

Conference Conversations—Affiliation

Excerpts from the two discussion papers that form the basis for the Conference Conversations happening Sept-Oct:

Full versions at www.cofcvictas.org

COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

"Churches of Christ are not hierarchical. Churches of Christ have a very flat structure, under Christ. Congregational autonomy has always been one of our values. Different congregations express their autonomy in different ways. For some, this congregational autonomy is absolute; for others who still guard their autonomy do so within the context of discovering ways to work together with other congregations, all within a network (or 'conference') of like-minded and like-spirited congregations.

For the former, affiliation within the network can be not much more than a pragmatic business transaction based on 'what's in it for us'. For the latter it could be better described as a covenant relationship.

While we will inevitably continue to live with (and between) these two polarities, now is a good time to consider the idea of affiliation as a covenant relationship. It is important to remember that while autonomy is a word wired into our movement, independence and isolation are not. The Conference Constitution contains a Mission Strategy that includes the phrase, 'congregational autonomy with a commitment to the other churches of the movement through our conference structures'. ...

Conversation Questions

- What does affiliation mean for your congregation?
- How do you respond to the phrase 'affiliation as a business transaction'?
- What would change for your congregation if affiliation became a 'covenant relationship'?
- How would your church respond to the idea of an 'ongoing church formation' process with a regular review conversation?
- What other feedback could you give Conference around Affiliation issues?"

AFFILIATION FEES

"The practice of basing Affiliation Fees on church membership is becoming increasingly inappropriate. This system of "per capita" fees, based on church membership has some serious flaws. Churches have a changing emphasis on and criteria for membership and the maintenance of membership rolls varies greatly. Some churches with quite reasonable attendances have comparatively low membership numbers. This all adds up to a very inefficient and inequitable way of calculating affiliation fees. It is also fair to say that some churches with good membership numbers have lower per capita giving based on many factors, and vice versa.

A far more equitable way could be to align Affiliation Fees to the annual general offerings of the affiliated churches of Conference, and for Fees to be a fixed percentage of those offerings. This takes in to account the financial ability of churches to meet Fees that have a direct relationship to their income. The offerings on which the Fees are to be based could exclude offerings and other forms of giving to missions, building and other special purpose funds. Capacity to pay could become the basis of the fee rather than an arbitrary count of people in membership. Churches in lower socio-economic areas, or with higher proportions of retirees, for example, would no longer penalised on a "one size fits all" member-based fee. This could be both easier to administer and fairer across the board to the churches.

Conference Conversations

North and West Metro

- Thornbury Church of Christ
- Wednesday, September 16, 7.30-9pm

South and East Metro, Eastern Region

- Monash City Church
- Tuesday October 6, 7.30-9pm

Ballarat/Western Region

- Ballarat Family Church
- Wednesday October 7, 7.30-9pm

Geelong/Western Region

- Kardinia-Belmont Church
- Tuesday October 20, 7.30-9pm

Bendigo/Northern Region

- Short St Church of Christ
- Thursday October 29, 7.30-9pm

Tasmania: North and South

- Devonport and Hobart
- A Saturday and Sunday TBC in Oct/Nov

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Conversation Questions

- What do we get for our money? Is it good value to belong to Churches of Christ?
- How would the proposed change affect our church?
- How would the proposed change assist Conference?
- What is our church's level of commitment to churches less fortunate than ours? Should we have a commitment to them?"

Conference President —Robyn Millership

In the last month I have found myself in various settings, where issues of identity, healthy church practices, what it means to belong to Churches of Christ and church membership have been discussed. These issues played on my mind over several days until I decided to take a serious look at what I believe. I initially went to the scriptures, and from my reading there is no prescribed criterion for membership as we understand the term, but rather an invitation to follow Jesus, to belong to the body of people who have determined to live by His values. I then turned to the book *One Church*, a bi-centennial celebration of Thomas Campbell's declaration and address edited by Carson, Foster and Holloway. From this reading I found myself thinking about issues of unity, essentials of the faith and love as the motivation for all we do and the basis for how we operate as people who call them ourselves members of Churches of Christ. Finally, I reflected on my own experience of becoming a Christians and joining the 'tribe' of people called Churches of Christ. It seems to me, at that time, it was clear cut and straightforward. I attended the Sunday school of the Preston Church of Christ, because they sent a bus to collect kids from the newly established housing settlement. I met a caring group of people who for me demonstrated a depth of care and support that was different from my own experience. I was taught about Jesus and over time challenged to follow Him. My acceptance of this challenge was followed by baptism and I entered into the life and practices of that community, which included participating in the Lord's Supper each Sunday.

