

OIKOUMENE

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

163 Macquarie Street, Hobart (GPO Box 1130 Hobart 7001)
E-mail: tcctas@bigpond.net.au Phone: 6234 2543

April 2008

The 'Lund' Principle

Should not the churches act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately?



TCC APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Brad Taylor has been appointed as the new part-time (0.5) Executive Officer of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, and commenced in the position from 10th March.

The proverb "may you live in interesting times" springs to mind as he contemplates the challenges and opportunities ahead for the churches in Tasmania.

These are, without a doubt, challenging times for the world community, the Australian nation and Tasmania, let alone the churches. Yet, intrinsic to such times are the opportunities that together we begin to envisage, and then to embrace, in rising to meet these challenges.

"I firmly believe that we are in this together and only by working together will we find sustainable ways forward", says Brad.

Brad has worked as a social and community worker both on the urban fringe and inner city of Sydney. He was one of the first lay people in Australia to lead a Catholic parish (St. Mary's in Erskineville, Sydney) in the absence of a resident parish priest.

He managed the social justice initiatives for the Australian Province of the Catholic religious order, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. He has worked as a tertiary chaplain at the University of Sydney and at the Ultimo College of NSW TAFE, a role he job-shared with his partner, Jacinta Sinclair. Jacinta and Brad have one son, Isaac, almost 9 years old whom they home school.

Brad looks forward to the role of Executive Officer of the TCC and to the support of the churches to seek together and to make real that unity to which Jesus gently and challengingly calls us.

Brad would love to meet with congregations and groups around the state. Please contact him at the TCC Office (6234 2543 or mobile 0437 250 117) if you would like him to visit you.



TCC ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY 10 MAY, 2008

The TCC's 2008 Annual Meeting will be held at the Hobart Salvation Army Citadel, 180 Elizabeth Street, Hobart, from 9.30—3.00 pm on Saturday 10 May.

Keynote speaker will be the **Rt. Rev'd Richard Appleby** (pictured right), President of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Bishop Appleby is a long time supporter of the ecumenical movement, and was instrumental in the formation of the NCCA in 1994, playing an important part in the negotiations that led to the membership of the Catholic Church. He has had an extensive ministry in the Anglican Church of Australia, having served as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Newcastle, Bishop of the Northern Territory and prior to his retirement in 2006 was Assistant Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane. You will recall that Bishop Appleby was to have been our guest speaker in 2007 but, due to illness, had to withdraw and so we are particularly pleased that he has been able to accept our invitation this year.



The keynote address will be given during the morning session of the meeting at approximately 11.15 am. Following Bishop Appleby's address, worship will include liturgy prepared for the Centenary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

During the Opening Worship of the meeting (at 10.00 am) Bradley Taylor will be commissioned as Executive Officer of the TCC. Bradley's commissioning will be a significant occasion for the TCC and its Member Churches and a new step in the ecumenical journey in Tasmania.

ALL are welcome to come and hear Bishop Appleby and to join in as much of the meeting as possible. If you would like to stay for lunch, please advise the TCC office on 6234 2543 (or e-mail tcctas@bigpond.net.au) as we will need to have numbers for catering purposes.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2008

Marking the Centenary

'PRAY WITHOUT CEASING'
(1 Thess :17)

In 2008, the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** marks 100 years since the first 'Prayer Octave (eight days) for Christian Unity' began in 1908. These 8 days leading up to the feast of Pentecost (May 4-11) are a great opportunity to renew and deepen our relationships in the one God in whom we share in Jesus Christ.

The theme, appropriately, is '*Pray without ceasing*' (1 Thess 5:17) and a variety of resources are available to allow Australians to join more effectively in the prayer for unity begun by Jesus himself when he prayed, 'that they may all be one ... So that the world may believe'. (John 17:21).

The 2008 resources, adapted for use in Australia, have their origin in Graymoor, USA, where the 'Prayer Octave for Christian Unity' originated in 1908. Adapted for use in Australia, they offer a fresh opportunity to churches to worship together locally, to witness to our unity in Christ, and to pray and act for a greater visible expression of that unity.

The TCC is encouraging church communities across Tasmania to arrange ecumenical events in their local areas to celebrate the centenary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. What a wonderful way to demonstrate our unity in Christ as we recognise the unceasing prayer that happens across our community!

In Hobart, all are invited to share in worship at the Hobart Salvation Army Citadel at 12.30 pm on Saturday 10 May (following Bishop Appleby's keynote address at the Annual Meeting—see page 1). Please advertise this invitation widely through your congregations.

In Launceston, an ecumenical midweek service will be held— using the same theme. More details will follow on time and venue.

