

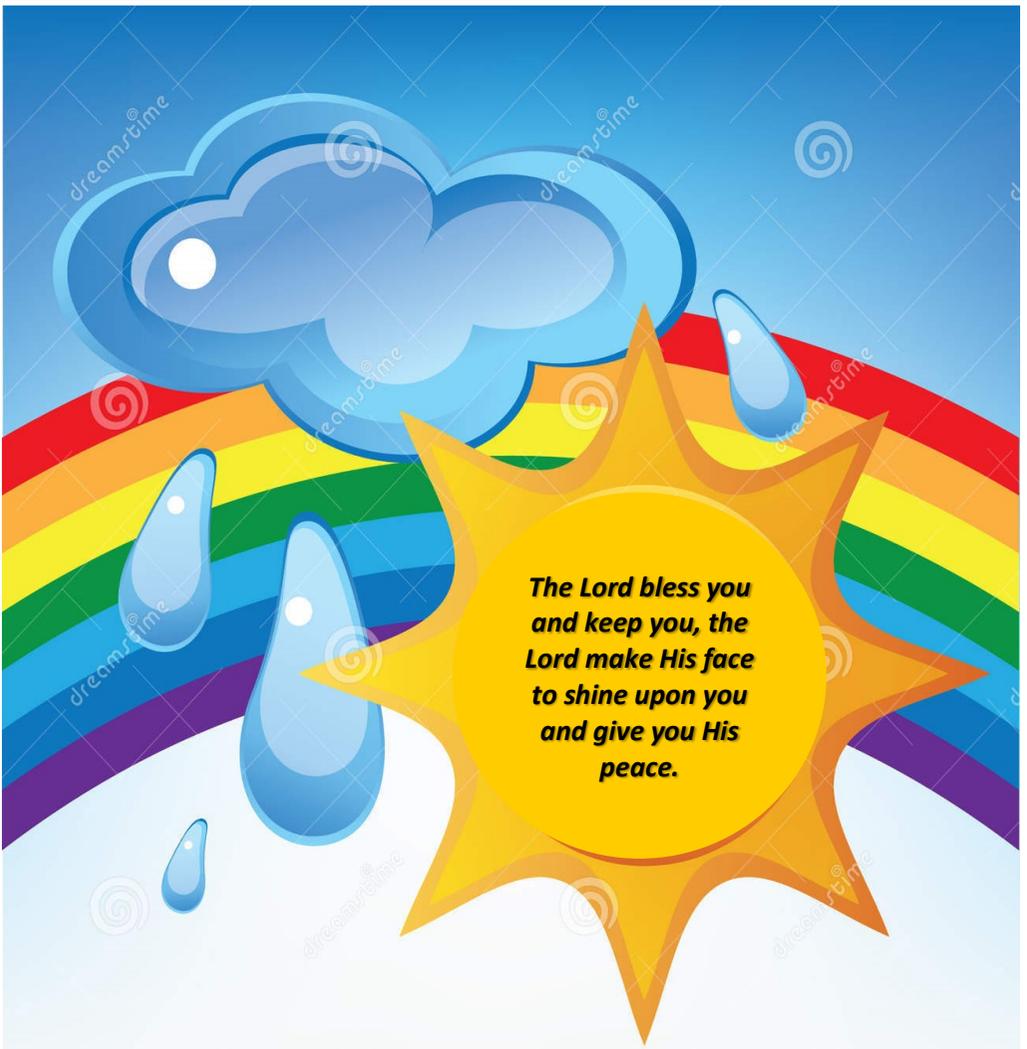


KIWI CURSILLO

*The Magazine for
New Zealand Anglican Cursillo*

Winter 2017

Issue 42



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THE DEADLINE FOR THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE IS FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17TH 2017.

The price of Kiwi Cursillo is \$15 a year for three magazines posted to you, or contact your Diocesan Lay Director about receiving it through them. PDF copy is free.

Please put the deadline date in your diary! It is Important :)

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National Episcopal Cursillo Website (USA)

www.nationalepiscopalcursillo.org

Read their 4th Day Magazine on-line;
Purchase NEC Libraries;
Check updates for NEC Library;
Check out resources available.

Other Websites:

Wellington Cursillo Website - www.cursillo.org.nz
<http://www.crosswalkmail.com>
<http://www.bibleinoneyear.org/>
<http://www.biblegateway.com>

FROM THE NATIONAL LAY DIRECTORS...

COMMUNITY

As Licensed Lay Ministers, Glenda and I have been privileged to regularly lead worship in rural “daughter churches” for over 30 years.

