



KIWI CURSILLO

*The Magazine for
New Zealand Anglican Cursillo*

Christmas 2016

Issue 40



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THE DEADLINE FOR THE EASTER ISSUE IS FRIDAY MARCH 24TH 2017.

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National Episcopal Cursillo Website (USA)

www.nationalepiscopalcursillo.org

Read their 4th Day Magazine on-line;

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Other Websites:

Wellington Cursillo Website - www.cursillo.org.nz

<http://www.crosswalkmail.com>

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FROM THE NATIONAL LAY DIRECTOR...

The Journey and the Way Forward

The theme chosen by the organising committee for the National Ultreya in Christchurch of “Celebrating the Journey” provides me with an opportunity to reflect on my Cursillo experiences. This is my last article as National Lay Director as my term ends in January 2017.



It seems just yesterday that it was February 2011 when I was commissioned in Wellington, flew to Christchurch and attended a joint ultreya (of Christchurch and Dunedin Dioceses) in Timaru, and wrote some letters of congratulation. But that month was overshadowed by the large quake of 22 February, and the past six years has not been an easy journey for Christchurch.

My journey since then has taken me to Cursillo events (including wonderful discussions when billeted) in many places in New Zealand – Katikati, Rotorua, Ngaruawahia, Waitara, New Plymouth, Turangi, Eskdale, Napier, Hastings, Masterton, Waikanae, Rangiora, Christchurch, Timaru, and Dunedin, as well as to Orlando and Melbourne. So when I have spoken (briefly at Clausuras) about pilgrims becoming part of a wider movement, it has reiterated to me that this really is so. There is a wonderful family of Christ that extends hospitality and the Kingdom.

The task that I was already undertaking when I was appointed NLD was acting as Lay Director for Waiapu Men's 1. W1 and M1 were held in Hastings in mid-2011. The breakfast on the Sunday of W1 was held at St James, Mahora, which was the Church that I attended from the age of 12. When I saw the scallop shells that are etched into the grass doors, there was suddenly a greater meaning for me. I have attended many Cursillo events in Waiapu, and I wish to acknowledge the great contributions made by each of Richard and Gail Spence. Sadly, Richard passed away in October, just before the Combined 5 Cursillo Weekend. He lived a rich life in Christ – he was tikanga rua (both Tikanga Māori and Tikanga Pakeha).

In recent days, I have had an encounter with a shop assistant. The encounter began with a simple question and answer. Yet within that, God was using the moment in an extraordinary way. A couple of days later, the reality was revealed to me. My preparedness to say that I was attending a Church event had provided the opportunity for deeper discussions and for prayer.

I am also enjoying the new Alpha Film Series, a renovated Alpha. Robyn and I are using this at our home for our Bible study in Taita.

I should also note that the end of this article has been written after the Kaikoura quakes. These are affecting many people, both in the South Island (in both Christchurch and Nelson Dioceses) as well as in Wellington. To use a biblical interpretive term, I think that my six years have had an inclusio of quakes.

So the journey for each of us with Christ continues. We need to be aware of our surroundings and our ability (with God's great help) to influence and to change our environments.

I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very joyous celebration of Christmas and a quake-free and enjoyable New Year.

De colores

David McLay

If we truly believe God has prepared an eternal home for us — a house with many rooms, as Jesus explained in John 14 — then we can and will...

- live with hope every day, regardless of the circumstances around us; life may or may not get better here, but we can know that God's home awaits us
- love people with freedom and boldness, because our future is secure in Him

...lead more people into a relationship with Christ, because we want to share this great hope with others.

FROM THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...



ARE YOU PREPARED? was a question our daughter asked us on her return to New Zealand after living for some years in Tokyo.

“Prepared for what?”

“An earthquake of course!”

Like many people in this country we are probably better prepared now than when the question was

asked.

Planning and preparation are important if you want good results. We saw that at the National Ultreya. It's what helped make the weekend so great.

Well done Christchurch!!

My 7-year-old granddaughter Chiara and I have been intrigued by the preparing for parenthood by two blackbirds in our garden. First nest attempt was rejected early on- Too low, too exposed; second one, completed but still too low and too exposed (three cats live here] third nest, high up, tucked away out of sight...just right! We are waiting for the eggs to hatch.



There's much talk by Jesus in the gospels about being prepared: being prepared to give up everything to follow him, being prepared to give to the poor, to seek out the lost and lonely, to love our neighbours, being prepared to suffer for our faith.

And as the season of Advent approaches here's John the Baptist crying out once again to “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

Some of us are really good at preparing for Christmas; have already stocked up the shelves, purchased the presents, written the Christmas

cards or letters, know who is hosting the Christmas Day dinner.
But whether we are prepared or not the 25th of December will arrive!

Christ, too, is coming whether we are ready or not.

Still we can prepare ourselves.

This Advent season let us take some time out in all our busy-ness to sit quietly, to meditate and to reflect on the wonder of the Christ child among us... before we reach the stable door.

May blessing and joy be yours this Christmas

Sue Hogan NSD

EARLY MEMORIES

Craufurd Murray – Founding Diocesan Spiritual Director of Cursillo in Christchurch

While overseas on leave in 1987, I attended a 3-day Cursillo. Returning to New Zealand and to an appointment in a different Diocese – Christchurch – I spoke twice to the Bishop of the time about the Cursillo Movement. However, my enthusiasm made no impact! It was over seven years later (in 1995), with David Coles as the Bishop, that Cursillo began to develop local roots.

