

OIKOUMENE

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

163 Macquarie Street, Hobart (GPO Box 1130 Hobart 7001)

April 2005

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 GENERAL SECRETARY



Both a challenge and an opportunity is how the new General Secretary of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, the Rev'd Tim Matton-Johnson (pictured), sees the position.

With many of the Member Churches under pressure from both within and without, as the world in which we live becomes increasingly diverse and complex, it would seem that there may not be a great deal of energy for ecumenical activities. Yet, believes Tim, many of the very same issues could well provide opportunities for churches to work together.

Tim is also very enthusiastic about the work of Christian World Service, which includes Christmas Bowl, and looks forward to adding his energy to that important part of the General Secretary's responsibilities.

Tim has provided ministry in Uniting Church congregations both in Victoria and Tasmania and is currently in a part-time placement with the Glenorchy congregation. In recent years he has also worked as an accountant but will be leaving that profession to join the TCC.

Tim is married to Lynne and they have three young adults about the house. Barnaby, the youngest, is in year 12, the eldest, Elanor, is in 3rd year at University and Ross is trying to decide 'What next'.

Tim expects that there will be a sharp learning curve as he begins to understand the life and history of the Tasmanian Council of Churches and its efforts to seek a new vision towards the future in obedience to the call of Christ.

Tim takes up his appointment as General Secretary on 1st July 2005.



TCC ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY 14 MAY 2005

The TCC's 2005 Annual Meeting will be held at the Kings Meadows Salvation Army Citadel, 16-20 Kay Street, Kings Meadows, from 10.00 am—3.00 pm on Saturday 14th May.

Following on the theme of last year, *A New Vision for Churches Working Together in Tasmania*, the theme for this year will be *Quo Vadis? - Which Way?*

Keynote speaker will be the Rev'd Professor James Haire (pictured right). James is the current President of the National Council of Churches in Australia, the Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Canberra, and is Immediate Past President of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. He is an eminent speaker, leader and educator and we are privileged to bring him to Tasmania for this event.



The keynote address will be during the morning session of the meeting at approximately 11.30 am. After lunch, James will be joined by Bishop John Harrower, Fr. Michael Tate and the Rev'd Rosalind Terry in a panel discussion on International Affairs, with an emphasis on Indonesia. Opportunity will be given for delegates to have interaction with the speakers and this should lead to an interesting and lively discussion. In addition to delegates representing Member Churches of the TCC, you are **ALL WELCOME** to come and hear James Haire. If you would like to stay for lunch, please advise the TCC office on 6234 2543 (or e-mail tcc@trump.net.au) as we will need to have numbers for catering.

Please plan to be there to be part of the continuing ecumenical journey in Tasmania.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 8—15 May 2005

*Prayer—
visible sign and instrument of Christian Unity*

The ecumenical movement needs visible signs of Christian unity, and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is one.

For churches in Slovakia, the Week of Prayer is perhaps the most visible sign of what members of different churches in that country have in common, reflecting many aspects of cooperation between churches. It was those churches who provided the theme and basic worship resources for the Week of Prayer in 2005, and in their situation—marked by new possibilities for growth—they developed the theme: *Christ, the one foundation of the Church* (1 Corinthians 3:1-23).

With its origins dating back to 1908, the Week of Prayer is a world-wide endeavour of Christians of many churches, languages, and great diversity of race and culture, who are engaged in praying and working for the unity of Christians in the service of the wider redemption, unity and peace of all peoples. The Week is an opportunity to express the degree of communion which the churches have already received, and to pray together for that full unity which is Christ's will. It is about being faithful to the prayer of Jesus Christ, as seen in John 17, *'that they may be one'*.

RESOURCES:

- An Order of Worship
- Daily Bible Readings and Prayers

Available at: www.ncca.org.au/departments/faith_unity/weekofprayer

Photocopies of the above, and

- A Poster (black and white) for local advertising \$2.50
- Prayer Cards \$4 for 20

Available from the TCC Office, 163 Macquarie Street, Hobart—phone 6234 2543 or e-mail tcc@trump.net.au

ORDER YOUR COPIES TODAY and plan an ecumenical service with churches in your area during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

*Christ, the one
Foundation
of the Church*

SIMPLY SHARING WEEK Help Cause a Traffic Jam! Become part of Simply Sharing Week 15—22 May 2005

Order your Kit from the TCC Office now, if you haven't done so already. Organise a fundraising or educational activity to support *forceten's* partners in Thailand and Nepal to stop human trafficking.