Resources are available from the TCC Office—see enclosed order form. Post the form to the TCC Office or phone 6234 2543 or e-mail tcctas@bigpond.net.au to place your order.

More information from
www.churchofchristtogetherinprayer.org.au



Hot off the Press—Exclusively for You!

Partners4Peace Study Tour of Indochina

Sunday 15 February—Tuesday 10 March 2009



You are invited to come on this journey of discovery and cultural education, where we really meet the locals and hear what our partnership means to them. The tour starts in Bangkok and visits project partners in Thailand and Cambodia, with courtesy calls to ecumenical groups in Laos and Vietnam, as well as checking the best historic, cultural and scenic spots in these fascinating countries.

The cost of \$5,890 per person (twin share) includes:

Return economy international flights with Thai Airways; Most meals; Accommodation in good quality hotels on a twin share basis; Transfers and tours with English speaking local guides; Ground transportation in comfortable vehicles; Internal flights; All entrance fees/boat fees.

Many other tour highlights included on this unique tour! Beware—reading this will excite!

Contact Howard Graham (Telephone (02) 8259 0827 or freecall 1800 025 101, or e-mail to hgraham@ncca.org.au for more details.

APRIL PROJECT FOR PARTNERS4PEACE

"That All May Have Abundant Life"

The Amity Foundation, one of our partners, is one of China's oldest Non Government Organisations and is active in the field of social development. Amity's support of village health workers in Guizhou province through a 3-year distance-learning medical program has trained 886 village health workers from 36 countries, with help from the local health care authorities.

Your support of the Partners4Peace program ensures that this work can continue.

Contact the TCC for more information about the program and how you can become a Partner.



CHRISTMAS BOWL “THANK YOU”

The Tasmanian Council of Churches would like to thank all supporters of Christmas Bowl who have assisted the program over the past months.

A special thank you to all our volunteers around the state who assisted with ‘shopping centre’ collections to raise \$33,500—a record! Money collected in the centres represents about one third of the Tasmanian income for Christmas Bowl.

Thank you to all Church Treasurers who have forwarded donations through to the National Council of Churches.

If you haven’t yet sent donations from your Parish/Congregation, we’d be grateful if you could do so as soon as possible so that Christmas Bowl projects can benefit.

A reminder that

*Kidz Take Over the
Cathedral this
Saturday April 5
from
10 am to 2 pm*

A family fun day at the beautiful St. David’s Cathedral in Hobart!

Cost \$3 per child or \$10 per family to defray costs.

Heaps of activities plus cheap eats. Games activities; little brides’ Cathedral tours and lots more!

Enquiries to the Dean,
phone 6234 4900
e-mail dean@anglicantas.org.au



SCHOOL CROSSING *Linking churches with schools in Tasmania*

The 2008 Autumn edition of *School Crossing* is enclosed with this newsletter. This publication is an initiative of the TCC (through its Commission on Christian Ministry in State Schools) and Scripture Union Tasmania.

Please copy and distribute through your networks as widely as possible so that others will be aware of the breadth of the work being undertaken in our schools to bring the Christian message to students across the state, and how you can support the ever-growing chaplaincy programs in Tasmanian schools and colleges.

Please continue to pray for all the programs related to this important ministry—one of Tasmania’s ecumenical success stories!



Tasmanians are preparing themselves for the arrival of the WYD Cross & Icon, on Sunday 11th May. The Journey of the WYD Cross and Icon began for Australia on July 1st, 2007 when it embarked on a twelve-month pilgrimage around the country, as an integral component of the build up to World Youth Day in Sydney this July.

The Story So Far

In 1984 Pope John Paul II entrusted a 3.8 metre high wooden cross to young people from around the world as a symbol of faith. He encouraged them to “*Carry it throughout the world as a symbol of Christ’s love for humanity, and announce to everyone that only in the death and resurrection of Christ can we find salvation and redemption.*” (Rome, 22nd April 1984).

Since then the WYD Cross has journeyed throughout the world,

carried by young people to symbolise Christ’s love. It has travelled throughout Europe, been smuggled behind the Iron Curtain, journeyed to Ground Zero in New York after the September 11 tragedy, to Rwanda, and to the Demilitarised Zone that separates the people of North Korea and South Korea. The message the Cross, and the pilgrims who carry it bring, is that of hope, healing and renewal in Christ.

On Palm Sunday 2003 Pope John Paul II presented an icon of Mary with the child Jesus, the *Salus Populi Romani* to young people to accompany the WYD Cross on its pilgrimage around the world.

