

ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY

The National Council in Australia

NEWSLETTER

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A Message from Bishop Richard Hurford

I am pleased to have this opportunity of writing the National Chairman's Article as my final contribution to the National Council and the membership of AMS, as I step down from this role which I have been privileged to hold for the past six years. It was with considerable regret that I tendered my resignation to our President, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, at the end of September, as it has been a great joy for me to engage with the work of AMS in a number of dioceses around the Australian Church. As I am retiring as Bishop of Bathurst next year, it was important to do this at such a time as would allow the National Conference to prayerfully discuss potential nominees to present to the Primate, as President, that he might consider approaching to take my place.

As we are soon to celebrate the Season of Advent and then the Festival of Christmas, it seems very appropriate to write about the *Promise of Christmas*.

It is odd that Christmas should be so popular, because in a secular age it speaks so sharply, uncompromisingly, even outrageously. It says that God is real - so real in fact that in one place and at one time he was born, walked and talked, had a home address, suffered and died as a man.

And it says that salvation, whether you mean personal wholeness, social wellbeing, or political freedom; whether you mean salvation now in this earthly life or salvation in the world beyond physical death; that salvation is through this God - become - man, and through him, Jesus the Christ, alone. God took our flesh, our substance our humanity: the substance and humanity of all people in the human race so that the flesh, the traditions, the culture, the achievements of all peoples and nations should be worthy of our mutual respect. In becoming flesh God in Jesus Christ, the babe of Bethlehem, gives status and dignity to every human life.

The urgent question for many in the world as we approach Advent and then Christmas, is whether the light of Christ's coming can do anything to push back the darkness for which there is no material relief? Our Christmas consciences may lead us to feed a small proportion of the hungry, and the public and private acts of charitable giving at Christmas might lead long term to the creation of our solid majority opinion which would demand that the affluent portion of the world take continuous action to alleviate the needs of the under developed two thirds of humanity.

The charitable works we undertake must never be forgotten, for without them talk of God's love becomes empty and escapist. But they are not 'SALVATION' itself - they are only parables or signs of the total purpose of our Creator God - which is to draw all humankind into his unending life through the actions of Jesus Christ our Lord. The birth of Christ is above all else, the declaration in visible terms that to God no human life is simply a meaningless statistic and that no human being is faceless - God becoming man not only gives dignity, but a purpose and a future for every person who will claim it.

It is a tragic betrayal of that essence of the Gospel if the Story of Christmas is turned simply into a moral exhortation to be kind to the underprivileged! To the rich and the poor of all nations the Good News remains the same: that all human beings are the objects of God's life-giving love. To accept this gift of God is to be set free of the fear of ultimate defeat. Wealth will not ensnare nor poverty diminish the human spirit.

In the Gospel there is a hope for the whole human race. Perhaps the Christmas joy has been slowly turned into a parody of itself. Once, people gave each other presents because they were happy. Now we think of a person's happiness depending upon the fact that 'Father Christmas has called'.

Yet in the end, if there is nothing to give people except the material presents, life will have lost all its meaning. The Gospel of Christ's birth, with all its implications of joy achieved through sorrow, still remains the greatest

of all Christmas gifts to the human race. Because we rejoice in eternal life there is a real cause for celebration: we have something to be generous about and Christmas is a confident restatement of this!

I look forward with all members of AMS to celebrating God's gift of himself in Christ at our worship in our churches this Christmas. Christine joins with me in thanking the National Council and all AMS members for the wonderful encounter that we have had with you all in worship, fellowship and service over these past six years.

I wish you every joy and blessing as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Christ and look to the continuing mission of AMS in the New Year.

+ Richard

The Right Reverend Richard Hurford - Bishop of Bathurst

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

On Friday 16th October members and ladies arrived at the Tudor Motel, Box Hill for a meeting of the National council of AMS in Australia arriving by plane, car and train. The meeting commenced at 7.30am with Morning Prayer on the Saturday followed by breakfast and the official welcome and opening by the National Vice Chairman, Bishop Tom Wilmot.

Chairman's Remarks: Bishop Tom Wilmot spoke about the PRESENT as a gift from God. These gatherings are much enjoyed for the famous AMS fellowship and to celebrate God's new thing i.e. new members such as Ben and Luke from Newcastle. As we seek the will of God it is important that we follow the old Hymn "Trust and Obey". Part of the new era is the resignation of the National Chairman, Bishop Richard Hurford (Bishop of Bathurst) as from 30th September, 2011. He read the Bishop's letter of resignation to the Primate, Dr. Phillip Aspinall. Another part of the new era is that Ben and Luke (17 years old) will be admitted as members during the church service on Sunday and we congratulate them and Neil McMullen their grandfather.

