

Yarns

My Aceh Experience

In May this year I was asked by *Youth Off The Streets*, a Sydney based Christian organisation, to join a team of volunteers going into Aceh in Indonesia. Banda Aceh is the capital of the Province of Aceh, on the island of Sumatra. The land around Banda Aceh is extremely flat, allowing the 20- metre high wave to spread right across the city and villages until it hit the mountains, 5 km inland, when it then receded back into the ocean. Many who survived were injured, and all were in shock.

(Simple Map of Indonesia)

It is estimated that 11 000 children were lost or orphaned. They were treated medically and then sent out onto the streets. The Muhammadiyah, a large, caring Muslim organisation, took displaced children aged from 10 – 18 from the medical aid stations to a temporary refugee camp, set up 10 km out of town. It was here that *Youth Off the Streets* decided to help. Donations of tents, food, clothing, money all helped to establish a new base for these children. The two groups are working together, rebuilding the lives of children. Local people are employed to care for the children, maintain local customs, religion and education, all being supervised by the Muhamma-diyah. Our job as volunteers was to assist the local people become efficient in their operation. As far as refugee camps go, I would call this one a 5-star camp. We had a septic tank system and clean drinking water was delivered by tankers daily. Most camps had neither of these. We also had equipment to maintain and repair tents as they failed, many camps had nothing.

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Yarralumla Uniting Church

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Pat's Chat

As I write this I am still reflecting on Ockert's sermon last Sunday morning (11Sept) when he spoke about "forgiveness and bitterness". I remembered that one of my daily devotional readings last month was about hanging onto bitterness and allowing it to consume us. It made me realise that I have to seek forgiveness from God and others first then forget the past before I can move forward in service. The "Thought for the Day" was: – "We cannot go forward if we remain focused on the past". It is so easy to hurt someone with words of anger but difficult to apologise and ask for forgiveness.

I have just watched Mark Latham being interviewed on "Stateline" ABC TV and he was quoted as saying something like "being unforgiving of others but easily forgiving himself". (I should have written the exact words down.)

Maybe he needs to listen to the tape of Ockert's sermon.

I think of PROVERBS 15:1 "*A gentle answer quietens anger but a harsh one stirs it up.*"

.....

We think of and pray for members of our congregation who are on the sick list, recovering from surgery or in hospital. We pray for their friends and families at this time, as well as those grieving for a loved one or feeling sad, depressed and lonely. We also think of and pray for the people of New Orleans that they will receive the help, care and support they so badly need as they try to come to terms with what has happened.

I leave JAMES 3:3-12 with you.

*Pat Thom
Pastoral Care*

Black Stump '05

This year 17 people from Yarralumla's youth group are going away in the school holidays for 4 days to "Black Stump", a Christian music festival held at Cataract Gorge Scout Park (near Appin). We will be joining some 20 000 'Stumpers' for a great time.

We camp in tents, and have organised to share the cooking etc activities. Sue Woodland and Lou Tidy have been volunteered to be our coordinators this year.

"Black Stump 05" will run from Friday 30 September until Monday 3 October.

Each day, music workshops and performances begin after the 9.00am services, and continue until about 8pm when the concerts start. Concerts finish sometime after midnight. Nearly everyone can attend the worship services, held in a really huge big top.

Music themes include: Rock, Hip Hop, Jazz, Classical, Country and Western, Electronic, Punk, Heavy Metal.

Have a look at the Black Stump website <http://www.blackstump.org.au>

[William, we hope you and all the others manage to get a bit of sleep!]

Postage Stamps, used but not useless. Cut them from the envelopes and place them in the box at the church. Patient volunteers will trim, sort, and sell them to raise funds for Missions.

The grace of happiness

The word “happiness” and variants of it are found a few hundred times in the Bible. So there is indeed a sense in which the Bible introduces the believer to a life of happiness. But interestingly enough this happiness is seldom found in the context of a carefree life. Quite the contrary, in the Bible believers are often encouraged to happiness while they find themselves in quite precarious surroundings. (For example, Paul’s words in Phil 4:4.)

