

ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY
The National Council in Australia
NEWSLETTER

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FROM BISHOP JOHN STEAD - AMS National Chairman

Brother Geoffrey Tristram of the Society of St John the Evangelist writes:

Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And then comes the amazing intimate moment between two people. A moment of deep recognition. Simon looks at Jesus, and says "You are the Christ." And Jesus looks at Simon, and says to him, "You are Peter." Two names, but more than names. Two vocations. Two men: one was called to be the anointed one of God. The other was called to be the rock on which the church of God was to be built. Each unique vocation was named, was articulated, was called forth.

Identity consists of answering two questions: Who do I say that I am? and, Who do you say that I am?

Sometimes we delude ourselves in answering the first questions and speak more about who do I want to be, aspire to be rather than admit the reality of who I am. Equally some people make assumptions about our identity based upon the minimal experience of relationship with us; they jump to a conclusion. Often we are too quick to judge and are judged too quickly.

The encounter between Jesus and Simon which is the basis of Br Geoffrey's reflection comes from Matthew 16:15-18, the first part of the reflection, Jesus' question is also mentioned in Luke 9:20 and Mark 8:29. These are questions which go beyond the surface to an underlying potential, which speak of what could be; and in the case of both Jesus and Simon talk about what will be.

Each of us has potential. Our identity is not just what is present on the surface but is also about the hidden potential: what could be.

God in human flesh as Jesus saw the potential of Simon to be Peter, the rock upon which the church of God is built.

God sees your potential too and is calling you to be entirely you; just as Peter was called forth from Simon. Such a process of becoming is life-giving rather than threatening because it invites us to be wholly who we are, to be fully human and therefore to be fully alive.

What potential still is unrealised within you?



NEWS from Queensland.

Sunday February 10th Jim Smith, my wife and I travelled to Laidley and restarted the AMS branch there with 4 members, 2 more are interested so the branch should be active soon.

Last year we started a new branch in Inala and it is going well. I have appointed myself "sponsoring member" and attend all their meetings and Sunday 24th February my wife and I will also attend their 9 o'clock service, which will be followed by an AMS fundraising "Pancake Feast"

On a sad note – Betty Kingston beloved wife of long time AMS Bundaberg member Howard Kingston passed away February 4th. Jim Smith, Aase and I drove to Bundaberg on Thursday 7th for the funeral held Friday morning at Christ Church, which was well attended.

Past Queensland Provincial Council Chairman Stephen Humphrey is now in a Retirement and care home in Southport. January 22nd Chairman Jim Smith and I drove to Southport and took Stephen out for lunch. Gold miner Norman McKenzie from the Southport Branch has also gone into a care home in the past 2 weeks. Both Stephen and Norman are in good health and will be joining us in Bundaberg at our annual Qld conference in May.

Wivenhoe Dam AMS Event. Ipswich Branch member Robert Hyam is a lovely man, he and his wife Grace live in Minden, and they both sing in our choir. Robert is very good with his hands and has built several kayaks and canoes. We are hoping to get more young people involved with AMS and possibly create a canoe club. Saturday March 16th members of the Ipswich, Inala and Laidley branches will go "canoeing" and have a B-B-Q together at South East Qld's largest dam. It should be fun.

Most active Parish in Queensland: Archdeacon of Burnett, Rector Keith Dean-Jones runs a very good Parish. Christ Church, Bundaberg seems to be involved in everything - of major importance: Mothers' Union and AMS. Within the Parish they have the Dorcas Society with an Op-Shop which operates 5 days a week.

On Thursdays under the leadership of Russell Cobb they run a very popular soup and sandwich kitchen, which often has more than 50 people attend.

On Fridays they have a 10 'clock "Men's Smoko" which is run by Phil Hetherington the AMS Branch Treasurer. Phil is a very good organiser and is most successful in obtaining free food from Aldi, Woolworth and other shops in Bundaberg. Friday's attendance can be up to 20 homeless people.

On Saturdays they have a "Sausage Sizzle Dinner" for the homeless at 4.30pm with up to 30 attending. This is run by long time AMS members John Glover and his lovey wife Jocelyn.

I also would like to state that the leadership provided by 93 year old Tony Osborne is of vital importance – so is the help he gets from his lovely daughters.

At our Qld Conference and AGM in May we shall welcome delegates from Vanuatu led by Regional Secretary Selwyn A. Leodoro and either Bishop James Tama or Vicar General Father Standley who will be inducted into AMS.

Andy Brodersen

REPORT FROM MAKANG'WA, TANZANIA**November 2018**

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Amani Center.