Bishop David invited the Cursillistas in the Diocese (we were only a very small group with Cursillo experiences from various parts of the Anglican Communion) to meet and prepare to receive the gift of Cursillo from the Diocese of Wellington. Brent Bruce and I had met in July to discuss this possibility, but the first planning meeting was held at the Hoon Hay Vicarage on Monday 16 October, 'What on earth have I got myself into now?' - God knew!

1995. May Carrell and Tony and Sue Hassed from Wellington were present to lead the discussions. Further meetings, chaired by Brent Bruce, were held in November and December. I became DSD and Derek Allan DLD (although I note our formal commissioning by the Bishop only took place in 1997!)

My only concern was that we would not be tied to the model from Wellington of separate Men's and Women's Cursillos. My own experience was of a shared/mixed Cursillo (as also for Frank Fahy) – i.e. men and women all part of

the same 3-Day event. So, with the Bishop's permission, we embraced a policy of holding gender-separate Cursillos as well as a "Combined" model. Peter Hide, the Editor of Anglican Action, was very helpful in presenting Cursillo to the Diocese. In the October 1995 edition, he included an interview with Brent Bruce and a lengthy article from my hand.

Preparation continued with meetings in 1996. A two-day Cursillo Leaders' meeting was held in March. But Men's 1 (19-22 April) and Women's 1 (23-26 April) held at Meadowpark, led by teams from Wellington Diocese, gave us a real taste of what Cursillo offered. It is not an understatement to say it was spiritually exhilarating! Our first Diocesan Ultreya was held on 15 June, 1996, and our first Diocesan Cursillo Workshop from 30 August to 1 September that same year. Chris Kissling was Lay Director of Men's 2 – the first 'home-grown' Diocesan Cursillo at Cracroft in May 1997, with the theme Empowered by the Holy Spirit. Justine Pilgrim was Lay Director of Women's 2 (May-June 1997). Our first Combined Cursillo was held in October 1997 – this was also a first in Australasia.

As I reflect on what the Cursillo Movement has brought, these are among the things that spring to mind:

The joy of being a pilgrim and the grace-filled participation of being on team;

The spiritual revitalisation and growth that many have discovered through their encounter with Cursillo;

A deeper understanding of living Christianly as we consciously seek to take Christ with us into every dimension – aspect, environment and relationship – of our lives;

The influence of Cursillo in strengthening links across parishes and ministry units throughout the Diocese;

The encouragement many have received through their Fourth Day Reunions; and

The way people have been both invigorated and liberated for new ministries previously not considered part of their faith journeys.

Craufurd Murray (Gloucester 23 - 1987, St Timothy's Table).

New National Lay Co-Directors Announced

Glenda and David Prosser were announced as National Lay Co-Directors elect at the National Ultreya held in Christchurch over Labour Weekend, succeeding David McLay from Wellington who completes his 6-year term at the end of January. Kiwi Cursillo (KC) caught up with the incoming duo via the marvels of digital technology...

Kiwi Cursillo: *Hi Glenda and David, I guess we'd better get the formalities over with...*

Glenda: Not a problem! I'm Glenda Prosser, Christchurch Combined 2, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary table. I worship in the Parish of Rangiora, about half an hour's drive north of Christchurch.

David: And I'm David Prosser, also Christchurch Combined 2, St Hilda's table. You may be relieved to hear that I also worship in the Parish of Rangiora.

KC: *So you've been in Cursillo since 1998. What really made you decide to go to that weekend?*

David: Funny – I wrote about that in a recent article for Christchurch's *kahukura* magazine – our "invitation" might not have been the best example! A work colleague rang Glenda one evening and told her that we "should go" to the Cursillo Weekend being held in a couple of weeks' time.

Glenda: Our diary was clear, we had "nothing better to do"...

David: ... but it was all a bit mysterious – he wouldn't tell us anything about it ...

Glenda: ... in the end we just trusted his judgement, took a punt, and went.

David: So maybe we just have to say God made us decide to go.

KC: *How has being a Cursillista changed the way you are now?*

Glenda: Cursillo was instrumental in my becoming an Oblate of St Benedict. It's made me more aware of the concept of being on pilgrimage, of the need to be outward facing and intentionally being "for Christ" in the world (whatever way you like to take that), and it's helped me be more conscious of the environments through which I move.

David: I don't think I'm exaggerating to say that Cursillo has been life-changing for me. Back in 1998, the Cursillo weekend gave me a glimpse of how the sort of Christian Community we read about in Acts could be a present-day reality. I've also come to appreciate the value of the Cursillo 4th Day focus for keeping me outward-facing and accountable in my faith journey and ministry.

KC: *What is it that motivates you?*

Glenda: I love learning – for the last 4 years I've been working towards my MA in Spirituality as an on-line student with the Oblate School of Theology in Texas. 11 courses and 80% of a Thesis later I'm looking forward to graduating in May. I've thoroughly enjoyed the mind-stretching challenge!

David: I enjoy the technical challenge of my work in fire protection, and I'm passionate about helping save people from dangers of which they're largely unaware. Mentoring colleagues and young leaders in our church also gives me a buzz.

