen)

Find something you love to do and you'll never have to work a day in your life. (Harvey MacKay)

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. (Proverbs 16:3)

Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing. (Theodore Roosevelt)

The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without one. (Oscar Wilde)

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42)

# Finding God in all of life

By Bruce Mullan

MANY WHO labour in a predominantly "un-Christian" society struggle to know how their spiritual lives relate to their workplace.

Discipleship Formation and Spirituality Consultant for the Queensland Synod Rev Jenny Tymms says that Christians immersed in work, study, housework, and relating to family and friends often find it difficult to make space for traditional models of meeting God in prayer and reflection.

Ms Tymms said people can also end up feeling there is a "Sunday - Monday disconnect": a chasm between how they think and feel in church on Sunday and how they think and behave at work and home during the rest of the week.

After some years researching prayer traditions through the centuries, Ms Tymms believes that the contemplative traditions associated with many early saints of the church can lead to frustration for modern people longing for a richer inner life.

"I remember when, in my thirties, I began searching for a way to live a life more intentionally focussed on God.

"I found my way to the many writings on prayer that existed within the Christian tradition but soon discovered that most of them

were written by men and women in monastic orders.

"As I continued to try to discern what God might be asking of me, the only concrete example I could think of was a life devoted to contemplation lived behind the walls of a monastery.

"I thought that if I wanted to be a saint, I would have to go and find a nunnery!

"But there are elements of the monastic model that are problematic for us today because they create false tensions between contemplative prayer traditions and the rest of life.

"If certain ways of life and prayer are seen as the best forms of spirituality and these require the dedication of a monk or nun (like the dedication of an elite athlete to his or her sport) then those of us who aren't able to spend lengthy periods of time in solitude and prayer might think we are not spiritual; that we are not real Christians."

Ms Tymms proposes a shift in understanding about prayer.

"Spirituality is about our lived experience as disciples of Christ.

"The Reformers offered an alternative to the monastic ideal and taught us that the purpose of life (giving glory to God and enjoying God forever) could be lived out in our ordinary lives in the world.

"Luther and Calvin and the Reformation traditions opened the door to a way of understanding the Christian life that gives hope



Queensland Synod Discipleship Formation and Spirituality Consultant Rev Jenny Tymms at prayer. Photo by Osker Lau

to ordinary Christians who long to follow Christ in and through their every-day lives of family and work."

Ms Tymms believes that our work life and our prayer life can flow in and out of each other and that our relationship with God can be experienced in a whole variety of ways.

"Yes, we do need to find time and space to offer God our full and undivided attention, but it's also

about having a 'right' and practised orientation towards God wherever we find ourselves. This too is prayer.

"Our life in Christ then slowly becomes integral to everything we do.

"As we grow in our willingness to be aligned with God's purposes and to be transformed by God, our lived experience of God and God's ways become more tangible, not only when we are in Church on

Sunday, but also within our ordinary daily activities during the rest of the week."

Ministers, lay leaders, congregations and Uniting Church agencies interested in learning more about discipleship and spirituality can contact Rev Tymms on 3377 9728 or write to her at [jenny.tymms@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:jenny.tymms@ucaqld.com.au) or GPO Box 674, Brisbane 4001

## Church should support workers

DIRECTOR OF the Pilgrim Learning Community Rev Dr Robert Bos said when we think about Christian discipleship, we too often just think about voluntary jobs we do within the church community.

"For most Christians, however, their discipleship is primarily expressed in the workplace," he said.

Dr Bos asks what our faith says about our attitude to our job

"What do we do when we face peer pressure to engage in actions or behaviour we are personally uncomfortable with?

"How do we treat our clients and workmates?

"When is the time to speak about unethical practices?

"How and when can we bear witness to our faith?"

Dr Bos believes people cannot expect their ministers to know all the complexities of every profession and have clear-cut answers for them.

"But we can expect the church to provide a forum where these issues can be explored openly and honestly, with people in the same or similar line of work being brought together to share struggles, support each other, and mentor younger Christians."



Ricky Gervais plays regional manager David Brent in the smash hit series, *The Office*. Photo [www.bbc.co.uk/comedy/theoffice](http://www.bbc.co.uk/comedy/theoffice)

## Learning from *The Office*

By Meera Atkinson

THE GROUNDBREAKING British television series *The Office* with two six-episode series and a

pair of 45-minute Christmas specials was the brainchild of writer/director and lead actor Ricky Gervais.

*The Office* was about the daily lives and petty conceits of office workers

in the Berkshire branch of a paper company.

A fictionally scripted "mockumentary", the goings on of the smarmy and posturing regional

manager David Brent (Gervais), his simpering sidekick Gareth Keenan (Mackenzie Crook) and their beleaguered inferiors were captured by a brilliant script, flawless acting, and a cinema verite illusion making *The Office* a compellingly cringe-worthy celebration of the shallowness of unenlightened humanity trapped on the 9-5 wheel of employment.

A character-driven ensemble piece, the core of the show is David Brent. His immature, self-deluded, and egotistical clamouring for attention, unfunny jokes, and patronising, sometimes offensive, gestures shield him from the reality that he is universally disliked by all his staff. He is revealed in all his appalling glory by the camera that does not lie.

David Brent is one of the most important characters in the history of television not only because he is a unique and perfectly executed creation but also because he embodies those most common of human afflictions: denial and neediness.

He simply cannot see himself as others see him and is incapable of honesty and humility.

Brent's assistant Gareth is a dull and dour bullyboy who does his boss' bidding with the overblown air of a rigid and power-hungry man given a morsel of authority.

The highlight of office life is the flirtation between young Tim Canterbury and long-suffering receptionist Dawn Tinsley.

Tim is a fascinating counterpart to Brent in that he is genuinely likeable, funny and unpretentious.

One gets the sense that Tim is made for better things.

*The Office*, widely considered to be one of the most influential comedies of the decade and screened around the world, has been adapted for local versions in the United States, France, Germany, and Canada, and has performed well in DVD sales.

The TEN Network is currently showing the US version featuring Steve Carell, of *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* fame playing boss man Michael Scott based on the David Brent character.

Carell and the rest of the cast throw themselves into a script for which the writers have clearly worked hard, but the end result fails to capture the special magic and chemistry of the original.

It is, ultimately, a facsimile.

This article was originally published in *The Transit Lounge* an e-magazine produced collaboratively by the National Assembly and the Synod of Western Australia [www.thetransitlounge.com.au](http://www.thetransitlounge.com.au)



# Doing the musician's work

By Mardi Lumsden

THE COMMON phrase is that music is a gift.

But when music is your passion, your vocation, it can also be a curse.

The life of a musician can be filled with late nights, little pay, high expenditure for instruments and massive peer pressure to fit in with the 'scene'.

Both in the mainstream and Christian music scene there are also issues of ego, power, addiction and fidelity.

All in all, being a musician can be a very unhealthy vocation.

But for so many musicians it is not something they can stop doing.

Music is part of them. For some it is like breathing.

Singer/songwriter Peter Branjerdporn grew up planning on being a Christian rock star, taking his homeland of Thailand by storm and using his fame to spread the Gospel.