The secret behind this is found in the meaning of the Greek word for happiness. It is the word *chara* and it shows a very close resemblance to another Greek word: *charis*. In fact, these two words share the same root in the Greek language. They are as we would say in English: birds of a feather...and they often flock together.

Charis is the Greek word for “grace”. In other words, according to the Bible, happiness does not grow from satisfaction or accomplishment, but from grace. Therefore it is not true what we often hear people say about others or feel about themselves, namely that they “deserve” some happiness.

For by its very nature, grace, like happiness, is not something that we can work for and thus “deserve” in this sense. In fact, most people would probably find, the harder we work to achieve happiness, the more likely it is to escape us.

Eugene Peterson draws a contrast between Augustine and Pelagius, two fourth-century theological opponents. Pelagius was urbane, courteous, convincing, and liked by everyone. Augustine squandered away his youth in immorality, had a strange relationship

(From the Minister)

with his mother, and made many enemies. Yet Augustine started from God’s grace and got it right, whereas Pelagius started from human effort and got it wrong. Augustine passionately pursued God; Pelagius methodically worked to please God. Peterson goes on to say that Christians tend to be Augustinian in theory but Pelagian in practice. They work obsessively to please others and even God. (As told by Philip Yancey.)

And this obsessive effort to please or to achieve only ends in frustration and unhappiness – be it before God or in our efforts to make ourselves acceptable or loveable to others.

There is an enormous lesson in this happiness of grace. For grace doesn’t grab. It doesn’t need to. Neither can it be grabbed. There is nothing to grab hold of.

Grace is the simple pleasure of realising that we don’t own our lives. Our lives are a gift; a gift of grace. God didn’t *award* us with our lives. He *gave* us our lives.

So perhaps it is only when we understand something of the pleasure or happiness of grace that we can indeed taste the grace of happiness.

Ockert Meyer

Never tell anyone it can't be done ... God may have been waiting for centuries for somebody ignorant enough of the impossible to do that very thing.

Happiness is like a butterfly - the more you chase it the more it will elude you. But if you turn your attention to other things, it comes and sits on your shoulder.

Pointers for Peacemakers

* **Everyone can be a peacemaker.** It is a calling and privilege we can all claim.

* **Peacemaking** is about what happens in *our* hearts first. It is possible to be passionately engaged in reconciliation in one area and yet be personally fragmented and in conflict in other areas. Peacemaking requires the accompanying pursuit of personal change and wholeness with all the depth and growth that it produces. The intimate and the global are profoundly connected.

* **Compassion.** It is in entering into the pain of others, especially of those from whom we may be personally alienated, that compassion and transformation are released. This requires an ever-open heart and an understanding of the protective mechanisms we all operate with. As the native American saying puts it, we must “walk a mile in their moccasins” before we judge someone.

* **Availability.** Time is at a premium, yet the most precious thing we can do is to create space

for listening relationships: with ourselves and with God as well as with others.

* **Listening.** Deep listening is in tragically short supply. Listen in such a way that we are prepared to be changed by what we hear.

* **Hospitality.** Reaching out, inviting in, using our homes. The sharing of stories, joy and pain. To make peace, to reconcile, people need to know and be known.

* **The cost factor.** It costs time, comfort, personal plans and sleep! “If we want to be a bridge we have to be prepared to be walked over.”

* **Love as the prime motivation.** Love that is free, selfless and honest renews the lover as well as the loved.

* **Confronting injustice.** This will take many different forms and is best undertaken if the other eight points are adhered to! If we are not prepared to confront those things that work against peace, then we are not peacemakers but cocoon-builders.

*Jean Brown, (formerly of our congregation)
in an MRA publication. Supplied by Colleen Smith*

The first twenty years

These were the years in which Christianity was born and grew. Not for these first believers, however, was there the protection and nurture of caring parents as for a newly born infant. Events in the wider world, as recorded in “world history”, were calamitous. Equally, events in Christian history were turbulent and full of pain which, however the first Christians met with courage, resolve and determined leadership.