I am certainly happy to be back at the work here in Tanzania, but I do miss the green grass, the rain, and the cooler weather experienced in the USA. Well, rain and green grass will soon replace the dust here, and cooler weather will return in 2019.

The trip to the USA was filled with much travel, meetings with many people, and numerous speaking engagements. I am thankful to the members of the Foundation



Board in Billings who facilitated the itinerary, and to the many kind people who 'loved' me along the way. I recall in particular an occasion with the Senior Citizens Ministry at the Bethel African American Episcopal Church in Pensacola , Florida! It was a fine example of ministry with the elderly: so filled with love, faith and excellent care. I was in the US in the midst of the 'political season'. I found it

refreshing to be able to focus on the Good News of the Kingdom of God in the midst of much contentiousness.

PRINCE OF PEACE SCHOOL. The Standard VII class has done it again this year! They attained position #20 out of 265 primary schools in the Dodoma Region, and once again, 1st in Chamwino District. We congratulate the students, staff and the families for this excellent achievement. This past September, with the assistance of experienced education professionals, we conducted an intensive review of our teaching staff. There have been some changes. We are encouraged by the depth of professionalism and ability expressed in the present body of teachers. Below are the three top St. VII students for 2018.

Cosmas Timotheo



Rose Sausi



Ivan Chimwago



The school is urgently in need of more student sponsorships. There are currently only ten sponsored students. We have many parents ready to work on the school property in response for sponsorship assistance! Currently, our district roads are in a dreadful condition, resulting in costly maintenance on the two buses. Every student sponsorship assists in the overall operation of this fine school.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT. On my return from the USA I spent one day in Dar es salaam, meeting with Abel Petro, our staff member who is entering the final steps of completing a Masters Degree in Project Development and Management. It was an encouraging day, spent with a highly intelligent and enthusiastic young man. We anticipate his return to the Amani work, hopefully by the end of March, 2019.



VIMECHIA. This is the new title for the Children's Home Ministry formerly DCMP. I am now hopeful that, during my time in the USA, we shall have the funding for (a) the official survey of the land donated for the operation of the Home and, (b) the establishment of the cement block making enterprise, intended to provide operating capital for the Home. The land

survey has been on the 'back burner' as Government officials have assured us that all is secure. However, as the city of Dodoma expands rapidly in every direction, we believe that the survey is now a matter of urgency. A key person of the staff, Richard Mdachi, is truly professional in his dealing with the administration of the ministry, and is loved by the children.

Children of Peace Preschools.

We have been gradually improving the environment at the Igondola Preschool. There remains work yet to be accomplished and this shall be done as finances permit. Thank You to all who assist, through sponsorship, or through donations to the general needs.

We do now have an urgent need for funds for uniforms for the children. We shall have 15 from Igondola graduating to Primary School, plus 70 in the Preschool in 2019. The basic uniform cost, including a little for pencils, erasers and rulers is \$12.00USD; \$13.00AUD. Maybe this could be a 'Christmas Joy' gift?



The Amani Board will meet on December 1st. This will be the second meeting of the newly constituted Board. A significant action will be the approval of the new Constitution of the Amani Organization, as required by the Government of Tanzania. This regulation has applied to all Non Government Organizations in Tanzania. It has been a lengthy, exacting and costly process.

We wish you all a most blessed and happy Christmas and a New Year filled with the Peace which comes through Jesus Christ.

We pray for peace in this world, and wisdom for those who make decisions for the nations.

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(Late news: VIMECHIA (Children's Home) has received a wonderful gift, financing the project for most basic needs for the next year!)

News from Tasmania

The 'default' understanding is that 'no-one is indispensable- and as a person 'drops out' there's another, waiting in the wings- though not necessarily aware of it- to fill the gap . It ain't necessarily so! And there are many organizations around Australia discovering just how difficult it can be to remain viable following the loss of leaders and members. Death, poor health, job and living transfers can have significantly negative impacts on any organisation and the Church is no exception- indeed it is a priority example of how easily things can fall apart. Take AMS in Tasmania for instance! In very recent years examples each of those three situations has led to what was once a (relatively) vibrant and committed men's group in the Anglican Church- indeed the only organized group- pretty well falling by the wayside.

As committed AMS members have died, poor health affected others and the occasional loss of a Member to another State there hasn't been the reserves of willing men to keep AMS going.

Thus, branches in Hobart have closed- once a thriving vigorous group- and the Longford Branch is just surviving: Diocesan Membership is now down to one or two and its many months –a year? since there has been a State Council meeting.

