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KBC LIFE AND MINISTRIES

PASTOR'S OVERVIEW

Our year began with a very moving AGM as people shared what God had laid on their hearts through the individual study series entitled "Listening to God's voice."

Based on materials prepared by the regional ministers of the Baptist Union of Victoria, it was encouraging to hear the ways in which folk had been challenged personally, as well as in relation to our life together, through reflection on the Biblical witness.

Arising from this input the Deacons have focussed on four areas:

- Developing/deepening spiritual growth
- Ongoing outreach in the community
- Continued mixing of ages, and
- Strengthening our capacity, processes and communication.

One of the encouraging things this year has been to see people growing in Christ-likeness. A number of folk have opened their hearts and their homes (quite literally) to strangers and newcomers, and several have moved out of their comfort zones to extend hospitality and friendship to folk on the margins in our society. In so doing people have not only expressed the love of Christ in very practical ways but have often discovered new gifts and abilities and found joy in service.

Given consumer-driven trends in our society more generally, this counter-cultural pattern of seeking to give rather than get has been a positive witness to the power of the Gospel to break down dividing walls and help people to be transformed rather than conforming to the world in which we live.

In the morning services, Ken Manley's teaching on the theme "A faith to live by"; our Advent series on the prophets' expectations of the Messiah; studies in 1 Peter; our Lenten focus in the lead up to Easter; and messages on Good news for sharing; Psalms; and the book of Hosea, have stimulated our thinking. (See the NightChurch report for evening themes.) And we are grateful to those who have assisted in worship leading and preaching through the year, especially during our time back in Africa.



Liz and Rod Pell in Zambia, June 2008, with Henry and Catherine Mukonda, Chiyulo and Timey. Henry is the pastor of Kitwe Evangelical Church.

While correspondence with our former students from the Theological College of Central Africa (TCCA) is a demanding leisure activity, it was a joy to see almost all of them serving as Pastors, Evangelists, Chaplains, Theological Educators and community development workers. Our month in Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa enabled us to catch up with more than 100 of them in person, and we are grateful to God for the Deacons' encouragement to take up the invitation to share in the Graduate Enrichment Seminar at TCCA and a pastors' conference in Harare organised by the Baptist Union of Zimbabwe.

In a similar vein, the preaching classes, children's ministry training day, music workshop and internship program here at KBC are seeing an increasing number of people grounded and trained for

ministry. Our goal is not to grow a mega-church, but to be an equipping and sending community focussed on those near and far who have not had the chance to respond to the Good News of Jesus. In responding to needs in our community, it has been encouraging to see our Student Residence, Possums Playgroups and Kindergarten full to capacity and touching so many lives each day. Chat and Chew, Ladies' Evening Fellowship, the Highbury Grove street party, Bush dance, Good Grub and Carrical BBQs have afforded additional opportunities, and special events in the Velvet Lounge are attracting increasingly diverse support and interest.

Liz Taylor's appointment two days a week has enabled us to extend our prayer and small group ministries, providing a range of options for new and older Christians as well as times before and after services for one-on-one prayer support.

Reading the Mission, Aid and Development group report, one cannot help but marvel at the way God is prompting people to serve during their overseas travels, and we give thanks for what is being learnt and built on in the process.

Opportunities for inter-generational links over morning tea, Alpha courses, sermon/small group series on 1 Peter, church camp, prayer meetings and hospitality lunches have helped to build people into our congregational life. People early in their faith journeys have learned from the wisdom and experience of those further along in their relationship with God, while longer-term believers have gained from the enthusiasm and ideas of younger ones. It's been great to see new people stepping forward to be involved.



Michelle and Stephen Duke welcomed and commissioned to their new role, 3.8.08.

Liz Taylor, appointed to pastoral team 16.10.07.

In this regard, the appointment of Grace Munro as our office administrator has strengthened our capacity, processes and communications, including revamping the weekly bulletin, photo directory, letters, Nightchurch news and finances. The smooth transition in the management of our Student Residence to Stephen and Michelle Duke highlights the significant ministry and preparation for handover by Chris and Janine de Paiva, and we are grateful to God for their ongoing relationships with so many former students for whom "The Res" has been home over the last seven and a half years.

