

Cursillo celebrates 30 years

❑ He has called your name

Almost 100 people gathered at the Big 4 Parklands in Dubbo on the weekend of May 1-3 for two days of celebration and encouragement, marking the 30th anniversary of the Cursillo Movement in the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst.

The celebration, with its theme of *He has called your name*, followed a two-day meeting of the National Secretariat of Cursillo, held at the same venue, with most of the delegates choosing to stay on for at least part of the diocesan event.

The gathering also attracted a number of former residents of Bathurst Diocese who had been active in the Cursillo movement, but are now living elsewhere – including former Diocesan Lay Director Sue Bidwell and her husband Jock, and former Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Michael Birch and his wife Libby.

Friday evening's program included two talks on the beginnings of Cursillo in Australia in 1973, and its introduction in Bathurst Diocese two years later. These talks were written by Wynne West and Rita Bryant of Cowra, who unfortunately were not able to attend the gathering in person so their contributions were read



ANSWERING: Diocesan Lay Director Liz Smith spoke on the topic, 'Answering the Call'.



CELEBRATION: Former Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Michael Birch, currently priest at Tea Gardens, presided at the closing celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Ian Palmer preaching.

by the MCs for the weekend, Steffen John and Robyn Hull.

Wynne had attended the first Women's Cursillo held in Australia, at Bishopsthorpe in Goulburn, and was a team member for Women's 1 in Bathurst Diocese.

On Saturday Diocesan Lay Director of Cursillo, Liz Smith, picked up on the weekend theme, *He has called your name*, when she presented a talk entitled *Answering the Call*.

Liz compared the different responses of the Old Testament characters Samuel, Isaiah and Elijah when they had heard God's call.

"How have we answered the call?" she asked, suggesting that Samuel's response had been hesitant, Jeremiah had prevaricated, and Isaiah had readily accepted the call.

Outgoing National Lay Director Di Smith from Queensland followed up with two talks, entitled *The Meaning of the Call* and *The Action of the Call*.

She also drew on the book of Jeremiah, quoting Jer. 29:11 – "I know the plans I have for you", but also pointing out that "God's time is not our time" and we may need to be patient.

Di stressed the three essential ingredients of Cursillo: piety, study and action. She said the laity of the church are called to play their part, and this involves not only living a Godly life and the study of God's word, but also being actively involved in God's work through the church.

Paraphrasing James 2:17, she said that faith without action was dead. "The third leg of the Cursillo tripod stands or falls on this verse," she said.

She also stressed the importance of the 'Fourth Day' of the Cursillo movement: the period after the three-day retreat.

"The fourth day is about responding to the call," she said. "Keeping our fourth day alive and healthy is what every Cursillista should aspire to."

Bishop Ian Palmer, the National Episcopal Advisor for the Cursillo Movement, spoke of the brokenness of society and the importance of forgiveness in his after-dinner speech on Saturday evening.

He quoted American playwright Eugene O'Neill, who wrote: "Man is born broken, he lives by mending, and the grace of God is the glue."

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“God has no need or compulsion to forgive, but chooses to do so – to right the wrongs of the world,” he said, adding a line from a song that had been sung prior to his speech: *We are the broken, You are the Healer.*

He said that Cursillo’s gift was “a safe place to be broken”, and “in brokenness we receive grace”.

“The way into forgiveness is the gift of tears,” he said.

Lew Hitchick delivered the final talk of the weekend on Sunday morning, entitled *The Fourth Day: Responding to the Call.*

He pointed out that the Cursillo method equipped and encouraged lay people for mission, but added that mission did not belong to the church.

Quoting Tim Dearborn, he said: “It’s not the church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission that has a church in the world”.

He also reminded the gathering that one of Bishop Ian’s constant themes over the past two years had been the need for churches to serve the communities in which they exist.

“What difference would it make to our communities, if the Anglican Church ceased to exist in this area?” he asked, pointing out that unless the church was serving the community in some way that no other group or agency was, then most people in the community would hardly notice if the church was to disappear.