Glenda: And we both enjoy travel, especially canal boating!

KC: *How do you act to change your environments?*

David: That's always a tough one to answer, because it seems to be mostly in the little things. In many of our environments like my workplace, or Glenda in the Cancer Support group, it's not appropriate to try and change anybody, or to persuade them of anything.

Glenda: But we can be up front about our faith and church activities, and behave in an ethical Christian way wherever we are. And we both know from the comments people make that it gets noticed. Cursillo helps us to be intentional about living an integrated life, rather than separating off our faith from everything else.

KC: *How would you describe the importance of Group Reunions and Ultreyas?*

Glenda: Along with spiritual direction, these form the backbone of the Cursillo Method.

David: They're more important than the Weekend itself. Cursillo is not just a feel-good experience; it's a way of life.

KC: *Many of our Cursillistas are in the older age-group. How can we encourage younger people to attend our weekends?*

Glenda: By being thoughtful and intentional about who we invite! One of the key environments Cursillistas need to study is our own church congregation...

David: ...that means reaching out those in their 40s and 50s, rather than limiting ourselves to friends of our own age group.

Glenda: And most importantly helping them to find or form a 4th Day Reunion Group – either before or after the weekend.

KC: *One Vicar who went to a weekend described it as ‘the best Lay Training he had ever been to’. How do you respond to that?*

David: I’d definitely agree, but that’s only half the story! Cursillo is a Movement of the whole church – Lay and Ordained – working in partnership.

Glenda: So Cursillo models all our calling to be the *laos*, the people of Christ, working together as one body for the Kingdom, not acting as independent and unconnected parts.

KC: *We live in a time of rapid change – what do you see as the greatest challenges for the Cursillo Movement in 2017?*

David: Communication has got to be on the list – which is one reason we’ve changed the distribution model for Kiwi Cursillo to include as many Cursillistas as possible. “Ultreya” only really works if we can hear each other saying it!

Glenda: I think the Cursillo Movement as a whole needs to keep asking itself “How does what we do “fit” in today’s world? The music, the Weekend “package”, the talks – everything. What unique flavour and perspective does Cursillo bring to Discipleship and Mission? What can Cursillo offer the Anglican Church that none of the other Discipleship programs can?

David: So these are some of the issues we want to explore with the National Council: remaining relevant while retaining the core features of “Authentic Cursillo”, attracting younger people to the Movement, reinforcing the importance of Cursillo Method: (4th Day Reunion Group, Ultreya, Spiritual direction). I’m sure we will find others too as we meet other Cursillistas!

KC: *So finally, what are your immediate plans as you step into this new national role?*

Glenda: The National Ultreya was a good opportunity for us to start getting up to speed with what's going on outside our own Diocese. It was a good time to network with lots of people and I'm becoming more and more excited about the role we are stepping into.

David: Early in 2017 we will gather the National Council together to pray, to dream, and to strategize about our response to some of those challenges we talked about earlier. Then we're heading to the USA for a couple of months for Glenda's graduation, our son's wedding, and a visit the Abbey where we are Oblates.

Glenda: Our hope for the next year is to meet as many Cursillistas as we can, and to encourage the Diocesan LDs and Secretariats. In the latter half of 2017 we hope to get around New Zealand, meeting people and sharing in Cursillo gatherings – we're looking forward to meeting a good number of your readers.

CURSILLO BADGES AVAILABLE NOW

As *palanca* for the Movement in New Zealand, Christchurch Secretariat has commissioned the design and manufacture of a colourful and attractive "Anglican Cursillo New Zealand" lapel pin badge (pictured right).

Featuring a colourful "de colores" rooster emblem, this badge is a great way to show your colours and start a conversation about Cursillo.

Priced at only \$10 each (plus post and handling, if required), badges will be on sale at the National Ultreya, or may be obtained from Lesley Allan (03) 356 1819 or

fortiter@paradise.net.nz

(Badge dimensions 25mm wide x 31mm high)



Waiapu Diocese

Ngā mihi nui ki a tātou katoa.

This report, my last as Diocesan Lay Director, expresses sadness, yet is full of HOPE.



God called home his faithful servant Richard, my husband, on 21 September, mercifully ending his three-year struggle with the effects of chemotherapy and the advancing miseries of myeloma. His death impacted us all. I lost my life partner and my Cursillo companion, especially missing our daily conversations on theological, spiritual, and strategic matters that enriched us both as we pioneered the expansion of the Cursillo movement in our beloved Diocese of Waiapu. I also acknowledge the death of lovely Gillian Camping, who in her eighties embraced Cursillo enthusiastically despite physical constraints. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Diane Mara led a prayerful Combined 5 Three-Day Cursillo from September 29 - October 2 at the Riverbend Bible Church Centre near Hastings, with three pilgrims attending. This venue proved excellent and we will use it consistently for our Hawkes Bay events in the future. It can accommodate up to 14 pilgrims. This number is realistic for us as one of our ongoing challenges is the attraction of pilgrims.

Those attending the follow-up Day of Deeper Understanding for Combined 5 on 12 November found refreshment and energy as they learnt more about the way Cursillo works in Waiapu, in New Zealand and internationally. We have intentionally linked the DDU to the Three-Day Cursillo, creating an expectation for team and pilgrim attendance, using the time for imparting information, mature reflection, feedback, team debriefing, and re-energising ourselves for our witness in the coming months.

