

# OIKOUMENE

## TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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

April 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?*

### NEW – AND UNWELCOME - CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR THE TCC

For more than two decades now the Tasmanian Council of Churches has had two income streams. Member churches have contributed (a total of \$30,000 in 2006) and Christian World Service (CWS) has contributed (a total of \$46,000 in 2006).

CWS has recently reviewed its operations, with particular reference to the proportion of income spent on promotion of the Christmas Bowl and other appeals. As a result of this review it is likely that CWS will fund its Tasmanian work with a grant of \$10,000 p.a. effective 1 July 2007. Other states have also received funding cuts but Tasmania's is the most substantial.

This will result in a dramatic fall in the TCC's income. We will not be able to maintain our current staffing levels, and probably not maintain a city-centre office. In addition much of the work currently undertaken by our General Secretary, Rev Tim Matton-Johnson and our Administrative Assistant, Mrs Jenny Roddam, will need to be undertaken by volunteers, or let go altogether.

The office-bearers of the TCC have been carefully considering the implications of the CWS decision and its impact on the future life and work of the TCC. To inform this consideration there have been helpful and continuing conversations with the Heads of Churches, as well as with the TCC Executive.

We are quite committed to the TCC continuing – even if in a more limited role. Your office-bearers remain strongly committed to pursuing the ecumenical agenda in Tasmania and to identifying ways through which the churches of Tasmania can co-operate to bear witness to the wider community of the unity we have in Christ, and to the common tasks of the worship and service of the one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Many decisions will need to be made by the TCC in the coming weeks. I ask for your prayers for the Executive and also for Tim and Jenny as we face this unwelcome challenge. I expect that our next newsletter will outline the way the Executive has responded to the new challenge.

In this Easter season we proclaim that out of suffering and death new life came. May the new life that comes out of our present struggle strengthen the TCC for the years to come.

*Allan Thompson (Rev)*  
*President.*



### TCC ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY 12 MAY 2007

The TCC's 2007 Annual Meeting will be held at the Kings Meadows Salvation Army Citadel, 16-20 Kay Street, Kings Meadows, Launceston, from 9.30 am—3.00 pm on **Saturday 12 May**.

**Keynote speaker** will be **The Rev'd Dr. Christiaan Mostert** (pictured right). Chris is Professor of Systematic Theology at the Uniting Church Theological College, Melbourne, Co-Chair of the Joint Working Group of the Anglican Church of Australia and the Uniting Church in Australia, President of the Melbourne College of Divinity, Chairperson of the Faith & Unity Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia for the last six years. After serving in three parishes (Presbyterian and then UCA) in Tasmania, he spent five years in Korea as a missionary teacher of theology. He is also a former President of the TCC.



The Rt. Rev'd Richard Appleby, previously advertised as the keynote speaker at the AGM, is now unable to come to Tasmania in May due to health issues and we are grateful that Dr. Mostert has been able to accept our invitation. We look forward to his contribution and leadership at the Annual Meeting.

The keynote address will be given during the morning session of the meeting at approximately 11.15 am. After lunch Dr. Mostert will join a panel to discuss new directions for the TCC into the future.

In addition to delegates representing Member Churches of the TCC, you are **ALL WELCOME** to come and hear Dr Mostert. If you would like to stay for lunch, please advise the TCC office on 6234 2543 (or e-mail [tcctas@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tcctas@bigpond.net.au)) as we will need to have numbers for catering purposes.

## From the General Secretary

As you read through this newsletter you will see that the Tasmanian Council of Churches has been keeping busy. As well as continuing to be active in promoting Christian World Service programs through the Christmas Bowl and Partners4Peace, we have been working through our Commissions on Ministry in State Schools, Peace and Justice issues and doing our part in the promotion of the *Jesus All About Life* program.