Lindsay Smith's willingness to oversee property matters, in addition to working with Meryl, Kingsley Smith, Bev Smith, Liz Taylor and others in pastoral care, is greatly appreciated, and we pray that Ken Manley will soon be back preaching again. Since March it has been invaluable to have three interns (Laura Bracken, James Docking and Andy Hunter) assisting with our growing ministry among young adults. With the conclusion of Tuan Huynh's and Hannah Do's ministry to our Vietnamese congregation there are additional demands on my time there.

As Andy Hunter summarised the Nightchurch series on "The Church and Spiritual Gifts" he noted the emphasis on love which had come through each message from the members of the preaching class. Love for God; love for one another; love for those in our street/neighbourhood; and love for those further afield.

As you read through the reports that follow we trust you will respond in thankfulness to God for the evidence of His Spirit at work as we seek to follow in the ways of Jesus. Each person in the KBC community is important and we value the unity He brings in the rich diversity of backgrounds, gifts and callings which together make up this part of His body. To Him be the praise and glory.

Rod and Liz Pell

VIETNAMESE CONGREGATION

Pastor Tuan's leaving



We'll start this report with the event on Sunday 17th August 2008, where we said goodbye to Pastor Tuan Huynh, Hannah Do and their two daughters, Tuong-Vy and Ha-Vy. After five years of being the Pastor to the Vietnamese congregation at Kew, Pastor Tuan offered his resignation in December 2007 citing that it was time for him to take his Sabbatical, and he was confident that the congregation can continue without him until another pastor is found. After a time of discernment and prayer between December last year and April this year, Pastor Tuan felt that it was the right thing to do and we agreed on the time for this to take place.

It is with sadness for everyone in the congregation that Pastor Tuan has left us since we have built a strong relationship with him and his family and he and Hannah have done much for the congregation over the years, but it is also a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to go through a period of discernment during the experience and constructively work through it.

The next steps

At the beginning of this year, representatives from the Australian and the Vietnamese deacons met several times specifically to look at the history of the Vietnamese congregation at Kew and to discuss future directions. The discussions were extremely helpful for the deacons to reflect on the Vietnamese Ministry at Kew over the last 27 years, the challenges as well as the opportunities. This initiative formed part of the overall objective over the last several years for the Vietnamese congregation to identify its mission and direction for the future. We have adopted much of this work from the *Purpose Driven Church* model suggested by Rev R. Warren. It has been a very helpful model to focus our activities and we have seen great results from it.



With the departure of Pastor Tuan, the congregation is now going through a preparation period to start the search for a new pastor. An internal search committee has been formed and ongoing discussion on the criteria and expectations is happening. We are praying regularly for God's guidance on this matter and we ask that the whole congregation pray for us during this time.

What's happened in the last 12 months

It has been a wonderful year for us, and we have seen God's work in many areas. We have seen commitment from a number of people who have been missing from church many years; we have a number of new converts—our own family members and new people—both older and younger, including several overseas students from Vietnam. We see this as a great opportunity that God has for us, as there is a large number of overseas students in Melbourne, many of them never having heard of Jesus before in their lives. They are a long way from home, and Vietnamese faith communities like ours can offer them much needed emotional and spiritual support and guidance. It is also the reason why we are looking into offering a Young People's Coordinator role to take on this great ministry.

Since we moved the church service from the main church building to the hall, everyone felt that it

was a much better place, even though it does lack a certain touch of a "worship place". We have attempted to address that by adding a few touches to the corner of the hall where we now hold the service every Sunday. We also added a few pieces of audio and visual equipment to further improve what has already been one of the most enjoyable and rewarding part of the service, the singing and praising each week. In fact, we had a couple of young people willing to commit to Jesus out of the praising part of the worship (even before the sermon!)

The fellowship time after each service is always great, people often stay back till late to share their stories over the food and drink; we find it is one of the best times for people to feel a part of the community.

Weekly Saturday Bible classes are regularly attended by a small group of people. Pastor Tuan led this class over the year and Khoi will continue every Saturday evening. People attending the class are very committed – we have people coming all the way from Springvale, Waverley and St Albans to attend the class.

Upon request from the young people, we will start another Bible class every Sunday morning in Vietnamese and English for our young people. We are also looking forward to the opportunity to work with the young people of the three churches on Highbury Grove (an initiative that our friend Hoi-Nap Siu is coordinating for us).

The whole congregation has also gone through a membership course this year, which helped to strengthen the fundamentals in the purpose of the church, resulting in the further commitment of a number of people.

Although we lost a number of members due to their relocation to the far western suburbs, at the same time we have had new members joining us from the far southern part of Melbourne.