Through these troubled years the apostles formulated the “faith”, proclaimed the “faith”, and established “assemblies” of believers inside and outside the land of Israel that belonged to the Messiah, Jesus.

We are struck by this: world history apart from generalised comments in Tacitus and Josephus, makes no reference to the new “child”, Christianity. It is preoccupied with the passing parade of emperors, governors and high priests. For its part, Christian history in the book of Acts is focused on the continuing works of Jesus, the now-risen Christ.

For those first Christians the events of the wider world are largely inconsequential and only noticed if they bear in some way on the progress of the word.

*From: “The Birth of Christianity – the First Twenty Years” by Paul Barnett.
Supplied by Ken Goard*

Library News

After more than 10 years as Coordinator of the Library Committee, Denise Goard has decided it is time for a change. The members of the committee have greatly appreciated her leadership and together with the congregation, we are all indebted to her for the time and energy she has spent in establishing the library in its current position and in a more user-friendly format. THANK YOU DENISE. A few years ago leaders from the Australian Church Library Association came to Canberra and encouraged church libraries to join the Association. Since then Denise has arranged for the Committee to receive the magazine “Off the Shelf”, enabling news from church libraries around Australia to be shared.

Denise will remain a valued member of the Library committee. When I (Janice Newman) began the library in the 1970s, little did I imagine that nearly 30 years later I would be back as coordinator! This time it is wonderful to have the support of such a capable team – Beatrice Cox, Elizabeth Hopgood, Margaret Lawton, Einna Moir, Rosina Noad and Wendy Wingett in addition to Denise.

We endeavour to keep the library up-to-date, and we would like to encourage the members of the congregation to take advantage of the material available. In addition to books of many categories of Christian living, we have videos for both adults and children, and we also keep tape recordings of the more recent sermons.

But of course the Library is only valuable if people use it. So it's up to all of us. Isn't it time you borrowed a book, or a video, or a tape?

*Janice Newman
Library Coordinator*

Friendship Group

This will be the third year the Friendship Group has been involved in filling shoeboxes for needy and disadvantaged children. “Operation Christmas Child” is one of the projects run by Samaritan's Purse, an evangelical organisation providing physical and spiritual aid to hurting people around the world.

Sue Woodland told us that she had been present when children in an orphanage in Mozambique received Christmas shoeboxes and some Scripture, and their joy was indescribable.

The criteria for the items we pack are:

- Something to love
- Something to play with
- Something to write/draw with/on
- Something for personal hygiene

- Something to eat/chew
- Something to wear

This year we have decided to pack shoeboxes for boys/girls 5-9 yrs and boys/girls 10-14 yrs. We will include exercise books, pencils, pictures, face washers, soap, soft toys and hard lollies. (Things such as toy guns, chocolates, or secondhand items are not acceptable.)

Samaritan's Purse collected 11,200 boxes from this area last year, of which the Friendship Group with the support of the congregation contributed 40 boxes. Our members really enjoy filling the boxes, but the transport costs of \$7 per box are quite a challenge for our small group.

Koraline Killeen

A Gold Medal

Last month they sent Henry a gold medal and he is very proud of it. But it doesn't have a hole for a ribbon! Henry earned that gold medal. He served his country during World War 2. He was eighteen when war broke out, but couldn't enlist until he had finished his apprenticeship. He became part of the 9th Division, serving in Morotai, PNG and finally Borneo when peace was declared. Many of his experiences were so horrible that he won't talk about them, but he says that he joined up because "we HAD to win the war". It was a time of adventure, good training and mateship. After the war he continued with bakery work, moving from Cowra to Goulburn, then to managing stores in Canberra.

