

OIKOUMENE

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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

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July 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?

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

As indicated in the photograph I have been commissioned as the General Secretary of the Tasmanian Council of Churches and commenced work.

I felt particularly well supported on the day of the Commissioning service. The pre-service retreat was a valuable time of reflection and discernment of the presence of God's calling in the midst of all the activity. It was wonderful to have support on the night from old friends in the Midlands, my ecumenical colleagues from Glenorchy, UCA colleagues from as far away as Devonport as well as numbers of people from the TCC and my congregation at Glenorchy. There was even a letter from far off Dartmoor in western Victoria where I had been the minister in the early nineties. The service was a significant beginning

to a new stage in my ministry.

Starting off in the role is definitely about discovering my way into the history and activity of the TCC. I ask for your support over this initial period. Please don't be surprised if I ask the same question twice as there is a great deal to learn and not everything sticks the first time!

The position is a part-time one and for the rest of my time I am still committed to ministry in the Glenorchy Uniting Church. However I do have a number of Sundays over the course of the year when I'm not required at Glenorchy and would love to visit some other congregations around the state. Feel free to call me at the TCC office if your congregation would like a visit.

Throughout my ministry I have been involved in local ecumenical



Heads of TCC Member Churches surround Tim during Commissioning Service

efforts, particularly through local ministers' associations. If I am visiting an area the opportunity to meet with such local associations would be great. Learning about what is happening at the grassroots level of ecumenism is something I want to do.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all

Yours in Christ's Service,

Tim



partners 4 peace
working for a world at peace

YOU ARE INVITED

to come and celebrate the new Christian World Service Program, **Partners4Peace**, with special guest Zack Sabella from the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, Middle East Council of Churches. Come and hear Zack speak about Palestinian people's visions and dreams.

"No wall will block our visions and dreams—nor will it weaken our everlasting will to build our country—nor will it make us depart our land and abandon our home. It will only feed our hunger to exist, and strengthen our unity as a people."

A flyer is enclosed giving details of where and when you can meet and hear Zack Sabella. On the reverse side of the flyer is some background information about Zack, and also details of how you can

"become a Partner4Peace working with ecumenical partners".



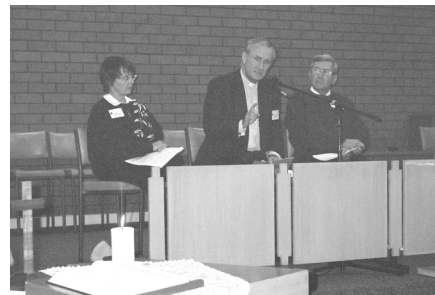
REPORT FROM TCC ANNUAL MEETING

On Saturday 14 May, the Annual Meeting of the Tasmanian Council of Churches welcomed the Rev'd Professor James Haire as the keynote speaker for the occasion. James Haire is the President of the National Council of Churches in Australia and Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture. He gave an inspirational and challenging address entitled *The Unity of the Church: What can we realistically achieve now?* He highlighted a number of issues being faced by the Australian church at this time: *Identity; Mission; Organic Unity of the churches; Intercommunion; Relationships; Pragmatic Christianity; Proliferation of Christian expressions—including the growth of the Pentecostal movement, the Evangelical and Charismatic Churches.*

If you would like a copy of James's address, please contact the TCC office on 6234 2543 or e-mail tcc@trump.net.au

In the afternoon session of the meeting James Haire was joined by

the Rev'd Fr. Michael Tate and the Rev'd Rosalind Terry in a Panel Discussion on the topic *Indonesia: Opportunities for Mission? Friendship? or What?* A wide-ranging discussion included topics relating to the influence and organic links between religions and the political fabric of the country, evangelisation and persecution and provided members of the Annual Meeting with an added insight and consciousness about this important area of the world.



Rev'd Rosalind Terry (left), Professor James Haire (centre), Rev'd Fr. Michael Tate (right) pictured during the Panel Discussion



Left to right: Peter Comas, Rev. Tim Matton-Johnson, Rev. Allan Thompson, Sr. Elizabeth Vagg PBVM, Rev. Canon Robert Legg (Immediate Past President)

TCC officers (pictured left) were elected for the coming year, as follows:

The Rev'd Allan Thompson is the TCC's new President. Allan is the Associate General Secretary of the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania for the Uniting Church in Australia, and heads up the Tasmanian Office of the Uniting Church.

