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TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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

E-mail: tcctas@bigpond.net.au Phone: 6234 2543

November 2007

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?

Greetings from the Tasmanian Council of Churches

Christmas is a special time as we celebrate again the birth of Christ. It's the time of the year when we attend worship services, spend time with family and friends, share sumptuous meals, exchange gifts, take holidays and have the opportunity to enjoy ourselves to the full.

While we have the pleasure of these festivities, people in other parts of the world are coping with famine, war, violence, insecurity, desperate illness and homelessness.

We've been privileged during this past week to have Dr. Visier Sanyu, a Refugee Officer with the Victorian Council of Churches, visiting Tasmania. Visier addressed a number of schools and churches to raise awareness about the refugee situation in Australia and around the world, reminding us that Christians need to be committed to giving a compassionate welcome and a Christian response to refugees.

On pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter, you will find information about programs supported by Christmas Bowl and Partners4Peace. As supporters of these programs, we can do something to improve the situations of those less fortunate than ourselves here in Australia and overseas. You are encouraged to include these programs in your gift-giving this Christmas!

On behalf of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, we wish you a Christmas filled with love, joy and peace.



Expressions of Interest are sought for an EXECUTIVE OFFICER Tasmanian Council of Churches (part time-position—approximately .5)

The Tasmanian Council of Churches (TCC), an ecumenical Christian organisation, has an exciting opportunity for a motivated person (clergy or lay) to fill a challenging and creative role to facilitate churches working together in Tasmania.

Further information is available from the TCC Office (phone/fax 6234 2543, or e-mail tcctas@bigpond.net.au)

Expressions of interest, including the names, addresses and phone numbers of three referees, should be addressed to:

The President
Tasmanian Council of Churches
GPO Box 1130
Hobart 7001

**Closing date for expressions of interest:
21 December, 2007**

A Christmas Bowl Prayer

"Lord, when I am hungry, give me someone to feed; when I am thirsty, give me someone whose thirst I may assuage. And when I am cold, someone to clothe.

"When I am sad, give me someone to cheer, when my burden is heavy, give me also those of others; and when I need love, may others ask for mine.

"May your will be my food; your grace my strength and your love my rest.

"May my whole life be a gift perpetually offered to you, O God, until the day when you are pleased to receive it back again."



CHRISTMAS BOWL MATERIALS

The theme for the 2007-2008 Christmas Bowl Appeal is
ACT for the Christmas Bowl!

ACT stands for "Action by Churches Together". The Christmas Bowl is an opportunity for thousands of Australian churches to ACT with overseas churches and ecumenical partners working on effective community development.

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

The Kit includes worship resources, stories and activities for all ages, clip art for pew sheets, a poster and bookmarks. Extra kits, envelopes and bookmarks are available from the TCC Office.

Christmas Bowl aims to facilitate AID work in 22 countries including Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific and Australia. The term AID encompasses the work of Christmas Bowl:

- A**  assistance in emergencies
- I**  injustice response
- D**  development and poverty reduction

Please promote the program as widely as possible through your churches and communities—and please pray for those people whom we seek to serve through Christmas Bowl, that they may know the love of Christ through our generosity.

Have *you* joined Partners4Peace yet?

If not, you are invited to e-mail partners4peace@ncca.org.au, freecall 1800 025 101, or visit www.partners4peace.org.au to register.

Partners4Peace offers the opportunity to give all year round, to support a different project each month and to learn through the monthly Peace Mails about the people you are supporting. You are assured that at least 80% of your gifts are put to work in projects.

All gifts to Partners4Peace help our project partners' work in making a positive difference. For example,

- ◆ \$500 provides one year of three years of carpentry training in a Gaza refugee camp
- ◆ \$267 pays for one village doctor to complete a skills upgrade course in China
- ◆ \$35 brings safe, clean water and sanitation to an Ethiopian family
- ◆ \$17 facilitates an education program for a woman in a refugee camp in Lebanon
- ◆ \$12 clears land mines from 10 square metres in Cambodia.

More information available from the TCC Office.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS BOWL SHOPPING CENTRE COLLECTIONS!

Tasmania has a tradition of Christmas Bowl collections in shopping centres throughout the State. A complete list of centres (and dates) for this year is set out below.

Please advertise widely within your networks and advise the TCC office (6234 2543 or tcctas@bigpond.net.au) if you can assist and we will pass your 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—22 December
Woolworths, Lindisfarne	20—22 December
Northgate	4—7 December
Claremont	10—14 December
Woolworths, Huonville	7 & 14 December

North:

Launceston Mall	11—14 December
Meadow Mews	6—7 December
Riverside	20—24 November
Mowbray Market Place	6—8 December

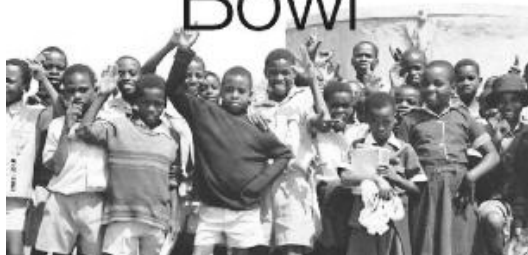
North West:

Burnie Plaza	3—21 December
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**Have you received a Christmas Bowl Corflute Sign
for display outside your Church?**

ACT!

for the
Christmas
Bowl



The Christmas Bowl Corflute Sign this year depicts school children from the Penemene Village in the Beitbridge District, Zimbabwe.

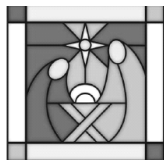
These young people are celebrating the construction of a large rainwater tank at their school. The provision of clean water has made significant improvement to their health. One of the students was heard to say that “each day I come to school and am happy to be able to drink clean water from the tank and I seem to get less sick”.