So, what have I discovered about what it means to belong to Churches of Christ and church membership? Firstly, the willingness of those who were inside, to reach out to those outside, in my case a bus ministry to expose kids like me to the person Jesus through Sunday school.

Secondly, the provision of an environment where people are welcomed, loved, and most importantly an introduced to the message of Jesus, his life, death and resurrection, together with a clear challenge to follow Him in baptism and lifestyle. For people of my vintage it appeared there was a well-defined process for membership of the local church as distinct from being a welcomed and affirmed participant of the worshipping community. Membership involved a personal commitment to Christ, followed by baptism and acceptance into membership. Then, following a formal welcome into the fellowship, an invitation to participate in all aspects of church life: being an active participant of the worshipping community, participating in the sacrament of communion, the commitment of personal gifts to the ministry and financial support of the mis-

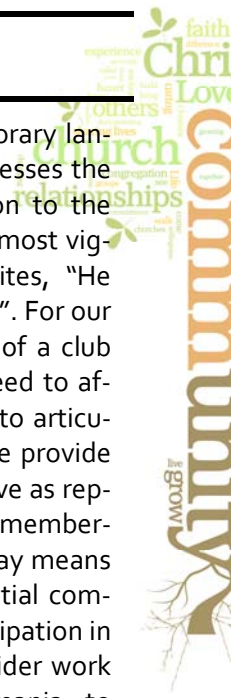
sion and ministry of the church. In contemporary language Eugene Peterson in the Message addresses the challenge of membership in the introduction to the book of Luke where he describes Luke as "a most vigorous champion of the outsider" then writes, "He (Jesus) will not countenance religion as a club". For our churches to be healthy and avoid the signs of a club mentality, we individually and collectively need to affirm the essentials of our faith, be prepared to articulate these in a loving and inclusive way as we provide meaningful worship and encourage each to live as representative of Christ in this world. For me, membership and belonging to Churches of Christ today means an ongoing and daily confirmation of my initial commitment to Christ, together with active participation in the local worshipping community and the wider work of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania, to bring about the great commission as recorded in the Message, Matthew 28:29 "Jesus undeterred went right ahead and gave his charge, "God authorised and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the three fold name: Father, Son and Holy spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day, right up to the end of the age"."

I was delighted to see the expression of Eugene Petersen's words in action as Paul Cameron and I met with the transition team of the Howrah church in Tasmania (Howrah is currently working through an Intentional Interim Ministry process). They were asking the questions about how their mission and ministry could best reach the outsiders and tell their special place in this world about Jesus. I am sure God was smiling and will bless their ministry.

Robyn Millership, Conference President
rmillership@bigpond.com

CareWorks Bushfire Appeal

News from Andrew Adams (minister at the joint Churches of Christ/Baptist church plant at Wallan) is that the grant of \$22 597 recently made to the church from CareWorks Bushfire Appeal funds has been used well. With the assistance of Mitchell BlazeAid, and in conjunction with help and supervision by Anthony Stokes, whose family property was amongst those damaged, five properties in the Upper Plenty area have had fencing replaced. The people that assisted BlazeAid were Rotary volunteers accommodated at the Upper Plenty Conference Centre. The project was completed in just one week. Andrew reports that the Wallan church has been able to provide assistance of around \$350 000 to about 35 families. This funding came from a range of sources.



From Paul, Conference Executive Officer

Reflection: Welcoming the Stranger

Many churches follow the tradition of using the last Sunday of August as a day to celebrate the changing diversity of our nation through the continual arrival of refugees and migrants. It was my privilege to sit in the back seat of Ballarat Central church on Sunday August 30 to observe how it did that in its Sunday gathering.

Ballarat Central has over the last few years provided generous hospitality to people from several African countries. Most of these people have a deep story: personal and family tragedy mixed with the joy of the freedom, empowerment and education they are now experiencing in (in that case regional) Australia. During the gathering we heard snippets of those stories. Families separated, families re-united, families receiving support, and now these same families giving new life and spiritual vitality to a congregation largely made up of older Anglo-Saxon people.