In addition we have also recently established a Task Group on Heritage Properties where those in our various member churches who have property responsibilities are able to come together to share experience and help develop policy on this sometimes difficult and contentious area where community values and the mission needs of the churches can at times conflict. It is hoped that this group will be one more important way in which churches will be enabled to work together in service to our common Lord.

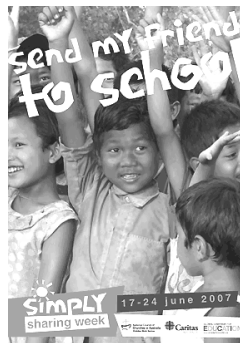
In the midst of all of this activity we have also been working hard on the task of preparing for a major change in the way the TCC operates (see the article by our President, Allan Thompson). At this time we seek your prayers and continued support for the ecumenical movement in Tasmania.

*Rev'd Tim Matton-Johnson*  
*TCC General Secretary*

## SIMPLY SHARING WEEK

17-24 JUNE 2007

### Send My Friend to School



This year, the goal of *Simply Sharing Week* is to help all school-aged people around the world enjoy basic education. Simply Sharing Week, a joint program of Caritas and Christian World Service, is promoting the creation of 'cut-out friends' in schools, churches and communities so that thousands of them can be presented to members of the Australian Government in October.

The instructions on how to get involved are in the education resource kit, along with other user-friendly resources.

Online resources and virtual 'cut-out' friends are available at [www.simplysharingweek.org.au](http://www.simplysharingweek.org.au). To order your resources you can either contact Kaylea Fearn (Coordinator, Simply Sharing Week) on 96506811 or e-mail [kfearn@ncca.org.au](mailto:kfearn@ncca.org.au), or contact the TCC Office (6234 2543 or e-mail [tctas@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tctas@bigpond.net.au)).

A visit to Tasmania by Coordinator, Kaylea is being planned for May—see details on page 4.

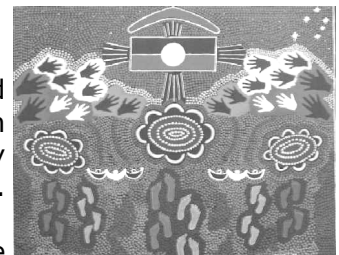
## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 20-27 MAY 2007

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION 27 MAY-3 JUNE

***"He even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak" (Mark 7:37)***

In 2007, the resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity had their origin in the experience of Christian communities in the South African region of Umlazi, near Durban, a region deeply affected by unemployment and poverty, but most of all by HIV/AIDS.

For the churches in Umlazi carrying out their ministry under these circumstances, the "visible unity of all Christians" is far more than a theological concept. Facing the reality that the human suffering caused by the Aids pandemic and other dehumanising forces is threatening to overwhelm the divided churches, they believe that the churches can be agents of healing only when they themselves are healed, when they are truly the one body of Christ. Then, churches can break the silence, and speak out with a single voice and reach out as a single body, acting with compassion and in unity.



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity concludes on the Feast of Pentecost and leads straight into the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation beginning on 27 May. Christians in Australia, therefore, are invited to continue their prayers for the unity of the Church with a commitment to prayer and work for reconciliation through justice for Indigenous people.

Resources are available from the Tasmanian Council of Churches as follows:

- Posters (in colour) for local advertising \$5.00
- Prayer Cards (in colour \$7 for 20)

An Order of Worship and Daily Bible Readings and Prayers are available from

[www.ncca.org.au/departments/faith\\_unity/weekofprayer](http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/faith_unity/weekofprayer) or copies can be purchased from the TCC Office (phone 6234 2543 or e-mail [tctas@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tctas@bigpond.net.au))

## SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY IN TASMANIA

Enclosed in this mail-out you will find a copy of a recently produced generic brochure on School Chaplaincy.

The brochure is the work of the Chaplaincy Working Group (CWG) – which is part of the TCC's Commission on Christian Ministry in State Schools (CCMISS) – in response to heightened community awareness of and increased demand for school chaplaincy services since the announcement of the federal government's National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP) on 29 October 2006. This program gives schools the option of applying for up to \$20000 pa for 3 years to employ a chaplain as part of their student support service structure.