The Kit has a wealth of ideas for you including:

- Service outline
- Kids section
- Youth section
- Facts about trafficking
- Drama/petition
- Games
- Information about web based resources

Bumper stickers (\$2.00 each), and 'Stop Human Trafficking' T-shirts (\$20.00) are also available.

Phone the TCC Office today on 6234 2543 or e-mail tcc@trump.net.au to order your resources. Please note that Power Point presentations are available from the *forceten* website, some with scripts. Visit www.forceten.org.au for more information.



From Destruction to Reconstruction— Tsunami Victims Rebuild their lives

Four months have passed since the tsunami on December 26, but for those who personally experienced the disaster, it is not easy to forget the day that changed their lives.

The impact of the tsunami can still be seen, despite the cleaning and clearing work that has been continuous.

People are somehow managing to cope with life after the tsunami, but it will be a long time before many can call life normal. The reconstruction and rebuilding will take many years.

A photo essay of relief efforts can be seen at http://act-intl.org/news/dt_nr_2005/dtindonesia0905.html

Christmas Bowl funds (through Action by Churches Together (ACT) International will continue to support relief efforts in the tsunami affected areas.





partners 4 peace
working for a world at peace



From July 2005 there's a new way for you to make a difference in the world—year round.

Peace comes from people having their basic needs met, their lives having purpose, their voices being heard—having hope for the future and dreams for their children. Become a *Partner4Peace* and share in this vital work.

Partners4peace offers:

- Monthly giving to projects—option to assign gifts to the area of greatest need
- Peace Mail—monthly letters

from partners—sent quarterly, if you wish to save mailing costs

- Gifts by direct debit from credit card or bank account—saves processing costs—receive a free binder to hold your Peace Mail
- Gifts by cheque or bank deposit, if you prefer
- Personal summary of gifts at tax time—this too saves administration costs—makes giving simpler for you
- At least 80% of your gifts put to work in the projects.

Please ask for the brochure or register your interest by calling the TCC Office 6234 2543 or e-mail partners4peace@ncca.org.au

To celebrate the commencement of the Partners4Peace Program, Zack Sabella, a young Palestinian (pictured above), will visit Australia in July to share his hope for peace and justice in the Middle East.

Zack's program is not finalised, but will include Tasmania. When details are confirmed the dates and venues will be publicised widely.

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT SUNDAY—28 AUGUST 2005

What is Refugee and Migrant Sunday?

Refugee and Migrant Sunday (RMS) aims to encourage churches to help brave people build new lives by celebrating the contribution of refugees and migrants have made to Australia. A special focus is on refugees, asylum seekers and other people who have been forcibly displaced. RMS is held every year in thousands of churches around Australia on or near the last Sunday in August.

Free Education Kits!

To help celebrate and raise awareness, the NCCA produces free Parish and School Education Kits with a poster to promote the day, refugee stories, education sheets, suggested activities and worship resources. Contact the TCC office for a free hard copy, or download from www.ncca.org.au/cws/refugees.

Media Competition—Get your School involved!



Each year, the National Council of Churches also runs a Media Competition. This year, the theme is “Refugees: part of our family too!” Winners in each of the three categories—from graphics, paintings and drawings to power point presentations, poetry and film—receive \$250 and the entries go up on the NCCA's online gallery. The winning entry will be used to promote day around Australia in 2006.

*Winning Entry 2004, by Zara McKenzie Year 7
Our Lady of Mercy College, Melbourne*

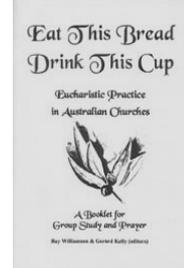
How can you help?

- Celebrate Refugee and Migrant Sunday in your church on or around 28 August 2005 with the worship resources provided in the Education kit.
- Help brave people build new lives in your community by organising an event with friends, family and refugees and asylum seekers.
- Reflect on the stories in the kit, pray for uprooted people and take action where you can.
- Contact the TCC for ideas on how to volunteer or give financial and other support.
- Support Christian World Service financially to assist refugees who have effectively been “warehoused” in camps overseas for years on end with few rights or means to an income.

EAT THIS BREAD, DRINK THIS CUP

Eucharistic Practice in Australian Churches

(A Booklet for Group Study and prayer)



For the large majority of Christians, the celebration of the Eucharist is at the centre of their experience and life of faith, an essential part of their spiritual journey.