Tasmania’s Journey of the Cross and Icon will begin at an Archdiocesan Pentecost Mass at the Silverdome in Launceston, when Tasmanian pilgrims will be commissioned for WYD in Sydney. The JCI will then make

its way around the state visiting sites of historic, environmental and spiritual significance. Visits to schools and parishes, youth concerts, processions, family days and involvement in the Pentecost Mass will allow people of all ages to experience the excitement and energy that has accompanied the Journey of the WYD Cross and Icon throughout the world.

“Take up your cross” takes on a whole new meaning for me now. The honour and joy of carrying the cross that Christ intended us to – not a heavy burden but a cross in my heart – a simple message of love and life that I can carry always and everywhere.’ (Belinda Chapman, Handover of the WYD Cross & Icon to Australia, Palm Sunday, 2006).

Further information can be obtained from the following websites: www.cymtas.org.au, www.wyd2008.org/index.php/en, <http://jci-wyd2008.blogspot.com/>



Relationships Education

**Starting a relationship? Getting married?
Want to enhance your relationship?**

Establishing and maintaining a committed relationship is worth investing in. Relationships workshops for couples are offered at Anglicare in Hobart and Launceston at various times through the year covering topics such as developing intimacy, communication and handling conflict, exploring values and expectations, as well as financial and legal matters. PREPARE, an inventory based resource, is also available for individual couples.

Relationship education can be tailored to individual or group needs and to different stages in relationships. Anglicare also provides relationships education for community or church groups covering an array of topics, or to suit group needs. For further information contact Joanna at Anglicare ph: 62133555 or e-mail: j.wierenga@anglicare-tas.org.au



TRADITIONAL MUSIC JAM AT NOBUCKS MIDDAY BREAK 12.00—2.00 pm Wesley Hall, 58 Melville Street, Hobart.

For 5 Wednesdays commencing 26 March in association with Folk Federation of Tasmania—come and hear traditional tunes, jigs, reels and waltzes from around the world, Musicians of all skill levels are invited to join in.

Bring your lunch and chat with the musicians. Complimentary fair trade coffee and tea available. Admission free!

ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE OF JEWS, CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS IN AUSTRALIA 26-29 MAY, 2008 Pallotti College, Millgrove, Victoria

**Theme: *Take off Your Shoes:
God and the Just Life—
Exploring our understanding of
Holiness.***

Application forms and more information available from the JCMA Office: E-mail jcmavic@yahoo.com.au or on the website: www.JCMA.org.au



HOBART NORTH UNITING CHURCH

*A pilgrim people, growing as disciples of Christ
through worship, welcome and witness*

We are seeking to appoint a

FAITH CONNECTIONS MINISTER(0.6 part-time) to join our ministry team.

**Great opportunities to apply creative and innovative approaches to
faith development and mission in a diverse and changing
congregation.**

(It is possible that the position could, with negotiation, be extended to full-time in the future.)

For an information pack please contact:

The Secretary, Hobart North Uniting Church,
PO Box 334, North Hobart, TAS 7002
Phone: (03) 62 31 3109 Fax: (03) 62 31 5245
Email: office@hobartnorth.unitingchurch.org.au

Applications close: 24th April 2008.

Please mark applications "Confidential"

FORWARD NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

Rachel's Vineyard National Conference 2008 *Hope and Healing After Abortion*

To educate and empower through a deeper understanding of abortion trauma, its aftermath and ways to forgiveness, wholeness and healing.

To be held at Maryknoll House of Prayer, 15 Home Avenue, Blackmans Bay Friday 26-Sunday 28 September.

Registration details and more information available from www.projectrachel.org.au or contact Josephine Dare (phone 62473640 or e-mail josephinedare3@gmail.com)

YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!

THROUGH PRAYER!

On Sunday 4 May at 3.00 pm at the Riverview Room at the Botanical Gardens, you are invited to hear Lyle Young from Canada, an international speaker, practitioner and teacher of Christian Science healing.

Explore how practical, effective prayer has transformed lives and changed the world for the better.

"I've found that a clear understanding of God and prayer gives everyone revolutionary tools to radically improve our own lives and the world around us", Lyle has said.

More information available from Joan Nelson 6239 1235 or mobile 0408 382 479.

ALL SAINTS' CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL REFLECTION AND LEARNING 339 Macquarie Street, Hobart.

QUIET DAYS FOR 2008

SATURDAY 17 MAY

Director—Bishop Phillip Newell

SATURDAY 23 AUGUST

Director—Rev'd John McRae

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER (at St. Raphael's Fern Tree)

Director—Rev'd Rosalind Terry

More information from Fr. David O'Neill, phone 6223 1795 or e-mail fatherdavid@bigpond.com