Indeed late in 2018 a Council meeting was scheduled and organized to take place at Longford with an Agenda to include the prospect of closing down the State organization- but that meeting was cancelled due to a sudden medical emergency for a key member!.

At this stage the nominally transferred date 'sometime in February' isn't likely to happen. It would be a great loss for those remaining members if AMS was to 'fold' in this Diocese - which is going through much trauma at the moment with the 'redress/church closure issue having a big impact on many parishes - particularly that AMS (CEMS) has been established in this Diocese for well over 100 years.

Some Members will try to maintain meeting together locally for prayer/meditation and social activity and in time God will surely 'raise-up'(young?) men with the same strong faith and vision that guided earlier AMS members to adopt positions of leadership.

"...shall we be faithless?...hearts fail"...hands hang down?...evade the conflict, cast away our crown? Not so: in God's deep counsels some better thing is stored..."

Trevor Cowell

AMS Diaries for 2020.

Trevor Cowell is planning the printing of these diaries. Please advise him of your requirements for 2020 – Deadline is May 2019.

trevorcowell@bigpond.com or 0447 179 262

The National Conference, Lakes Anglican, Kanwal, 2015.

The Saturday night formal dinner at the Conference always sticks in my mind as I had arranged for the bishop of Newcastle to speak and at the last minute he could not come. In turn, the Archdeacon for the Central Coast, Rod Bower, was at the request of the Bishop, delegated to come and give the speech. He too was unable to attend.

At the last minute and at my urgent request my rector, Tim Waghorn, agreed to fill the gap. As most people who have attended conferences know this was the highlight of the weekend.

Tim's speech used the analogy of the shaver company Gillette and how amazing its performance has been in terms of how the company adapted to change over a long period of time. He contrasted it to the company of Kodak who was of the same vintage but history shows that because they could not cope with change they failed and went into bankruptcy.

Tim then used this analogy to look at our churches performance and pointed out unless we can take up the challenge that Jesus has given us we too may fail. He also used the example of St. Paul who was challenged by Jesus to accept change on the Damascus Road. He accepted the challenge of change and his achievements is that the message of the church is alive and well today.

As Tim Waghorn challenged us that night that we must accept the need to change, we have an example of our Queensland colleagues who have taken this challenge and have received remarkable results.

All of us in this New Year should look at how we too accept the challenge of change using St. Paul as an outstanding example!

Neil McMullen

The Venerable Bill Beagley - Vale

AMS in Melbourne lost a great friend when Bill Beagley died in January from a cancer illness. The funeral service at Holy Trinity, Williamstown (where he was the incumbent) was full to overflowing and was a fine tribute to his empathy with all people. Bill was not your conventional priest as he had long hair wore leather jackets and rode a motor cycle, but he had the great ability to turn people towards Jesus. While at St. Albans, West Coburg he continued the traditional ANZAC Day service and breakfast which was a regular event on the AMS calendar.

Many of his parishioners were unable to attend his funeral as they were still in the Port Phillip prison where he was the Prison Chaplain. Bill often joked that he had reached the peak of his manhood when he was able to walk around inside the prison in a dress!

We thank Bill and his father, Alan Beagley, and his family for their support of AMS in Melbourne over many years.

AMS BOOK OF WITNESS

The book was published in 2005 to mark the centenary of AMS in Australia. It contains the faith journey of 100 Australians from all walks of life. This would be a good book for new branches as it also provides some history of the church in Australia. Some copies remain and are available from the National Secretary at \$10 each plus postage.

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 last year.

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. Members of branches will pay fees to the local Treasurer.

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING - ADVANCED NOTICE - Tuesday 17th September, 2019.

This meeting will be held at the PARK ROYAL Hotel at Tullamarine, Melbourne. Registration Forms will be in the June Newsletter. This is a delegates only meeting from 10am to 4pm.

MATTHEW FLINDERS IN BASS STRAIT – 1798

Matthew Flinders account of raw nature when sailing at the western end of the strait near Cape Grim. This account is from Flinders' log. This voyage in HMS Norfolk was to be the last time Bass and Flinders went exploring together.

A flight of Mutton Birds or Stormy Petrels as he called them – Short Tailed Shearwaters:

Date of observation: 9th December, 1798. HMS Norfolk.

“There was a stream of birds from 50 to 80 yards in depth, and of 300 yards or more in breadth; the birds were not scattered but flying as compactly as free movement of their wings seemed to allow; and during a full hour and a half, this stream of petrels continued to pass without interruption, at a rate little inferior to a pigeon. On the lowest computation, I think the number of birds could not have been less than 100 million.”

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