

OIKOUMENE

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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

April 2003

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?

"We offer the treasure of our faith in the frailty of our personal witness, our communities and our ecumenical achievements" are the opening words of intercession in this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity worship service. We are invited to celebrate the flame lit by God in the hearts of believers and their communities though they come from many different cultures, people and nations. We are reminded that "We hold this treasure – this gift – in earthen vessels...therefore we do not lose heart..." 2 Cor. 4:4-18.

At a time when the world yearns for peace and justice, the Easter season and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity gives us an opportunity to revisit our response to local and world needs. Our desire to offer hope is not always easy to translate into practical ways because of the restrictions of resources, time and finance. However, when we share a vision, plan and take action together, we are able to achieve so much more, as well as supporting and caring for each other along the way. Included in this Newsletter is a form for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity material available from the TCC

office; you may like to check out the resources on the NCCA website at www.ncca.org.au before ordering - the poster and prayer cards are particularly eye-catching.

I will be conducting a seminar, together with Rev'd Aileen Fitzgerald, in Launceston on 2nd May to explore the work of churches together in partnership (details p.4). On this occasion we will look at the wider role of the TCC and include the work of Christian World Service in which Aileen is involved. This prompts me to remind you that I will travel *anywhere in the state* to conduct workshops or seminars on issues related to the ecumenical journey. These occasions can be shaped appropriately for church gatherings at the local level; they need to be hosted by one of our member churches but open to all Christian denominations.

May the season of Easter take us back to hear and respond to the dying words of Jesus that His followers may all be one.

Val Graydon

TCC ANNUAL MEETING—SATURDAY 3 MAY 2003

Saturday 3 May is the date of the TCC's Annual Meeting for 2003. This will be held at the **Kings Meadows Salvation Army Citadel, 16-20 Kay Street, Kings Meadows, Launceston from 9.30 am-4.00 pm.**

The keynote speaker will be the **Rev'd John Henderson, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia.** His address, titled *Ecumenical Impressions: Churches and Ecumenism in the 21st Century* will be at 11.40 and will cover relationships of the Churches, internationally and nationally.

The TCC's General Secretary, the Rev'd Val Graydon, will speak about the ecumenical journey on a local level, incorporating the **Tasmanian Launch of the Decade to Overcome Violence.** This could not be happening at a more relevant time when we consider the devastation of the situation in Iraq at present.

In addition to the delegates representing Member Churches of the TCC, you are ALL welcome to come and hear John Henderson and join in the Launch of the Decade to Overcome Violence. If you would like to stay for lunch, please advise the TCC office on 6234 2543, as we will need to know numbers for catering purposes.



Decade to Overcome Violence kits entitled *Give Peace a Hand* are available from the TCC Office (cost \$5.00 each) and can also be downloaded from the NCCA website at www.ncca.org.au/dov. The kit contains biblical reflections, ideas for taking action as a group, ways to involve children in peace making and peace building, prayer and worship resources.

Easter Events

PALM SUNDAY PEACE RALLY - SUNDAY 13 APRIL

Bring your lunch and join the
Palm Sunday Peace Rally on Sunday 13 April
at 1.30 pm from Franklin Square, Hobart
to St. David's Park at 2.00 pm

Speakers: Father Denis Allen, Sonam, Gwynn MacCarrick.
Peter Hicks' CD will be launched during the program.

The Rally is coordinated by the Peace Coalition. For further information, contact 6231 4496 or 0438 691 125.

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

If you have never been to an **EASTER MARCH** before, you are urged to review your priorities this Easter Sunday and say **"I'LL BE THERE!"**

This Easter the words *peace, hope and reconciliation* are going to be in short supply. You are invited to join with other Christians to witness to the real meaning of Easter: the only authentic source of hope, peace and reconciliation.

As our world polarises, there is a sense that this could well be one of the most important Easter seasons in our history.

Following huge Palm Sunday Easter peace marches, who is going to remind the world that hope, peace, forgiveness and reconciliation are only to be found on the other side of Easter?

Awakening organizers are planning marches in all capital cities. The Hobart march is planned to commence at 2.00 pm with marchers gathering at the Cenotaph for the celebration and commissioning. Then it's off through the city streets to Parliament House Gardens for 3.00 pm Easter Festival. See enclosed leaflet for more information.

Like Water for Chocolate You can bring new life this Easter!

As Easter approaches, we thought you might like an alternative to eating heaps of chocolate.

Instead of tipping the bathroom scales, tip the scales of justice!