There’s a particular sense of community in a small rural church that isn’t replicated in a larger urban congregation.

It’s all too easy to become an anonymous spectator in a large congregation, which some contemporary forms of worship facilitate. In a smaller, simpler, gathering, everyone is noticed and needed – and when someone is absent they are missed.

In Cursillo we also find a particular sense of community that doesn’t seem to be replicated anywhere else. We celebrate a unique shared experience (the 3-day weekend), and perspective (the 4th day) on living out our shared Christian mission to “go and make disciples.” Everyone’s contribution is unique and valued.

A rural church setting also emphasises our place in God’s creation, and the congregation’s placement within the community in which the building stands. In a built-up urban environment, it’s easy to forget these fundamental dynamics.

Cursillo, too, calls us to be intentional about connecting with the various communities around us – family, friends, work, club, social, church – our “environments” in Cursillo jargon. We keep reminding ourselves of this because it’s easy to become insular, leading compartmentalised lives isolated from the mutually life-enhancing interaction of community.

A recent Sunday Gospel was the parable of the sower (Matt 13). We all know it so well, or do we? As I prepared to preach (in a small rural church), I found myself reflecting on the following key points:



1. The sowing of God's word was liberal, indiscriminate, and wildly extravagant.
2. It didn't seem to matter whether the ground was prepared for the seed, or not.
3. God's word is sown again and again – just like the rain falls over and over.
4. People often need to hear God's word multiple times before it makes sense to them.
5. Fruitfulness is the important thing, not the size of the crop.

This is all nice-to-hear and well-and-good, until it dawns on us that we're the ones called by Jesus to sow the seed of the Gospel. "Christ is counting on us!" The study of environments is important, but not if it comes at the expense of apostolic action. The abundant generosity of God is even more important!

Having now returned from the USA, where we attended Glenda's graduation (MA in Spirituality) and our son's wedding, we turn our attentions back to the Cursillo Movement in New Zealand. In early October, we will be leading a National Secretariat meeting in Wellington, then we will be travelling around the North Island. We hope to meet up with some of you then.

Last issue we touched on our 3 areas of focus: Cursillo as a Movement (not a club); the centrality of the Cursillo Method (4th Day Groups, Ultreya, Spiritual Direction); and being Strategic about who we invite to a Cursillo Weekend. All 3 invite us to look outwards, to take a wider view, to extend ourselves, and to reach out where we do not currently connect.

Please pray for the Cursillo Movement, and especially for the leadership teams in each Diocese.

Ultreya!

David & Glenda Prosser

National Lay Co-Directors

The historic church of St Matthew's at Fernside was built in 1874 in North Canterbury.



St Matthew's, Fernside, continues to figure prominently in the life of the district. Services are held twice a month (1st and 3rd Sundays) at 10.30am. All visitors are assured of a warm welcome.



A century or so ago, a ship in a storm was dashed against the rocks in Cornwall, at the South West corner of England. A fifteen-year-old sailor swam to safety on an offshore rock. He climbed up and waited all night until he was rescued the next morning. A reporter interviewed him and commented, 'You must have been shaking all night as you clung to that rock.' 'Yes,' the young sailor replied, 'I trembled all night with fear and cold.' Then he added, 'But *the* rock never trembled once.'

FROM THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

GOD MOMENTS



Recently at a funeral I was taking, Betty's neighbour told a story. Betty had a gray cat she loved. When she went away the neighbour looked after it. One summer he went over to feed the cat. There it was lying on its back as though warming itself in the sun. As he looked closer he realised it was not moving. It was in fact,

dead. He buried it under Betty's lemon tree. On Betty's return he took her outside and explained what had happened. Betty was understandably upset. As they stood there a large black cat appeared out of nowhere winding itself round Betty's legs. The cat didn't appear to belong to anyone and continued to live with Betty.

When the family had arrived for the service the younger grandchildren were particularly upset. BUT waiting to greet them on the church steps was a large very friendly black cat.

A neighbour's cat who just happened to visit on that particular day.

Later a family member said to me "I suppose you would call that a God moment!"

I suppose I would.

There was to be another such moment over a cup of tea later. The three sons, who had assured me that they were definitely not religious, were telling some stories. Heath, a ship's captain, said how he had been in a terrible storm off the bottom of Stewart Island. The ship was listing badly and he was certain it was going to sink. He said, "I prayed to God To save us. I promised to be the best person I could be in the future." A short time later on the bridge he noticed a light in the distance. It would take them fifty nine hours to reach that light. That of the lighthouse. There was, Heath said, no way the light he saw was that from the lighthouse.