Ex-members

The end of this year will see an International/Inter-denominational event being held for the first time in Queensland, hosted by the Vietnamese Baptist Church whose Pastor is Hoa Trinh, who became a Christian and was a member of our congregation a number of years ago.

Another ex-member of our congregation is Pastor Tin Van Pham, who was the youth leader in the 1980s and pastored several churches before he returned to Kew a few years ago. Pastor Tin Van Pham (not to be confused with Pastor Tin Nguyen) and his wife Anh are now missionaries in Cambodia, working with the Christian Mission Alliance.

Our ex-secretary Son Dao is still assisting a CMA church in Sydney and continuing his Theological studies. His mother-in-law and aunt are still attending Kew regularly.

Needs

We are encouraged by the many opportunities but also face many challenges. Karen Doan and Hannah have been working hard with the children's ministry over the years. Now without Hannah,

Karen is struggling to keep up with quite a number of children ranging from newborns to 12-year-olds. The task of searching for a new pastor both for the congregation and to work with the young people will take priority and we would appreciate your prayer in this particular task.

We appreciate the help and support from the English-speaking church and we aim that in the next 12 months we would have more fellowship opportunities between the two congregations.

Khoi Doan, Secretary.

NIGHTCHURCH

The first half of the year has been a goodie. It's awesome to see stacks of new people doing stacks of new things.

Some of these "things" include:

Small groups: Girls' groups x 2
 Guys' group
 Basketball
 Youth Group
 Sunday Arvo Group
 40 Days of Purpose
 Preaching Class
 Geoff and Jenn Trevaskis' group

Prayer meetings: Tuesday morning
 Tuesday night guys
 Friday morning Student Res
 Sunday arvo

And preaching series: 1 Peter
 What do you believe and how does that look in your life?
 Sexuality and Relationships
 Spiritual Gifts
 Post Modernity

We have explored a range of issues through these series. They were presented by a large number of people, including guests, members of the congregation and Rod Pell.



The NightChurch community has a great concern for the neighbourhood and the world

People from NightChurch are also involved in a range of other organisations such as:

- The Oaktree Foundation – an aid and development agency run by young adults
- Concern Australia – working in Collingwood highrise flats
- ESA Country Ministries camps – discipleship camps for young adults
- Scripture Union Theos – outreach program at the beach
- SUFM camps – another outreach program at the beach
- The C's Camping Program at Corop, including leaders' training
- World Vision 40-hour-famine
- Engineers without borders – an international development initiative using engineering grads and undergrads
- Relay for Life for cancer research

Also quite a few community-focused events have taken place. Such as:

- The Bush Dance – a fundraiser for World Vision
- The Philippines Fundraiser to produce a documentary on Smokey Valley slums
- Snow Trips
- Camps
- The Highbury Project – promoting interaction with churches and neighbours in Highbury Grove
- Carrical Boarding house in Hawthorn monthly BBQ
- Parties
- Dinners
- And many more random adventures...



Some of the highlights have been:

- Personal growth in faith and relationships and growth in numbers
- Greater number of people involved in the range of church activities – Prayer, Supper, Music, Curating, Speaking, Clicking etc.
- Many visitors
- Members of NightChurch in many parts of the world in the short and long term – Yemen, Cambodia, Netherlands, Hayman Island, Philippines, Fiji
- More prayer and planning by curators for the services. This included pre-series meetings at which all those involved can drive the series with the same vision and purpose, not just one service.
- Prayer ministry after services
- Whilst we still don't start on time, the majority of people hang around for hours.

Another highlight this year was the young adult involvement in the Church camps. Firstly the Young Adults Weekend Away in Narbethong and then later in the year the Church Camp at Anglesea. Both were great times to get to know each other a little more than the "cup-of-tea-after-church" friendship.

And finally, a look ahead to next year...where we anticipate more excitement and growth in this community. One of the exciting pursuits is a group of people planning to move to inner Collingwood to develop a community-focussed lifestyle there. This group will stay connected to Kew Baps, and provide a link for our community to get involved in what's happening in Collingwood.

It's definitely been a busy year so far, and a stack of fun. But of course the greatest and ongoing highlight has been growing individually and as a community to be more like Jesus. This is our purpose from which all these activities flow.