Rev'd Mary Rowlands, appointed Associate Diocesan Spiritual Director earlier this year by Secretariat, stepped up to take Richard's place until a new appointment is made, and is making a huge contribution. And this is where the HOPE appears.

Clarification of our Waiapu Cursillo pathway came at an October meeting with

Bishop Andrew, followed by a meeting with Hawkes Bay Regional Dean, Rev'd David van Oeveren, our Bishop's delegate for us to report to. We have renewed HOPE for the future with the Diocesan link in place and the Cursillo Movement increasingly embedded in Diocesan structures. Praise God!

Janine Melville is incoming Lay Director for Combined 6, our next Three-Day Cursillo to be held in Hawkes Bay September 7-10 2017. We acknowledge the large gap between our Cursillos. Our planning had to deal with a time of uncertainty; we also took into account that our leadership is in transition; time is needed to make the many new appointments to Secretariat, and mentor incoming leaders. Transition is a time of excitement – and HOPE.

I have handed in my licence, stepping down at our last Secretariat meeting on 26 November as Diocesan Lay Director after 5½ years in the role. It's been an exhilarating and rough ride. I've been called to do and be what I'd never imagined: influencing, witnessing, preaching, theologising, enthusing, setting up solid systems, policies and pathways for long-term sustainability.

To have been kaitiaki of the Cursillo Movement in Waiapu has been a blessing. I have especially appreciated the love and support of my fellow Diocesan Lay and Spiritual Directors, those in the New Zealand Anglican Cursillo Council, and Cursillistas in my own Diocese, lay and clergy. My pilgrimage continues, and Cursillo will remain part of that.

Clemens Sedmak in his book "Doing Local Theology" opens with the statement: *Theology is an invitation to wake up: to be mindful and attentive*. Cursillo woke me up, and I'm immensely grateful. Sedmak's closing statement is this: *Doing theology entails cultivating the art of hope: it promotes a hopeful culture. Theology is an expression of the hope that a few people can make a difference*. Cursillo helps us to do theology, in the places where we find ourselves. Awake and attentive, we can see the difference it makes, the difference we make. For me, the essence of Cursillo is a culture of HOPE.

No reira e hoa mā

Ma te Atua koutou e tiaki e manaaki i ngā wā katoa.

Gail Spence, Diocesan Lay Director, Waiapu Anglican Cursillo

In Memoriam

Reverend Dr Richard John Spence 3 February 1941 – 21 September 2016

Born 1941 in Christchurch and raised in Hawkes Bay, a place of deep attachment for him, Richard attended Napier Boys' High, achieving Dux in 1958. With a Victoria University Master of Science (Hons. in Mathematics) and a Post-Graduate Bachelor of Education gained during secondary teacher training in Auckland, Richard held a Mathematics Junior Lectureship prior to joining Colenso High School in 1964 to teach Maths and Physics. He co-wrote *The Shape of Mathematics* (Reed Education), textbooks which reshaped mathematics teaching in the 1970s. Seeking Richard's adult education skills, Massey University appointed him Lecturer-in-Charge University Extension, later Senior Lecturer in Business Information Systems. Pioneering research gained him a Ph.D. in 1976, his subsequent publications influencing the growth of computer science in New Zealand education.

Demand rose for Richard's skills in software development and information processing. Employed by Napier City Council, Richard computerised Napier City Library, leaving in 1989 to work on signature projects for various agencies, corporate and private, for the next 25 years. A keen writer, Richard authored 13 books and many journal articles. Visiting fellowships included China, U.S.A. and France.

Eager to mentor youngsters, he led tramps, coached runners and athletes, adjudicated debates, judged at Science Fairs, chaired committees. A keen harrier, he ran marathons, winning gold in his last 10 kilometre race in 2011. Working 2003-2006 in Bell Gully's Wellington office he managed the Dragon Boating team and rowed in the races. An enthusiastic scuba diver, he loved the ocean with a passion, the life beneath, and the ships and seafarers who sailed on it. He was 44 years a Rotarian, active in projects in Hawkes Bay, Tonga, India, and in Wellington where he served as Club President, a commitment crowned with a Paul Harris Fellowship. Self-taught, he played saxophone in the Napier Memorial Technical Band, and

did radio operator duty at Coastguard Hawkes Bay.

Following intensive preparation and study, coupled with a solo pilgrimage walk of 800 kilometres on the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, Richard was ordained an Anglican self-supporting “worker” priest in 1995 by Māori and Pākehā Bishops. He ministered to Māori in the workplace, on the marae, in people’s homes, in churches, at the graveside, using English or te reo. A tribute to his mentor, Richard wrote a biography of Canon Wi Te Tau Huata entitled *Whakaaria Mai*. His service to the Pākehā Anglican Church included administrative roles, most recently Acting CEO of Waiapu Anglican Social Services Trust in 2013, and clergy roles as priest associate in Taradale (1996-2001), Miramar (2002-2005), and Waiapu Cathedral (2006-2011). At the time of his death Richard held the positions of Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers at the Port of Napier and Diocesan Spiritual Director for the Cursillo Movement in Waiapu. Somewhere among all this Richard found time and energy to be a loyal husband to Gail and devoted father to three sons, Andrew, Michael and Paul.