God is always with us whether we believe or not.

We all have such moments when God intrudes into our lives.

Sharing such moments with others encourages them to recognise such times in their lives.

When the last time you experienced a God moment?

Perhaps at a Cursillo event.

De Colores Sue Hogan NSD

God is not interested in how 'religious' you are. He is far more concerned about integrity, justice and righteousness. Without that religiosity is sheer hypocrisy. He says:

'I can't stand your religious meetings.

I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions.

I want nothing to do with your religion projects,

your pretentious slogans and goals.

I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes,

your public relations and image making.

I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music.

When was the last time you sang to me?

Do you know what I want?

I want justice - oceans of it.

I want fairness - rivers of it.

That's what I want. That's all I want' (Amos 5:21-24, MSG).

Waiapu Diocese

GOD IS GOOD! All the time. I am sure this does not come as a surprise to anyone. I have been pondering on what my first contribution as newly appointed DLD of Waiapu will be, what profound message do I have, will it sound okay? (English being my second language) Where will I start? "God" I said, "please help me out!" Lo and behold, a few moments later my computer replied with a "ping" and in my Inbox, is a beautifully written article by our very own Barbara Ollerton, Waiapu Post Cursillo Co-ordinator. Wow, you would say, isn't that amazing? Yes, it is and I think I am safe to assume that this was an answer to my call for help.



Before I share Barbara's writings with you I would like to report that things are well in Waiapu. Both Mary (new DSD) and I have settled into our roles after a tumultuous start of several Cursillo events over a 2-month period it has cooled down now (pardon the pun).

Janine Melville LD for Combined 6 and her team have completed 3 of their 4 team days. Janine has been committed to building a strong team culture. Please keep her and the whole C6 team in your prayers. We praise God for the registrations already in. The closing date is August 14th. If you know of anyone who would like to attend a 3 Day Cursillo in Waiapu please let me know. The dates for C6 are 4-7 September at Riverbend Camp in Havelock North. The DDU will be 28 October. We would love to see you at the Mañanita on Sunday the 7th September. Contact me for more details

Ultreya

Hanlie Viljoen (DLD)

OUR FOURTH DAY JOURNEY

The Cursillo 3 Day weekend is described as “a short course in Christian living” where we encounter Jesus Christ in a community of love and we are reminded of Christ’s command to “Go into all the world and make disciples of all people”. This might take on a new meaning as we return to our homes and realise that the world has not changed as much as we have! But our primary concern needs to be what God wants of US and not what we want for others.

Once established on our 4th Day journey in a group of friends at Group Reunion, we can pray for those we feel God may be calling to make their Cursillo. Very relevant as the closing date rolls around for C6 at the lovely Riverbend Centre in Hawkes Bay - and possibly C7 in the Bay of Plenty next year.

The Cross we received at our Cursillo weekend is a reminder too of what Christ has done for us and just how much it cost Him to redeem us. We are called to make His redeeming love known where we live and work and through the Group Reunion we can be empowered to make a start to “win the world for Christ”. And as we continue in the life of grace, we need to remember Cursillo’s goal – to change the world, to remake the world for Christ, to restore all things to Christ”- thereby providing a backbone for Christian life in every environment. What a vision!!

Our 4th Day activities consist of Group Reunions, Ultreyas (1 day twice yearly) and Days of Deeper Understanding (1 day following a 3day weekend) – all gatherings of Cursillistas, sponsors and likeminded people who we can encourage to know more of our Movement.

In our Group Reunion over a period of months we have had on our hearts to pray for The Homeless. We were surprised and excited to have an answer to our prayers under the **ACTION** theme when we were presented with a project in Tauranga called Whare4Whanau under the auspices of Te Tuinga Whanau Support Services (refer www.ttw.org.nz/). We decided to get behind this agency who provide

temporary homes for the Homeless allowing them to resume normal living and avail themselves of any necessary/associated advice or support at any time. Our group members collect household items (big and small) which we store until we get the call from the Social Worker as to what is needed. This is an awesome way to recycle items surplus to requirements for whatever reason. Already homes are accommodating needy families - with several more – possibly 5 more homes by the end of August.

What better way to utilise our 4th Day journeying in caring for the environment, caring for the downtrodden and homeless in our community and sharing the love of God in our wider community.

Jesus said “the poor will always be with us” – maybe this a blueprint for action in your community too??