James Docking, in consultation with Andy Hunter and Laura Bracken



DEACONS

Challenges met and challenges to be faced

The church has responded to exciting and interesting challenges in the past year or so. The largely positive responses to those challenges have helped make it a great year for the deacons – Glynn Chambers, Chris de Paiva, Andrew Kollmorgen, Ray Leigh (Chairperson), Helen Lewis, Grace Munro (Secretary), Steve Taylor (Treasurer), Deirdre Willis and Rod Pell. The addition of Helen and Glynn to the team has been very positive and we hope that this AGM sees the addition of one or two people from the younger end of our church.

NightChurch: God has grown NightChurch beyond our expectations this year, and numerical growth has been accompanied by spiritual growth and strengthened leadership. Some people who have had key leadership roles have moved to a different place in their journey – some literally moving out of the district, others needing a break from leadership, and some shifting their primary links to the morning service due to changing life circumstances.

The challenge was that rapid growth could lead to a loss of the sense of “family” and the open, honest sharing which has typified NightChurch. The response has been impressive, demonstrating God’s goodness and the spiritual vitality of many in NightChurch. The Interns and others have been diligent in helping new people integrate. There is a healthy group of emerging leaders coordinating music teams, leading worship services, handling organisational aspects, and much more. The Preaching Class and openings for participants to preach have been very positive features of NightChurch. Small groups are another great strength. The centrality of prayer – in formal and informal settings – is vitally important.

With the growth, it would have been easy for the group to become self-satisfied and inward-focussed, but that has not been so. Excellent initiatives have been taken in reaching out to others – in basketball games, music gigs, barbeques at Carrical, the bush dance, camps and beach missions and much more. More initiatives are being planned, including ministry in the Collingwood high-rise migrant and refugee communities. Also, the global perspective of many in NightChurch is evident in fundraising for various projects and the visits of young adults to cross-cultural overseas work.

We are grateful to God for all he is doing in NightChurch – in the community as a whole and in the lives of individuals – and pray that there will be continuing positive responses to the challenges ahead.

Morning congregation: Changes and challenges in the Morning Congregation are less overt and therefore maybe not as easy to address. Several people who have been in leadership have moved on – some to their eternal reward, others now unable to do all that they would love to keep doing.

Attendance levels remain stable. An increased number of people from the morning congregation have participated in small groups and some people take the opportunity to have someone pray with them before or after the services.



Morning congregation August 24 2008, with a visiting group from Wangaratta

If we are to continue to grow – numerically and spiritually – our challenge is to have additional people step forward to provide leadership and practical help.

Vietnamese congregation: The Vietnamese congregation is in a period of significant transition. In early years, the ministry focussed on people recently arrived from Vietnam with huge physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Now, most participants are well settled in Australia and have an increasing sense of being “Australian” as much as “Vietnamese”.

The congregation now comprises mainly young families and young adults. A few Vietnamese tertiary students from a Buddhist background have been attending. Tuan Huynh and his wife Hannah Do have left the congregation in a healthy position after their five years of ministry, but there are challenges ahead as the group discerns God's desires for the future and works out how the relationship of the Vietnamese group with other parts of the KBC community will be expressed.

Major ministries: In our major ministry areas, it is encouraging to see growing involvement by church people. Several people attend **Possums Playgroup** to help with sessions each week. The Interns, residents of The House and others in the NightChurch community work hard to build links with young people at the **Student Residence**.

At the Res, we have had a smooth transition in leadership, with Chris and Janine de Paiva concluding seven and a half years of effective ministry, and Michelle and Stephen Duke starting in the role. We have been blessed by God in having Amy Hill and Glynn Chambers as support staff during this transition time. Amy will be moving on to a new place in life and ministry next year, so a replacement staff member is needed.

Ministry at **Karana** is an increasing challenge. Earlier, residents had the capacity to provide leadership for the Sunday Karana services and weekday chapel services and provide pastoral care for one another. This capacity is diminishing as longer-term residents age and already frail newcomers enter. Few can now participate in worship outside of Karana, with only a handful coming to KBC services. A challenge is how we respond to the changing needs of Karana residents and how we best support the chaplain, Ruth Prentice, and other members of staff.

The challenge of unity in diversity: Many people participate in only one of the congregational groups, and some may have little interest in or awareness of the other congregations. Similarly, people involved in particular small groups or ministries may know little of other groups and ministries. In itself, this is natural. It becomes an issue only if members of any group see themselves as more important in the church than others or do not consider other groups when trying to discern God's direction for the church. The challenge is for each part to remember that there are other equally important parts, to retain a healthy unity and to strengthen the whole through cross-fertilization.