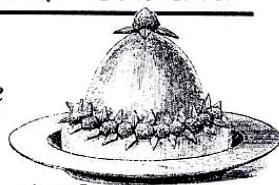
Richard’s death is a loss not only to his family. It is also a loss to the Cursillo movement in Waiapu, and he is sorely missed. As founding Diocesan Spiritual Director Richard’s commitment to grounding the movement in Waiapu ran deep. Richard expressed joy in serving alongside me in my role as Diocesan Lay Director. Pioneers in our roles, joyful in our embrace of the Cursillo movement, our partnership brought us spiritually closer as together we explored ways to serve God through Cursillo. He was a tireless follower of Christ, even when his physical capabilities were diminishing. So many were encouraged and supported by Richard’s wisdom, his teaching, his patience, his humour, his humility. His unrelenting commitment to Cursillo as a means to empower the laity and grow the Church in his beloved Waiapu is inspirational. His legacy lives on.

Kia tau te rangimārie ki a tātou katoa. May peace be with us all.

Gail Spence, Diocesan Lay Director, Waiapu

RICHARD'S RICH FROZEN CHRISTMAS PUDDING

2½ cups milk	1 tsp vanilla essence
½ cup sugar	1 tsp almond essence
2 eggs	1 tsp lemon essence
1 tsp gelatine	1 cup cream
2 tbsp hot water	1 cup chopped dried mixed fruit



Step 1 Heat milk, sugar and lightly beaten eggs.

Step 2 Stir until mixture coats the back of the spoon.
Let it cool.

Step 3 Dissolve gelatine in hot water and add it to the cooled mixture. Add essences and whipped cream, stirring gently. Stir in the fruit.

Step 4 Place in a decorative mould and freeze. Turn out onto dish and decorate with Christmas holly to serve.

An annually enjoyed recipe from Gail Spence

Hanlie Viljoen - from Waiapu Diocese writes...

Rev Dr Richard Spence Wellington M29. Diocesan Spiritual Director of the Waiapu Anglican Cursillo. Former priest associate of the Parish of Taradale from 1996 - 2001, Miramar 2002-2005 and Waiapu Cathedral 2006 completed his fourth day on September 21, 2016 and his funeral was held at All Saints' Taradale on September 26, 2016. At the time of Richard's death he also held the position of Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers.

Richard and Gail were part of a 3 man Secretariat who were the pioneers for Cursillo in Waiapu. We will be forever thankful to Richard for his dedication and passion for Cursillo, he will be sadly missed.

R.I.P. Richard



Rev Dr Richard Spence



*"If we could push ajar the gates of life,
And stand within, and all God's working see,
We might interpret all this doubt and strife,
And for each mystery could find a key.*

*"But not today. Then be content, poor heart;
God's plans, like lilies pure and white, unfold.
We must not tear the close-shut leaves apart-
Time will reveal the calyxes of gold.*

*"And if, through patient toil, we reach the land
Where tired feet, with sandals loosed,
may rest,
When we shall clearly know and understand,
I think that we shall say, 'God knew best.'"*

Author unknown

Waikato and Taranaki Diocese

November 2016

My reflections following the National Ultreya – Christchurch.

The theme of the National Ultreya held at Christchurch in October was – “Journeys”, and during the Ultreya we discussed journeys and listened to speakers talk about journeys Since my return I have been thinking about this same topic – my own journey.

Bishop Kelvin Wright’s talk was titled “Miracles along the Road”. The joy of travelling light, unencumbered by things and getting to know people, the real person not camouflaged by outer trimmings. This really got me thinking of my own ‘things’. How many of those ‘things’ do I really need. How many of those ‘things’ do I surround myself with, hindering my ability to look outward and/or preventing people really getting to know the real me (do I really know the real me?)

I haven’t come to any life changing conclusions and neither has my life changed dramatically since the weekend But I am thinking about it; looking around at the material things surrounding me. How much of it do I really need, as opposed to what I want? Perhaps this is the next stage of my journey and this time next year when I look back may be my life style will be changed / or maybe not – we will wait and see.

At the bookstall at the Ultreya I purchased a book titled “Moments of Grace – Reflections on meeting with God” by Rev’d Joy MacCormick.

Continuing with the theme ‘journeys’ (mine in particular) one of the poems and following reflection was titled “Devious God”. In one of the verses Rev’d MacCormack refers to God as a bulldozer. (Never in my ponderings have I ever visualized God as a bulldozer!) In her reflection she states that bulldozers have the ability of moving away heavy objects by pure brute force; of shifting many large obstacles. Conversely, they have the ability, with a skilled driver, of smoothly levelling out any rough patches along a road.

After having a little giggle at the thought of God being a bright yellow

bulldozer, I thought some more about her poem. Sometimes it is good to be stopped by an obstacle. To have to think about how to overcome it. Gradually to realize that with God's help (the skilled driver of the bulldozer) yes, we can overcome each of the obstacles in our way; get to the smoother path to continue our 'journey'.

I am sure that as we all continue our Spiritual journeys we will remember that we just have to ask God to be our skilled bulldozer driver.