The TCC outsources the management of chaplaincy services to Scripture Union (SU), which currently employs chaplains in 20 high schools, district high schools and secondary colleges around the state. These chaplains are managed and supported by Local Chaplaincy Committees (LCCs) which are widely representative of the local Christian community.

The advent of the federal funding program implies a number of things which you are invited to comment on, act upon and pray about:

a) the federal funds will not pay the existing salary hours of chaplains. Hence it is essential for the sustainability of chaplaincy programs in schools, for LCCs to maintain and even increase the financial support they receive from churches and individuals. There is no guarantee of federal funding beyond the 3 year life of this program;

b) the number of schools applying for federal funding to employ a chaplain for the first time, means that we will be seeking appropriate-qualified and experienced people who feel that God is calling them to this ministry. Tabor College has launched a new course in school chaplaincy in 2007, and people considering applying to become chaplains are encouraged to enrol for this in 2008;

c) there will as well be an obvious need for more LCCs to support the new chaplains. This is an area where you may be called to serve God in your local community. A new LCC, representative of all churches in the town, has been formed this month in George Town to manage the chaplaincy services at Port Dalrymple School and South George Town Primary Schools (which have applied for federal funding), and another in Nubeena. There will be more – that's for sure!

We believe that God is already at work in each school community. Our task is to complement and enhance that through the ministry of chaplaincy. School chaplaincy is one of the most effective ways in which churches can invest their resources in their local communities. I urge you to encourage chaplains in their work – which isn't easy! – and to use your networks and contacts to move towards establishing new chaplaincies.

Greg Foot  
Chaplaincy Support Officer (P/T 0.6)  
[Contact details are in the brochure. Please feel free to copy the brochure or to request a pdf file]



Congregations from across the state are strongly encouraged to register for the *Jesus All About Life* media campaign which will be happening in Tasmania in September/October this year. You can visit the JAAL website at [www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au](http://www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au) to register.

By registering/signing up, congregations

- Will have the right to use the JAAL name and advertising in their events and publicity
- Resources will be provided
- You'll be kept informed of ideas, and of what others are doing
- You'll be able to purchase JAAL branded promotional material
- You'll have access to training programs.

The web page is also a tool that can help all churches make the most of the JAAL campaign. It will be a connection point for all involved, the opportunity to share resources and ideas beyond our own local and regional boundaries.

For more information contact your regional coordinators:

<b>Southern</b>	Dave Morse (Hobart) Ph (03) 6244 6336
<b>Northern</b>	Ross Nicholson (Launceston) Ph (03) 6331 4896
<b>North-West</b>	Andrew Hillier (Devonport) Ph (03) 6349 1927

### School Crossing Linking churches with schools in Tasmania

Enclosed with this newsletter is the first edition of *School Crossing* prepared by the Primary Working Group of the TCC's Commission for Christian Ministry in State Schools.

The Group plans to distribute the newsletter twice per year to inform about the many ministry opportunities and events related to schools around Tasmania.

If you would like to comment or provide input about ministry in state schools, please contact Kathryn Yaxley 6265 5809 [pjyky@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pjyky@optusnet.com.au) or Jenny Cowley 6244 8422 [jenny.cowley@sutas.org.au](mailto:jenny.cowley@sutas.org.au)

**KAYLEA FEARN**  
**(Coordinator, Simply Sharing Week)**  
**VISIT TO TASMANIA**

Plans are proceeding for Kaylea Fearn to visit Tasmania from 16-20 May to promote the Simply Sharing Week program.

Kaylea would like to visit schools in the south and north of the state and is also available to speak to congregations on 19/20 May.

If your group/congregation/school would like to invite Kaylea to speak with you during her visit, please contact the TCC Office as soon as possible.

