

OIKOUMENE

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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

E-mail: tcctas@bigpond.net.au

October 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?

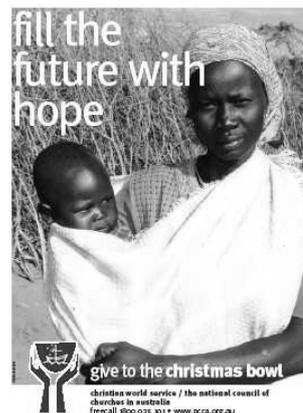
Christmas Bowl Appeal

2005-2006

Fill the Future with Hope

Help the Bowl overflow!

(See pp. 2-3 for details of Tasmanian Christmas Bowl Program)



From the General Secretary

It's now four months into my time with the Tasmanian Council of Churches. Some things are feeling more like routine whereas others are still new and unfamiliar. I want to share with you just a few highlights from my first few months.

Learning about local grass roots ecumenical activity around the state has so far been one of the special benefits of working for the Tasmanian Council of Churches. I enjoyed worshipping with the Hobart Baptist Congregation and meeting some of their folk at morning tea after the service. Meeting and sharing with the ministers' association in Devonport and observing their prayerful support for one another gave me hope for increasing Christian unity. Recently I was invited to preach at the monthly ecumenical service at Georgetown and to tour the Seaman's Mission at Bell Bay. It was very encouraging to see a tangible link between worshipping together and working together in mission. I

look forward to further invitations to visit local communities.

Witnessing the numbers and diversity of people who participated in both the Hiroshima Day Service in St David's Cathedral and the three Abrahamic Faiths event at the new Hobart Mosque revealed to me that there are many people who hope and pray for a more peaceful and open world, and that the prevailing atmosphere of fear that seems to pervade so much of life can be broken down.

Another highlight has been working with the State Emergency Recovery Committee on ways in which the churches can be ready to respond in a coordinated way to assist in recovery following disasters that impact on the lives of people in the Tasmanian community. We were recently able to have a very successful two day training workshop for chaplains and are developing a memorandum of understanding between the state department and the Tasmanian Council of Churches.

As you can see the work and ministry of the TCC is varied, and as you read on about the various things that are coming up soon, particularly with the Christmas Bowl Appeal you will see that the variety and interest goes on. We value your prayers and support as we walk together in the ecumenical journey to which Christ calls us.

Rev'd Tim Matton-Johnson



**Christmas Bowl Visitor
Aisake Casimira
from Fiji**

(pictured above)

will be in Tasmania from 9—11 November. For details of his program and where you can meet him see page 2.

CHRISTMAS BOWL VISITOR

Aisake Casimira from Fiji



Aisake Casimira is the Executive Director of the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECREA) in Suva, Fiji. The Centre's activities include workshops for local Fijian towns and villages on economic justice, peace and social empowerment.

Aisake was born in Fiji (Rotuma) in 1964 and is married with two children. His expertise includes sociology, development issues, social change, the Political

economy issues and their impact on society; Theological and social research and analysis; Economic policies and issues of globalisation in Fiji and the Pacific.

He holds University Degrees: Bachelor of Divinity (2), Master of Arts in Social Policy Development, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/Anthropology.

Aisake holds membership of a number of South Pacific boards.

He has worked closely with the World Council of Churches – Pacific Desk since the late 1990s.

Aisake is a powerful and accomplished speaker and presenter. He has written a number of papers for church, government and non-government organisations and conferences.

CHRISTMAS BOWL MATERIALS



The theme for the 2005-2006 Christmas Bowl Appeal is *Fill the Future with Hope*.

Kits have been distributed to congregations/corps/schools/groups over the last few weeks. If you haven't received your materials, please advise the TCC office (ph. 6234 2543 or e-mail tcctas@bigpond.net.au)

The 2005 Kit includes Worship and Group Resources for all ages, posters, a map, clip art for pew sheets and other promotions, bookmarks. School kits are also available.

Extra kits, envelopes and bookmarks are available from the TCC Office.

Help the Bowl overflow!

CHRISTMAS BOWL PUBLIC LAUNCHES

**YOU ARE INVITED
to the
Public Christmas Bowl Launches**

**HOBART
Thursday 10 November
12.30 pm in the Elizabeth Mall**

**LAUNCESTON
Friday 11 November
12.30 pm in the Brisbane Street Mall**

Aisake Casimira will be the guest speaker at both Launches. As well, a number of church and community leaders will be present.

