

ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY

The National Council in Australia

NEWSLETTER

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FROM BISHOP JOHN STEAD – AMS National Chairman

Christmas greetings to all AMS members and families,

It strikes me that much of being in the service of God's Church requires a process of discernment. *What is God asking of me, now, in this situation and at this time?* Sure, I can apply my intellectual abilities and come up with a plan for how to proceed, what to do, what to say. Many times, it will all work out fine, BUT maybe it will be nothing like God was asking of me.

Discernment must include a sense of CALL, to something and away from something else. The order between those two things, to and from can, and will, change. In my experience, there have been times when I have had a sense of being called to something, at other times a deep sense of being called away from something with no knowledge of what was to be next. On one occasion I started in a new role, and within six months I was saying to Jan, I don't think I'm going to be here for long. That didn't change my commitment to what I was doing at the time; indeed, it turned out that the role I held at that time was one of the most intense work experiences of my life. It did turn out that I wasn't there for long. Instead, I was there for a shorter time than expected. God had, it turned out, called me there to do something specific and then to leave. Sometimes in hindsight, you can see what it was that God was doing.

On the other hand, there have been more occasions when I have dared to say to Jan that I felt that we were going to be somewhere for another two/three years (bringing it to a total of seven years) and within weeks or a couple of months, God has called me to something else. Called to, called from; sometimes the call away comes first, sometimes the call to comes first.

What I am reflecting on, for myself as much as you, is that discernment is vital and yet it is an inexact science or art. It requires a deep 'waiting upon' God in prayer that is more about listening, sensing the movement of the Spirit. It takes time. Time resting in God, leaning into the Spirit, entering God's comforting embrace.

It may be as simple as discerning how to respond in a difficult situation, or in making a difficult decision. By nature, I act on intuition, a 'gut feeling.' In discerning prayer I've been required to slow down; to wait, to contemplate alternatives rather than react. I've learned to value response rather than reaction. Prayerful response.

+ Peace,

Bishop John Stead

Report on the National Council Meeting – 11th September, 2018.

This meeting was held at the Park Royal Hotel, Tullamarine, Victoria.

Seven delegates attended with apologies from Bishop John Stead and G. Foster (Treasurer).

Delegates: Queensland – A. Brodersen, J. Smith, Newcastle – N. McMullen, B. Steele, Victoria - I. Holt, W. Cole, Tasmania – T. Cowell.

Accounts: As at 31st December, 2017 Balances were \$4477.53 in cheque account and \$8,298.54 in the ADF, Diocese of Melbourne.

Members Fees for 2019: These remain unchanged at \$20 per member.

AMS Diaries: 300 diaries (year 2019) have been received from the printer and are available.

Car Stickers: New stickers (transfer style) to be sourced by the Secretary.

Junior AMS Clubs: A. Brodersen reported on discussions with local schools in the Ipswich region which are interested in this idea. Many years ago there were Junior CEMS groups in Melbourne Diocese.

National Mission Projects:

Tanzania Project: The Dodoma Children's Multipurpose Project (DCMP) received donations of \$6,000 from Victoria and \$4,000 from Queensland during 2017/18.

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan: Queensland has supported Bishop Daniel Deng Abot with air fares of \$5,000 and living costs of \$3,000 during 2017.

National Chairman's visit to Melanesia:

This trip is being planned for next year to Honiara, Solomon Islands, and a formal invitation from the Bishop of Melanesia is required. It may be possible to also visit Port Vila, Vanuatu, if that can be arranged. A. Brodersen to facilitate invitations. The costs involved to be shared between Queensland and AMS National.

Drought Relief: Queensland has agreed to donate \$4,000 to Bush Ministry via Bishop Venables in Toowoomba and \$1,300 to the Archbishop's Drought Fund (Brisbane). Victoria has donated \$1,000 to the Drought Appeal run by the Diocese of Gippsland.

Domestic Violence: The parish of St. Peter's, Southport, have sponsored a workshop for couples and Queensland has agreed to donate \$3,000 towards this event.

AMS Triennial Conference, 2020: It is proposed to hold this conference in Launceston. This proposal is subject to confirmation.