Kaylea is pictured below with school students she met in India.



**SOLOMON ISLANDS EARTHQUAKE  
 AND TSUNAMI**



An 8.0 magnitude earthquake that triggered a tsunami that measured between two and 10 metres in places, struck the Solomon Islands at 07:40 local time on Monday 2nd April, killing at least 20 people, leaving thousands homeless, and destroying at least 13 villages in the most severely affected Choiseul and Western Provinces.

Ruth Liloqula from the Lauru Land Conference based in Choiseul, reported that two metre high waves travelled up to 200 metres inland, causing major property destruction and contaminating drinking water. "It is indeed a very big concern and I just hope that our people got to safer ground," Liloqula said. Her family home, which had already been damaged by the rise in sea level, was swept away by the tsunami.

If you wish to support the affected Solomon Islands communities over the coming months as they rebuild and re-establish their lives, please:

- Call our toll free number 1800 025 101; or
- Send a cheque / money order to CWS (Solomon Islands Tsunami Appeal), Locked Bag 199, SYDNEY NSW 1230.

*Any excess funds raised will be allocated to ongoing development work in the area.*

**FR. JOHN DEAR SJ**  
**Report from March Visit to  
 Hobart**



The Tasmanian Council of Churches was privileged to bring Fr. John Dear SJ to Hobart to speak on Sunday 11 March.

125 people attended a challenging and inspirational talk by Fr. John who spoke of his

experiences of conviction, imprisonment, house arrest for non-violent protests against war. His presentation could not help but touch the hearts of all present to become involved in building a culture of non violence. If you would like a CD of Fr. John's talk please contact the TCC Office.

Since 11th March a number of people have expressed an interest in forming a Tasmanian Christian Peace Group, possibly a Pax Christi group. (Pax Christi is a Christian peace movement promoting peace efforts in the fields of demilitarization and security, human rights, ecology, development, economic justice and reconciliation). At the Peace Rally on 1st April a number of names were collected and ***if you are interested in being part of this proposal, please phone the TCC office (6234 2543) or e-mail tctas@bigpond.net.au to register your interest.*** Members of the TCC's Peace & Justice Commission hope to make this one of their priorities over the next few months.



**JOHN BELL  
 IS COMING TO TASMANIA!**



The Uniting Church Synod of Victoria & Tasmania is bringing JOHN BELL to Tasmania in June and you can be part of his events at the following times and venues:

**SATURDAY 9 JUNE – 10.30 am – 3.00 pm** Seminar at Penguin Uniting Church. Bring lunch to share. Cost: \$10.00.

**SUNDAY 10 JUNE**

**10.00 am** Combined Worship service at Pilgrim Uniting Church, Launceston. John Bell will preach.

**2.00 – 5.00 pm** Seminar at Launceston North Uniting Church, 132 George Town Road, Newnham. Bring tea to share. Cost \$10.00.

**TUESDAY 12 JUNE**

**12.30 pm** – Lunchtime Forum for the City of Hobart hosted by Wesley Uniting Church (see separate notice on page 6).

**5.30 pm**—Seminar at Scots-Memorial Uniting Church, 29 Bathurst Street, Hobart. Bring tea to share. Cost \$10.00.

John's seminars will be based on his work with the Iona community in Scotland. He will teach in the areas of music and worship.

All are invited. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to meet John Bell in Tasmania!

For further details and to register contact UCA Tasmanian Office on 6331 9784, e-mail [tas.office@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:tas.office@victas.uca.org.au)



## CHRISTMAS BOWL UPDATE

The Tasmanian Council of Churches would like to thank all supporters of Christmas Bowl who have assisted the program over the past months.

Community launches for the Appeal were held in Hobart's Elizabeth Mall and Launceston's Brisbane Street Mall in November and were grateful to have the involvement of students from St. Michael's Collegiate School, Sacred Heart College, St. Patrick's College and Launceston Church Grammar School at the Launches.