The anniversary celebration



DINNER: (above) Dubbo’s Big 4 Parklands put on a sumptuous meal for Saturday night’s dinner.



MC: (left) Steffen John from Blayney proved to be a capable and entertaining Master of Ceremonies for the weekend.

concluded with a Eucharist in the conference room, led by former Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Michael Birch (currently Rector of the parish of Tea Gardens), Diocese of Newcastle).

Bishop Ian preached on the power of forgiveness, saying that Cursillo had given “the gift of tears’ to the Diocese as it helped people to forgive, and to accept forgiveness.

CLERGY MOVES & APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Michelle Watterson** will be ordained as a Deacon on Saturday 20th June at 11am in St George’s Anglican Church, Parkes.

INVITATION

On the 5th June, 1955 I was Ordained a Priest in the Church of God in St Albans Abbey, UK.

On the 5th June, 2015, I will celebrate the Eucharist in The Warriors Chapel, All Saints Cathedral, Bathurst at 10am.

Please come and celebrate with me Sixty years of Ordained Ministry in both the United Kingdom and Australia, and stay on for Morning Tea in The Abbott Room.

Laus Deo

Father John Clarkson tssf

Ministry in:

Diocese of St Alban, UK

St Saviours Luton,

Diocese of North Queensland

Cloncurry

Brotherhood of St Barnabas

Townsville, Mundingburra:

St Matthew’s Parish,

Diocese of Peterborough UK

Northampton

St Mary the Virgin, Dallington

Diocese of Bathurst

St Barnabas, West Wyalong

Christ Church, Blayney

Since Retirement, Locums in:

Dioceses of Ballarat, Melbourne, Riverina, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Grafton and Bathurst

Spirit '15:

Called to *be*, not to *do*

❑ Christian calling is about identity, not activity

By Lewis Hitchick

Keynote speaker at the Spirit '15 Conference, Pastor Brian Goodell, focussed on what it means to be 'called' as a Christian.

A strong contingent from Forbes parish took part in the annual Spirit Conference, which was held at St Peter's Anglican College, Broulee, on the weekend of April 17-19.

Brian Goodell, Senior Pastor of The Bridge Foursquare Church in Foster City, California, began by reading from Romans 8: 28-29, pointing out that all Christians are "called according to (God's) purpose".

However, he said many people do not understand what "calling" is.

"I want to challenge the idea that what you do is who you are," he stressed. "Our calling as men and women of God is first and foremost as sons and daughters, and out of that place of intimacy and relationship, God wants to release his Spirit in us and through us to the world around us. Every one of you in this room is called."

What Calling is not

He pointed out that calling was not:

- ♦ Just for 'professionals', the priests pastors or missionaries.
- ♦ Always just a one-time event – situations are going to change, and because our calling is not limited to our abilities or talents it is going to change.
- ♦ Your job – your job is a context whereby you are useful for the Lord, being led by the Spirit so that your calling as a son or daughter of God can be shown.
- ♦ Your identity; being who we are in Christ is our identity. The 'doing' of our lives flows out of 'being' who we are.
- ♦ An individual pursuit – God works in community. He challenged his audience to understand and embrace the blessing of covering: "There is tremendous anointing when we live under covering – a group who will help us recognise our blind spots and 'call us out' on whatever needs to be called out."
- ♦ Just about being happy all the time: "The challenge with happiness is that it's based on happenings. There's a difference between happiness and the constant joy that only comes from Christ. Calling is about becoming like Jesus."

What Calling is

Brian Goodell then explained what he believed calling is:

- ♦ Belonging to God
- ♦ Being Christ-like in our behaviour
- ♦ Doing God's work in the world
- ♦ Living a life of purpose.

In his second session Brian Goodell picked up the theme of the conference as he called on his listeners to "break down the walls between the church and the world".

"Calling is, first and foremost, belonging to God," he stressed. "Giving your life away as Jesus said, is going to bring about the abundant life that he promises in John 10:10. But to hang onto life, to draw things to ourselves, is where we lose the real purpose we are created for."