Ballarat Central didn't simply celebrate Refugee and Migrant Sunday that day; they have been living it out everyday for the last few years. It is finding new (and costly) ways of doing mission in its changing context (just as my great-grandfather R.G. Cameron did in a completely different Ballarat a century ago!).

Among the reasons why I remain committed to the past, present and future story of Churches of Christ, is that we are an inclusive movement. We've always been committed to 'welcoming the stranger'. When you gather in one of the congregations of Churches of Christ on any given Sunday (or other day), look around you. I hope you will notice diversity: of origin, age, cultural heritage and socio-economic background and even of church background and faith expression. As I often say, if you don't know what I mean, ask somebody to tell you their story...

This has always been a part of our movement's deeper story: to welcome the stranger, to restore the unity of all Christian believers, around the New Testament, and under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, to live out and explain a simple, uncluttered Christianity that everybody can understand, and participate in, a unity in diversity, beyond race or creed.

Let's always seek to be an inclusive movement, generous, and excelling in our generosity; and because we are always seeking to be a bigger body, let's always be practicing hospitality and offering shelter, making room for everybody, particularly 'strangers'.

Great Communion Sunday—Oct 4, 2009

Stories are already emerging of how different churches are celebrating Great Communion Sunday, planned to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Thomas Campbell's *Declaration and Address*.

For example, Southern Community church at Cheltenham began the process with a series of worship services during August. These services were planned as awareness-raisers and thought-starters and were based around the theme 'So What DO We Believe?' and reflected on our core values, beliefs, practices past and present.

As part of its observance of the Great Communion, and with the assistance of ministry team member (and past World Convention General Secretary) Jeff Weston, Southern is developing a relationship with River of Life Ministries, a congregation of the Christian Churches/Church of Christ in Campo Limo Paulista, Brazil. The plan is to exchange information and photos between the two congregations and celebrate the Great Communion with a special sense of our connection to the wider church. Southern has also invited the Huonville Church in Tasmania (where Ian Cartmel is undertaking an Intentional Interim Ministry) to join the party, thus having a three-way partnership for October 4. While nothing is finalised yet, Southern has a dream of developing a Mission Exposure program for young adults (and others) over the next twelve months, so it's possible that these connections may help facilitate that.

It's not too late for your congregation to make such a connection. As Federal Co-ordinator Craig Brown wrote last month, "let me encourage you to also consider making contact with other churches (either in Victoria or Tasmania, further interstate or even overseas) so that on the 4th October—and following—you and your congregation will be able to experience what it means to be a Church of Christ in other settings".

This link may help you with contact details if you'd like to do this worldconvention.org/nationalprofiles.php.

Other website addresses of interest include:

- The 'official' Great Communion site greatcommunion.org
- SA/NT conference shapingidentity.wordpress.com
- WA conference greatcommunionwa.wordpress.com
- Churches of Christ Australia cofcaustralia.org

You will have also received from Craig a resource from the Federal Council of Churches of Christ called *The D & A is part of our DNA*. It is a 'modern day take' on Campbell's 13 propositions (both briefly summarised and then expanded upon, depending on your needs), four Bible studies on the key themes of the 13 propositions, and a discussion guide on the book *One Church* from the US. Please get in touch with Craig on 03 9488 8800 if you need further copies of this.

Paul Cameron
Conference Executive Officer
pcameron@churchesofchrist.org.au

Tassie is Tops!

In the dim dark ages of last century, back in 1979, my wife Jenny joined me in honeymooning to Tasmania. We loved it then and, having re-visited this State a number of times, always enjoy the experience. We travelled to Tasmania during July this year and even though it was primarily for 'work' in my roles with Minister Care and Global Mission Partners, we couldn't help but feel as though we were on holidays as we enjoyed the magnificence of nature's offerings around us.

Churches of Christ in Tasmania are alive and well and their hospitality to us was warm and inviting. Whilst over there we were able to meet with almost all of the ministers either in a group seminar setting or individually and we were greatly blessed by our brothers and sisters in Christ that we spent time with. Even the weather was kind to us as we saw sunshine every day, apart from one rather traumatic experience when we had accompanied Kay Groves (President-Tasmania CofC) at the Salamanca Market and were required to hold down a clothing stall that was being threatened to be blown into the ocean. It was a little chilly that day! We were treated to a tour of the Door of Hope facility in Launceston by their Senior Minister, Steve Fitzallen, and were amazed at the size of the buildings, being approximately 9 acres of an old Wool Store facility, and blessed by what God is doing through this ministry. This an active, vibrant and worshipping church, with many programs into the community, the latest being a Fitness Centre being built by an outside organisation that will attract thousands each week through the complex.