He had a taste for music from a young age, singing in church and choirs.

He now looks back on his musical path as an interesting learning curve.

"My brother and I went back to Thailand for a year to pursue a music career, which was ridiculous," he said.

"It was a bit of a waste of a year in terms of what we were trying to do but it was a really good learning curve."

Long before the trip to Thailand, Mr Branjerdporn wanted to relay a message in his music.

"We were saying, if we were to sing, it would have to make sure that the message was a good message.

They were love songs but we were trying to point to the source of that love.

"One day at youth group they did a study on rock music and how evil it was, and because I was really committed to the church I saw the argument and thought it was valid. So I stopped listening to secular music for a few years."

When they came back to Australia, Peter and his brother formed a band with some friends from their church.

"We were very much a Christian band, because there is a market for that in Australia.

"It was probably a calling, why we were doing it that way, but we probably didn't realise that. That was all we knew. We never went out to gigs.

"I went to school with Ian from [the band] Elementary Penguin and I had a good chat with him when we started out and he was very head-on, 'No we are not a Christian band'.

"I was like, 'Why not? But you guys are Christians!'

"That was the first person to expose me to that kind of thinking. But I was too close to thinking,



Brisbane singer/songwriter Peter Branjerdporn finding music works. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

"We don't want to fall away, we want to serve God and this is the way we do it."

National Working Group on Worship member and Youth and Children's minister at Indooroopilly Uniting Church Rev David MacGregor would describe himself as a Christian musician, writing songs mainly used in worship, but said there is no difference between a Christian musician and a musician who is Christian.

"Not deep down in their faith," he said.

"The obvious one is people like Bono who would see himself as a musician who is Christian and in some ways I think he has a greater impact on the wider world.

"A Christian who is a musician tends to be pigeonholed I think. I have always been a Christian who is musical because I have always tended to express my faith through music in the life of the church."

Mr MacGregor said his musical gift has been a struggle over the years.

"It has always been a bit of a blessing in disguise.

"While I am very musical, and I sing in tune, I'm not a soloist. So I guess when people hear or see me leading worship... while the song will be in tune, people unavoidably have to go beyond the singer into the song and, God willing, there is something of merit in there.

"In terms of ministry... I guess there are lots of things I can do competently, but in terms of gifting,

music is an area that is close to the prime area for me.

"It has taken a long time. It is really only in the last ten or fifteen years that I have acknowledged that and avoided trying to hide behind that."

For Mr Branjerdporn, moving into the secular music industry was a step perhaps made a little easier because of his strong values system and his relationship with other members of his band FAQ.

"Once you get into a secular venue you have to rethink everything, what you are doing, what you are saying.

"I think we are lucky to have a fairly tight friendship. We have often been in the same church.

"I think having that relationship outside the band provides an extra accountability in a way."

He said that even as a musician who is Christian there are still the trappings of life on the road.

"We recorded with [producer] Caleb James and we had a conversation about it and he said one of his friends has toured America with a Christian band and he said the lifestyle isn't much different. You think it should be, but it isn't.

"Just because you are in the Christian scene you have got to live a holier life and be a better person or witness or whatever. It is actually false.

"Some of us do lose control with the drinking thing, especially on tour there has been a few times,

which is great for funny stories but it is scary when you think some bad things could have happened.

"Whether or not that is a result of not being in a Christian industry... or it is a personal thing that would happen anyway, like a lack of self control, I don't know."

As a spare-time musician and a full-time chemist Mr Branjerdporn is becoming aware that one of the things he likes about music is its ability to bring people together and open them up.

"Like when people say your music is really soulful. I say thanks, but if you keep talking to them and ask them why they think that, some really good stuff comes out, especially at secular venues and people are drinking.

"They will tell you their life story and it is awesome.

"In many ways I think musicians today are the new philosophers, because we don't listen to philosophy or prophets anymore.

"So we have the media and that is where people are getting their wisdom from unfortunately. I think people are craving it."

For Mr MacGregor, music is part of his ministry within the church.

"In terms of vocation... everybody has their ideal job. I guess mine would be to work full time in a church, or the wider church, in music ministry," he said.

"Everything else that I do around the place somehow fits around the music."

## God's fair wages

MANY HAVE pondered about Jesus' parable in Matthew 20 where workers in the vineyard were all paid the same wage even though they had all done different amounts of work.

In the era of a "fair day's pay for a fair day's work", the story seems confusing, unfair and just plain bizarre.

Theological student Sue Pickering thinks all human understandings of fairness and justice are challenged by this story.

"The workers' expectation that they will be paid according to their work is denied."

Ministry Intern Mel Perkins said the first hired workers argue from what they see as a point of injustice: they had worked in the heat all day, the others had not.

"Their complaint was not that they had received less than agreed but that others less deserving (in their eyes) had received equal reward."

In the end, this story of grace shows God's way of seeing things cannot be reduced to accounting principles.

By the usual economic standards of the world, some workers deserve more than others but, in the kingdom of God, the word "deserve" does not even apply.

## A place to study

NARELLE CRAMB from Pomona Uniting Church already has a degree in Early Childhood Education.

While many young people from the area move away to pursue university studies, Narelle is managing her studies from home and, this year, has enrolled in a Graduate Diploma in Human Studies through Christian Heritage College (CHC) at Mansfield.

She has wide ministry experience: Kids Club, SU, youth groups, camps, and sees her present studies as a means of helping clarify her future ministry.

In Narelle's busy life she is also the Coordinator of the Family Day Care program run by the Gympie Uniting Church.

Narelle is one of a number of Uniting Church members who are taking up opportunities of university level studies through CHC which now offers a fully accredited specialist course in Human Services (Bachelor of Social Science - Human Services).

Two other students, Jocelyn Hayes of The Gap Uniting Church and Tricia Tschernez of the Sunnybank Uniting Church, are studying in CHC's Bachelor of Social Science (Chaplaincy) degree course.

# He even looks like the “bad guy”

By Carol Hebron

ONE OF the earliest portrayals of Judas was in art: his thieving, deception, his role in the handing over of Jesus and his subsequent suicide, gave artists lots to work with.

Despite the lack of physical description of Judas in the Bible, artists since at least the ninth century have developed a variety of characteristics to distinguish Judas from the other apostles.

The popular “iconography trope of avarice” is symbolised by Judas clutching or wearing a money bag and is a particularly distinctive feature in the “Last Supper” scenes.

It has been noted by some modern critics of European culture that in the art of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, Judas was portrayed with stereotypically Jewish characteristics such as a large hooked nose, thick lips and dark or ruddy skin, while the other apostles are portrayed as powerfully-built Northern Europeans.

Another stereotypical Jewish characteristic was red hair. This feature was not uniquely a Jewish characteristic but became an identifying mark of Judas.

One feature distinguishing Judas from the other apostles in traditional art is the colour of his clothes.

Yellow, in medieval art, depicts treachery and ignominy and in latter times yellow became the symbol of cowardice and jealousy. Judas's actions, based on the Gospels, imply treachery and disgrace but there is little to imply that he was a coward.

Black, in most western cultures, is a sinister colour and symbolises evil and death.