National Chairman: Bishop Richard Hurford resigned from this position after six years and the meeting thanked him for his excellent leadership. This position is appointed by the Primate of the Church on the recommendation of the AMS National executive. The meeting discussed possible candidates for this position and three names were put forward.

Election of Officebearers for 2012 to 2014:

The following were re-elected.

Clerical Vice Chairman:	Bishop Tom Wilmot
Lay Vice Chairman:	Trevor Cowell
National Secretary:	Ivan Holt
National Treasurer:	Neil McMullen

Expanded National Executive:

To improve the impact and growth of AMS it was decided to expand the numbers on the National Executive by having a delegate from each Provincial or Diocesan Council. For this to be effective the delegates must have access to e-mails.

These delegates are listed below:

Queensland: Quinn Humphreys	Perth: Geoff. Leiper	Newcastle: Graham Wilkinson
Victoria: Warren Cole	Tasmania: Colin Hingston	

Web Site: The Site has been revamped by Chris Bissett of the Newcastle Diocese but there needs to be more information and topics of interest to churchmen on the Web page. An example was Mission Projects and the Men's Shed commenced in Brisbane by John Brown. This will require more money but should generate more enquiries.

Affiliation Fees:

The Treasurer reported that the annual fees had been \$10 for many years and recommended that in view of the expanded executive and the improved Web Site that these be increased to \$15 p.a. per member for the next three years.

Anglican Men's Network:

After many years of discussion at these council meetings the following motion was passed: "That we continue as AMS but sponsor the **Anglican Men's Networks** and partner with other men's groups in parishes in the Network." – carried

For this to operate successfully the improved coverage of the Web Site will be critical.

AMS Service Book:

The Rev'd Trevor Smith has revised two Orders of Service.

1. Order of Service for branch Meetings
2. Service for admission to Membership & Associate membership.

Both Services are now listed on the Web Site. Branches are asked to use these Services and provide any comment to the National Secretary.

Highlights:

The weather was very kind and warm which can be rather fickle in Melbourne in Spring. On the Saturday the ladies toured the Yarra Valley stopping at Warburton, Healesville and Lilydale. On Saturday Evening the conference dinner attracted 66 members and wives. The Guest speaker was Annette Allison of The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) with an excellent audio-visual talk on their work. Warren Cole, Melbourne AMS Chairman, presented the RFDS with a cheque for \$500. The Sunday Service was held at All Saints', Mitcham where **Bishop Tom Wilmot** was the preacher and also admitted **Ben Alves** and **Luke Simpson** to AMS membership. Following an excellent morning tea and lunch the tour continued to the Box Hill Model Steam Railway, the Yarra River at Pound Bend and Lilydale.

Noel Davies Memorial Trophy:

On Sunday evening Geoff. Leiper once again organised these indoor games and the Queensland team were declared the winners. We are still in the dark about Geoff's scoring system.

NATIONAL MISSION PROJECT - HEARTS FOR AFRICA

A message from Ian Donaldson AM –CEO Hearts for Africa (Amani) Foundation.

We are very grateful for the support of the AMS across Australia. Whilst privacy laws may prevent me from providing a detailed list, the total received during the year ended 30 June, 2011 was **\$3,260**. However we received additional donations in excess of this amount from individuals who are members of AMS.

I attach for your information the annual report for 2011 from the Hearts for Africa (Amani) Foundation and a separate report from the Amani Development Organisation.

Please extend the thanks of these two organisations to all your members and branches.

Regards and Thanks,

Ian Donaldson AM - Chairman

More information: www.heartsforafricafoundation.org

Report from Ivan Peters at the National Conference.

Ivan Peters reported on progress at the Amani Centre, Tanzania where he and wife Val have provided hands on tuition and assistance for six months each year. The Orphanage now has 250 children where some are disadvantaged rather than being orphans. The children receive one meal a day and the buildings do not have windows or doors as we know them. He is involved in a Market Stall each Friday at Laidley, Qld which has raised \$12,000 over the last year to provide funds for the installation of windows and doors at the Orphanage.

The other pleasing development has been the Grain & Oil seed Mill which employs operators and profits pay for three teachers. The waste from the Mill is used as food for the piggery. Ivan is keen to

develop composting in Tanzania to improve the growing of grapes. His need in this venture is a special thermometer to monitor the process. Ivan and Val will return to Tanzania on 1st October, 2011.

A pamphlet of the Amani Centre was circulated at the meeting.

Motion: moved – T. Cowell seconded – W. Cole “That AMS continue its support for Hearts for Africa during 2012.” – carried.

Ivan and Val Peters returned to the Amani Centre, Tanzania on 3rd October, 2011 and he sends this e-mail.

Dear Ivan Holt and members of the Anglican Men’s Network.