We visited ministers from churches including: Door of Hope in Launceston, Devonport, Huonville, Geeveston, Dover, Howrah, Hobart City, and Nubeena. All of these churches were very welcoming and introduced us to staff members and key leaders that we were able to spend time with and hear their hearts for serving the Lord. Highlights for us were the beautiful surroundings everywhere. We especially enjoyed the Nubeena area and the hospitality we received there. We also had the privilege of representing Churches of Christ in conducting an Induction service for Ian Cartmel as an Intentional Interim Minister at Huonville.

There is so much more I could say but rather I urge you to give thanks for our churches and people in Tasmania and we look forward to seeing together the Gospel go forward in power in this state.

Greg Illingworth

M&M Director: Minister Care

gillingworth@churchesofchrist.org.au

Kids Vision: REACT 09 Camp

REACT is an exciting, multi sensory and multi format mission exploration camp. REACT is targeted to 10-13 year old children and their parent(s) and is designed to resource global awareness for a pre teen generation that wants to make poverty personal AND history!

We will be engaging the resources of World Vision, Tear, Urban Seed and UNOH in an attempt to explore the meaning of mission and to activate a personal response for children and their families.

Base camp and accommodation will be at Doncaster Church of Christ and it will be held during the 2nd week of the September holidays on Monday 28th -Tuesday 29th.

Cost: \$40 per person and \$120 per family. Any child who attends must be accompanied by a parent(s) or other significant guardian.

Check out the attached flyer for more information or contact Darren Jenkins at Kids Vision (9488 8800 or djenkins@churchesofchrist.org.au).

REACT is an initiative of Kids Vision in association with Doncaster Church of Christ and Churches of Christ in Australia and its Federal Coordinator Craig Brown.



From Martin Boutros, M&M ED

I am writing to let you know that Darren Jenkins, the Director: Kids Vision at Mission and Ministry, has accepted a call to serve as the Children's and Family Minister at Heathmont Baptist Church.

Darren has been an important part of the Mission and Ministry team. Since I have been here I have appreciated his wisdom, diligence and his genuine 'heart' to see churches and families resourced as they demonstrate the love of Christ to children and we will miss his presence.

We rejoice, however, with our friends at Heathmont and congratulate them on the call of an excellent leader for ministry amongst families. I am confident that as Darren follows the Lord's call into this new phase of ministry, he will make a superb contribution to the life and ministry at that church.

Darren will commence at Heathmont in mid October 2009 and I pray for all God's blessing, strength and wisdom in the years ahead for Darren and his family.

Martin Boutros

M&M Executive Director

mboutros@churchesofchrist.org.au

CCTC—Churches of Christ Theological College

Articles by Stephen Curkpatrick

Themes from Paul's *Epistle to the Romans*

A justified existence

'My rights' or God's grace?

The freedom to be free

Abraham and 'three monotheist siblings'

Believing in God or hearing the word of God?

Creation, idolatry and the gospel of God

Religion, tribal identity and grace

The gospel of God

Articles by Stephen Curkpatrick at www.cctc.edu.au under 'Articles'; further articles on Romans will be posted during September.

Luncheon and Variety Concert

at the Churches of Christ Theological College

12pm Tuesday 27 October 2009

Comprising of a 2 course lunch with tea/coffee and chocolates served afterwards, followed by a concert in our auditorium.

Cost for the Luncheon and concert is \$17 per person

Guest artist: Vincent O'Connor

Bookings—phone Colleen or Theresa on 9790 1000 by 23 October 2009.

Please advise of any dietary requirements when you book e.g. vegetarian, diabetic, celiac etc.

BOOK FAIR at CCTC in 2010

CCTC will once again be holding a 2nd Hand Book Fair early in 2010.

We are now beginning to collect books, so if you have any books to donate, please call or deliver them to CCTC, 44-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave, during office hours. Contact Theresa or Colleen on 9790 1000 or email admin@cctc.edu.au.

Social Justice and Mission event 10am Friday 11 September

**WHAT PART DOES SOCIAL JUSTICE PLAY IN
THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?**

World Vision Theological Forum

An indispensable discussion for church leaders, theological educators and students.

