

# Gathered Together

January - June  
2007

Issue 9

"... where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20 KJV)

## Wesley Vale Witness



It is now sometime since I made a contribution to Gathered Together. It is hard to believe that 5 months of 2007 has almost gone.

The WesleyVale Community Church recently celebrated its 98<sup>th</sup> Knife and Fork Tea – approximately 200 folk sharing in the meal. As usual, there was a wonderful group of helpers on the day and we thank God for the energy required and his blessing on this special occasion each year – God willing, we will reach 100!

Members continue to enjoy each others company, meeting for worship and fellowship. Visitors are always made most welcome and usually able to share in a cuppa after the service.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> the church hosted the Ecumenical Service for the churches of Port Sorell and WesleyVale and enjoyed a meal together after the service. Three such services are held each year at different locations within the community – each denomination has a part to play in the service. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet together to encourage each other and share our joys and concerns.

Many of our ladies continue to knit bandages for Leprosy Mission – also baby clothes, warm hats, etc. and very soon will be busy packing shoe boxes again.

We are very blessed to have the support of Rev'd Graham Clarke, a retired Wesleyan Minister, who takes 2 services per month for us, including Holy Communion. Lay preachers fill the remaining Sundays – representatives from Gideons, Compassion, Bible Society, City Mission School and Hospital Chaplaincy and Parakelio (suicide prevention), just to name a few, visit on a regular basis. As a church we have been able to assist these groups as part of our local Mission Work.

The local C.W.A. recently held its yearly church service at WesleyVale Community Church. During the service Mrs. Leslie Young – the National President of C.W.A. spoke about some of the work undertaken by C.W.A. – particularly drought relief. Mrs. Young is the wife of a local farmer and through her the church has been able to give some financial assistance to those in need.

Just recently we invited Fusion Ministries to be involved in a church service which led to our church, together with other denominations within the community, becoming involved in a festival (a family fun time) at Latrobe – a small town about a 10 minute drive from WesleyVale. The idea of the festival was to show God's unconditional love to the community and focus on families doing things together. Some of the activities included face painting, tug of war, water volleyball and a wind tunnel. It was really great to see 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generations joining together and having fun.

The Master of Ceremonies for the day gave a short message, at intervals, about Simpson and his donkey, the sunflower seed and the story of Granny Smith. Pamphlets including these stories were handed out to those attending. A young married couple, Greg and Kathy, continue to work in the area as a part of Fusion's 5 year plan for the North West Coast of Tasmania.

*Yes, God is good, in earth and sky.  
From ocean depths and spreading wood,  
Ten thousand voices seem to cry;  
God made us all and God is good.*

Yes, God is good.

His love endures forever.

Yours in Christ  
Shirley Bramich

---

An atheist professor was teaching a college class. He told the students that he was going to prove that there was no God.

He said, "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you fifteen minutes!"

Ten minutes went by. He kept saying, "Here I am, God. I'm still waiting..."

As he got down to the last couple of minutes, a big 240-pound football player ran up and hit the professor full force, sending him flying off the platform. The professor got up, obviously shaken, and said, "Where did *you* come from? And why did you do that?"

The football player replied, "God was busy. He sent me!"

---

From *A Bundle of Laughs*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books, P 20 (complies with their rules of use)

Three boys are in the playground bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, 'My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £50.'

The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100.'

The third boy says, 'I've beaten you both. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon. And it takes eight people to collect all the money!'

From *A Box of Delights*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books, P 71 (complies with their rules of use)

### Where Do We Go From Here?

Two years ago when we produced the first *Gathered Together*, we believed there was a significant role for such a newsletter as fledgling congregations and groups were finding their feet after making a break from the spiritual homes they had known.

The response to *Gathered Together* reinforced this opinion and we felt God had shown us one small way we could serve Him.

The stories and ideas shared by different groups were varied, interesting, encouraging and showed God at work through His people in ways appropriate for the people involved.

Initially it seemed that many of the groups that had acted in faith to start something new were at something of a loose end, unsure of what the future held. This was not a source of concern as God was leading the way, but rather just left them feeling a little isolated.

Since that time it has become evident that most groups have established links in their communities and with other churches or denominations. The sense of isolation that once existed has diminished.

While we are confident *Gathered Together* met a need and came about as a response to God's leading, we are no longer convinced that it is as useful as it was. God wants us to work for Him, but once that work is done, we don't believe he requires us to continue with it just to keep it going. He has other work for us to do.

Contributions to *Gathered Together* have become less frequent and so, unless it becomes clear that our perception and conclusions are wrong, we don't intend to continue to produce *Gathered Together*.

If your group believes there is still a place for *Gathered Together* (perhaps less frequent or with a modified role), please let us know and send us something we can print and share with others. If you believe *Gathered Together* has run its course, again we would be pleased to know your opinion.

Depending on responses, this may be the last or second last issue.

God has taken us all on a special journey of discovery and faith with Himself. It will be interesting to see where He takes us from here.

ID

All copies of *Gathered Together* can be accessed on the internet (in PDF format) at <http://www.canberraacf.org.au/TNS%20and%20GT.htm> .

A taxi passenger tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped centimeters from a shop window.

For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mister, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylight out of me!"

The passenger apologized and said he didn't realize that a little tap could scare him so much.

The driver replied "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving hearses for the last 25 years."