A word from Isaiah.

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings as eagles;
They shall run, and not be weary;
And they shall walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

The Rev'd Tom Morgan

Tom was for many years the Clerical Vice President of the AMS Melbourne Diocesan Council. He is also Vice President Emeritus of Bush Church Aid (BCA) – This is his story.

Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in him and He shall bring it to pass. Psalm 37.5

I was born in Horsham, Victoria on 14th October, 1928, where my father was a Hairdresser – having been trained under the Repatriation Commission after serving in WW1. It was in Horsham that he met my mother, the daughter of a Ballarat miner. They were married in 1926.

Being born in the height of the depression and my father thrown out of work, in 1931 we moved to Romsey, where they were lacking a hairdresser. In those days we went up to Grade 8 in primary school and then gained a merit certificate. After Grade 8 I went up and down to Sunshine Technical School by train – leaving at 7am and returning at 8pm ready for tea!

World War 11 was well under way (my father re-enlisted in 1942) when we moved to Lancefield to be near relatives. I gained the Intermediate Technical Certificate in 1943, and after working on a farm for 3 months, became an apprentice Armature Winder in the Victorian Railways in 1944. After three years of trade course, on the advice of Bishop Donald Baker (then Principal of Ridley College) I did two years of night school at Taylor's Coaching College to gain the Leaving Certificate.

I had known that God was calling me to ordained ministry from fourteen years of age, and I remember saying "yes" to God and wondering how I was going to get there. In the providence of God two things happened. Firstly, my mother had given me a booklet of daily thoughts containing a text for each day of the year when I was in the second year of my five year apprenticeship. Looking for God's Guidance on being ordained, one of the verses made it clear – Psalm 37.5. There was the answer! Secondly, having committed my way to the Lord and being on home leave, I spoke to The Rev'd Alf Donnelly about what was involved in being ordained. The Rev'd Alf had been Victorian Secretary of BCA (1943 – 45) and informed me that if I was prepared to serve the Society for five years and was accepted by their Candidates Committee, they would pay my fees through Ridley College.

When my father returned from WW11, we moved to Williamstown and it was at Holy Trinity Church, that The Rev'd Tom Jones, BCA Organising Missioner, preached and showed slides that made it quite clear that to me that God was calling me to serve through the Society. I was accepted as a candidate for BCA in 1949 after being interviewed by Canon Wensel and the Victorian Committee. I entered Ridley College in 1950. I was also accepted as a candidate for the Melbourne Diocese and was ordained by Archbishop Booth, serving a curacy at Holy Trinity, Coburg. I was sent to BCA's Otway Mission in 1955, having married Doreen in 1953.

The Rev'd Tom Jones told me – "Well Morgan, you have five years to make this parish self – supporting." Again I remembered Psalm 37.5. Under God's gracious enabling the Otway Parish with its ten centres and most of the great ocean road in its territory, became self – supporting in five years. I stayed on for a further 18 months until God called me back to the Melbourne Diocese. We went to Beech Forest with one child and returned to Melbourne with four.

Dear friends, when we celebrate the BCA centenary in 2019 I will have the privilege of serving the Society for seventy of those one hundred years.

Tom Morgan – BCA Vice President Emeritus

(This article from the BCA magazine, The Real Australian – Spring, 2018)

AMS Pocket Diaries for 2019.

These are now available from Trevor Cowell or the National Secretary at \$6 each plus \$2 postage. The diary contains the Church calendar, Orders of service, AMS songs and various prayers. You can find Trevor at e-mail: trevorcowell@bigpond.com

No Foe Shall Gather Our Harvest -- Dame Mary Gilmore

This poem was written in 1942 during the grim days of WW2 and it warned Australians of the grim reality facing them if they did not repel the Japanese forces heading for our land.

Sons of the mountains of Scotland,
Welshmen of coomb and defile,
Breed of moors of England,
Children of Erin's green isle,
We stand four square to the tempest,
Whatever the battering hail –
No foe shall gather our harvest,
Or sit on our stockyard rail.