Speakers include Deborah Storie—Deputy Chair TEAR Australia, Michael Raiter—Principal BCV and Steve Bradbury—Director Micah ^:8 Centre.

Includes open conversation between the panel and the audience.

COST: Free

VENUE: Tabor College

RSVP: Tuesday 8 September

CONTACT: Siu Fung Wu on 9287 2331 or email siufung.wu@worldvision.com.au

Global Leadership Summit

Fri-Sat, 9-10 or 23-24 October

Oct 9-10: Kardinia Church, Geelong

1-11 Kardinia Drive, Bell Post Hill

Oct 23-24: Berwick Church of Christ

446 Centre Rd, Berwick

The Global Leadership Summit is a trusted, high-calibre event that's designed to transform Christian leaders on behalf of the local church with an annual injection of vision, skill development and inspiration.

Book at www.willowcreek.org.au

Berwick Church of Christ is also holding a free Information Lunch on Tuesday September 15. It includes a light lunch, an overview of the speaker panel and a Q&A session. Please RSVP by Wednesday September 9 to lisat@bcoc.com.au.

SJN—Social Justice Network

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, 8 November

Every November, Christians around the world join together in prayer to remember our Christian brothers and sisters suffering persecution simply because they confess Jesus Christ as Lord through The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP)—an initiative of the Religious Liberty Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance.

There are many countries around the world where Christians are martyred for their faith. Last August, the world watched in horror the unbridled violence unleashed upon Christians in Orissa state, India. In countries like North Korea, acts of persecution take place daily, but we often don't see or hear of it. Brother Andrew of Open Doors once said, "Our heroes are not with us simply because they are in prison."

This November 8, join with thousands of Christians worldwide in prayer for the Persecuted Church. Mark your calendars, inform your churches, and tell your friends about this unique opportunity to pray for your persecuted Christian family and remind suffering believers that they are neither forgotten nor abandoned. To find out more about IDOP 2009 and special resources designed to help you get involved, please visit the IDOP-international website at www.idop.org.

UN International Day of Peace, 21 September

The United Nations' International Day of Peace - marked every year on 21 September - is a time when individuals, communities, nations and governments highlight efforts to end conflict and promote peace.

Resources for churches at www.sacc.asn.au.

Bhimrao & Kanta Thavare in Victoria

Bhimrao Thavare is the Fiji GMP Director. He provides leadership to the two other pastors in Fiji and is the minister at the Nakasi Church of Christ. Bhimrao is also the Director of the Bible Training Institute which provides basic Biblical education to interested people from Fiji and other Pacific nations. Kanta, his wife, has served with him in ministry for more than 25 years. Their three children each have an active faith. Bhimrao is committed to church planting and effective Gospel outreach in Fiji.

Bhimrao himself comes from a strong Hindu background. He came to faith in 1976 during his high school years while studying at Baramati Boys' Home run by Churches of Christ in western India. He sensed God's strong call to fulltime training and ministry and he served 10 years as a church planter and pastor before becoming a lecturer at the Union Biblical Seminary in Pune, India.

Bhimrao and Kanta are visiting Australia from 31 August – 21 September 2009. You can meet and hear them at the following venues in Victoria:

- Wed 16 Sept, 9:30 am CCTC
- Thurs 17 Sept, 6:30pm Tea at Bright Church of Christ
- Fri 18 Sept—1:00pm Balwyn Church of Christ

Further details: Greg Illingworth 0414 396 877

Global Mission Day

Saturday 31 October, The Market Place, Adelaide
Risks Worth Taking is the theme for the Global Mission Day. The focus for this special event will be on exploring ways in which churches and people are experiencing transformation through participation in global mission. There will be stories from churches that have taken a risk. Individuals will share their own experiences. Ideas and opportunities will be laid out for you. Your questions will be answered and possibilities explored.

Later in the day the Annual General Meeting of Global Mission Partners will be held. The annual reports will be tabled, and you will hear more about all that is happening with GMP. Members of GMP will also consider resolutions, the reports and elect the Board. It will be an interesting and action packed day. Mark on your calendar Saturday 31 October 10:30 am – 3:30 pm at The Market Place, Cnr Vinrace St & South Tce, Adelaide, and plan to participate if you can.

www.inpartnership.org.au

Mission is a partnership:

- between God and us
- person to person
- crossing national and cultural boundaries

The GMP website www.inpartnership.org.au is a great resource for discovering current information, mission news and opportunities. The website is regularly being updated and includes details of upcoming events such as those highlighted above and the latest Personal Partner Project. Check it out today.