Judas is sometimes shown as wearing this colour, or appears to be dressed in black because of the depth of colour or because of his position in the shadows.

The use of halos signifies holiness and sacredness so it is not surprising to see many representations of Judas without a halo.

This omission helps the viewer to make the connection that the halo-less character lacked saint-like qualities.

Although Judas was one of the chosen twelve apostles, those images where Judas does have a halo it is often painted black.

The black halo draws attention to Judas and conveys the message that Judas is divorced from the other apostles and that there is an evil side to him.

It should be noted that there are paintings where all the apostles have black halos, possibly to signify their humanity as opposed to Christ whose golden halo represents his divinity.

The means by which artists depicted the influence of Satan in Judas' decision to betray and identify Jesus at Gethsemane was to include an image of the devil in the scene.

Medieval artists lavished their most imaginative work on the devils, who were depicted as misshapen, hideous and threatening, the embodiments of nightmares and half-expressed fears.

Judas Iscariot was one of the chosen twelve but he has been considered as an outsider because he was the only apostle to come from the southern region of Judah. The others, including Jesus, came from the northern region of Galilee.

Judas's role as treasurer might also have contributed to this sense of separateness, and artists have been able to convey Judas's isolation by their positioning of Judas within the work of art.

Drawing on the biblical accounts, their own interpretations and the influence of those who commissioned the work, artists have presented Judas as a contrasting figure to those of Jesus and the other apostles.

Judas was, and continues to be, a favourite subject of artists. Presented in a wide range of artistic genres, the “twelfth apostle” has developed into a negative representation of Jews and a symbol for betrayal, broken relationships and despair.



Master of the House Book (1475-90), *The Last Supper*.  
Staaliche Museum, Berlin

Judas is clearly identified in this painting.

He does not have a halo.

His ruddy complexion and stereotypical Jewish features contrast with those of the others at the table.

Dressed in yellow robes and clutching a money bag help identify Judas. Note that Judas is sitting on a chair whereas the others are seated on benches.

This positioning of Judas could suggest that he was late to the table and that his presence is actually an intrusion which denotes isolation from the others.

Judas' concern with the money bag suggests that his interest lies in the money and not in the supper.

## NCCA calls for cluster munitions ban

THE NATIONAL Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) has condemned the use of cluster munitions and called for the development of a treaty to ban cluster munitions.

In a letter to the Minister for Defence Joel Fitzgibbon and the Minister for Foreign Affairs Stephen Smith, NCCA General Secretary Rev John Henderson said cluster bombs have killed and wounded innocent people for more than 40 years.

“These weapons cause death and injury to civilians during attacks and for years afterwards as a result of lethal contamination.

“Cluster bombs hamper post-conflict rebuilding and rehabilitation, and the dangerous work of cluster bomb clearance absorbs funds that could be spent on other urgent humanitarian needs.”

Mr Henderson said without determined action the civilian harm caused by these weapons will continue to grow.

“A legally binding international treaty to ban the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions, and to require assistance to survivors, help for affected communities and clearance of contaminated land is critical to protection of life and promotion of peace.”

Mr Henderson said the calls for certain technical exemptions from a ban are not convincing.

The member churches of the NCCA are urging the Australian Government to take a leading role in this global effort to develop and support a legally binding treaty.

## Hatfield Dodds pulled out of Olympic Torch Relay

NATIONAL DIRECTOR of UnitingCare Australia Lin Hatfield Dodds received national media attention when she decided not to participate in the Olympic Torch Relay in Canberra in April.

Ms Hatfield Dodds, who is also President of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) and ACT Australian of the Year, said it had been a very difficult decision that she had not taken quickly or lightly.

“While I remain an enthusiastic supporter of the Olympics, as a leader within the Uniting Church in Australia and the Australian Council of Social Service, the decision not to run is the right one for me.”

Ms Hatfield Dodds said the decision not to participate reflected the changed symbolism of the Olympic Torch Relay and the issues were complex and multifaceted.

“The Uniting Church and ACOSS have proud histories of standing with those who suffer violence and injustice and of working for a world in which the dignity of every person is valued and human rights are upheld.

“I have made the decision not to run because my personal commitment to standing with those who are vulnerable and marginalised and the leadership positions I hold in the Uniting Church and ACOSS make it important to ensure that my actions

do not leave any doubt about our commitment to human rights.

“I support Australia's continuing engagement in the Olympics and have nothing but admiration for our athletes and athletes around the world, who have dedicated so much of their lives to reach the pinnacle of their sports.

“I wish them well.” Because of security concerns the Olympic Torch Relay route was four kilometres shorter than previously planned.

Half of Canberra's police force were assigned to cover the relay and seven people were arrested and charged under special major event laws put in place for the relay.

By Bruce Mullan



National Director of UnitingCare Australia Lin Hatfield Dodds.  
Photo courtesy of UnitingCare Australia



# WHAT'S ON

**June 1, 9am. Mount Sylvia Uniting Church 99th Anniversary** celebration service. Former members and friends very welcome. Contact 5462 2859 or 4698 7824.

**June 12-13. Prepare/Enrich Course** at Chapel Hill Uniting Church, Brisbane. Are you working with premarital or married couples? The Prepare/Enrich program and resources are designed to assist clergy, celebrants, counsellors and educators as they work with couples. For more information contact Graham Cole on 3309 3558 or [gcole@bbc.qld.edu.au](mailto:gcole@bbc.qld.edu.au).

**June 13, 10.15am. Remember When? musical luncheon** at Bracken Ridge Uniting Church. Interesting pieces of memorabilia will be on display. Program presented by the Prime of Life Choir. Morning tea will be served prior to the program with lunch to follow. Admission \$10. Come along and join us for a fun morning. Numbers would be appreciated. Contact Pam Harris on 3261 2000 or [pamreg@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pamreg@optusnet.com.au).

**June 14, 9am-3pm. SABAI Garage Sale** at Wesley Kangaroo Point Uniting Church 46 Linton Street. Clothes, jewellery, furniture, DVDs, books, plants, hardware and software, musical instruments and much more! Thai food takeaway stall and traditional Thai massage service also available. For more information or if you want to join as a seller please contact Hemma on 0432 036 150 or [s.sawang@qut.edu.au](mailto:s.sawang@qut.edu.au) or Lek on 0402 451 150.

**June 17, 9.30-11.30am. UCA International Mission Support Group (Qld) meeting** at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Ann Street Brisbane. Speakers are David and Susanne Nikles who have been working in China. Contact Judith Finau on 3711 4622 or email [jfinau@dovenetq.net.au](mailto:jfinau@dovenetq.net.au).

**June 17, 4-6pm and 7.30-10.30pm. Robert Jewett seminars** – 'Romans in the 21st Century' and followed by 'Paul at the Movies'. Indooroopilly Uniting Church, Station Rd. Robert Jewett is an internationally famous New Testament scholar. Contact Malcolm Coombes on 3377 9951 or email [astrid.hill@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:astrid.hill@ucaqld.com.au).

**June 20-22. Trinity Theological College, NQ Short Course, 'Walking Free'** at Emmanuel Uniting Church & Edmonton Uniting Church. Contact Hedley Fihaki on [hedley@cairns.unitingchurch.com](mailto:hedley@cairns.unitingchurch.com) or Marcia Cowen on [jmcowen1@bigpond.com](mailto:jmcowen1@bigpond.com).