Barbara Ollerton

Post Cursillo Coordinator

Mother Teresa said, ‘Loneliness and the feeling of being uncared for and unwanted are the greatest poverty.’ Loneliness is one of the greatest problems facing humanity today.

‘The solitary human being is a contradiction in terms,’ writes Desmond Tutu. He continues, ‘We are made for complementarity. We are created for a delicate network of relationships, of interdependence with our fellow human beings... We belong in one family – God’s family, the human family... the greatest good is communal harmony.’

God does not intend for you to be lonely and isolated. Loneliness has been described as ‘a homesickness for God’. God created you for community – calling you into relationship with him and with other human beings.

PIETY: It's So Tempting

During extended economic downturns, it's natural to be more judicious about where and how we spend what money we have. Most of us avoid unnecessary expenses, and yet many of us are faced with a variety of difficult financial choices. As the downturn continues, the choices continue and often get harder. The repetition takes a toll mentally and emotionally and a natural reaction to this is to step back, to withdraw, and not act, feeling helpless to improve the situation.

This is just one of many pathways to the mental attitude of scarcity.

It's very tempting to treat our spiritual resources in the same manner, even though the dynamics are different. Unlike our financial resources, our spiritual Resource is always available and unlimited. Drawing on Him doesn't diminish the supply—in fact, when we rely upon our spiritual resources, we often wind up with more than we had before we started.

We can always pray—though it does matter how we pray. Simply praying for money isn't likely to evoke the response we might want—partly because there is over-confidence in the assumption that money will fix whatever is lacking. Why seek to set conditions on how God acts in our lives? Try a quietly reflective request for guidance – “If not this way, then which way, Lord?”

This approach can also help us to re-align our attitudes. Perhaps we have become distracted from the work we were given to do? If so, then returning to that focus is likely to be a necessary part of any solution.

There are simple, practical steps: Look at your life and make a list; what sustains you? What spiritual channels of energy and renewal do you draw from? Identify the things at church that feed your soul and get closer to them. If the music touches you deeply, then consider joining the choir. Or at least sit closer to them during services. Listen to the sermon (yes, really). If you have questions, ask another person in your congregation about it during coffee hour! It doesn't really matter what the topic is, it's the relationship and the fact of the conversation that matter. Look for other opportunities in the life of your congregation. Listen for the still quiet voice; go where it draws you; engage there.

From THE COLORS Episcopal Cursillo Newsletter Diocese of Olympia

Wellington Diocese

At time of writing we are preparing for M41 which begins on 27 July with 15 pilgrims! This will be held at El Rancho in Waikanae. Thank you to Liam Jones and his team for the amount of time and commitment that has gone into this upcoming weekend.



We had a great response to W41 held mid-June, which was attended by 18 pilgrims. The feedback received from both team and pilgrims has been invaluable in planning for the future. Thank you to Maree Foster who ably led this weekend.

Please continue to pray for Neil Macdonald and Mary Cropp as they plan for their weekends in 2018.

We have had a bit of movement in our leadership team with some roles moving on. I am pleased to advise that replacements have been found as follows:

Sheila Wetherill (Secretary)

Lew Powell (Admin)

Both of these roles are being replaced by Maree Foster effective October 2017

Lucy Creighton (Cursillo Director)

Lucy has been replaced by Shane Spencer effective immediately

Thank you to Sheila, Lucy and Lew for all your hard work and commitment to Cursillo – you guys are awesome and I thank you for encouraging me in my role and for your support!!

I hope you are all managing to stay dry and warm through this crazy Winter weather and that the coughs and colds haven't managed to catch you!

Tanya Mac

DLD - Wellington

REFLECTING ON THE CYCLE OF LIFE

I've been reflecting on the cycle of life recently. Even though it's still winter and the storms are lashing New Zealand as I write, spring bulbs are popping up and all sorts of flowering shrubs are adding colour to the garden again.

As David and I (and the rest of his family and many friends) farewelled his mother a few weeks ago, I was struck by the grace of God in highlighting the innocence and joy in life of our own grandchildren. In the midst of grief and feelings of lostness, here were little ones, happily playing in the church and later at home, safe and secure in the love and acceptance of those around them. This spoke to me so clearly of the never-ending circle of love in which we are held by our gracious Father.

Winter is so often a hard season as we get just that little bit older. The ground is hard and cold, the trees are bare, and the sun does not seem to shine. But ... and there's always a but ... it is during those dark cold months that some of God's most amazing miracles are birthed. How is it possible for the daphne bush to burst forth with such a powerful perfume and with such beautiful flowers in the middle of dreariness all around? How do the freesias weather the storms? How do broken hearts mend after long periods of grieving and sorrow?