For \$10 you can purchase from *forceten* a beautiful card with a water theme—to give instead of an egg.

Each card provides clean and safe water to a person in Africa.

Phone the TCC Office (6234 2543) to order or Free Call *forceten* on 1800 025 101

Simply Sharing Week

May 23—June 1 2003 (or at any time convenient to you throughout the year)

Imagine getting up in the morning and not being able to turn on a tap, have a shower or flush the toilet. Instead you must walk 2 or more kilometers for water and then carry it back to your home. The water is inevitably dirty and diarrhoea and other diseases plague your family. This is what life is like for over 1 billion people in the world, including 72% of rural Zambians.

If you want to know the facts and want to do something about this sort of injustice, then you can order a Simply Sharing Kit NOW (available free of charge) from the TCC office in Hobart (6234 2543) or from Aileen Fitzgerald in the north west (6431 2780). A life-changing video on water in Zambia is also available (cost \$10). By participating in *Simply Sharing Week* you have the opportunity to make a concrete difference in the lives of people in Zambia.

You can provide clean water to villages by raising money to 2 drill a borehole or provide a hand pump.

It's as easy as setting a goal and selling water bottles or organizing a dinner to achieve it.

The Simply Sharing Kit includes

- Facts about issues facing Zambia
- Practical ways to get involved from selling water bottles to running a Simply Sharing Meal
- Activities and ideas for kids about water so they can change their world for the better
- Games and an exploration of water facts for young people
- Worship ideas, prayers and teaching notes

More information and resources are available on the NCCA website www.ncca.org.au

REMINDER—Have you ordered your supply of water bottles yet? Call 1800 025 101 now!

The sale of a water bottle for \$5.00 helps to provide water for the people of Zambia.



THE COMMISSION ON THE GOSPEL AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

The Commission on the Gospel and Human Relationships meets bi-monthly under the convenership of the Rev'd Peter Weeks. The Commission seeks to assist churches and the wider community to reflect on issues relating to gender, human sexuality and bioethics.

As one way of fulfilling its mandate, for some years the Commission has organized a series of Seminars on the four Tuesdays in March. Subjects over the years have included: Death and Dying, Human Sexuality, Reconciliation, Money, Punishment This year the topic was *Stewardship* and a report prepared by Peter Weeks follows:

Stewardship: The Use and Abuse of Resources and Means

“Being born into the human race endows everyone with awesome responsibilities. Even before growing up, everyone is obliged to make decisions

which reflect this responsibility—or lack of it. How well we make these choices and the way in which we exercise responsibility which is our birthright is, basically, a measure of our stewardship. The more we understand the world in which we live, the more aware we become of the intertwining web of our decisions. What I decide—the exercise of my responsibility—I discover, affects not myself only but, in varying measure, every living thing.”

From the briefing paper given to speakers

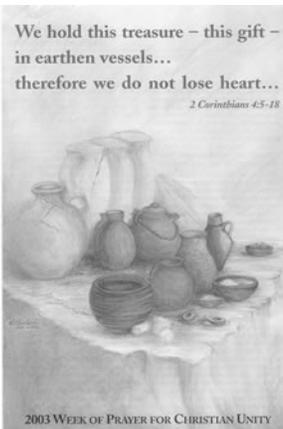
We invited 8 speakers to share with us at the Friends' Meeting House over the 4 Tuesdays in March. These were people who have personal experience of exercising or thinking about stewardship in a range of areas from forests to family, from vows of poverty to the whole sweep of Christian tradition, from National Trust to City Council.



An average of 28 people per night joined in the conversations. It was apparent that many more issues were raised than could be fully addressed at the time. The conversations and reflections continue. How do we balance the competing demands that are placed upon us? Where is the line between appropriate and inappropriate use of resources? How do we weigh up the “facts” that are presented to us? What criteria or filters do we use to assess them? These were just some of the questions raised.

We are very grateful for the way in which each of the 8 speakers shared something of themselves and their own journey with us.

2003 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 1-8 June



This year, in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we are invited to celebrate and praise God for the unity we share in Christ. The text for 2003 (*We hold this treasure - this gift - in earthen vessels Therefore we do not lose heart ... 2 Corinthians 4:5-18*) was chosen by an ecumenical group in Argentina - a country where there have been many waves of immigration, which

have affected both their national context and the churches. As Australian Christians, we link our prayer and quest for the unity of the churches with our responsibility to share the light of Christ - ‘the treasure in clay jars’ - and to welcome strangers into our midst.