De Colores -

Annette Rea – DLD
Waikato and Taranaki Diocese



Christ has something in common with all creatures. With the stone he shares existence, with the plants he shares life, with the animals he shares sensation, and with the angels he shares intelligence. Thus all things are transformed in Christ since in the fullness of his nature he embraces some part of every creature. —Bonaventure

[1] God is "within all things but not enclosed; outside all things, but not excluded; above all things, but not aloof; below all things, but not debased."

[2] Bonaventure spoke of God as one "whose centre is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere."

[3] Therefore the origin, magnitude, multitude, beauty, fullness, activity, and order of all created things are the very "footprints" and "fingerprints" (vestigia) of God.

St Bonaventure

Wellington Diocese

As we move into Advent season the joy of Christmas starts to creep upon us, a time of excitement, hope and love! As an Office Manager at a school the Christmas season also represents lots of holidays for me!!

One of the lovely things about Summer of course is the New Wine Camp in Kapiti. My family and I have been enjoying this camp for 12 years now. Cursillo is going to be one of the market place holders so if you are around, come see me!



Normally this would be our quieter time, leading up to the weekends in July, however Wellington is moving into a real time of change right now. Here's a glimpse of what is happening behind the scenes

- Team training guidelines are being revamped

- LD and Proctor kits are being modernised and revamped

- Stationery and forms are being revamped

- "Core" team members have been recruited

- Bi-culturalism is being incorporated

- Succession plans are being worked on

- Venue options are being accessed for future weekends

- Weekend tweaks

- Talk guidelines are being revamped

We value the feedback we receive from the weekends from both team and pilgrims and have used this from the last 2 years to move ahead.

The conversations around the table at the National Ultreya were invaluable in assisting with this!

The big news on the block is that my three year term will be finishing at the end of 2017, and I will not be renewing for a further three. With this in mind, we are asking for anyone who may be interested to please come forward! The plan is for someone to come alongside me now to "learn the ropes" and for me to bow out graciously in 2017. Please feel free

to email me if you would like to explore this further
(dld@cursillo.org.nz).

Please continue to uphold Liam Jones and Maree Foster in your prayers as they prepare for their 2017 weekends.

Again, thank you to Christchurch for your amazing National Ultreya, brilliant speakers, great food and fantastic venue – I had a blast!!

I leave you with a quote from Pooh Bear for Christmas:



Tanya Mac DLD Wellington

‘If I were to let my life be taken over by what is urgent, I might very well never get around to what is essential.’ *Henri Nouwen*

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESE



I see that in my last article for 'Kiwi Cursillo' I confidently concluded that my next article would be “all about the National Ultreya”. Now I can say that this article will be partly about the National Ultreya. So here goes.

Despite almost eighteen months of planning for the event and becoming immersed in the details as Labour Weekend approached, I actually had difficulty in imagining how it would all work out. But praise God it was a wonderful weekend with inspiring teaching, 'illuminating interviews', exuberant singing, joyous fellowship, delicious food and all those Cursillo touches, such as felt butterflies on forks. I would like to express my appreciation to Cursillistas throughout New Zealand for their prayers, encouragement, ideas and practical help.

Looking back, it seems difficult to remember the time when the rather optimistic deadline of Aug 31st for registrations was approaching. The Planning Committee was rather despondent about what appeared to be a rather low attendance. However, before we could get into a 'let's be practical, down-sizing mode' the Secretariat decided to pray for 100 registrations. Our prayers were answered with 72 full-time registrations and 45 part-time ones. I did enjoy meeting up with so many from our Cursillo Dioceses and being able to put faces to names. I look forward to the next NU!

Now you've probably guessed part two of this article as our hearts and minds have been full of the devastation that another set of earthquakes/aftershocks has caused. Certainly, our thoughts and prayers are with those in North Canterbury, Marlborough and Wellington. But as a member of my 4th day group said, “I just want to do something practical to help!” Those of us in Christchurch and surrounding areas gratefully remember all the help we received from so many others. The frustration here has been that unless you have a spare helicopter, naval vessel or army vehicle it's difficult to get to the affected areas.

However, we are confident there will be more options available to us soon and we are planning a kind of Cursillo collection. Canterbury Cursillistas have been invited to bring items for Family Care Packages to our Advent Ultreya at the Transitional Cathedral. We will then have our second 'packing party', the first being the goodies bags for the NU. We expect to have a wide range of items to sort, pack and transport to North Canterbury. We pray that all will go

smoothly, or that we have been enabled to overcome the obstacles.

So, wherever you are and whatever your situation may you know God's blessings during the Christmas Season and a heartfelt

Ultreya from Stephanie Johnston (DLD - Christchurch)



Ven Lynnette Lightfoot writes...

The NU started on Friday night with what in years gone by might have been called a *conversazione* - an opportunity to gather, to catch up and to listen through +David and Brent Bruce to stories of the beginnings of Cursillo in Christchurch. We also introduced David McLay and announced that David and Glenda were to be the New National Lay Directors and Rev. Helen Roud brought a message from +Victoria.



Several of us (mainly the Committee) and folk from other Diocese stayed at the Chateau - which was an excellent venue. The staff could not have been more helpful and we had an excellent area in the foyer for registration and the use of a very large Hall which could be divided in two - plus another separate room for meals. The gardens were beautiful and the weather was kind.