Bill enlisted in the RAAF in 1941. Not everyone could be a pilot, so he trained as a navigator. He was drafted to go to England, and remembers sleeping at the MCG in mid-winter. But when his commission came through he was taken off the draft, and so did not go to England where so many of his comrades lost their lives. He spent the rest of the war years in the Pacific, flying in transports and Mosquitoes. After the war he flew to Japan with the Occupation troops, then served in Korea and Malaya. He was then based at Fairbairn with the VIP fleet, flying the Governor-General and others around. He left the Air Force in 1958.

Ian, Alan and Neville had similar experiences. As teenagers they were in the Air Training Corps, and joined the Air Force as soon as they were eighteen. Ian trained as an Observer, spending time in Canada "to get used to the northern skies". While there he visited USA and Alaska, which he still remembers vividly. He was proud to be presented with his "wings", but fortunately the war ended before he was sent into the conflict. Neville and Alan completed their Air Crew training in Australia, but the war ended before they were sent overseas. Alan stayed on in the RAAF for a couple of years, becoming pay clerk at Fairbairn.

Peg spent some years in the Army and worked in "Stores", helping keep track of all sorts of necessary supplies

Barbara was in the middle of her nurse training when war broke out, and she desperately wanted to join up, along with her brothers. But she had to complete her training first. She nursed the wounded in military hospitals in PNG and back home after peace was declared she was still needed. During the war "foreigners" living in our country, as well as POWs from overseas, were put into internment camps, and at Tatura there were many German families. Because she had Midwifery training Barbara was useful there for some time.

Dora joined the WAAF in Britain and became a wireless operator, using Morse Code all the time. Her task was to intercept signals from German planes, get their bearings and pass the information on. Boring, but she had to keep alert. She met an Aussie in the RAAF, married him and came to Australia in 1946.

Others remember the effect of the conflict. Jean was in London with her parents during the blitz, and wasn't allowed to keep souvenir pieces of shrapnel! Alex was a lad in Scotland. Their family home was destroyed in the bombings. School-ing was difficult. If there had been an air raid overnight, the children didn't have to go to school until midday next day! And he remembers going to five different schools in five years. Karola was on "the other side". Her memories of childhood in Germany are two-fold: – racing into a mine (which her father managed) when-ever the enemy planes went over, and always being hungry, so hungry for so long that her physical development was impaired.

Sixty years have passed. So many families were affected in different ways. As we have reflected on the tragedies and hardships, we are not glorifying war in any sense, but are remembering how it changed the course of our lives.

Margaret Lawton

Presbytery Report

The August Presbytery meeting was held at North Belconnen Uniting Church under the leadership of the new Chair-person, Rev Norman Wakefield.

The meeting was fairly straightforward, dealing with the usual financial and committee reports. One of the weightier matters to arise was a report on the position of Hospital Chaplaincy Supervisor. Rev Neale Roberts from South Woden UC has been acting in the position since John and Ngaire Short left, with a brief to review the position. Neale has proposed three options. The option preferred by Presbytery involves putting resources into training of lay people for all types of chaplaincy and attempts to deal with the problem of our church needing to do more with less. The proposal will be brought back to Presbytery when work has been done on the detail.

Presbytery's Mission Development Worker, the Rev Wendy Snook, spoke about the forthcoming ecumenical campaign by the ACT Churches Council and the Bible Society, called "*Jesus, all about life*". The media campaign is scheduled for Easter 2006. All congregations will shortly receive a DVD explaining the program and congregations need to register through a website to receive a resources kit and become one

of the churches to which people responding to the campaign can be referred.

The Youth and Family Worker, Darren Wright, is holding three workshops on children's ministry later this year and early next year, so if you are involved in children's ministry please keep these in mind. Darren is supported by a relatively new committee of the presbytery, the Youth and Family Ministry committee. The committee has met three times and has been helping Darren prepare his strategic plan for the coming two years. Copies of the strategic plan are available from the presbytery office. Rev Peter Walker, who has been the committee's chairperson until this month, spoke about the importance of this committee and asked that anyone in our congregations with an interest in youth and family ministry please consider joining this committee when nominations are called in November.