Christmas Bowl visitor, Colleen Hodge, spoke at the Launches and at a number of other events, and challenged people to support the work of Christmas Bowl in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and in Australia.

Thank you to all Church Treasurers who have forwarded donations through to the National Council of Churches.

If you haven't yet sent donations from your Parish/Congregation, please do so as soon as possible so that Christmas Bowl projects can benefit.



Colleen Hodge (centre) pictured with Bishop John Harrower (right) and Rev'd Tim Matton-Johnson (left) at the Hobart Launch

*Photo courtesy of The Mercury*  
Below—dancers from St. Patrick's College at the Launceston Launch

*Photo courtesy the Launceston Examiner*



## CHRISTMAS BOWL AT WORK

Funds from the Christmas Bowl, Partners4Peace and Emergency programs of CWS in 2006 and from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) have been sent to partners in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific, for 44 aid projects (assistance in emergencies, injustice, and development and poverty reduction).

### Assistance in Emergencies

"The continuing support from our partners and others who provided contributions is received with full appreciation, especially when it has been given during the emergency situation in our land, and our very difficult circumstances of need and poverty", said Constantine Dabbagh from Gaza, in a recent email from CWS's partner, the

Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees.

### Injustice

In the Solomon Islands literacy workshops for women facilitated the extension of training in village and provincial areas.

"The women are very enthusiastic and eager to see it continue and expand. Those who have been trained are organising themselves to run literacy classes within church and village networks. A goal of the project is to enrol 1,000 new students.

"Church women leaders have plans for a national literacy outreach project and will work together with the Literacy Association of the Solomon Islands", CWS's partner, the Solomon Islands Christian Association, reported.

### Development and Poverty Reduction

Church World Service in Cambodia, has been installing water pumps in villages in recent years.

Mao Sopa, Community Development Program Manager, says, "Without fresh clean water villagers will continue to get sick. The importance of water pumps also highlights hygiene awareness. We have seen great leaps forward in general health.

"Thank you for your continuing encouragement and support."

Gifts for the 2006-7 Christmas Bowl can be sent Christian World Service/NCCA, Locked Bag 199, Sydney 1230, or via our secure site at [www.ncca.org.au/cws](http://www.ncca.org.au/cws) or freecall 1800 025 101.

---

## Make Indigenous Poverty History 40 Days of ACTION for 40 years of inaction

40 years ago, 90.77% of Australians said yes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples becoming citizens of their own country. Finally, Indigenous Australians had the rights which had long been denied them; such as the vote and freedom of movement.

In 2007, despite many changes and the achievements of Indigenous peoples, many still live in poverty....

A card is enclosed to remind you of the 40 days of action when you can support the goal to Make Indigenous Poverty History.

## WESLEY UNITING CHURCH ENGAGING WITH THE HOBART COMMUNITY:

To celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia, Wesley Uniting Church in the City of Hobart is presenting three lunches for those in community leadership titled:-

**‘Values for Living in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – where are our leaders?’**

*All lunches will be at 12.30 pm at Wesley Hall, 58 Melville Street, Hobart.*

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June: *In search of meaning.*** Speaker: **The Rev’d John Bell** from the Iona Community in Scotland. John Bell is an international leader of the global church community and internationally sought after speaker on Celtic Spirituality, the search for meaning in contemporary society and social justice.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June: *In search of caring.*** Speaker: **Ms Lin Hatfield Dodds** National Executive Director of UnitingCare Australia which is one of the largest non government provider of community services in Australia.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June: *In search of leaders.*** Speaker: **The Rev’d Professor James Haire**, Executive Director, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Professor of Theology James Stuart University and Director, Public and Contextual Theology Strategic Research Centre at Charles Stuart University Canberra and former president of the Uniting Church in Australia and the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Cost of the meal will be \$40 including \$10.00 donation to the Bridgewater/Gagebrook UnitingCare ‘Winter Warmth Appeal.’ (Tax deductible)