Receiving GMP Updates Directly

The first Tuesday of the month *In Partnership* is sent out. It is a six page newsletter with stories of churches engaged in global mission. Some come from GMP's international partners and others from individuals and churches in Australia. *In Partnership* is available both by email and by post.

A weekly edition of *GMP Update* is produced the other weeks of the month. Once a month this features news and background information on ministries in one particular partner setting. The other weeks include mission news from several partners.

If you would like to receive either or both of these editions of mission news directly please contact the GMP Office, PO Box 6454 Halifax St, Adelaide 5000, or info@inpartnership.org.au or 08 8212 4446. Around 1,000 people receive *GMP Update* each week. It is also downloadable from the website.

John Gilmore, GMP Executive Director
jgilmore@gmp.org.au

World Convention names William McDonald as Interim Executive Director

President B.J. Mpfu has announced the appointment of William H. 'Bill' McDonald of Lexington, Kentucky, as Interim Executive Director of the World Convention of Churches of Christ, a global ministry serving Christian - Churches of Christ - Disciples of Christ everywhere, every day. Bill has long been a supporter of the World Convention having attended the global gatherings in Mexico City, Honolulu, Brighton and Nashville. For the 2008 Convention in Nashville he coordinated the efforts that brought a popular youth choir to the US from France. Julie McDonald, Bill's wife, a French teacher also played a decisive role in that effort.

Bill McDonald retired in November 2008 after 42 years in ministry with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Born in Mississippi, he was raised in Memphis, Tennessee. He has ministered to congregations in Kentucky, Texas and Louisiana. His most recent ministry was with the Crestwood Christian Church in Lexington, Kentucky, from 1995 to 2008. It was here that he helped build a relationship between the Crestwood Church (DOC), Tates Creek Christian Church (Christian Churches/Churches of Christ) and Southside Church of Christ (a cappella) that has developed into a continuing partnership of cooperative worship, mission and youth events.

UNOH—Urban Neighbours of Hope

If you want to be equipped to better serve Jesus in a hurting world, then UNOH has some great opportunities coming up for you to be inspired through passionate, gifted, international, local speakers and activists.

A REVOLUTION OF HOPE is the topic for UNOH's Open Night on Wednesday 7 October at UNOH's Mission Centre, 2/6-12 Airlie Ave, Dandenong, VIC. The evening will be led by UNOH's International Director, Ash Barker. Come for a shared meal at 6.30pm (please bring a plate to share) before the speaker at 7.30pm.

The theme of 'Revolution of Hope' will continue later that week, Friday 9 - Saturday 10 October, through a Two-day Seminar, also at UNOH's Mission Centre (9am-4pm). This not-to-be-missed event will be potentially life-changing. Tom and Christine Sine, from USA, will work with us to look at spirituality from the perspective of radical Christian living and assist us to develop a rhythm of life for a holistic life-faith experience. Tom teaches at Fuller Theological Seminary in Seattle and he and his wife are on the team of Mustard Seed Associates, helping people to be ready to serve God in our rapidly changing new global neighbourhood. His wife, Christine, is passionate about helping Christians connect their faith to everyday life. She developed and directed the healthcare ministry for Mercy Ships. Tom and Christine have authored many books, including recently *The New Conspirators: Creating the Future One Mustard Seed at a Time*.

Ash Barker will also add his own flavour to the seminar as he challenges us to be part of the revolution of hope. And Andy Flannagan will lead us in worship. Andy is a ripper of a guy who blew folks away at the 'Surrender' conference last year. A trained doctor from the U.K., he joined Youth For Christ and found his passion as a speaker, author, and singer-songwriter for justice. He now leads the Christian Socialist Movement in the U.K. where he regularly briefs PM Gordon Brown.

To book for the seminar contact Jim, jim@unoh.org or phone UNOH on 03 9701 7114.

Cost: \$80 for two days. What a bargain!

MISSIO DEI October 12-13 (9am-4pm) – the last opportunity in '09 in Melbourne to participate in this two-day discernment, experience and insight retreat that helps you to explore your vocation in life. Led by: Ash Barker. Cost \$50. Contact: Jim, jim@unoh.org

MISSION EXPOSURE COURSE will not run in Melbourne later this year. However there is an opportunity to join this live-in exposure course to the UNOH model of neighbourhood transformation in Sydney, 4 – 9 December. Contact: Jon, jonowen@unoh.org for details.