Parables in Matthew remind us of the work of the Sower, that he is constantly scattering his seed. As co-heirs and co-workers we are called to labour along with Jesus, gently preparing the soil, and encouraging even the tiniest signs of new life. The love and warmth of God are not bound by the climate or time. His grace continues throughout the year, gently breaking through even the most 'shut down' of lives.

Great is his faithfulness.

Shalom,

Robyn McLay

DSD Wellington Diocese



WHAT ARE YOU WORTH?

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God. Ezekiel 11: 19-29

Somehow, I always approach the summer season thinking that my life will slow down and have a more relaxed pace. Perhaps this belief comes from reflecting on my childhood when summer vacations were full of afternoons at a neighbour's pool, riding bikes, playing with friends, and family trips to the beach or to the redwoods to camp. But if I am honest, there is a little revisionist history going on as summer vacations always seemed to go by too quickly and I was back in school before I knew it. As I get older, summers seem to go by even faster.

We live in a culture which places high value on being busy and productive. Phrases like "Idle hands are the devil's tools" and "Time is money" are part and parcel of our western culture. We can be led to believe that our value comes from what we do and what we produce. But there is a problem with this view—it isn't how God sees us and it does not have ultimate worth.

As a hospice chaplain, I work with people at the end of life who have had most of their abilities either diminished or removed by the disease process which will one day take their life. One of the most common frustrations my patients face is the sense that they have no worth because they can no longer do the things which gave their lives meaning: the woman who says, "I always made Sunday dinner for our whole family but I'm stuck in this bed and can't do that anymore" or the man who was the "go to" guy in his family for repairing cars who cannot leave the house anymore because it makes him too short of breath. They have fallen into the trap of believing that what they do is who they are.

This is one of the world's Big Lies I have the privilege to expose in my work and one which we all need to expose as ministers of the gospel. What we do will pass but who we really are can never die—we are children of God and our ultimate worth is found within the context of

knowing and trusting this truth. It is the relationship we build in this life which will last. Our relationship with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and empowered in the Spirit, is the one thing which cannot be stripped away, and it is the foundational relationship which informs how we relate to others—our family, friends, neighbours and yes, even our enemies and those who wish us harm.

Three times in the prophecy of Ezekiel, God promises a restoration of God's people through the giving of a new heart and a new spirit. Two of the three times this appears, there is a reference to a "heart of stone" being removed and a "heart of flesh" being given. The ancient Israelites understood the heart to be the centre of thinking and belief and a "heart of stone" referred to one who was closed to God and others while a "heart of flesh" referred to one who was open to God and others. Many of us had the experience of having our "heart of stone" changed through the gift of Cursillo and yet, over time, we discover other places where our hearts are hardened.

One of the places I struggle with is how activities can creep into my schedule, and I find myself succumbing to the trap of "busyness." Bishop Stacy Sauls once called this tendency the "seduction of usefulness." I suspect this is a struggle for all of us who are Christian leaders. It is a place where our hearts can become hardened and we are unable to be open and present to our most important relationships in meaningful ways.

As Christians, we proclaim a countercultural message. In a world of hardened hearts who believe that human value is centred in doing. We proclaim the truth of our value as centred on being a child of God, saved by grace through Christ, and filled with the Spirit. May we set aside the world's "busyness," still our souls and remember this truth so we may claim it not only for ourselves but share it joyfully with a world who needs to hear good news.

From THE ABRAZO newsletter of the Maryland Episcopal Cursillo by the Rev. Anjel Scarborough, MEC Secretariat Spiritual Director - 'The 4th Day' Winter 2011

Waikato/Taranaki Diocese

July 2017 - *Greetings from a wet and blustery Waikato.*

Books - they can
Entertain you
Inspire you
Educate you
Make you laugh
Make you cry
Make you think
And more



In recent weeks I have finished one book that left me in awe, and am still reading another which has made me think and reflect.

The first book “What cancer has taught me” by Jake Bailey. This is the young man who gave that amazing end of year speech at his college where he was “Head Boy”. This while he was receiving treatment for an aggressive cancer. It tells the story of his journey through cancer treatment – of the family, friends, hospital staff, who supported him, encouraged him, walked alongside him, and sometimes even carried him. It tells of his rebellion at times of the restrictions the cancer treatment put on him – of his wanting to be a typical 18-year-old teenager. But it was more than his journey through life so far. It was about how he now sees his future; his change of direction and his new aspirations.