**June 26, 10.30am. Mission Thanksgiving Service** at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Ann St Brisbane. Guest speaker Paul Bartlett, Frontier Services Sydney. Bring your lunch and meet for fellowship after the service. Tea/coffee available. Supported by Frontier Services Queensland support group. Contact Lorraine Bettenay on [randlbettenay@bigpond.com](mailto:randlbettenay@bigpond.com).

**June 29, 6-7.30pm. JAM@Emmanuel UC** (featuring Chris Poulsen Trio). 249 South Pine Rd, Enoggera. The Chris Poulsen trio (CP3) is one of Brisbane's premier contemporary jazz groups. Come for an exciting night of some very hip music. BBQ on sale from 5pm, band starts at 6pm. An offering will be taken. [www.myspace.com/chripoulsentrio](http://www.myspace.com/chripoulsentrio). Contact Tim Robinson on 3355 2162 or email [robos78@hotmail.com](mailto:robos78@hotmail.com).

**August 17-22. YASKI 2008.** Thinking of skiing this year? YASKI is for young adults, families and adults at Perisher Blue in the Snowy Mountains. Detailed information can be downloaded from Cleveland Uniting Church web site [www.cleveland.ucaweb.com.au](http://www.cleveland.ucaweb.com.au) or email YASKI coordinator Beth Nicholls (Youth Worker with Redland Uniting Churches) on [betbn@dovenetq.net.au](mailto:betbn@dovenetq.net.au).

**August 24. A Celebration of over 50 years** of Bardon Methodist and Bardon Uniting Churches. Closing at the end of August this celebration will reflect the positive effect of significant life and faith experiences at Bardon for many people. For more information contact Desley Garnett on 3254 1449 or email [drgarn@bigpond.net.au](mailto:drgarn@bigpond.net.au).

**September 11 - 13, Laidley Uniting Church Quilt and Craft Expo.** 45 Patrick Street Laidley. Demonstrations and stalls of pottery, cards, patchwork and quilting, beading, porcelain dolls, woodturning, machine embroidery and more. Displays of restored cars, tractors and trucks. Morning and Afternoon teas and lunches available. Thurs and Fri 9am-5.30pm and Sat 9am-3pm. Phone Robyn Muller A/H 5466 5436 or email [rob.mul@bigpond.com.au](mailto:rob.mul@bigpond.com.au).

Want to promote an event?  
Go to [www.journeyonline.com.au](http://www.journeyonline.com.au) and click on 'What's On'



Brightly coloured Zillmere toilets leave no doubt about gender. Photo by Osker Lau

## Zillmere youth colour their world

WITH OVER 7000 Indigenous people living on the North side of the city, the ministry of the Brisbane Congress Congregation is crucial for the Uniting Church.

The appointment of Pastor Rodney Minniecon to the leadership has revitalised this ministry.

The congregation is focussed on growth and outreach and has made many contacts with Indigenous

families and children in the area.

Mr Minniecon is excited by the development of a youth ministry held at the church centre in Zillmere on the weekends.

"The youth have developed so strongly and they started their youth ministry with the painting of the toilets bright pink and blue," Mr Minniecon said.

They are certainly the brightest church toilets in Brisbane and

there is little doubt which one is men's and which is for the ladies.

Mr Minniecon's next worry is what colour they might paint the church.

"We have a lot of fun and laughs here and we're trying to get away from a lot of the traditional stuff."

"I'm into reverence, but I don't think that means you've got to act like you're dead," he said.

## NCYC 2009

YOUNG PEOPLE it's time to register for NCYC09 - seven days of young people hanging out, doing electives and bible studies, and worshipping in a way you never could at home

Register at [www.ncyc.org.au](http://www.ncyc.org.au) or call 1300 00 NCYC. \$50 deposit needed.

Phone 1300 00 NCYC (6292) or email [converge@ncyc.org.au](mailto:converge@ncyc.org.au).

## Bardon celebrates the end of an era

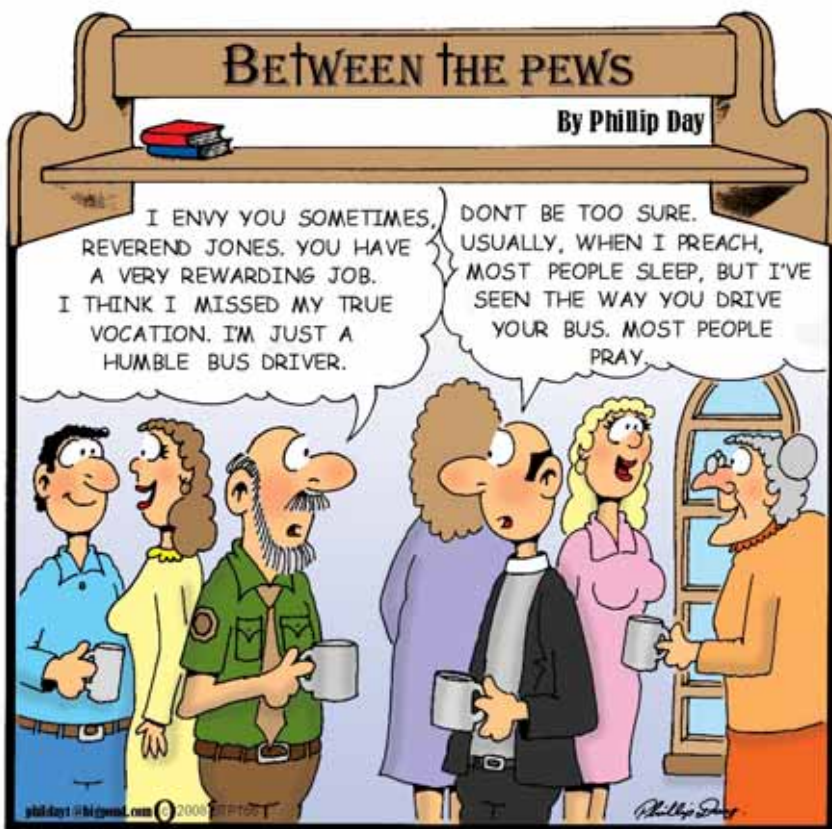
BARDON UNITING Church will close later this year and, while many people will mourn the loss of this small, inner-Brisbane suburban church, it will also be a time of celebrating the impact the church has had on the lives of those who have attended.

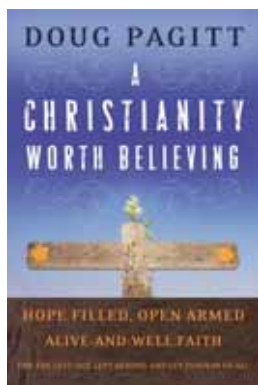
On Sunday 24 August a service and lunch will be held at the Bardon Uniting Church.

Start looking for old photos to bring with you.

Anyone with the skills and time to scan photos and make a PowerPoint presentation would be much appreciated.