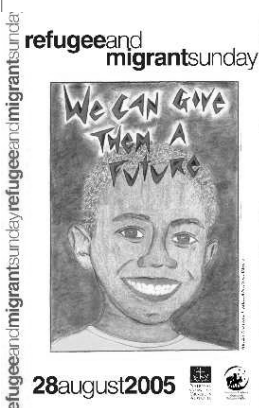
Sr. Elizabeth Vagg PBVM was elected as Vice-President. Sr. Elizabeth is a Catholic Sister and Assistant Registrar/Chaplain of the Australian Maritime College.

Mr. Peter Comas was re-elected as Treasurer. Peter is a member of the Catholic Church and a retired Accountant.

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 are available NOW!

To help celebrate and raise awareness, the NCCA produces free Parish Education Kits and School Education CDs with a poster to promote the day, refugee stories, education sheets, suggested activities and worship resources. Contact the TCC office (phone 6234 2543 or e-mail tcc@trump.net.au) for a free hard copy, or download from www.ncca.org.au/cws/refugees.

Media Competition—Get your School involved!

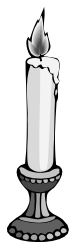
Each year, the National Council of Churches also runs a Media Competition. This year, the theme is *"Refugees: part of our family too!"* Winners in each of the three categories—from graphics, paintings and drawings to power point presentations, poetry and film—receive \$250 and the entries go up on the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

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.

HIROSHIMA DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE

St. David's Cathedral
10.30 am on Saturday 6 August



The Tasmanian Council of Churches, in association with St. David's Cathedral and the Singers of Southern Tasmania (Inc.) is arranging a Hiroshima Day Commemoration Service at St. David's Cathedral at 10.30 am on Saturday 6 August, the 60th Anniversary of the dropping of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Church, Parliamentary and Civic Leaders are being invited to join representatives of Schools, Defence Forces, RSL and other faith communities to remember those whose lives were devastated by this tragic event and to reflect

on its significance for today. During the service representatives of these groups will be invited to light candles, or place paper cranes, to mark the occasion.

The Singers of Southern Tasmania (which includes the Friends Singers and the Spring Bay Singers), under the leadership of Mr. Rod Grosvenor, will perform excerpts from *The Armed Man—A Mass for Peace* by Karl Jenkins.

Please advertise this event widely within your networks and plan to be there to support this initiative. A flyer is enclosed to assist you.

force ten

Churches working together for development

Forceten's Project for July is focused on Oy Mbang village in Cambodia's Kompong Thom Province where twenty families were forced to leave their homes. The government soldiers had laid landmines and the area became riddled with unexploded ordinance. Six years later some families needed the nearby land for farming and decided to return to their original homes. Not long after they returned a landmine killed a family member.

Forceten's partner, Church World Service Cambodia, heard about the plight of these people, and organised a de-mining project in the area. In July 2004, the de-mining teams started their work and by October 13,287m² had been cleared. 3 mines, 2 UXO and 8,121 fragments were found.

Your donation to this project will ensure that this very important de-mining work continues. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Phone forceten on 1800 025 101 to make a credit card donation, make a secure donation online at www.forceten.org.au or send your contribution to forceten, Locked Bag 199, Sydney 1230.

Prayer for Landmine Victims

How can I walk in Your way without feet?

I was collecting sticks for the fire when I lost my arms.

I have a head but my head does not understand why there are landmines in the grazing land or why there is a tripwire across the dusty road to market.

My heart is filled with a long ache ... I did not protest when the soldiers planted fear into the earth that smothers the old people and the anxious mothers and fills the young men with hate.

Lord we are all accomplices in the crime of war which is lust for power at all costs.

The cost is too much for humanity to bear.

Lord, give us back our humanity, our "ubuntu".

Teach us to serve you without armaments.

AMEN

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

WORKSHOPS

Bringing Indigenous Issues Back to the Centre Through Women's Stories

These workshops have been designed specifically for Christian women (from any denomination) to provide a way for Reconciliation to be addressed by women in the church.

It is a chance for Indigenous and non-Indigenous women to sit down together and share their stories about being women in the church and how to move Reconciliation forward.