While reading the book, I couldn't help but think of the writings / words of –

Isaiah - Chapter 40 vs 31

The song - “I have carried you on eagle's wings

The poem “Footprints in the Sand”

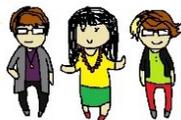
The second book – the one I am still reading – is titled “Reading the Bible Again For the first Time” by Marcus Borg.

This book is being used as the catalyst for group discussion amongst a group of about 8 people at our Church, including both ordained and lay. As I read my way through it, it has made me think – really think. Have I

understood the rationale of the author's commentaries, do I agree with them, do I disagree with them, do I have to reflect some more? Our fortnightly discussions about the latest chapter in the book we have read, have been lively. There has been agreement, there has been disagreement, there has been indecision. Most of all it has made us all re-evaluate our understandings of the content in the various books of the Hebrew Bible (which is where we are up to at the present). I suspect this will be a book I will go back and re-read for many years to come, and each time I re-read it I will have to take time to stop and reflect all over again. Will I come to the same conclusions each time? Only time will tell.

Happy reading everyone

Annette Rea - DLD – Waikato and Taranaki



Waikato-Taranaki Combined 15 Weekend

is happening 23-26 August 2017 at Houchen House, Hamilton.

Lay Director : Maggie Jack

Please pray for the team and pilgrims at this time.

We would welcome Palanca to be sent to :

Ariel McCracken

2 Lear Street

Morrinsville 3300

arielmcc@slingshot.co.nz

Farewell to a Faithful Cursillista

Brian Barkla

Today I have been watching storm clouds scudding across the sky as wild birds beat their wings furiously against the strong winds. Then comes the rain sheeting down in torrents shouting "Stay indoors!" It is winter, a time for rest and reflection. Indeed tomorrow Brian Barkla, one of the most faithful older friends my husband and I have ever known, will be laid to rest. His fourth day is over.

So I have been reflecting back over the 50 years we have known him. One of my special memories is a phone call I received from Brian 22 years ago. He wanted to speak to Roger, my husband, about something called Cursillo. Roger was out, but Brian explained how he had been to this special gathering, which sounded to me like a bunch of monks getting together. I was a little mystified but it was great to hear Brian sounding so happy and positive about life. Well later Roger spoke to Brian. Roger couldn't go to a Cursillo that year. However Brian did not forget about him and the next year Roger attended Waikato Men's 1. He came home buzzing, telling me how he had found many new friends who were Christians. It seemed to have made a huge difference in his life. I was still rather puzzled.

However next year I was 'sent' to WW2. I went simply because Roger was so insistent and excited about the whole Cursillo thing. When Brian turned up at the Mananita and then at the Closures I was deeply moved. What a faithful and encouraging friend he was then and has always been, especially regarding the Cursillo movement. Cursillo changed the direction of our lives, encouraging us to become more confident in our Christian witness and work, both in the Church and beyond. It was at a Cursillo later on that I heard a clear call to

become a priest. Again Brian was there, coming to my ordination.

Brian was involved in Cursillo in the very early days of its formation in New Zealand. He was also Lay Director of several Cursillos. He was a truly loving and faithful friend to so many Cursillistas, coming to every Ultreya possible and turning up to bless and encourage others at many a Mananita and Closures, no matter how long the journey took him.

Tomorrow he will be laid to rest, his fourth day over, his life well lived. The ripple-on effect from the invitations he dropped in the pool of our lives and the lives of many others goes on and on.

I look outside now. The storm seems to have passed over. I hear a bird singing in the bare branches and there's a rainbow of colour out there. I see a late deep pink Rose still on the bush, bright oranges and lemons on the trees, green fields shining, a patch of blue sky, indigo of the far ranges and a purple Magnolia just opening. And somewhere, over the rainbow of our world, Brian surely hears our Lord say to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of my kingdom."

Wendy Harland DSD, Waikato/Taranaki



Mother Teresa said, 'I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.'

Christchurch Diocese

The school holidays are rapidly coming to an end and I seem to have left my 'homework' of writing this article rather late. What has been special for Christchurch Cursillo since the last edition of 'Kiwi Cursillo'? After some thought, prayer and a bit of inspiration I decided to ring Steve and I have his permission to tell you about his part in the Ultreya held in Ashburton in May.



It was a beautiful late Autumn day as I was travelling south with blue skies and quite a lot of early snow on the mountains. The Mid-Canterbury Cursillistas certainly made us very welcome at St. Stephen's. Rather than having a Witness Talk we had a Witness Interview. An interview has a number of advantages – it's more informal; people are more likely to agree to it rather than the daunting task of writing a talk; and the interviewer can make sure the talk guidelines are followed.