Arrived safely and settled in, lots of hugs & welcomes. We left Laidley (Qld) pm on 1st October arrived at Amani Centre 6pm on 3rd October. We think Tanzania is getting further away. Good flight averaging almost 1,000 km/hour for 14.5 hours. Ask Penny Wong how much carbon dioxide that put into the atmosphere rather than worry about my cattle farting.

Pleasant weather, good for sleeping at this time of the year. Have done some small maintenance jobs on vehicles. The local immigration office is getting tougher on extension visas as well as making them more expensive. They hint that I am taking away teaching jobs from their colleges and universities. I am saying talking and paper won’t get results as quick as talking & doing. But I cannot put that in my extension visa application as they might ship me out.

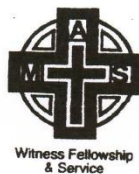
Val is hand sewing some curtains and assisting with the cooking on weekends. Mothers bring their children in with skin off here & there and they think Val’s Band Aids are wonderful.

More news next time - Cheers - **Ivan & Val Peters**

Bible Collection – A Mission Project for all members

Terry Heath of Melbourne spoke at the Conference about his project of collecting Bibles from Op shops, Churches, Book sales etc. He collects these for the Bible Society, Mission to Seafarers and Prison Fellowship. Recently he obtained funds from AMS Welfare, Melbourne to buy Chinese Bibles for the Mission to Seafarers. He commends this scheme to all members and noted that the Bible Society currently has project to collect 8,000 Bibles.

**ST. JOHN’S ANGLICAN MEN’S SOCIETY, SOLDIERS’ HILL,
BALLARAT.**



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September 27th 2011

Dear Brother Ivan,

We held the usual morning breakfast meeting on Saturday 17th September 2011.

Our morning began with our church service at 8am where five men were inducted into our “AMS” The service was led by our resident priest Father David Oulton, assisted by Brian Richie and Chairman John Saunders (Eucharistic Assistant) each man was presented with their certificate’s by chairman John Saunders.

Of interest is our youngest member Paul Zhang who turned 18 several weeks ago, Paul also received his license recently as a Eucharistic Assistant, his mother Ruth sings in our church choir.

Following the service at 8.30am a cooked breakfast was served by our most capable member John Stuchbery.

Our Guest Speaker for the morning was Historian and School Teacher from Melbourne, Lambis Englezos the man who located a mass grave near Fromelles, France which held the bodies of 250 Australian and British soldiers. Forty six members and guests' attended. Our usual attendance is always around the mid to high 30s, this speaker attracted extra interest. Our Society remains very strong with men joining. Of special interest is the quality of our speaker's and our wonderful breakfast which only cost \$5.00.

Below is a photo of Lay Chairman John Saunders doing the presentation - men in photo from left Father John McGlashan, Ken Loader, Peter Starr, Paul Zhang and Father John McMillan.



Yours with Appreciation **John Harley (Hon. Sect.)**.

Ed. – The weekend of the 17-18 Sept. was a very busy for AMS in Victoria - 7 new members!

BOOK REVIEWS

Three cups of tea – Greg Mortenson and David Relin – published by Viking (hardcover) – 2006, Penguin (paperback)– 2007. A failed attempt at climbing K2 in Pakistan led Greg Mortenson to building primary schools in Northern Pakistan over many years where there were no school buildings. A New York Times best seller.

Economics for Life by Professor Ian Harper – published by Acorn Press Ltd. – 2011. Ian Harper is a Christian economist reflects on the meaning of life, money and what really matters. Paperback at \$29.95 is available from Acorn Press PO Box 282, Brunswick East, Vic, 3057.

The Biggest Estate on Earth – How Aborigines made Australia by Bill Gammage of the ANU. Published by Allen & Unwin as Hardback in 2011. This book was written after ten years of research and shows how the aborigines used fire and cool burns to vary the landscape and provide improved environment for different animals and birds. These land management practices were Australia wide

and resulted in few wild fires occurring. His research starts with Abel Tasman (1642) and the bibliography runs to 36 pages.

A Polishers Handbook - by Neil Ellis – published by U-Beaut Publishing. Essentially a self published book based on course notes written for The Central Victorian School of Woodcrafts, Bendigo. First published in 1988 and now in the 4th edition, 2002. An excellent guide for those finishing or renovating furniture. Very comprehensive. Cost about \$31 see **Web Site:** www.ubeaut.biz

AMS SALE ITEMS – available from the Secretary

Visiting Cards (100)	\$7.00	Lapel Badges	\$1.75
'Logo' Car Stickers	\$0.50	Handbook or Service Book	\$1.50
Membership Cards	\$0.20	Cloth embroidered Badges	\$6.00
Pocket Diaries for 2012	\$4.00	Name Badges	\$11.00
Book of Witness	\$6.00	Study Leaflet "I question It"	n/c

DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS.

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