In 1995 village women in Beitbridge identified access to clean water as the top priority of their major concerns. The Zimbabwe Council of Churches supported them and began a Rainwater Harvesting Program in 1996. Over 2,000 tanks have now been constructed, originally with bricks, now built from ferro-cement. Women, men and young people have been trained in tank construction and maintenance, in water conservation and hygiene.

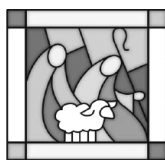
The water project has been extended to help with other facilities. For example, washing sinks, bio-gas pits for power and smokeless ovens have been built, and jam making projects have been started.

A gift to the Christmas Bowl will ensure that the vital work of our partner, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, will continue to provide this community and their surrounding neighbours with clean fresh water essential for good health. Water is essential for productive communities and well-being. In 2007 the Christmas Bowl, in conjunction with AusAID provided \$75,000 to this community.

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



Finding Hope



Christmas Eve

- 5pm* Finding Hope for Children
- 7pm* Finding Hope through Carols
- 11pm* Finding Hope at Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

- 8am* Finding Hope in the Christmas Story, Communion & Carols
- 10am* Finding Hope with the Choir of St David's, Celebrate the Eucharist & Christmas Story for Children

All above services are at
St David's Cathedral in the heart of Hobart
ph 6234 4900 email: dean@anglicantas.org.au

You are invited to two
**CHRISTMAS
ECUMENICAL EVENTS**

at
**Scots-Memorial
Uniting Church**
29 Bathurst Street Hobart

Sunday 2 December 7.00 pm
Nine Lessons & Carols
Singers of Southern Tasmania

Sunday 9 December 7.00 pm
Christmas Bowl Concert
A Capella Music
with Tony Backhouse
“Heart & Soul” and their friends.

*Donations at both events to the
Christmas Bowl Appeal*

Please advertise widely—
and plan to be there!



SCHOOLS SUNDAY

Please set aside



Sunday 2nd March for the launch of

PrayPal

Adopt a School in Prayer

SCHOOLS SUNDAY

- ◆ Dedicate your service/part of your service to celebrate, support and pray for your local school
- ◆ Lots more information coming in early February.

PrayPal

- ◆ Adopt your local school and commit to pray for them
- ◆ Register your adoption online and receive resources
- ◆ Lots more information coming in early February

If you would like more details, please contact Kathryn Yaxley (Schools Sunday) schools_Sunday@optusnet.com.au or Andrew Turner (PrayPal) Andrew.turner@sutas.org.au

A poster is enclosed—please spread the news through your networks as widely as possible.

Imagine what could happen if every school is prayed for

FORWARD NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

Visit to Tasmania
DR. VAL WEBB

7.30 Wednesday 20 February at the Quaker Meeting House, Argyle Street, Hobart

7.30 pm Thursday 21 February at Pilgrim Uniting Church, Paterson Street, Launceston.

Val Webb is a university lecturer in religion, with a graduate degree in science and a Ph.D. in theology. She is the author of 7 books, including *Florence Nightingale: The Making of a Radical Theologian*, *John's Message: Good News for the New Millennium* (commissioned by the World Methodist Council), and her latest book *Like Catching Water in a Net—Human attempts to describe the Divine*.

Val is an 'easy to listen to, challenging and inspiring speaker'. Put these dates in your diary NOW! More information in the New Year.



If you live in Hobart—or are visiting—take time out in a relaxed welcoming space to bring your lunch or just 'drop in' to Wesley 'in the city'

Uniting Church, 56/58 Melville Street, (off walkway between the buildings).

- ◆ Coffee Shop environment.
- ◆ Fairtrade Tea & Coffee available FREE.

Enquiries to Wesley office, phone 6231 4033.

WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICES

5.30 pm Saturday 1 December
Holy Trinity Anglican Church,
Cameron Street, Launceston

A special service of remembrance.

4.00 pm Saturday 1 December
In the G A. Wood Hall,
29 Bathurst Street, Hobart
(behind Scots-Memorial Uniting Church)

Bring friends who are grieving deaths, and family living with HIV/AIDS.

STUDY PROGRAMS

CHRISTIANS IN DIALOGUE An Interchurch Discussion Program— *Hope for a New Pentecost*

This discussion program, *Hope for a New Pentecost* has been written by an ecumenical team from the Toowoomba Churches Together (representatives from the Uniting, Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches). It is a five-week study designed for use by small ecumenical groups in local communities.

The study covers:

- ◆ The Call to be One
- ◆ The History of Ecumenism
- ◆ Signs on the Pathway to Unity
- ◆ Themes for Ecumenical Discussion (including Communion, Scripture & Justification)
- ◆ Contentious Issues
- ◆ Spiritual Ecumenism
- ◆ What we Need to do!

Copies of the study are available from the TCC Office for \$5.00 each.



ADVENT STUDIES

Still Waiting: Waiting Still

(Prepared by Graham Booth on behalf of the Discipleship Development & Education Committee UCA Presbytery of Tasmania)

A resource to prepare for the celebration of God's gift to the world in Christ at Christmas.

Contact the Tasmanian UC Presbytery office to order books (\$2.50) or master copy (\$10). Phone 6331 9784 or e-mail tasoffice@victas.uca.org.au

ECUMENICAL RESOURCE FOR 2008

Journeying together to Pentecost

(Prepared by the South Australian Heads of Christian Churches)

The study will focus on the great period between Easter and Pentecost.

It is not a "study" programme, but will be *reflective*. Based on the Gospels, it will help people share stories and insights.

A DVD and a discussion guide will be available. More information early in 2008.