To be on the mailing list for more information closer to the event contact Desley Garnett on 3254 1449, email [drgarn@bigpond.net.au](mailto:drgarn@bigpond.net.au) or post 112 Browne St New Farm QLD 4005.





## A Christianity Worth Believing

By Doug Pagitt  
RRP \$29.95

*A Christianity Worth Believing* is a solid introduction to theology in development, carefully crafted with story, personal reflection and quotes from the Bible, the creeds and Protestant Confessions.

One of the founders of Emergent Village, a social network of Christian leaders based in the United States, Pagitt takes us on a

journey with him as he re-imagines what Christianity might be about.

He traces the modern obsession with uniformity back to the Greco-Roman adoption of Christianity in the time of Constantine.

Today, he says, we're still interpreting the story of Jesus through the lenses developed for a world dominated by Greek dualism and gods that needed to be appeased.

I like the way Pagitt writes about the Scriptures. "It's in the way that you use it," he says.

Why is it, he asks, that the inerrancy concept is hailed out when we talk about certain emotive issues such as homosexuality but is abandoned when discussing other critical matters?

When Paul talked about the Word of God being a sword, did he really mean for us to use it as a weapon in our efforts to show that we are right and others are wrong?

Pagitt challenges us to take another look at what our focus is about.

Is it about getting up and out of here, off to heaven, or out of the world into a safe place? Is that what God is about? Or is it about

being down and in, thoroughly integrating faith with every part of our lives in a way that leads to being embedded in our communities?

Pagitt admits that he's had to do some hard thinking about alternatives to the penal substitution (Jesus died to take the punishment meant for us) explanation of Jesus' life and death.

He does this in the book by going back to the Jewish roots of Jesus, exploring the Hebrew concept of Messiah in contrast to the Greek understanding of Christ.

As much as *A Christianity Worth Believing* is about belief, I get the sense that he's presenting us with a Christianity worth living and worth sharing.

Reviewed by Duncan Macleod.

The first three chapters of *A Christianity Worth Believing* is available to download in pdf format from [www.achristianityworthbelieving.com](http://www.achristianityworthbelieving.com)

## The Jesus Way: A Conversation in Following Jesus

By Eugene H. Peterson  
Hodder & Stoughton  
RRP \$29.95

*The Jesus Way* is an extended meditation on what Jesus meant when he said: "I am the way..." (John 14:6).

Eugene Peterson is concerned that the Christian church has lost sight of the distinctive "ways and means" involved in following Jesus.

He has written this book to encourage contemporary followers of Jesus to re-evaluate their lives in the light of the "rich and textured narrative laid out for us in our Scriptures".

Peterson seeks to delineate the way of Jesus by exploring, first of all, the life of Jesus, and then by examining the lives and stories of six key men in the Old Testament: Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, Isaiah of Jerusalem and Isaiah of the Exile.

His premise is that the "Jesus Way" can only properly be understood by being thoroughly conversant with those who preceded and paved the way for Jesus.

He then goes on to study the lives of three key historical figures from the time of Jesus – Herod, Caiaphas, and Josephus – who exemplify "other ways" of living that are contrary to the Jesus Way.

Mr Peterson's conclusion is perceptive: "What stands out as

# REVIEWS

we consider all these dismissed options is that following Jesus is a unique way of life. It is like nothing else. There is nothing and no one comparable."

This book is beautifully written, rich in metaphors and furnished with in-depth biblical and historical scholarship.

Mr Peterson displays a passionate appreciation for the beauty of language, especially as it is used in Scripture.

*The Jesus Way* is dense and detailed, incisive and challenging.

It is compelling reading for those who claim to follow Jesus in this postmodern, pluralistic age.

The book includes an appendix which recommends books for further reading.

Reviewed by Daniel Hann



## End of the Spear

Directed by Jim Hanon  
Rated M

"Go ye and share the Gospel... five did and died."

This was the caption that was underneath a photo of five missionaries who went deep into the Amazonian jungle in Ecuador to make contact and share the Christian message with one of the most violent native tribes, the Waodani.

*End of the Spear* is based on the turn of events that started with this killing and found the Waodani welcoming the wives and children of these dead men into their tribe and eventually their families.

From the opening scene of two lone figures paddling up a river in a canoe to the final moments of raw emotion, this film will hold you enthralled and intrigued, as well as take you on a rollercoaster of emotions.

You will witness horrific violence, tender moments, comic actions and most importantly the power of love.

*End of the Spear* takes you on a journey through the eyes of the people who originally lived this strange tale.

This is one film that will leave you, at the very least, with tears in the eyes and wanting to find out more about the remarkable true story that this film is based on.

Winner of the Crystal Heart at the Heartland Film Festival,

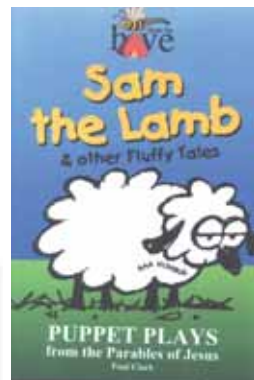
which honours "a truly moving picture which explores the human journey by artistically expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life", this film is in limited screenings at selected cinemas around the country.

It should not be missed.

For more information visit

[www.endofthespear.com.au](http://www.endofthespear.com.au)

Reviewed by Matt Gees



## Sam the Lamb and other Fluffy Tales: Puppet plays from the parables of Jesus

By Paul Clark  
The Hive [Paul Clark] 118  
Munro St, Ayr 4807  
RRP \$9.95

"Puppets are great! They are fun, they grab the attention of people of all ages, they can do the impossible, and they can speak into someone's life in a way a regular person couldn't."

So says Rev Paul Clark, and I agree.

There is nothing like a puppet play to bring every child down the front, and have most adults wishing they were there as well.

I had the privilege of witnessing Mr Clark do one of his puppet plays a few years ago at Trinity College, and it was one of my learning moments.

It is an art, but one well worth investing in.

*Sam the Lamb and other Fluffy Tales* has seven plays, each with an introduction and helpful comments throughout.

I'm no puppet expert, but each one seems quite practical.

They are all light-hearted, with a message of course.

The language is all simple, as are the themes, so people of all ages can participate and understand.

*Sam: I did! I did saw a crocodile! Help, a crocodile, help!*

*Croc: Settle down little sheep. I just wanted to invite you to dinner.*

*Sam: Oh, what's on the menu?*

*Croc: Ewe are! Arrgh! [Sam runs screaming and Croc follows.]*

Good on you Paul Clark. I hope you start a puppet revolution.

Reviewed by Wayne McHugh, minister at Proserpine Uniting Church

## The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian

Directed by Andrew Adamson  
Rated PG

Having read the Narnia books as a young boy, I was reasonably familiar with the story and expected a swash-buckling effects-laden experience. The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian did not disappoint.

As director, Adamson takes the stories of battle hinted at by C.S. Lewis and brings them to the foreground. People and creatures die, though without any clear bloodshed. This is a family movie after all.

A whole new sequence is added to the plot - the storming of the Telmarine castle. Battle scenes are provided with elaborate plot twists.

In the book, the Pevensies (Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy) connect up with the Narnians towards the end. For the sake of dramatic interplay between the characters (including tension between Peter and Caspian) that meeting is introduced much earlier.