Kippax Uniting Church is hosting a three-day workshop in November on "Preaching and Teaching in the Year of Mark". Our own minister, Ockert Meyer, will be one of the speakers. If you would like more information, contact Kippax UC.

Bronwyn Hendy
Congregational Representative

(Pontius' Puddle)

My Aceh Experience cont. from front cover

When we arrived I felt overwhelmed by the extent of the damage. I did not actually cry for the victims until I left Banda Aceh, but I have shed many tears since my return home. Images I will probably never forget come back, such as the sobbing of a 15-year-old girl at night, when she wet the bed and cried for her missing mother.

Our role was to support the children and the carers at the camp. As a nurse I worked in the medical clinic, giving out Panadol for headaches, Betadine for soccer toe, Calamine for itchy rashes, and comfort to those who needed it. Acehinese is the local language but all speak Bahasa Indonesian as this is the national language. We tried to teach the children English every evening. This proved rather hilarious, as our translators were few, our teaching abilities limited and the children were typical kids who would rather be playing than learning. So we taught language through song and they happily joined in “If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands”, and “the hokey pokey”. Much of the communication was done through charades. I became quite proficient at face pulling and arm gestures. I have come back saying I did not do enough. I struggled enormously with life in a refugee camp but I wish I could have stayed and done more.

Camping in any country can prove “interesting” if the weather turns foul. One of our roles was to help care and support the children during storms. The ground was soft and tent pegs became toothpicks with every wind. One night a ferocious wind storm with driving rain swept across the camp. Tents were ripped, and possessions saturated and muddied, scattered and hurled at barbed wire fences. Never have I seen such terror as I saw in the faces of the children that night. Flying objects became a hazard and I went with a team to secure tents. The noise of the storm was loud, but above the storm was another sound ... eerie and haunting. We stopped to listen, it was the children wailing – such deep, deep grief. They huddled together, clutching at each other for support, re-living their tsunami experiences, fearful it was happening again.

The carers had also been traumatised during the tsunami and often when storms hit, they were struggling with their own grief. One of the carers was 22 years old and on 26 December had been walking in town with her fiancé. As the wall of rubble and water came towards them they ran past a 2-storey building. People in the building offered to help them up. Lia was hauled to safety, but her foot was torn by corrugated iron and ripped through her skin. Her fiancé was trying to get up to join her when he was hit by the wall of water and rubble. She watched as he was swept away. During the storms the carers too re-lived their experiences. They wandered dazed and bewildered, leaving the children to fend for themselves. It was at times like this that I felt most useful. We became a stabilising influence for the whole camp.

The power and destruction of nature continued to be relentless. From the elevated position of our camp, we watched helplessly one night as a nearby village caught fire, a village that had escaped the wrath of the tsunami and had become a thriving centre for survivors. From our vantage point we watched as flames rose high in the sky, timber structures quickly caught in the jaws of the hungry fire. More people’s lives became shattered. Helplessly we watched – our hearts in agony – the children sobbing beside us, unable to take their eyes off the scene.

To have the heart and drive to do this kind of work I think you need to be able to give until it hurts, and yet know that your pain and suffering are small compared with those whom you are helping. None of the children have hopes or dreams for their futures, it’s just too uncertain. When I left Aceh there were two girls about to finish school. They had turned 18 and the children’s camp could no longer support them. I have come home wanting to sponsor a young adult as they find life on their own. For \$1,200 a year a young adult can have university fees paid, accommodation paid, textbooks bought and money for living. The university in Banda Aceh did not get washed away. There is a hope for the future of these young people. God has not forsaken them.

My Aceh experience has reaffirmed for me that the best thing we can do in life is to give what we can to others.

Sue Woodland

[Sue told her story one evening at YUC. She was joined by Dr Daniel Fitzpatrick, Associate Professor in Law at ANU, and an expert in Land Titles in Indonesia. He is Consultant to the UN Development Program in Aceh to help sort out legal title and customary title difficulties.]