In the interview Steve was asked about his job at a retirement village. He told us about a woman who had the most annoying habit of being a constant bell-pusher. Finally Steve answered her call yet again, but this time he demanded, "What do you want now?" Later on he felt that he had clearly responded in a less than Christian fashion and prayed for God's grace and patience. God answered his prayer and Steve was able to respond to the bell without feeling annoyed and speak to the woman in a polite, even friendly manner. The woman died a few months later, but Steve knew that God's grace had enabled him to act in a gracious way towards her in her final days.

Steve's experience led me to think of my response in situations I find annoying and with people I find less than helpful. At times it's tempting (and unrealistic) to want everyone and everything to change to suit me. As Steve helpfully reminded us, we can appeal to

God for the qualities we need in all circumstances. As I remember this witness interview two months later, it must have been a necessary reminder for me.

Our next Ultreya is at St Bartholomew's, Kaiapoi on August 19. I wonder what the witness talk/ interview will hold? It's a special time for Kaiapoi Cursillistas as St Bartholomew's Church, first opened in 1855, is scheduled to reopen at the end of July after a complex restoration process. It will be a doubly special time as we will also be commissioning Kofe Havea and her team for Combined 20 which will take place mid-September. Please pray for Kofe and the team and also for prospective pilgrims.

De Colores – Stephanie Johnston (DLD)

Don't Waste Your Failures

My wife and I spent some years as missionaries in Brazil. Our first two years felt fruitless and futile. More often than not I went home frustrated. So we asked God for another plan. We prayed and reread the Epistles, especially focused on Galatians. It occurred to me I was preaching a limited grace. When I compared our gospel message with Paul's, I saw a difference. His was high-octane good news. Mine was soured legalism. We focused on the gospel, proclaiming forgiveness of sins and resurrection from the dead. We baptized forty people in twelve months! God wasn't finished with us. We just needed to put the past in the past and God's plan in place.

Don't waste your failures by failing to learn from them. Rise up! God hasn't forgotten you. Keep your head up. You never know what good awaits you.

Max Lucado

When the going gets tough...

Some years ago now, driving home after some time in the Library working on an assignment I followed a car with a bumper sticker which read, "*When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping!*" I laughed because that suited me just fine - I love to shop, and I don't even need the excuse of a tough day.

Recently in a totally unrelated way I was reminded of this bumper sticker again and I fell to wondering '*when the going gets tough - the tough....do what?*'

For fun I turned to the internet and a quick search gave me endless possibilities for an ending - here are some of the wackiest: "*When the going gets tough, the tough go to Asia*" or "*the tough start knitting*". One even said, "*the tough lighten up*". All of these endings and many others were humorous in their own way but they also contain some truth by reflecting the way we often respond when life presses down on us and things get stressful. When the pressure gets too intense, we start looking for ways to bail out. Often, we are tempted to bail in terms of our attitudes, feeling angry, bitter, or even mad at God or anyone else we can find to blame our problems on.

The book of James gives us some advice about why it is important to stay when the pressure is on. He reminds us that God has a purpose in mind when he allows trials to press down on us. Just like turning coals into diamonds some things only happen under a lot of pressure. Staying under pressure is how God tests our faith in order to make us "mature and complete" (James 1:4). If we bail we interfere with the productive intentions God has for our lives.

The Greek word James uses for perseverance (James 1:3) is *hupomeno*. It's derived from two Greek words, *hupo* (under) and *meno* (remain) - so it seems to me that James is making the point that to achieve God's refining goals for our lives, we need to cooperatively remain under the pressure.

God intends that we in time will blossom under the pressure. That's

why James encourages us to submit to the trial and let perseverance finish its job. In James 1:4 tells us "Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" and in Romans 5:1-21, Paul says perseverance produces character.

So, it boils down to whether we want comfort or character. You may think life should be a bed of roses - but I suspect you are in for a big surprise! The issue is not *if* you will face trials, but how you will respond to the inevitable pressure that the problems of life bring.

Maybe you face pressure at work, sometimes problems at home won't go away and we find ourselves wondering "*Maybe I'll just leave so I won't have to deal with this anymore*". How easy it is to derail God's work in our lives.

Next time I'm tempted to bail on God and wriggle out from under I intend to think of Jesus, who "humbled himself and became obedient to death" (Philippians 2:8) He "remained under" great suffering for the purpose of making us better.

So, embrace the process and allow God to do his work of making you more mature and usable, for your good and God's glory.