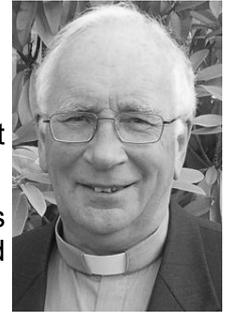
In 2000, the New South Wales Ecumenical Council, in partnership with the Victorian Council of Churches, produced a study book on Baptism—*Life After Drowning* which was widely used for ecumenical studies in Tasmania.

Now the NSW Ecumenical Council is offering a sequel. *Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup* aims to provide a similar opportunity for reflection on the Eucharist. It is as we grow in understanding of one another that we increase our appreciation of and respect for one another and so move towards a more complete communion with one another. Our complete communion will find expression in the sharing of the Eucharist together.

Copies of the study book are available from the TCC Office for \$5.50 each. We highly recommend it to you for ecumenical studies with your neighbouring churches.



RETIREMENT FROM PARISH MINISTRY THE REV'D CANON ROBERT LEGG OAM



After a long and distinguished ministry, the Rev'd Canon Robert Legg OAM (current President of the Tasmanian Council of Churches) will retire on 31st May, 2005.

Robert has been an Ordained Minister of the Anglican Church since 1963 and has served in the Parishes of Trevallyn, New Town, Zeehan/Rosebery, Scottsdale and for the last 34 years at Kingston.

You are invited to mark the occasion of his retirement and to thank both Robert and his wife, Robin, for their ministry at a **Church and Community Celebration** at St. Clement's Church, 100 Beach Road Kingston at 7.30 pm on Friday 27th May.

The TCC would like to take this opportunity to offer prayers and blessings to Robert and Robin for a long, happy and rewarding retirement.

STRATHCARE VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM

An opportunity for you to volunteer!

Strathcare is an agency of the Uniting Church in Australia, providing residential and community care to people in Tasmania. The community comprises around 200 people, living within three residential facilities at Strathaven, Strathglen (Hobart) and Strathdevon (Latrobe).

Their volunteer program is currently being reviewed and re-shaped and their aim is to invite interested members of the wider community to be part of the enthusiastic and dedicated team of volunteers.

Volunteers are being sought from diverse faith and cultural communities for the Pastoral Support Team, the Lifestyle Volunteers Team and the Palliative Care Support Team.

If you would like more information, please contact Paul Kowalik, Counsellor/Community Chaplain at Strathcare, phone 6272 7575 or e-mail pkowalik@strathcare.org

MENTOR TRAINING

Southland Ministries, based in Sheffield, operates a comprehensive three-year mentor training program. To date three groups (each with up to twelve participants) have completed training and a fourth group has just started. From May 2005 a fifth training group will be running from Hope Christian Church in Tasma Street, Hobart.

Each course involves three one-day and one three-day workshops each year. The initial workshop will be on 23-26 May. Cost is \$500 per person per year. This covers all tuition, materials, meals and facilities. Participants must make a commitment to complete the three years. Positions are strictly limited.

Jeff McKinnon will be the trainer. He has considerable experience in mentoring clergy and lay people from six denominations.

For further information, or to express interest, please contact Jeff at Southland Ministries, PO Box 148, Sheffield 7306. Phone: 6491 1714 or e-mail jeff.mckinnon@vision.net.au



SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB 11 May, 2005

What is your addiction? What has it to do with your spirituality?

How does our spirituality help us cope with our addictions and those of our loved ones?

Bring your reflections and questions to an evening about *Spirituality and Addiction*.

You are invited to join in a discussion with

- A member of Alcoholics Anonymous
- Betty Roberts, founder of Holyoake in Hobart.

at Moonah Café Bar & Bistro at 7.30 pm, finishing by 9.00 pm. Meals are available from 5.30 pm.

There's no charge but a collection will be taken for expenses.

More information from Rev. Peter Weeks (6228 1068) or Mary-Anne Johnson (6228 6000).



The NCCA's National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical

Commission invites you to be a partner with Indigenous Australians in their struggle for justice. You can do this by supporting the 2005 Martung Upah Appeal.

MARTUNG UPAH APPEAL

It's a sad fact that many Indigenous Australians are living in third world conditions. With your help in 2004 community projects have been funded and implemented and resources developed. Through your support of the 2005 Martung Upah Appeal worthwhile projects can continue and the passion for

Reconciliation reignited through the work of the Commission.

Your donation can be sent to NATSIEC, National Council of Churches in Australia, Locked Bag 199, Sydney, NSW 1230—or you can donate on line at www.ncca/give/mua