Music for Sundays

In the coming weeks, we have some exciting music in prospect. On Sunday, 9 October, the Warani Chorale, under the direction of Pixie Gray, will be singing for us a beautiful setting of “*Ave Maria*” by Michael Head plus the Negro spiritual “*The Gospel Train’s a-coming*”. On 23 October, Louise Page will be returning as our guest soloist, and her singing is always a delight. On 13 November, the

talented flautist, Rosemary Shepherd, will be playing the flute obbligato with the choir in Bach’s “*Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring*”, plus the flute solo in “*In Remembrance of Me*”. Then on 18 December, the choir will be presenting its annual service of lessons, readings and Christmas music. So there is plenty to look forward to in the coming months.

Allan Hall, Choirmaster

Last issue we reported that Peg had passed on more than 100 pairs of **bedsocks** to Canberra nursing homes. Norma from Mirinjani has sent a note of appreciation, saying “Thanks for your generous donation...they were badly needed and greatly appreciated.” Peg has already been given another 27 pairs for distribution, and there will be more, as those needles are still clicking!

Children’s segment

Birdsville Races and Frontier Services

Birdsville is a small town in the far south- west of Queensland of approximately 80 people. It is in the Frontier Services Burke and Wills Patrol and the Patrol Padre is John Case who is based at Charleville (800 km to the east). During the annual races the population rises to anything up to 7000 people - so you can imagine the infrastructure that is required to accommodate these people. Road trains bring in the ice, portaloos, food etc and buses with trailers bring in the tents for the 'tent cities' that suddenly spring up to accommodate the bus loads of people. Small aircraft fly in, with people camping overnight under their wings on the airstrip. In the week before the races roads to Birdsville are constantly travelled by all sorts of vehicles laden to the hilt and of course, they are very dusty and dirty upon arrival.

It was with a very loaded vehicle that we set off for our 4-day driving trip to Birdsville over 2000 km from Canberra. We stopped at Charleville to take on food supplies and help share with others the many things that needed to be taken out to Birdsville. We went out in convoy. John led the way with 5 vehicles behind.

On arrival at Birdsville we had our headquarters at the 'old Birdsville Clinic' that is owned by Frontier Services, hence we had a kitchen where we could cook our meals and inside bathrooms to share. What a difference to previous years where there was no kitchen for our use. In May this year a lovely new Primary Health Care Centre was opened to take over the work that the Frontier Services (FS) clinic had been providing for the last 82 years.

We set up a café, or "Pancake Palace" in the foyer of the old clinic building. It was open from 7.30am for breakfast until 5pm and the stalls were open from 8.30am until 9.30ish at night. It was a very busy time as the volunteer numbers were down this year and therefore it was a case of lunch on the run and anyone to help cook dinner and then relieve the people at the stalls who had been there all day. Late at night when we went to bed we were

serenaded with competing entertainment from the Caravan Park and the hotel, both being played through loudspeakers.

During the 4 days we made over 1000 pancakes and were able to provide information to our customers about the work that FS does in the area. People showed surprising interest in FS and were keen to look through the material that FS published. Many discussions were about church life, FS and such like. A truly great atmosphere was created that people all enjoyed. One group of 3 vehicles and their vans made a special stop to come and say 'goodbye and thanks'. It was truly a great way to spread information in a non-threatening way about FS and the work the church does in the outback.

Many people supported our 2 stalls that we erected just near the Birdsville hotel and next to Fred Brophy's boxing tent. One of our stalls sold souvenirs and the other larger one sold more expensive items such as shirts, hats, backpacks and other merchandise that could be worn.

It is truly amazing the support by other people at Birdsville. Dirty Harry who sells T shirts had a special tin and told his customers that when he autographed their shirt the extra donation went to FS. He raised over \$1,000 and came to the Sunday afternoon Church Service. And Fred Brophy is a most generous supporter of FS in many different ways.