The program includes worship, story telling and theological reflection on the book of Esther, discussion between Indigenous young women, Indigenous older women and non-Indigenous women, updates n reconciliation, brainstorming personal action points to further the Reconciliation process within our church communities.

The NCCA's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission has offered to facilitate a Workshop in this state in the next few months. ***If you would be interested in participating in such an event, would you please register your interest with the TCC Office (6234 2543 or e-mail tcc@trump.net.au) by the end of July.***

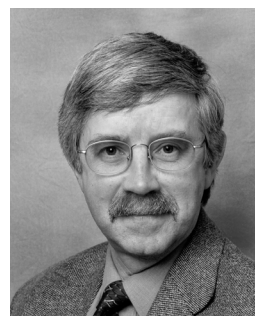
EAT THIS BREAD, DRINK THIS CUP

Eucharistic Practice in Australian Churches

(A Booklet for Group Study and prayer)

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.

**The Anglican Diocese of Tasmania Invites you to a
Public Lecture
A Case for Religious Education in Schools
Wednesday 21 September, 2005, 7.30—9.00 pm
at the Hope Centre, 25 Tasma Street,
North Hobart.**



Guest Speaker Dr. Trevor Cooling

Dr. Cooling has been a teacher and University lecturer and was for a number of years the Director of the Stapleford Centre in Nottingham which is a national study centre for religious educators. During that period he had the oversight of a highly significant project which supported the promotion of spiritual and moral development across the curriculum in secondary schools. He has acted as a consultant in Religious and Moral Education for both Government and church agencies and has authored books, pamphlets and articles on religious, spiritual and moral education in schools. Dr. Cooling was most recently a Principal Lecturer in Education at the University of Gloucester and at the present time is the Advisor on Secondary Education to the Bishop of Gloucester as well as continuing to undertake projects for the Stapleford Centre.

**TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES
WITH THE
NEW SOUTH WALES
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Amity Foundation in Nanjing, China, the New South Wales Ecumenical Council is organising a visit to Beijing, Xian, Nanjing, Suzhou, Hangzhou & Shanghai from **19 October—7 November, 2005.**

Cost: Full Tour \$4,500 (twin share)

Cost: Land Only \$3,285 (twin share)

Enquiries to Kathy Moroney at the NSWEC ph. (02) 9299 2215 or e-mail kmoroney@ncca.org.au

If you would like to join the Visitors Program at the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Porto Alegre, Brazil from **14—19 February, 2006**, you could travel with the NSWEC, including a "Prior to the Assembly" tour to Brazil, Peru and Bolivia.

Cost: \$10,900 (twin share) for 36 days.

Full itinerary and options for part of the group program are available. Enquiries to Doug Hewitt (02 9299 2215 or dhewitt@ncca.org.au)

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH
WOMEN
Fellowship Day**

Services will be held in the following Tasmanian Churches:

North:

Launceston—Trinity Uniting Church, Monday 25 July at 1.30 pm

South:

Glenorchy Uniting Church, 446 Main Road, Friday 29 July at 10.30 am

North-West:

Devonport Uniting Church, Steele Street, Friday 29 July at 1.30 pm

Ulverstone Anglican Church, Friday 22 July at 1.30 pm

Burnie Salvation Army, Friday 29 July at 1.00 pm

There will be a collection for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

Please join with other Christians to celebrate this day.



**SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB
13 September, 2005**

**Subject:
Spirituality and Caring**

Speakers will include Paul Kowalik, Chaplain at Strathcare.

Usual venue: Moonah Café Bar & Bistro at 7.30 pm, finishing by 9.00 pm. Meals available from 5.30 pm, but please book your table.

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).

EATING WITH FRIENDS

Eating with Friends (EWF) is a successful project targeting isolated older people in the community by bringing them together to share and enjoy meals. The program began as a pilot in 2000 and there are now over 18 active groups in areas throughout Tasmania.



To date the program has been administered by Community Development Officers in Glenorchy City Council but the expansion and success of the program now means the level of support needs to be reviewed and widened to meet the state-wide focus of the program.

To this end, expressions of interest are sought from people wishing to foster the EWF program at both a local and state-wide level. It is hoped that representatives from churches will take up the challenge and become involved. You are invited to attend a seminar on **Thursday 21 July at Campbell Town, Town Hall from 11 am-3 pm** (lunch and refreshments provided). Contact Rebecca Essex on 6216 6371 with your RSVP or for more information.