Adamson brings the story into the 21st century with an alternative to the C.S. Lewis sheltering of the female gender. Susan is clearly engaged in battle in the movie and enjoys a romantic attraction to Caspian. "It would never have worked out," she says.

There are other flavours added by the casting team. Caspian, Miraz and the other Telmarines speak with Hispanic accents, a reference to their pirate origins. The centaurs appear to have an African origin.

It makes sense in terms of increasing the ethnic spread of the audience, but runs the risk of perpetuating the English jingoism that formed the backdrop of C.S. Lewis' world.

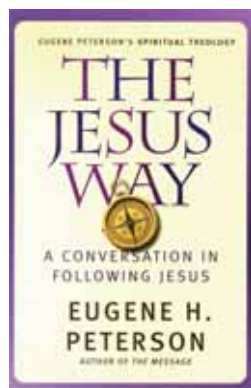
The theology of this C.S. Lewis novel is subtle, with hints of questions relating to the absence and invisible nature of Jesus. Why can some see him and others not? Would the plot have been different if Lucy and her siblings had responded to Aslan's guidance earlier?

Aslan twice reminds Lucy that things don't happen the same way twice, once in a dream sequence and once in waking mode. Was that a glitch in the script or an example of dramatic irony?

Be prepared for a long movie with brilliant New Zealand scenery, stunning cinematography, simmering effects and a storyline that will keep you guessing.

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian is released in cinemas nationally in Australia on 5 June. The distributors Heritage HM will also be providing a range of resources to churches and schools Australia wide. For details contact 5445 6865 or email [info@astounded.tv](mailto:info@astounded.tv)

Reviewed by Duncan Macleod, Queensland Uniting Church Vision for Mission Coordinator





## 8 June: Redcliffe Uniting Church

Redcliffe Uniting Church was shaped into its current form in 1990 when the congregations across the Peninsula all came together at the one location.

Now we are working out how to connect back with the local neighbourhoods across our region.

By February 2009 we will have a community re-creation "place" on the Woody Point foreshore, where we hope to serve people through offering a place of hospitality and community, as well as the forming of a faith community. Thanks to Rev Mark Cornford – Greenhouse and Vision for Mission for supporting this project.

Redcliffe has a growing retirement population as well as new people moving into the region.

We are seeking to share ministry and mission with our neighbouring congregations of North Lakes and Deception Bay with things such as Youth Ministry and a community Christmas project.

We are planning our future with God by looking at our people, buildings, land and resources.

We understand God's purpose for us is to help our community love God and love people through following Jesus Christ.

Our mission is to do this by getting together, growing and going with Jesus, one another and our community – local and global.

The challenge that we face (as do many churches) is that while committed members pass on, we are seeking to disciple new people to faith.

To match our ministry and mission of all stages of faith and life we are looking forward to Rev Lynne Davis joining our ministry team in June.

Lynne's placement is a joint placement with Bluecare in Community Chaplaincy that will compliment Rev Peter Armstrong's role, also a dual focus between the Redcliffe congregation and the emerging Woody Point project.

It is this mix of church and community focus that we are seeking to embody through our whole church.

We exist not for the sake of the church, but for the sake of the world.

It is a challenge to keep this bi-focal vision, but if we can help the congregation love God and love people then we must focus on the community as well.

Please pray for our Church Council and Elders, our Ministry

# PRAYER DIARY

team, for our teams/groups and the whole congregation.

We are taking some risks to follow this call but we believe that God started this journey and that God will see this journey to completion.

## 15 June: Lifeline Community Care

Uniting Church Prison Ministry gives thanks for prayer for the following:

- The birth of Kem's second child Naomi Beatriz
- That Beatriz was well enough to do the deputation at Holland Park
- Well received Anzac Day services in Wolston Correctional Centre
- The Mothers Day service at Helena Jones Correctional Centre
- For God's continued support and provision
- For Correctional Services staff for their continued support.

Please pray for:

- Families projects and the newly appointed Families Coordinator and Families Project Coordinator
- Onesimus (Second Chance Program) and the newly appointed Onesimus Coordinator
- Church groups with the passion and patience to adopt an "Onesimus" – a new Christian newly-released from prison
- For all our chaplains and volunteers throughout Queensland
- Our deputation roster and that churches would be open to inviting us in to hear about the work we do and the programs we offer that we need assistance with
- Court Chaplaincy support and training and professional development training
- Publications and promotions
- Our Brisbane team including our volunteers
- Our representation in other circles
- Our own spouses and families
- God would raise up musical groups for Worship Services in all centres
- Beatriz Skippen's treatment and full recovery
- Pat's foot – complete healing
- Kem after the birth of her second child
- Correctional Services staff and families

• The Kairos Program going into Arthur Gorrie later this year.

Prison Ministry is looking for churches that are inspired by the book of Philemon and the message of Paul to all believers regarding rehabilitation and support for Christian inmates.

## 22 June: Southport Uniting Church

Our congregation is located in the living heart of the Southport CBD, bordered by Australia Fair Shopping Centre, the TAFE college, professional offices, and public and private hospitals.

We are convinced that God continues to call us to minister to the heart of Southport.

Worship is conducted at 8.30am and 7pm every Sunday and 10am Wednesday as well as in numerous retirement and nursing homes, both church and community based.

Please pray for:

- Our two ministers in placement, our Minister-in-Association, our three retired ministers and four lay preachers as they conduct an average of six services each week.
- The team of forty people vitally involved in our extensive pastoral care program.
- The roster of people who minister through our "Open Church" program every Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon, and for the hundreds of city people who come in for their own devotional time or seeking various forms of help.
- Our Blue Care Auxiliary in its change of direction after 52 years and well over \$1 million raised for Blue Care residents.
- Our new Ministry and Mission direction that has resulted in the sale of our Family Sports Centre to the Gold Coast City Council which plans to build on our 25 years of effective service to youth and families in the Labrador area. Proceeds from this sale will assist in the remodelling of our Southport facilities for new creative forms of ministry to the heart of Southport.
- Our Joint Nominating Committee in its search to call a new minister to commence at the beginning of 2009. Worship and preaching skills are a high priority along with team leadership.



Quintin Buchel, Kylie Bainbridge, Julie Lederhose and Cliff Cole from the UCIS Financial Planning team. Photo by Holly Jewell

## New licence for UCIS Financial Planning

UCIS FINANCIAL Planning has a new licence to provide financial planning advice through dealership group Financial Services Partners (FSP) part of the ING Group.

Quintin Buchel, Financial Adviser with UCIS Financial Planning, said that for clients it represents primarily a cosmetic change.

"We still offer the same services and advice here at UCIS Financial Planning," said Mr Burchel.

"As advisers, Cliff Cole, Kylie Bainbridge and myself still have the same level of knowledge and experience and the whole team is still committed to the same level of service.

"An advantage for clients is that, through FSP, we have access to a large amount of resources, including the latest research about financial products."

UCIS Financial Planning was established in 1993 to service the needs of individuals, from both within the church and the wider community.

Having already completed a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Financial Planning and

Investment, Mr Burchel is about to complete a Graduate Diploma of Applied Finance and Investment.