**Bookings essential.** For more information, please phone Wesley Office:- 6231 4033 or Email: [office.wesley.uca@bigpond.com](mailto:office.wesley.uca@bigpond.com)

## LEADERS TO GO CONFERENCE

**A Children’s & Families Ministry Leadership Conference –**  
*Striving to empower, equip and encourage leaders for excellence in children’s and families ministry.*

**Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>,** Village Avenue Community Church, 1 The Village Avenue, Coopers Plains, Brisbane.  
Cost: \$210 for Full Registration (final date accepted 27 April)

This Conference is a valuable inclusion in any annual training calendar for those involved in Children’s and Families Ministry. An excellent opportunity to learn about ministry in this important area from a great line-up of speakers.

More information from Helen Phillips, at the Anglican Diocesan office – phone: 6220 2020, e-mail [helen.phillips@anglicantas.org.au](mailto:helen.phillips@anglicantas.org.au)

## DEEPINGS QUIET DAYS 2007

Dates and venues for the remaining Deepings ‘Quiet Days’ for 2007 are:

Thursday 31 May at All Saints Anglican Church, 339 Macquarie Street, Hobart  
Wednesday 12 September at The Deepings, 1118 Nicholls Rivulet Road, Nicholls Rivulet.

Friday 26 October at The Deepings

Saturday 8 December at All Saints Anglican Church.

All are welcome to participate in these ecumenical gatherings. If you would like further information about the programs or directions to The Deepings, please contact Roslyn Hunt: phone 6295 1398 or 6225 5127 or e-mail [seaner@tadaust.org.au](mailto:seaner@tadaust.org.au)

## NEW INDEPENDENT E-NEWSLETTER

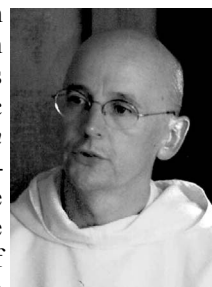
offers event-based news on a weekly basis for anyone interested in religious or spiritual matters. Annual subscription \$33.00.

Details on [www.thegoodgossip.com.au](http://www.thegoodgossip.com.au).

Enquiries to Penny Edman 0400 896 191.

## FR. LAURENCE FREEMAN OSB Public Lecture Tuesday 1st May

The Tasmanian Christian Meditation Community invites you to a **Public Lecture *Life, Death and Meditation***—how a contemplative mind holds the contradictions of human experience in



a peaceful and loving tension. The lecture will be given by **Fr. Laurence Freeman OSB on Tuesday 1st May at 7.30 pm at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay.**

Laurence Freeman is a Benedictine monk and Director of the World Community for Christian meditation. He is an international speaker on the ancient practice of meditation in the Christian tradition and is the author of many books, including *Jesus: the teacher within*. Laurence has conducted inter-religious dialogue with other faiths, including with the Dalai Lama.

All welcome—entry by donation. For more information contact Vivienne 6223 4015 or Marie 6344 4793.

## WALK AGAINST WANT 11.00 am Sunday 29 April Parliament House Lawns, Hobart

The 5 km. walk starts and finishes at Parliament House Lawns. The trail follows a scenic route through Battery Point, along Marieville Esplanade and Sandy Bay Road.

The 10 km challenge continues on from the turning point at Nutgrove Beach (not suitable for prams or wheelchairs).

There will be Post Walk festivities: join in with fun, music and food at the Fair Trade Fiesta.

Registration: Contact Matthew Hamilton 6223 1025, e-mail [hobartwalk2007@gmail.com](mailto:hobartwalk2007@gmail.com) or turn up on the day at Parliament House lawns and register by donation.

More information from Sally McGushin phone 6278 9149 or e-mail [alice\\_mcgushin08@friends.tas.edu.au](mailto:alice_mcgushin08@friends.tas.edu.au)