We raised over \$20,000 for the work of FS in Queensland outback areas. FS provides padres, remote area family support services, accommodation in major towns for high school children from outlying areas, and nurses in clinics still under Frontier Services responsibility.

Our sincere thanks to every member of Yarralumla congregation who supported us by providing items for sale at the stalls, biscuits for morning and afternoon teas and by prayers of encouragement.

June and Cliff Hicks

News from the Shorts in Townsville

Thursday by mail came an interesting letter from the Townsville Health Service District, and I quote: “Dear John, approval has been granted for John Short to visit the Townsville Hospital as a Chaplain for the Uniting Church.” And so it goes on! I “start” on 6 September for one afternoon – four hours – per week. Very soon the Queensland Synod meets and the UC chaplain and his right hand lady are off to the talkfest, so would I mind the pager. Wouldn’t I?! This weekend four teenagers were killed in a horror car smash in Townsville, so I am pleased that I wasn’t on call last Saturday night just in case they wanted a chaplain...

Meanwhile we have large tomatoes on our four bushes, some plants are growing and we have been regularly picking roses for the past three weeks or so. And we had 51mm of rain in a two week period ending 15 August...I met a fellow at the Aitkenvale Uniting Church (at a men’s breakfast would you believe) from the local miniature live steam railway group and he is **trying** to convince me to join, and, at \$25 per year, to maybe drive the trains! Sounds like an offer too good to refuse!

We have been officially welcomed at the Kirwin UC and I am now on the Sunday morning service children’s segment roster and the Scripture reading roster. Thank you very much for sending us the copies of *YarraYarns* as it certainly does fill in a few of the missing links, and we appreciate getting some of the news.

Love and best wishes

Ngaire & John (via Colleen)

Church Council

* At its recent meeting the Council elected office-bearers for 2005–06, and the Congregational AGM confirmed them on 14 August.

Chair: Norman Schroeder

Deputy Chair: Lynne Thomson

Secretary: Peter Hopgood

Treasurer: Don Costello

* During the recent Stewardship Campaign members were encouraged to offer their talents as well as financial support. Those members who identified areas of service in the “talent quest” will shortly be invited to assist in those areas.

* Another Community Grant has been made to the Catchup program. Volunteers are always welcome to help with the program. See Sue for details of how you can help.

* Stephen Rees has been developing a YUC website. Any comments or suggestions regarding this should be referred to Eugene or Aubrey who are liaising with Stephen in the content of the site.

* Consideration is being given to upgrading the sound system throughout the church buildings.

* The piano in the rear hall is no longer capable of being tuned. If anyone knows of a serviceable piano for sale or that could be donated to the church please see Stewart or Alex.

* New study groups are being considered. Members interested in joining a new study group are invited to speak with our minister, Ockert.

Peter Hopgood, Secretary

The requirements to drive

On his sixteenth birthday the son asked his father, "Dad, when I get my licence can I drive the family car?" His dad looked at him and said, "Son, driving the car takes maturity, and you must first prove you are responsible enough. One way you must do that is to bring up your marks. Secondly, you must read the Bible every day, and finally, I want you to get that hair cut."

The son began the task of fulfilling his father's requirements. When his results came out he went to his dad with a big smile. "Look, Dad, all A's and B's on my report card. Now can I drive the car?"

"Very good, Son. You are a third of the way there, but have you been reading the Bible?" his father asked.

"Yes, Dad, every day," he replied.

"Very good, Son. You are two-thirds of the way there. Now, when are you going to get that hair cut?"

The son, thinking he could outsmart his dad, responded, "Well, I don't see why I should get my hair cut to drive the car. Jesus had long hair, didn't he?"

The father looked at his boy and said, "That's right, Son, and Jesus walked everywhere he went."

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(UCA logo)

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WORSHIP SERVICE

Sundays 9:00 am

Sunday Club

Sundays 9:00 am

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