"I believe that whatever an individual's situation, a financial plan will help you deal with any unexpected events or opportunities that may arise," he said.

"And having a plan in place will help you work toward your short-term and long-term goals in life.

"It comes down to the individual.

"A client's goals could be saving for a deposit on a home, investing in their children's education, or planning for retirement.

"We can also provide advice on tax effective strategies, but it's important that it fits with the client's short-term and long-term goals.

"Money is not everything, but without a good plan in place, your ability to achieve your goals can be limited."

For further information about UCIS Financial Planning, please contact Kylie Bainbridge, Practice Manager on 3874 3600 or [kylie.bainbridge@finplan.ucis.com.au](mailto:kylie.bainbridge@finplan.ucis.com.au)

## Top scholar visiting Brisbane

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED New Testament scholar and outspoken commentator on popular culture Professor Robert Jewett will be visiting Brisbane in June.

Professor Jewett has been a most influential commentator on the Apostle Paul's writings and has written many books on religious and cultural history, and particularly the application of biblical themes in the movies.

Trinity Theological College Director of New Testament Studies Rev Dr Malcolm Coombes said Dr Jewett's writings have included the influential books *St Paul at the Movies* and *Saint Paul Returns to the Movies* as well as a monumental commentary on Romans.

"Professor Jewett will be presenting a scholarly view of the book of Romans and recent developments in its study titled 'Romans in the 21st Century' and a public lecture on Paul's themes in modern movies titled 'Paul at the Movies'," Dr Coombes said.

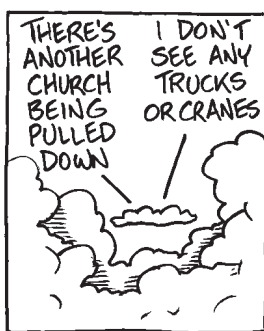
"This is a rare opportunity to hear such a high-profile speaker in our midst."

Professor Jewett will be at Indooroopilly Uniting Church in Station Road, Indooroopilly (opposite the Shoppingtown) on Tuesday 17 June, 2008. 4pm to 6pm "Romans in the 21st Century", 7.30pm "Paul at the Movies".

For more information contact Trinity Theological College on 3377 9951



Professor Robert Jewett



# Students learn to spell unity

UNITY COLLEGE students gathered in the grounds marking out the word "Unity" while their Principal Mr Goosmew flew overhead in a helicopter, taking photos.

They were celebrating the centenary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and, if the

Principal wasn't a hero to the young boys before that day, he certainly was after.

Unity College at Caloundra West is a partnership of the Uniting and Catholic Churches.

Opened in 2006, it has 520 students from Prep to Year 10 and will graduate its first Year 12 students in 2010.

Newly appointed Executive Director of the Uniting Church Schools Commission Ms Elaine Rae visited the College during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

"The ecumenical ethos totally pervades the culture and operation of the school in a truly inspiring way," she said.



Students at Unity College on the Sunshine Coast spelling their prayer. Photo by Rudy Goosmew

## Why Men Hate Going to Church

PINE RIVERS Uniting Church is hosting a Saturday morning workshop with best selling author David Murrow at 9.30am on Saturday, 25 October.

Aimed at ministers, worship leaders and men's fellowship leaders, the session will explore why Australian churches are following the worldwide trend of declining male membership.

How might Sunday worship and the wider life of the church engage more Australian men?

Average blokes are not thrilled about singing, sermons and sharing time.

David is in Australia for one week only.

To book your men's ministry leaders into this session contact Pine Rivers Administrator Brett Kennedy on email [Brett.Kennedy@pruc.org.au](mailto:Brett.Kennedy@pruc.org.au).

To send your men to the 1000 Men Barbecue that night contact Pine Rivers Men's Ministry Coordinator, Phil Smith on [spunyard@bigpond.net.au](mailto:spunyard@bigpond.net.au).

For more information visit [www.philsmith.com.au](http://www.philsmith.com.au) or [www.churchformen.com](http://www.churchformen.com)



David Murrow. Photo courtesy of [www.themens-room.org.uk](http://www.themens-room.org.uk)



Barista Ezra Ward (left) and roaster Marty Richards work at the Blackstar Café cart in Green Square. Photo courtesy of [blackstarcoffee.com.au](http://blackstarcoffee.com.au)

## Gold star for coffee business

BRISBANE'S FIRST 100% certified Fair Trade coffee company has opened its doors to the public.

Started by Marty Richards and Evonne Andrews who have invested heavily in social enterprise in West End, Blackstar Coffee has developed an almost cult-like following.

Matthew Lamason, one of New Zealand's most experienced Fair Trade roasting personalities said

it is great to see boutique coffee taking root in Brisbane.

"The quality of a good cup of coffee is enhanced further through fairer trade initiatives," said Mr Lamason.

Blackstar Coffee is supported through the Queensland Synod's Vision for Mission initiative.

For more information visit [blackstarcoffee.com.au](http://blackstarcoffee.com.au)

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### Invitation

**TUGGERANONG UC**, ACT extends a warm, open invitation to the 20th Anniversary of our ministry centre/faith community on Sat/Sun, 21/22 June 2008. Inquiries: Janine Sharwood 6231 6582, email [anniversary@tuc.org.au](mailto:anniversary@tuc.org.au), website [www.tuc.org.au/Anniversary](http://www.tuc.org.au/Anniversary).

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## LETTERS

### Delicious Irony

Like Val Webb, I believe metaphors matter - just not as much as the reality of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus' story, and how it was interpreted by those who followed him first, defines the Christian community.

This story ensures that our metaphors don't spiral down the lifeless path that defines vacuous, designer, new-age spirituality.

Dr Webb encourages us to move beyond "theistic God images" and metaphors bound by the witness of scripture.

Are these new images and metaphors similar to those that have left thousands of Queensland young adults more anxious and depressed (new spirituality doesn't make you happy)?

Call me simple, conservative - fundamentalist (as opposed to progressive) even - but for the foreseeable future I see no need to change from offering my community Christ crucified and risen and the gospel it tells.

Far as I can tell - this story still changes lives.

Stu Cameron  
Robina

### Who is my Neighbour?

I was totally amazed by the opening paragraph of the lead article "Who is my Neighbour?" (May Journey), which stated unequivocally that "The world changed when Muhammad received his revelations from God which have been recorded in the Qur'an."

This is a statement for all people of the Uniting Church in Queensland, and any beyond our borders who read *Journey*.

On the basis of the statement, we have no other choice than to believe the Qur'an, embrace Islam, and declare ourselves to be Muslims, for according to Bruce Mullan this is God's revelation!

What has happened to good journalism, especially in relation to statements of faith and belief?

What has happened to the principle of owning or grounding belief statements?

We can talk about Muhammad, and we can talk about his experiences and the book in which those experiences are recorded.

But do not report them as universal truth!

By simply qualifying the statement to read, "Muhammad... received what he believed to be revelations from God..." we have done no injustice to Muhammad, his experience or the religion and beliefs of Islam.

We have not passed any judgement on Islam, but have allowed people like myself to maintain our Christian faith (that we believe that God is fully revealed in Jesus Christ) with integrity.