The pain will be worth the gain!

De Colores.

Ven Lynnette Lightfoot – DSD Christchurch



*Instead of asking, 'What have I done today?'
You should ask, 'Who have I been today?'*

Dunedin Diocese

Greetings from wintry Dunedin as we anticipate longer, warmer days.

Everything is falling into place for this year's Three-Day event at beautiful Pounaweia in the Catlins. Lynda Turner Heaton is leading this and we can report a happy and prayerful team who are producing wonderful talks.



The next Ultreya is being held in Dunedin on the 5th of August and will feature two very interesting speakers. The last Ultreya was held in Invercargill in July. It was well and enthusiastically attended with the Witness talk given by Shiralee Merrick.

At present our Diocese awaits the ordination and installation of the 10th Bishop of Dunedin on Friday the 22nd of September at St Paul's Cathedral Dunedin. He is Rev Dr Steven Benford and he is accompanied by his wife Lorraine. It is our hope that he will have as good a heart for Cursillo as was evident in his predecessor, Bishop Kelvin Wright.

Although Margaret and I don't feel we have achieved a lot so far, we hope to do so soon, particularly in strengthening Fourth Day initiatives. We both feel that introducing pilgrims into viable and strong Fourth Day groups is a high priority.

De Colores,

Craig & Margaret McLanachan. Co-DLD's Dunedin.

Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. James 2:17 NRSV.

This part of the Epistle for Social Services Sunday got me reflecting on the characteristics of a living faith.

You may recall a mnemonic from your school days which summarised the characteristics of a living thing: **MRS GREN**

- * **Movement** a living thing is able to move
- * **Respire** a living thing is able to release energy from its food.
- * **Sensitive** a living thing is responsive to its environment.
- * **Grow** a living thing can increase in size.
- * **Reproduce** a living thing is able to produce more of its own kind.
- * **Excrete** a living thing is able to get rid of waste materials
- * **Nutrition** a living thing has a method of obtaining chemical energy (food).

So, what would a living faith look like?

- * **Movement**
Is our faith helping us to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ?
Are we travelling (moving) on our journey with God and God's people?
- * **Respire**
Can we echo the words of Shirley Murray's song *Every day*?
*Every day I will offer you, loving God my heart and mind, ...
everyday in your Spirit, I'll find the love and energy.*
Alleluia Aotearoa 36
Does our faith release us for loving action and service in God's world?
- * **Sensitive**
Does our faith enable us to recognise and respond to God?
Are we able to insightfully respond to the people and situations we meet everyday?
- * **Grow**
Is our faith growing and maturing? How do we know?
What are we doing to facilitate this growth to maturity?
- * **Reproduce.**
Are we helping to bring others to faith?

Are we contributing to the faith development of others?

* **Excrete**

Are we addressing issues which will damage our faith or could destroy it?

Do we need to talk with a priest, a friend, a spiritual director so that we may recognise and eliminate unhelpful actions or attitudes?

* **Nutrition**

What feeds and sustains our faith? Regular Prayer? Regular reading and reflection on Scripture? Regular Worship? Regular fellowship with other Christians? Regularly receiving Holy Communion?

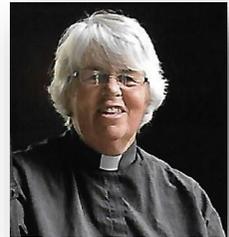
Or is our faith starving because it lacks the nutrition it needs?

Jesus said that a tree is known by its fruit. (Matthew 7:16). No fruit comes from a dead tree.

If our faith is alive, rather than dead, we will bear good fruit- the fruit of the Spirit which will last for eternity- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

Vivienne Galletly.

DSD Dunedin



*To be a Christian without
prayer is no more possible
than to be alive without
breathing.*

Martin Luther King

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)

IMPORTANT

As your Cursillo Diocese is now receiving a PDF copy of the magazine and has been asked to distribute it electronically to all Cursillistas, you will have the following options when your subscription lapses:

Read it on your Diocesan website Cursillo section (where available) in PDF form.

Receive it in PDF form by email from your Cursillo Diocesan Communications Officer.

Request a hard copy to be printed by your Cursillo Diocesan Communications Officer (at a cost to be determined by your Cursillo Diocesan secretariat.)

Request a PDF copy from the editorial team to be sent directly to you (at no charge) – please provide an email address.

Request that a hard copy continues to be sent from the editorial team at a cost of \$15 per year (3 issues).

**De Colores,
Janice Thorne and Ariel McCracken
Editorial team for Kiwi Cursillo**