Items of music, drama and dance will be provided by St. Michael's Collegiate and the Friends' Schools in Hobart and St. Patrick's College and Launceston Grammar (*The Fellas*) in Launceston.

Please plan to be there to support these important events.

TWO SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH AISAKE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BOWL

**In the South
at 6.30 pm on Thursday 10 November
at Glenorchy Uniting Church
446 Main Road Glenorchy**

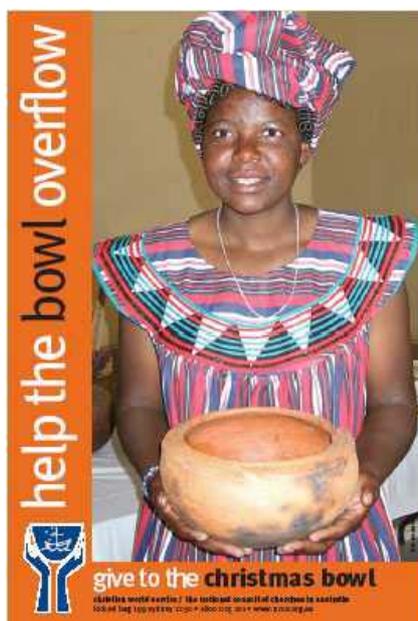
**All invited to a
Bring and Share Tea with Aisake.
(Parking at rear of church off Kensington Street).**

**In the North
at 3.00 pm on Friday 11 November
at Trinity Uniting Church
Cnr. Balfour & Margaret Streets, Launceston**

**All invited to an
Informal Gathering with Aisake
(afternoon tea provided)**

***Please publicise these events widely
within your networks and plan to come
and bring your friends!***

Have you received a Christmas Bowl Corflute Sign for display outside your Church?



Elizabeth Amungulu works at the Katatura Women's Centre in Windhoek, Namibia. The local people struggle to sustain it.

Elizabeth made the dress she is wearing on the morning that Eira Clapton, General Secretary of the Council of Churches in Western Australia, visited Katatura. It is a traditional outfit, which Namibian women wear for celebrations. Elizabeth had been part of a sewing program at the centre; the women have difficulty finding money for materials to make clothes.

The bowl Elizabeth is holding normally contains traditional foods. Eira was welcomed with lunch. The women's centre has a commercial kitchen and cooking is taught so that people can obtain employment. Traditional foods are part of the cooking program - in an attempt to get people to remain true to their culture, and to eat foods that are more nutritious, and cheaper.

The centre is an Indigenous Namibian Women's Program, which was established in 1991 as a not-for-profit organisation. Its aim is to promote educational and cultural activities for women. The centre has meeting halls, classrooms, kitchen/eating areas and administration offices.

Activities include literacy courses, kindergarten groups, meals for older people, cooking courses (for people wanting employment), needlework training and a quilting project.

If you haven't received a sign, please contact the TCC Office, phone 6234 2543, or e-mail tctas@bigpond.net.au

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS BOWL SHOPPING CENTRE COLLECTIONS!

Tasmanian has a tradition of Christmas Bowl collections in shopping centres throughout the State. But we need volunteers to staff the collection points. A complete list of centres (and dates) is below.

Please advertise widely within your networks and advise the TCC office (6234 2543 or tctas@bigpond.net.au) if you can assist and we will pass you name on to the local coordinators. The shifts are not long, and this is your opportunity to help make a difference in the world! A wonderful opportunity for churches to work together!

We are grateful to the following shopping centres that have agreed to support collections on their premises:

South:

Centrepont	5—24 December
Shoreline	14—24 December
Woolworths, Lindisfarne	15—17 December
Northgate	6—9 December
Claremont	12—16 December
Woolworths, Huonville	9 and 16 December

North:

Launceston Mall	13—16 December
Meadow Mews	1—2 December
Riverside	29 November—3 December
Mowbray Market Place	8—10 December

North West:

Burnie Plaza	5—23 December
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South Asia Earthquake Appeal— Afghanistan, India and Pakistan

NCCA Christian World Service is a partner of the CWS/ACT South Asia earthquake appeal.

CWS Pakistan has established a tent village, with the capacity to accommodate 2,450 people, in Bisyan - eight kilometres from Balakot in Pakistan. CWS has also distributed shelter kits accommodating 14,450 people and food packages for 11,500 people in the areas of Battagram and Balakot. The CWS/ACT earthquake appeal is aiming to raise AUD \$8,363,000 in order to provide:

- medical assistance to 100,000 affected individuals through medical camps;
- 15,000 shelter kits - each comprising family size tents accommodating an average Pakistani family of seven members;
- 15,000 food packages - prepared to meet nutritional needs (2,100 kcals per person per day) for one month; and
- 15,000 house reconstruction kits.