The weekend was busy with the various workshops: Bishop Kelvin on the Pilgrimage he took, Peter Carrell a Bible Study on the Emmaus walk, Barbara Sampson on how our Images/understandings of God shape our Prayer life, Encouraging the Encouragers from Wellington Diocese, and Anne Gover also presented an excellent Bible Study on Journeys.

The celebration Banquet was also held on Saturday evening and the Hall was quite transformed with round tables, butterflies, candles, table decorations (a competition organised among 4th day groups). Because +Victoria was not present and the NSD had to go home early Sunday morning the installation of Glenda and David took place during the Banquet. We had a beautiful celebration cake - iced with the logo which had been in the bags given out to everyone who registered. Everyone received their slice in a butterfly or rainbow themed serviette. I think about 90 people attended the Banquet.

There was a Celebration Eucharist at which +David preached and I had the privilege of presiding. We took the opportunity during the service to pray for both Glenda and David and David McLay. The singing was amazing - I think we nearly lifted the roof off - the musicians were excellent - Glenda and David and Carolyn Swift. There was a very good attendance as local Cursillistas took the opportunity to attend the service.

After that it was all over bar the clean-up - but that also was easily accomplished with the staff doing all the heavy lifting etc and the committee only having to remove what was ours - flowers, banners, butterflies etc.

Now earthquakes - Once again we have been hit with the destruction of another beautiful little stone church - this time in Waiau - people on the whole have been very resilient and whilst shocked and in some instances traumatised people are looking after one another very well. We have several Cursillistas in the area and they have been magnificent. We are trying to raise money from Christchurch Cursillo to do something (not quite sure what, yet) for children at Christmas time. Last night I was at a function and had the opportunity to speak with the Mayor of the Hurunui, who is a Christian man - he told me that certainly at the moment they don't need any more "stuff" but as time rolls on and parents livelihoods are affected gifts of cash may be appreciated, as school trips etc from up there cost a great deal more than locally and there will be a difficult financial time ahead. Whitcoulls, (A major national retailer with stores around the country) have made a large donation of teddy bears and every child in the area has received one. There is a group who are preparing Care Packs for Christmas.

The swimming pool at the Waiau school is also munted (destroyed) and we have thought about making a donation towards that. I will try to check with Glenda and David to see whether they think that some publicity could be given to the Appeal through Kiwi Cursillo - it would (in my opinion) be great to make a gift in the name of Cursillo.

Our other churches in the area are mainly wooden and whilst there has been disarray within the buildings and a small amount of damage to the Hanmer church on the whole this has been able to be tidied cleared and put back in place e.g. after the 5.7 earthquake during the last week the Scargill church had the altar knocked over, most of the pews tipped over and the lectern also fell. Vases etc were broken but no real harm done.

Lynnette Lightfoot, DSD Christchurch

Hope fulfilled

In Luke 2: 21-35 we read:

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

The first Sunday of Advent is often by-lined "Hope". It is very difficult to retain hope in the midst of difficulty as we down here in Canterbury have recently been reminded - in spite of new beginnings, the rebirth and rebuild of many things and events nevertheless nature still needs to release her energy from time to time and we get caught in the process and often it is very difficult, destructive and traumatic.

So we work hard to maintain a hopeful spirit and to carry on with the customs that have preserved our faith and community spirit in the face of diversity. We do however, have some excellent role models in the stories leading to the first Christmas Day. Mary and Joseph were faithful in observing the Jewish rites. Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day, then forty days later he was taken to the temple to be dedicated to God. Among those present on that day was a godly man - Simeon.

Simeon is a devout man, who visits the Temple regularly and often. He firmly believes that before he dies, God will give him the privilege of laying eyes on the Messiah. For a long, long time Simeon had waited for this.

It isn't easy to persevere in hope when the silence and the waiting is prolonged. The period of silence between the Old and New Testaments was 400 years. But Simeon never gave up hope because he believed the promise of God and his strong faith was rewarded when Mary and Joseph arrived in the Temple with Jesus in their arms.

This day as Simeon walks through the milling crowd he sees a couple with a child who really don't seem any different from the people around them. A couple dressed in simple clothes, clutching two doves, instantly proclaiming their lower social status. But something that Simeon feels or hears inside himself tells him that these are the ones, and this baby is the Messiah.

Picture for a moment a very old man, standing with the baby in his arms. He seems to be chuckling with joy, gazing down at the baby with tears on his cheeks, or perhaps he is simply transfixed with wonder – but whatever way we imagine him he is simply so very, very happy. He was ready to face death, to meet His Maker, because he had seen the Saviour.

But what has he seen, really? It's a little child in his arms, a powerless, speechless newcomer to the world. Whatever salvation this baby might work is only a promise, a hope; whatever teaching he may offer will remain hidden for many years.

Nothing has happened, nothing has changed. Herod is still on the throne and Caesar still governs from Rome – the world is just as it was a few moments ago.

By the time a mature Jesus comes onto the stage of history, Simeon will be long dead. So, will most of the shepherds who came to see the child in the manger, probably so will Joseph, who watched over him and cared for him. Thirty years or more will pass before the Gospel story recommences in the ministry of Jesus and in the meantime, those who saw the baby, knelt in the stable or laid gifts before him will simply not know what became of him – they would only know what they had seen and heard back then.