Our women shall walk in honour,
Our children shall know no chain,
This land, that is ours forever,
The invader shall strike in vain.
Anzac!.....Tobruk!.....and Kokoda!...
Could ever the old blood fail?
No foe shall gather our harvest,
Or sit on our stockyard rail.

So hail – fellow – met we muster,
And hail – fellow – met fall in,
Wherever the guns may thunder,
We are the sons of Australia,
Of men who fashioned the land;
We are the sons of the women
Who walked with them hand in hand;
And we swear by the dead who bore us,
By heroes who blazed the trail,
No foe shall gather our harvest,
Or sit on our stockyard rail.

AMS Bill Brady Welfare Organisation Inc.

This Welfare Fund is located in Melbourne and this is a list of recent donations made.

| | YEAR | 2017 | 2018 |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Smith Family – School appeal | \$500 | |
| 2 | AETOS Flight formally ACMA | \$300 | |
| 3 | Karen Foundation, Werribee | \$500 | |
| 4 | Royal Flying Doctor Service | \$500 | \$500 |
| 5 | ABM – Solomon Islands & PNG | \$2,000 | \$500 |
| 6 | Anglicare – Youth Justice | \$658 | \$500 |
| 7 | Hearts for Africa - Tanzania | \$5,000 | \$1,000 |
| 8 | Prison Fellowship | \$358 | \$500 |
| 9 | Bush Church Aid | 1,000 | \$1,000 |
| 10 | Mission to Seafarers | \$500 | |
| 11 | Wycliffe Bible Translators | | \$500 |
| 12 | Open House, McLeod | | \$1,000 |
| 13 | Diocese of Gippsland –Drought relief | | \$1,000 |
| 14 | OAC Ministry – M. Jensen | | \$500 |
| | Total | \$11,316 | \$7,000 |

Lennie the Legend by Stephanie Owen Reeder

In 1932 Lennie Gwyther, at the age of nine, rode his pony "Ginger Mick" from Leongatha to Sydney as he wished to see the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. This book is a fictional account of his actual journey to and from Sydney (1000km each way) during the height of the Depression. The trip caught the imagination of the public and newspapers recorded his progress through Gippsland, Orbost, Cann River, Bombala, Cooma, Canberra and finally to Sydney. His exploits made it to the London 'Times' newspaper. He was part of the official procession which led the public over the Bridge after the formal opening. His story was largely forgotten until this book was published in 2016 by the National Library, Canberra. The President of the South Gippsland Shire was so impressed with Lennie's story that he organised an appeal to commission a bronze statue of Lennie and Ginger Mick. This statue, in A'beckett's Park, Leongatha, was unveiled on 13th September, 2017.

An excellent book for primary school children it is available: - bookshop.nla.gov.au – \$24.99



Armistice Day 11th November, 2018.

This day marks the centenary of the end of WW1 at 11am on 11th November, 1918. The Australian Army Corps with the Canadian Army formed the spear head of the advance against the German Army. Commencing with the battle of Amiens on 11th August, 1918 and finishing at the battle for Montbrehain on 5th October, 1918 the Australian forces never retreated (the Canadians had been moved north to Flanders). By then American troops had arrived in great numbers and the war ended five weeks later. We remember all servicemen who lost their lives in this war and so allowed us all to live, in peace, and in democratic countries.

ANNUAL FEES PAID USING EFT.

Annual fees are \$20 per member and can be paid to the Secretary by cheque or EFT. Many thanks to members who have used the EFT or cheque - a receipt will be included with this Newsletter. The AMS account is **AMS National Council - 083 343 20793 4089**
Please include your name when using the EFT system. Or post a cheque to the Secretary.

Christmas Greetings

As another year rushes to its conclusion the National Executive send best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas and a good New Year.

BOOK REVIEWS

Heroes of Hamel by Stephen Dando-Collins - published by Random House 2018. A very well researched and well written book about the battle of Hamel in WW1. Conceived, planned and executed by General John Monash, it was the defining battle that turned the tide in 1918. A must read for any military historian. The advance by Australian and some American troops was completed in 93 minutes and marks it as perhaps the best executed battle of all time.

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