Rev Eric Lawson  
Kippa-Ring

*According to Muhammad and Muslims it was God's revelation. Bruce Mullan remains a Christian. Ed.*

Who is my neighbour? This is an easy question to ask, but very difficult to live.

I believe we as believers need to be very careful when we focus on this topic, for it is very easy to reach

the understanding of friendship across the religious divide to mean that I allow the non-believer in Christ to practise their religion without me questioning their beliefs.

The articles emphasis seemed to be placed on the fact that we need to love our neighbour, not according to God's call of making disciples, but rather to love in tolerance of their beliefs and customs without allowing the gospel to confront their way of living.

How will they know about Christ and his love if we do not tell them?

Yes, we need to love our neighbour, but to love does not mean that we do not keep them comfortable in their belief system on their road to hell.

If I truly love my neighbour I will confront their beliefs because I do not want them to go to hell.

I desire that they may know the Lord and his ways.

Does this attitude mean I love my neighbour any less?

By no means.

I believe it means I love my neighbour more!

Bruce Bartleet  
Boonah



### Have your say

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

Post: *Journey* GPO Box 674  
Brisbane 4001

Email: [journey@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:journey@ucaqld.com.au)



# JOURNEY asks...

## How do you live out your Christian Faith in your work?

### Delphine Baker

When my husband Graham raised the subject of purchasing a newsagency in our town, I had my doubts.

Could we handle such a venture with no retail industry experience? Would God want me selling Lotto and Scratchies?

Many questions came to mind and were prayed about and, in November 2004, we became the new owners of Home Hill News.

With the help of our daughter Shay, two local ladies, Desley and Cheryl, and our niece Jenny (Saturday and Uni holidays) we offer a friendly service to our customers.



Because we live in a small community, we know many of our customers by name and problems are often talked about and shared over the counter.

It has been in times like this I feel I can share my faith and offer hope in difficult situations.

Working seven days a week has meant we can no longer attend worship on Sunday, as we previously had done.

I have felt encouraged in having a church family who keep in touch regarding church activities.

Our Minister Paul Clark and his wife Becky drop in to say "Hi" regularly, and we have offered our assistance to the church by setting up a Free Sausage Sizzle BBQ on Fathers' Day for the past two years.

The first year we were in business, we gave a free Sunday Mail to fathers, compliments of the Uniting Church.

This "free gift" was met with mixed responses such as, "Does this mean I have to go to church now?" or, "Gee, I hope you guys buy a petrol station next year!!"

And still there were others who insisted on leaving the money, as a donation to the church.

Each Tuesday afternoon, a KYB Group meets at my home. I have been a member of KYB for many years and the fellowship I share with these ladies is very important to me and my walk with God.

At Home Hill News, I feel I am able to not only share the daily news of the world, but also the Good News to the World.

Delphine Baker is a member of the Burdekin Uniting Church in North Queensland.

### Colin MacKenzie

As a 66-year-old handyman, working daily in the homes of people of varying ages and circumstances, I get great satisfaction from knowing that I give a "fair days work for a fair day's pay".

This was a maxim instilled in me by my parents, grandfather, scoutmaster and other mentors early in my life.

Recently my mentors have been those modern saints of the Church who have led by their example and shown me that they practise what they preach in their everyday life.

I can see them doing what I imagine Jesus did in the carpentry shop in Nazareth: producing useful, workable items, crafted with care and not a shoddy piece of workmanship in sight, giving every job the best possible effort and respecting the customers irrespective of their standing in society.

I can aspire to this myself as daily I seek to make life more comfortable for folk who have broken window latches, worn step treads, no smoke alarms, rattling flyscreens, leaking taps, curtains falling down, broken cupboards and drawers, damaged walls, faulty light fittings, termite damage in their home.

The list is endless, and some people you meet are not easy to deal with, most being tenants in rented homes, but all have a story to tell and there certainly is a challenge for me with some requests.

The excitement comes from not knowing what is coming next and how the Landlord



will react to your assessment of what needs to be done and how much it is going to cost!

Dealing with people respectfully, listening to their problems, entertaining the pre-school "Bob The Builders", offering advice when required, turning up promptly and cleaning up any mess I make, just doing those little extras when required, gives me my sense of living out my beliefs as I work.

The daily consultation with the reflections and readings from *With Love to the World* can often give me just the right word for someone I meet, or at least temper my own attitude in a difficult situation.

Colin MacKenzie's handyman business is his eighth career change and has given him the greatest satisfaction so far. His family think he is still trying to decide what he really wants to be when he grows up. Colin worships at Broadwater Road Uniting Church in Wishart where he is an Elder and Property Committee member.

### Warwick Howlett

What is my work? I participate in life by being paid for some activities; other activities I have to pay to complete; and still others that simply take my time and finances.

I have been fortunate in this life by being available to people in their most needy times and their most gratifying times.

Is it a blessing to hold a person's hand in their bleakest hour, and remain with them as they take their final breath? What do you say to them? How do you comfort them?

I have worked with our soldiers, and help prepare them for war. I have said farewell as they left home for an uncertain future.

I hear the terrible news, and see the faces of the men and women when they return. How does my Christian belief help me, and them, when I am caring for them on their return?

In yet another job, I act as a policeman on a field, blowing my whistle to attract

attention and to admonish an individual who is not playing by the rules. What do they care if I am a Christian?

I also act on another stage – the actual stage. I play many roles both on stage and in life. It is all work – it is all part of life.

I remember the Minister at my church once asked each of us to form a small group at work and to pray a short prayer. For no particular reason, just to share the faith at work and perhaps reach a few unsure souls.

Yeah right! The people at my paid employment already had limited time. My rugby mates would prefer a beer or two and my theatre friends already think I am a little weird.

So "No thanks", I think I will give the prayer session a miss! I didn't give this praying thing another thought.

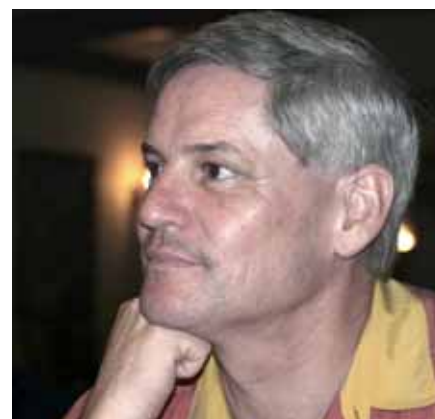
The following week I was back-stage on opening night running through my lines thinking about the first scene.

Right in front of me three people were gathered, holding hands. They started to pray for the cast and crew.

I walked over and joined them. Where was my faith? By the end of the show, there were twenty people praying. I learnt that he does work in mysterious ways.

So how do I live out my Christian Faith at work? I'm not too sure of the answer. I know that I believe. I know that I see his work all around me.

Life, and all the experiences we gain on its journey, leads us to our preordained end. I know, without a shadow of a doubt, that I will be with the Lord at the end of my journey, at the end of my work.



Warwick Howlett is a Director of Nursing for a day surgery and a Captain in the Army Reserve.

He is a member of the Townsville Central Congregation in North Queensland.



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