However, he insisted that God does not often call people to something they do not want to do.



CALLING: Conference speaker Pastor Brian Goodell from San Francisco delivered a series of five powerful addresses on the topic of 'Calling', explaining that all Christians are called to share the Gospel message.

"God wants us to do what we love – I really believe that. I want you to get in touch with what you are passionate about."

He cited 2 Thess. 1:11, adding particular emphasis: "With this in mind we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfil *every good purpose of yours* and every act prompted by *your faith*."

"God wants you to get in touch with how he has uniquely and extraordinarily created you to do things that you love. I'm talking about God breaking down walls and blowing the ceiling off your life.

"I want to invite you to an adventure in Christ – I want you to begin to see your life with tremendous capacity. But capacity is only built by taking steps of faith and stretching ourselves."

He said that some have just conceded to a small life but he believed that God has created us for a big, dramatic existence – "and that will be so contagious in our world that people will be attracted to that".

"If being like Jesus is our calling in life, and that is supposed to be who we are, wherever we are and whatever we do, then we should follow the example of how he lived.

"If you want to do the stuff in public like Jesus did, you've got to do with your private life what Jesus did - steal away from the busyness of the world to spend time with the Father through scripture, prayer, fasting, solitude and celebration."

In subsequent sessions Brian Goodell further developed the concept of 'calling' by adding some mathematical symbols:

Belonging to God

- + **Being Christ-like in our behaviour**
- + **Doing God's work in the world**
- = **Living a life of purpose.**

"It's such an amazing blessing when we do the work of God, when we obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit – how fulfilled we feel inside!"

DIOCESAN CAMP

14 - 16 AUGUST 2015

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BATHURST

Ridgecrest

NEW

SATURDAY SAMPLER

Join us & enjoy the fellowship for a day!

RSVP via rego form

\$45 per adult

On Kingdom Business: Prayer, Preaching, Parables & People is the theme for this year's camp with talks from Danny Morris.

No matter your age, there will be something for you!
The youth and children will be wonderfully looked after again this year.

Plenty of time as usual will be given to fellowship, food and fun for all ages.



TALKS | DISCUSSION | WORSHIP | FREE TIME | GREAT MEALS | SATURDAY NIGHT SPECTACULAR | STUNNING SURROUNDS

ALL MAKES FOR A GREAT WEEKEND.

Registrations are now available from your parish, or by emailing ntachurch@bigpond.com or by calling Rev Phil Howes on 0411 281 915.



Christian Unity bearing fruit

I am writing in the week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the days leading up to the celebration of Pentecost.

The Rev'd Lynne Bullard, using her Church Army experience as an evangelist, began Church in the Schoolyard Forbes (CITS).

It was an initiative of several Churches in Forbes but for the past eight years it has developed under the leadership of Ray and Diane Flint (Ray is also Church Army trained). Now the Uniting Church and the Anglican Church jointly fund this ministry.

Ray and Di are retiring, but for several years they have been mentoring Rex Taylor and his wife Rachel to continue the ministry. Rex is a sign-writer who lives

close by the CITS centre.

On Sunday 10th May Graham Gardiner (Regional Resource Minister for the Uniting Church) and I led a service together that brought closure to Ray's ministry and then we commissioned Rex and Rachel to their new ministries. If we did not work together, this ministry would have to cease. Thanks be to God for the fellowship in Christ, through the Spirit that draws us together.

The next day Graham and I were at St Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong. Breaking new ground this retreat, led by the Rev'd Suzanna Pain, was a joint one for Anglican and Uniting Church clergy – over 40 in total – from the Diocese and Presbytery.

There was a good sense of being on the journey together: praying for one another and knowing the gentle presence of the God who speaks in our stillness.

The retreat ended on Ascension Day, which marks the beginning of this time of prayer for Christian unity. The week has continued with a joint service led by Bishop Michael and myself in Dubbo.