An order form is included listing resources (and cost) for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (1st - 8th June). Return the form to the TCC Office (GPO Box 1130 Hobart 7001) , or phone us on 6234 2543 to order your requirements.

National Sorry Day 26 May Week of Prayer for Reconciliation 27 May—3 June



Australians will commemorate National Sorry Day on 26 May, followed by the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation from 27 May - 3 June. These events remind us how far Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians have travelled to date and the journey ahead.

In Hobart on 26 May, a March will leave the Rose Garden, near the Railway Roundabout at 11.15, arriving at Parliament House at midday. The program will include speakers, a barbeque, music and time to share stories.

Other local events are being planned for the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation, including a gathering on Thursday 29 May at the Glenorchy Council Lawns at 12.30 pm. Further details will be available from Grant Finlay (0417 340 050).

Jubilee Sunday—29 June 2003

This day is the first of what is hoped will become an annual event. On this day Australians are called to act together for 100% cancellation of unpayable and unjust debt of countries trapped in the debt-poverty cycle and to ensure that funds released are used in poverty reduction.

For more information and resources to support your activities, visit the Jubilee website www.jubileeaustralia.org or e-mail eevagata@ncca.org.au or FREECALL 1800 025 101.

Opportunities for Churches to Gather and Work Together

CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP - DOES IT REALLY WORK?

The TCC invites you to explore this question on
Friday 2nd May at 7.30 pm

We know that churches are working together to witness to the Christian ideal of compassion, peace and justice at the local level and overseas.

How does this happen and how is this effective in the spreading of God's Kingdom?

This topic will be explored at a workshop to be held at **St. David's Anglican Church, Riverside, Launceston, on Friday May 2nd at 7.30 pm.** The work of the Tasmanian Council of Churches will be outlined as it joins with our national and overseas partners.

Please advertise this widely in your church community. Contact Val Graydon (6234 2543) or Aileen Fitzgerald (6431 2780) for further information.

DEMENTIA AND PASTORAL CARE

*The Spiritual Wellbeing of Dementia
Patients and their Carers*

The Rev'd Dr. Noel Schultz, Ministry with Adults coordinator for the UCA Synod of Victoria & Tasmania, will lead workshops in the north and south of the state, on Dementia and Pastoral Care, as follows:

North:

Monday 12 May and Tuesday 19 August at the Lawrence Vale Uniting Church, Launceston

South:

Thursday 15 May and 21 August at the Glenorchy Uniting Church
(all from 10.00 am—3.30 pm).

Registration (\$10.00 per day, including lunch) to UCA Office, 6331 9784, or mail to 96 Margaret Street, Launceston by 5 May.



**OUR UNIVERSE,
OUR SACRED STORY –
An Eco-spirituality Retreat led by
Angela Cameron, pbvm
2-4 May
at Maryknoll, Blackmans Bay**

Angela will lead participants in new ways of living in harmony with creation, ourselves and the Sacred.

Angela is an Australian Presentation Sister who has studied in the areas of spirituality and culture at Holy Names College California, and ecology and spirituality at Genesis Farm, New Jersey.

More information from Maureen Holloway on 6229 3269.

(Sponsored by the Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission and the Tasmanian Congregation of the Presentation Sisters).

THE TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF PRISONERS SUPPORT SERVICES (TAPSS)

will be holding a public meeting on **Wednesday May 7 at 7.30 pm** at the Friends' Meeting House, 395 Argyle Street, North Hobart.

Subject: *The Role of Volunteers in the Rehabilitation of Prisoners.*

All are welcome, particularly any interested in becoming volunteers.

For more information contact Debra Rees, President/Secretary, email tapssinc@bigpond.com, phone 6225 4321, or Ruth Legg email jrlegg@tassie.net.au or phone 6249 4390.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
PENGUIN UNITING CHURCH
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
Saturday 10/Sunday 11 May**

Details from Rev'd Adelene Mills
ph. 6437 5368.

Advance Notice VISIT- GERARD KELLY

In Hobart and Launceston UK based communicator and author of the acclaimed book '*Retrofuture*' will explore significant 'posts' of change in 21st century Western culture and what the implications are for Christian Mission. Please put the dates in your diary now!

Workshops & Seminars

Monday 28 July, Tabor College, 45 Melville Street, Hobart.

Tuesday 29 July, Church of Christ, 70 Frederick Street, Launceston.

Interactive Workshop 2.00-5.00 pm (\$20), Inspirational Evening Seminar 7.00-9.30 pm (\$5.00).

More information from Simon Hattrell (simonhattrell@iprimus.com.au), or phone 6228 0163.