YOU CAN ALSO HEAR UNOH WORKERS AT:

Black Stump Festival in Sydney, NSW – October 2-3 (Ash Barker, Jim Reiher, Lisa and Jon Owen with Andy Flannagan)

National Youth Ministry Convention in Tweed Heads, NSW – October 16-17 (Ash and Jim with Andy)

And don't forget **SUBMERGE 2010** - Next year's 'Submerge' training course has great new options available. It will be run from 3 locations – Melbourne, Sydney and Klong Toey in Bangkok. The year will start with all new 'Submerge' students doing a module of study and practical experience in the Klong Toey slum in Thailand. Then each student will go to their respective location for the rest of the year. This course is a wonderful "hands-on" opportunity to learn more about God's heart for the urban poor and marginalized. It will provide an intense community mission experience that can infect you with the passions, ideas, and actions of Jesus. Contact UNOH for details (jim@unoh.org or 03 9701 7114)

If you'd like to find out about ways to better pray, finance, meet-up, be equipped and serve with the urban poor as neighbours, go to www.unoh.org/urban-hope or call Kay on 9701.7114 (kay@unoh.org). To find out more about UNOH go to our website www.unoh.org.

Kay Hebbard, UNOH Advocacy Coordinator
kay@unoh.org

Paul's Current Reading

Governance is the most common issue we hear churches are facing.

Governance is the establishment of policies, and continuous monitoring of their proper implementation, by the church's governing body. It includes ways of balancing the powers (and associated accountabilities) of governance group members (including ministers or pastors), all within the group's primary role of ensuring the church's health and growth.

Healthy and growing churches (and the systems that support them) have best-practice governance in place. My current reading includes *Governance as Leadership* (Chait, Ryan and Taylor, Wiley, 2005). The authors' thesis is that a healthy organisation's governance group will operate in three areas: fiduciary (stewardship of assets), strategic (partnering staff in setting and delivering purpose and priorities), and generative (providing collaborative leadership with staff around present and future activities). My guess is that church boards and elders tend to be strong on the first, reasonable on the second and a little anxious about the third. The authors' challenge is that all three modes of governance are created equal, and when the governance group works well in all three, it achieves 'governance as leadership'. They describe this as more 'macro-governance' and less 'micromanagement'. What do you think?

A week's break in Merimbula this month will give me the opportunity to read Tim Winton's *Breath*, and also *The Age of the Unthinkable* (Joshua Cooper Ramo).

Calendar of Events

Alan Roxburgh Seminar

Wednesday 14 October

BUV, Tabor, Forge and Churches of Christ Vic/Tas are co-hosting a seminar day with Alan Roxburgh, held at Tabor College.

Global trends, local stories: directions for the missional conversation

- What are the lessons of the last decade of missional focus?
- Where is the cutting edge today?
- What tools are effective for substantial missional change?
- Has style been emphasised over substance, and rhetoric over reality?
- What babies are going out with the bathwater?

9:30am-12:30pm Alan Roxburgh: "Global trends, local stories: directions for the missional conversation"

12:30-1:15pm Lunch

1:15-2:30pm Discussion panel: "The emerging and/or missional church: Myths, measures and realities"

*Born in Liverpool and now a Canadian, Alan Roxburgh is one of the world's leading authorities in the area of the engagement of the Gospel and Western culture. As local church pastor for over 25 years, Alan brings rare insight about the changing patterns in both church life and Western culture and is able to engage these areas with deep theological reflection and insight. Alan is an adjunct professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in the Doctor of Ministry program and has written widely including in the seminal book *Missional Church* as well as *Reaching a New Generation*, *The Sky is Falling*, *The Missional Leader* and the soon to be published *Introducing the Missional Church*.*

**Book with Rhonda Shaw at Baptist Union of Victoria
9880 6100 or buv@buv.com.au**

**Seminar price: \$40 including lunch or \$30 concession/
early bird price if paid by 28 September**

Marriage Licence Seminar

For those who are applying for a Marriage Licence we are conducting training days in conjunction with the Baptist Union of Victoria:

Wednesday 19 November, 9.30am-3.30pm

Cost is \$20pp and RSVP to Mission and Ministry by Monday 9 November on 9488 8800 or by email to adminm&m@churchesofchrist.org.au

Classifieds

Banksia Holiday Camp

ExAd is sponsoring the Banksia holiday camp early January 2010 at Camp Cormorant on the Banksia Peninsula, Gippsland Lakes. This is an activity for people who are comfortable camping. For details contact John Lanaway on 9803-2031 or email either wearlc@sltnet.lk or godfrey@worlddevangelicals.org

Lands of the Bible tour and the Oberammegau passion play

This outstanding tour is from 29 June – 20 July 2010. It covers the times of Jesus, Paul and John in Israel, Turkey and Greece, concluding at the Passion play. There is an optional Egypt tour of 10 days. Quality tour guides, most meals provided and tipping covered. Arranged through IFT, call 1800 074 426 for details or locally to tour leaders Graham and Freda Carlsake 9447 7425.

New Christian Newspaper

Over a year ago two Christian media professionals, John Sandeman (then at Fairfax Media) and David Maegraith (then at Anglican Media Sydney), met to share a vision for a national Christian newspaper with a large circulation delivered freely to churches in Australia.

Today that vision is a reality with the launch in October 2009 of Australia's first mass market monthly Christian newspaper **Eternity**. With an initial circulation of 100,000 the paper will already be close to the audience size of *The Australian* (weekday circulation 137,000. *Source: newsspace.com.au*). You can read all about Eternity at www.eternity.biz including opportunities to provide content for the newspaper.

Eternity will produce news with a Christian worldview, drawing on the resources of Christians and churches around Australia. Craig Brown (Federal Co-ordinator, Council of Churches of Christ in Australia) has been involved in the conversations that have resulted in the newspaper. He will also be joining the editorial panel.

During October your church may well receive complimentary copies of Eternity, to share with the congregation and the wider community. If you would like to register for this distribution, simply email your request to hq@eternity.biz.

Your feedback will be essential to the newspaper's ongoing content, and to its success.

**Churches of Christ Vic/Tas, ABN 26 403 323 495
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Phone—03 9488 8800, Fax—03 9481 8543**

**Editor—Paul Cameron
Production—Claire Egan
Final inclusion deadline—25th/month**

Page	Church/Person	Changes
4	Historian - Victoria	New address for Kerrie Handasyde: PO Box 462, Bayswater 3153 New temporary phone number: 9739 1588
6	Mission & Ministry	Administration Assistant: remove Paulina Meyer, and add Maxine Ong. Slight change of email address: adminmandm@churchesofchrist.org.au
20	Brighton	Change mailing address to: 58 Wilson St, Brighton 3186
21	Connection	Meeting time is 4pm only.
21	Castlemaine	New church secretary: Les Smith Remove: Annette Kuhle
23	Frankston	New service times: 9.00am, 10.15am, 6.00pm Dorothy Davey new mobile: M 0437 856 410
25	Kardinia	Richard Brohier new email: richard@kardinia.org.au Justin Gall, change title to: Associate Pastor, Creative Arts Remove: Natasha Rae and her details. Youth Pastor: remove Johanna Richardson
27	Mornington	Secretary, Fay Hunter, new email: fayhunter2@bigpond.com
28	Portland	New church email: portlandcofc@bigpond.com
30	Shepparton	New church email: touchinglives1@bigpond.com Robert Hough new email: Robert.H@bigpond.com Add (E) after his name
32	The Rainbow Community	Gabriel Hingley, change email to: gabriel@unoh.org
39	Andrew Adams	Add details. Place of Ministry: Wallan Gateway Email: aadams@wallangateway.org.au M 0437 526 611
41	Richard Brohier	New email: richard@kardinia.org.au
42	Ian Cartmel	New address: 81a Main Rd, Huonville Tas 7109
42	Ron Chapman	New email: ronandlynchapman@bigpond.com
46	Robert Hough	Add: (E) after his name. New email: Pastor_robert.H@bigpond.com
46	Murray Holmes	Add details. Place of Ministry: Liquid Email: info@liquidchurch.com.au M 0416 015 281
46	Gabriel Hingley	Changed email: gabriel@unoh.org
52	John & Johanna Richardson	Remove Johanna's name, leave John
54	Michael Sim	Add details. Place of Ministry: CiTiGATE msim@providencefinance.com M 0433 553 939