So, a young couple brought their baby to Jerusalem, and in the temple met an old man. If we only have eyes to see it there unfolding before our eyes is part of the story of redemption.

Simeon was a regular at the Temple, routinely joining in prayer and worship. If our prayer and worship are authentic, then we grow, we see and we experience God in new ways. God simply becomes a bigger part of our lives.

Authentic worship is a life changing and redemptive experience. It is an encounter with God, not merely confirming who we are, but expanding our sympathies, broadening our vision, strengthening our character, deepening our trust in God, giving us hope.

Somehow on that day Simeon saw that God, the unimaginable, the untouchable and unseen had become a vulnerable, helpless baby – he saw and began to understand that God had forever changed his relationship with us. It's no longer **God and us** – No God has become **one of us**.

That changes the way we not only see and experience God, but the way we see and experience ourselves and other people.

We can see God in ourselves as we learn to worship authentically.

We can see God in other people.

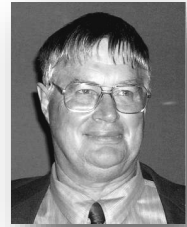
Let us like Simeon, centre our hopes in Christ, the Saviour of the world.

De Colores

Lynnette Lightfoot DSD Christchurch

DUNEDIN DIOCESE

MY PEACE I GIVE YOU



"My peace I give you" this was our theme and song for Dunedin Combined 20 and a major focus as team and pilgrims enjoyed each other's company and built Christian Community aided by the Central Otago sunshine and the usual ministry to the interior which came from our stunning cooks and the stunning food they placed before us.

The Peace of Christ was very much in our thoughts as our team gathered at the beginning of October with ten pilgrims in the superb facilities at Dunstan High School in Alexandra. Our theme was reinforced by naming our tables after Maori peacemakers and saints whose biographies appear in the 2015 NZ Anglican publication *"For All the Saints."* The pilgrim tables were Tarore, Ngakuku, Manihera, and Wiremu. Kereopa were the back table and the cooks were Ruatara table. These saints were significant peacemakers at a violent time in our history and some paid the price with their lives as they carried the Gospel from the Bay of Islands to the South of NZ.

Our initial preparations for Dn #20 were stressed because we suddenly found ourselves in a period of uncertainty in February and without a 3Day Lay Director. The way ahead was far from clear. Eventually in the middle of May Anne (my wife) and I realized that although neither of us had the time individually to step into the gap and make the preparations, we could do it together as co-directors. Secretariat approval was sought by email and Anne drew together an experienced team of Cursillistas at short notice and we had our first training day in mid-June. In the end the talented team and ten equally talented pilgrims gathered for the 3days in early October.

We shared in depth undergirded by the common bond we have in Jesus Christ and our theme of Peace. We also made a lot of noise bearing in mind our theme was Peace. The talks were superb and reflected the experience of the team and the wise leadership of Bishop Kelvin as our senior spiritual ably assisted by the Rev Carol Masters from Alexandra. The spiritual tone of this Cursillo was also strongly influenced by the spiritual perceptions the pilgrims brought to the program.

It was most reassuring to find that most of the team and pilgrims gathered again in Christian community at our next Ultreya in Alexandra at the beginning of November when Pete Masters used a power point to challenge us with personal lessons drawn from his family and business life.

Dunedin Cursillo has been challenging these last few years and we did not have 3days in 2011 and 2012 which placed us in the situation of having to re-establish momentum. Dunedin combined #20 has moved us a considerable distance down the track and we look forward with confidence in God's grace for the future. There is still much to be done but God blessed us after shaky beginnings with no obvious Lay Director. I am reminded of St Paul's words in 2 Corinthians, "My grace is sufficient for you because my power is made perfect in weakness".

Ultreya (onwards and upwards)

Keith Gover (Dunedin DLD)



Dn 20 Combined Cursillo Oct 2016

Thoughts from the National Ultreya:

What a journey! We've enjoyed it all. The highlight was sharing Bishop Kelvin's journey along the famous Camino Trail. His passion was contagious and we're keen to go too. (Waiapu)

It felt like we were all one big family.

Great weekend. Plenty of time to speak with fellow Cursillistas. Good venue and great meals. Well done!

This has been a blessed time of worship, friendship and fellowship – meeting new Cursillistas from the rest of the country. Great organization and celebration. Many thanks. (Gwen Bowler – Christchurch Combined 8)

What a wonderful weekend, friends, great food, worship – Thanks to the organisers! (Mike Bowler, Christchurch Combined 9, St. Stephen's, Ashburton)

Perfect venue, thoughtfully organized, great speakers/ workshops supported by the best of musos. On The Emmaus walk there is never enough time – perhaps by bike?



Well organized. Excellent quality contributions. Ran to time in true Cursillo fashion. A worthwhile weekend. Thank you. (Rory Redmayne)

(From Wellington) Growing in understanding about the challenges for Christchurch Cursillistas post - earthquakes and how many Cursillistas from Christchurch have sacrificed and gone above and beyond to continue the flow of Cursillo weekends.

Very useful hearing how other Dioceses do things.



Good conversations!

Great fellowship!





Group photo, National Ultreya in Christchurch, 2016



A change of guard in February.

Left: Glenda and David Prosser will take over as NLD's from David McLay (right).