From *A Bucket of Surprises*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books, P 196 (complies with their rules of use)

## Church / Fellowship Contacts

### Australian Capital Territory

#### **Canberra Christian Fellowship** (in the Methodist Tradition)

Howard & Ruth Bradbury (118 Vasey Cres., Campbell 2612, A.C.T.)  
02 62489574 canberraacf@yahoo.com.au  
Ian Denton (64 Blacket St., Downer 2602, A.C.T.)  
02 62487953 canberraacf@yahoo.com.au

### New South Wales

#### **Bunnaloo Community Church**

(near Deniliquin)

Greg Jasper (RMB 530, Thyra Rd. via Moama 2731, N.S.W.)  
03 54897249 jaspersen@bigpond.com

#### **Church on the Green**

(Beverly Hills)

Peter Wilson (P.O. Box 63, Beverly Hills 2209, N.S.W.)  
02 91538076 pastorpete@ozemail.com.au

#### **Crossway Christian Fellowship**

(Holbrook)

Don Abrahams (92 Swift St., Holbrook 2644, N.S.W.)  
02 60363989 d.abrahams@eftel.net.au

#### **Mountain Hope Church**

(Orange)

Dae Sop Yoon (P.O. Box 8552, Orange 2800, N.S.W.)  
02 63624017 daesopyoon@optusnet.com.au

#### **Narrandera Christian Fellowship**

Tony Smith (20 Argyle St., Narrandera 2700, N.S.W.)  
02 69592652

#### **West Wyalong Community Church**

Allan Melmoth (P.O. Box 15, Wyalong 2671, N.S.W.)  
02 69722180 amelmooth@bigpond.net.au

### Northern Territory

#### **Leanyer Christian Fellowship**

(Darwin)

Rob Porteous (24/52 Leanyer Drive, Leanyer 0812, N.T.)  
08 89271849 rporteous@vtown.com.au

### Queensland

#### **Cunnamulla**

Wayne & Jane Dillon (64 Jane St. (P.O. Box 186), Cunnamulla 4490, Qld.)  
07 46550567 wayne@dillonministries.com

#### **Hope Community Church**

(Townsville)

Matthew & Kathy Bolte (18 Toucan Cres., Condon 4185, Qld.)  
07 47234790 mlbolte@bigpond.net.au

#### **Living Bible Fellowship,**

#### **Goondiwindi Congregational Church**

David Jensen (18 Donald St., Goondiwindi 4390, Qld.)  
07 46714449 dakajens@bigpond.net.au

#### **The Range Christian Fellowship**

(Toowoomba)

Alan Small (58 Kingsford Smith Drive, Toowoomba 4350, Qld.)  
07 46330530 alanrobsmall@dodo.com.au

### South Australia

#### **Clare Valley New Life Church**

Mark White (P.O. Box 80, Clare 5453, S.A.)  
08 88421546 mncwhite@sa.chariot.net.au

#### **Eyre Family Church**

John Adams (P.O. Box 408, Cummins 5631, S.A.)  
0427 004276 adams11@epc.net.au

#### **Home Ground Church**

(Port Neill)

Tony Rodda (P.O. Box 30, Port Neill 5604 S.A.)  
08 86889051  
Kym Shepherd (RMS 35, Butler Tanks 5605 S.A.)  
08 86880040 kjmab@bigpond.com

#### **Pinery Community Church**

Colin & Grace Blacket ("Bee Shaw", Pinery 5460, S.A.)  
08 85277001

#### **Rivergate Christian Community Church**

(Athelstone, Adelaide)

Nick & Mary Hawkes (39 Burnbank Grove, Athelstone 5076, S.A.)  
08 83655107 mary.hawkes@adam.com.au

#### **Southern Gateway Community Church**

(Victor Harbor)

Rob Moores (16 Africaine Drive, Victor Harbor 5211, S.A.)  
08 85521295 southerngatewaycc@hotmail.com

### Tasmania

#### **George Town Christian Fellowship**

John Bigham (188 Old Bangor Tram Rd., Mt. Direction 7252, Tas.)  
03 63948216 barbjb@supernerd.com.au

#### **Wesley Vale Community Church**

Shirley Bramich ("Wren Haven", 35 Chaplins Rd., Moriarty 7307, Tas.)  
03 64269369 fax. 03 64269370

### Victoria

#### **Catani Community Church**

(West Gippsland)

Harry & Diane Brown (625 Heads Rd., Catani 3981, Vic.)  
03 56294250 hdcabro@sympac.com.au

#### **Community Church of Kyabram**

John Hosking (4 Emu Close, Kyabram 3620, Vic.)  
03 58531010 janice\_john\_hosking@hotmail.com

#### **Community Church Lockington**

Allan Johnson (494 Willow Grove Rd., Echuca 3564, Vic.)  
03 54837523

#### **Invergordon-Katandra Community Church**

Lawrence Morley (RMB 4350., Numurkah 3636, Vic.)  
03 58655223

#### **Meeniyana Christian Fellowship**

Les Smith (1835 South Gippsland Highway, Meeniyana 3956, Vic.)  
03 56647310 ruthless@dcsi.net.au

### Western Australia

#### **Katanning Wesleyan Methodist Church**

John Taylor (38 Clive St., Katanning 6317, W.A.)  
08 98212490 revjohn@wn.com.au

## "Gathered Together" Contacts

#### **Gathered Together** editor

Ian Denton (64 Blacket St., Downer 2602, A.C.T.)  
02 62487953 canberraacf@yahoo.com.au  
Howard & Ruth Bradbury (118 Vasey Cres., Campbell 2612, A.C.T.)  
02 62489574 canberraacf@yahoo.com.au

#### distribution