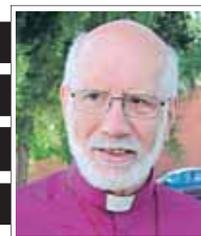
It was moving that Roman Catholics and Anglicans could renew their baptismal vows together.

That refrain, "Remember to whom you belong" is so powerful. We do belong to Christ; we are loved and cared for by



NEW LEADERSHIP: (top) Rex and Rachel Taylor are commissioned as leaders of the Church in the Schoolyard (CITS) in Forbes. Having operated in the grounds of Forbes North Primary School for the past eight years, CITS has developed a strong following among the families living in the area.

BY
BISHOP
IAN
PALMER



God despite the fact that we are sinners. Christ died and rose again for our forgiveness and gives his Spirit to empower us for ministry.

This empowerment for ministry was a theme of the Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn's Convention in St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn, last weekend. At the Convention with 400+ people, again from several denominations, we heard about Christian Revivals in Australia.

Then on Saturday 16th May Alison Morgan from ReSource ministries (set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury in England) began training us in discipling people in our churches through the generous power of the Holy Spirit.

With examples from her experience in England and Africa and many illustrations (verbal and on PowerPoint) she gave us tools for ministry and encouragement to continue.

(The June issue of Anglican e-News will include a report on this Convention - Editor.)

I left inspired. The Spirit of God is moving in our Diocese. I look to the future with hope and confidence because Jesus Christ is risen and the Holy Spirit empowers his church to proclaim the saving grace of God with joy and freshness.

+ Ian Bathurst.

Anglican

e-News

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Disclaimer:

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst.

Kelso hosts ABM luncheon

□ Three Bathurst parishes combine to support missionary agency

Addressing the annual Anglican Board of Mission lunch gathering in Bathurst recently, Rev'd John Deane presented an overview of the objectives and work of ABM- Australia.

Hosted by Kelso's Holy Trinity Church, the lunch brought together about 60 parishioners from the three Bathurst parishes – Kelso, South Bathurst and the Cathedral.

John Deane said that ABM grounded all of its work in one or more of the Five Marks of Mission. In addition, development work facilitated by ABM embraces the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which aim at significantly reducing global poverty, hunger and disease.

He explained that ABM's work is made up of three main program areas - the Church to Church Program, Community Development Program and the Reconciliation Program.

ABM's Church to Church Program is the means by which Anglicans in Australia help our Overseas Partners to be the Church. The program targets two areas – leadership formation and training (including theological education) and evangelism – which are of primary importance.

The Community Development Program works with Anglican Church Partners in the Pacific, PNG, Africa, the Middle East and South-East Asia to help deliver grassroots, community-driven development projects that cover issues such as basic health and



LUNCH: About 60 parishioners from Bathurst's three Anglican parishes enjoyed a delicious lunch (catered by Kelso parish) followed by an informative address from John Deane, Executive Director of ABM-A.

education, food security and livelihood support.

Reconciliation Program

ABM believes that Indigenous Australians have a special place in this country especially as we look to their ancestry which dates back thousands of years.

Many Indigenous Christians believe that God was with them from long ago and they find meaning and hope in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

John Deane said ABM was proud to support the work of individuals, such as the Rev'd Gloria Shipp and groups in

the inspiring work they do. They help to remind us that there is Good News to tell – not just from the Gospels, but from many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities around Australia.

Emergency Appeals

ABM supports its partners not only by providing emergency relief aid, such as in Vanuatu following Cyclone Pam and the Nepal Earthquake Appeal, but also by helping to prepare them for emergency situations and educating them on methods to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Women's retreat

Twelve ladies attended the annual Diocesan Women's Retreat held at Carcoar in April.

Spiritually we feasted on the words and experiences of Fr Michael Deasey, meditated on famous prayers and wrote our own prayer in response.

Physically we were fed amazing food by Fran, Kate, Nick and John and enjoyed eating outside in amazing weather.

Truly God's blessings abounded.

Lorraine Clarkson.