CWS/ACT has an implementation plan in place for the tent village with protection issues being carefully considered and staff being trained in this area.

Nearly three weeks after the earthquake people are still coming to terms with what happened. Predictions of bad weather are cause for concern, as it will have a devastating impact on relief efforts, with the chances of accessing remote areas seemingly bleak.

Concerns have been expressed that the death toll from the earthquake may increase dramatically.

**YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE NCCA CHRISTIAN
WORLD SERVICE SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL
WILL BE WELCOMED**

**TELEPHONES 02 9299 2215 OR 1800 025 101;
GIVE ONLINE www.ncca.org.au/cws/emergencies
MAIL NCCA CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE,
Locked Bag 199, Sydney NSW 1230**

**SCHOOLS SUNDAY
A DAY OF PRAYER AND SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS
26 FEBRUARY 2006**

Following on from this year's inaugural celebration of Schools Sunday, the TCC's Commission for Christian Ministry in State Schools again invites church communities throughout Tasmania to celebrate, pray for and support our schools, particularly on this day which is being designated as Schools Sunday.

Church communities are being invited to focus worship on schools and Christian ministry in schools, to pray for their local schools and the people in them, and to commission those from the congregation who are involved in schools.

A very helpful Schools Sunday Pack has again been prepared. The pack includes * an order for worship * suggested Bible readings * ideas for Schools Sunday * a newsletter insert * a puppet play, and drama

The pack is available on E mail or hard copy from the TCC Office (tcctas@bigpond.net.au or phone 6234 2543) or from Alan Dutton at the Tasmanian UCA Presbytery Office (alan.dutton@victas.uca.org.au or phone 6331 9784).

**PLEASANT
SUNDAY
AFTERNOON**

2.30 pm
Sunday 4 December
at Scots Memorial
Uniting Church, 29
Bathurst Street, Hobart

A delightful afternoon of music and verse provided by a number of talented artists (including the Friends Singers) in a program which will appeal to all ages.

**Donations to
Christmas Bowl Appeal.**

Please come—
& bring your friends!

**YOU ARE INVITED
to the
Australian Premiere of
THE ARMED MAN: a Mass for
Peace by Karl Jenkins, and
BEGIN THE SONG
by John Blow**

to be performed by The Friends Singers at 7.30 pm on Saturday 12 November at All Saints Church, Macquarie Street, Hobart. Conductor is Rod Grosvenor, organist David O'Neill, soloist Marilyn Smith. A number of musicians will assist with orchestral accompaniment.

Many will remember that the Friends Singers presented excerpts of the *The Armed Man* at the Hiroshima Day Commemoration Service in St. David's Cathedral on 4 August. Their performance was a wonderful contribution to this occasion.

Admission is by Program—cost \$15.00.

Please advertise this special event widely within your networks.

**NON VIOLENT ACTION:
A Journey for Peace**

The Tasmanian Catholic Justice and
Peace Commission presents

**Ken Butigan
from Pace e Bene,
Chicago, USA**

**2.00 pm Saturday November 26
at the Quaker Meeting House,
Boa Vista Road, North Hobart.**

Ken is a long-time activist for social justice and has taught religious studies at DePaul University in Chicago. He has been involved with training and development of resources on the spirituality and practice of active non-violence for the Pace e Bene organisation in the USA. Ken is touring Australia to speak about his personal journey for peace and to demonstrate how non-violence can be an instrument for social change.

All are welcome. Entry by donation.

For more information, please ring the TCJPC on 6208 6271.



**SPIRITUALITY IN
THE PUB
29 November 2005**

SIP invites everyone to celebrate with body, mind and spirit at the final SIP evening for 2005.

Program includes the sounds of Weetbix with Syrup, along with Adam Cousens' solo singing, and there will be readings as well.

At Moonah Café Bar & Bistro at 7.30 pm, finishing by 9.00pm. Meals from 5.30pm, but please book.

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



**Have you signed up yet for Partners4Peace?
If not, phone free call 1800 025 101, or contact the TCC office.**

Partners4Peace offers:

- Monthly giving to projects—options to assign gifts to the area of greatest need.
- Peace Mail—monthly letters from partners.
- Gifts by direct debit.
- Personal summary of gifts at tax time.
- At least 80% of your gifts put to work on the projects.
- A part in building peace in the world.

Project for November is "*Building a peaceful future for Egypt*".