Prayer focus: There has been an increasing emphasis on prayer this year. New prayer groups have started, existing groups have strengthened and opportunities have been provided before and after services to request prayer. If we are to continue our journey with God, it is imperative that we meet the challenge of ongoing growth in our prayer life.

Children and youth: We are grateful to Liz Pell for her remarkable work in coordinating the teams leading Sunday School and Youth Groups for more than eight years. The constant demands of this role are costly.

The Sunday School and the Youth Groups are small. The multiple pulls on family life, the reality that many participants are not regular in attendance and the uncertainty of numbers on any given day make it difficult to run an effective, consistent program.

We are grateful for all who have been teaching and leading, but need more people who will share the vision for our children and youth and help with the workload. These are some of the challenges to be faced.

Financial and practical challenges: As Steve Taylor indicates in his Treasurer's report, it was good to see ministry needs covered financially for 2007/08. We have been able to continue



upgrading of some of our buildings, as Lindsay Smith reports, and have added paid personnel to ease the load on Rod Pell.

However, the deacons have struggled in bringing a recommended budget for 2008-09. The church's growth means increased ministry needs, but we face the huge challenge of lifting financial giving sufficiently to cover the growing personnel, building and administrative costs.

With help from George Dullege and others, we have improved the technical capacity of the church's computer network and a growing number of people are helping with audio/data projection aspects of worship services. But there are still challenges to be met in enhancing reliability in this area. John Hollow's provision of recordings of services has been appreciated by those unable to attend.

Our "public appearance" was looking dated, and new logos, letterheads, websites and a new look bulletin have helped update us. New signs are in process, and you could pray that we receive Council approval without delay. Thanks to Andrew Kollmorgen and Kristy Brown for their work on all of this.

Personnel: Liz Taylor's increased contribution as a paid member of the ministry team has been a beneficial move. The increase in the number of interns and their effective ministry has been very positive. If at all possible, it would be good to have four interns next year. Some tasks previously done in an honorary capacity by the treasurer and secretary as well as tasks previously done by the Pastor in his "time off" have moved into the church office role.

Again we acknowledge with gratitude the unassuming but extremely effective leadership of Rod Pell. His commitment to, and the quality of, his pastoral care of the congregation and people beyond our community are quite remarkable. He is very generous in his affirmation, training and encouragement of others in developing and using their gifts. We are blessed by God in having him and Liz at KBC.

"Ownership": In our last AGM Deacons' report, we spoke of the challenge for each of us in the church to increase our sense of "ownership" of church life, with all feeling as if we are at the core of church life rather than being observers or casual participants. We referred also to the need for others to take greater responsibility for things carried by Rod and Liz Pell.

Thankfully, there are some people in the church who are responding positively to those challenges. While it is hard to assess, it would seem that we have resisted the temptation to drift into complacency or "maintenance" mode. We praise God for that, but that challenge remains. While recognising that there are times when any one of us might need to take a break or to be carried for a while due to particular circumstances, on the whole we move forward only as all participate actively in the journey.

The diaconate: Individually, deacons are involved in a variety of aspects of church life. As a group we (and the pastoral team for that matter) cannot be involved in every aspect of church life at a deep level. Many groups and ministries in the church operate very well with little input from the leadership team, and that surely is a very healthy situation.

Along with the pastoral team, the deacons try to keep the "big picture" in mind, encourage groups and individuals to follow directions which are perceived to be God-guided, and help ensure the provision of spiritual, practical and financial resources to achieve what God wants.

During the year we have focussed on the four areas which emerged during the series on *Listening to God's voice*:

- Developing/deepening spiritual growth
- Ongoing outreach in the community
- Continued mixing of ages, and
- Strengthening our capacity, processes and communication.

As with everyone in the church, we are very conscious of our inadequacies, our dependence on God who provides wisdom in response to our requests (James 1:5), and our need of your prayer support.

Grace Munro, Secretary



GROWING OUR PRAYER

"My house shall be called a house of prayer" (Jesus in Matthew 21:9)

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face..." (2 Chronicles 7:14a)

At the February church meeting, Glynn Chambers, one of our deacons, spoke about his strong desire to see prayer become more a part of our Church culture, something that we do often – together, alone, in expected settings and in unexpected ones.

Prayer certainly does happen at KBC – in our small groups, in our prayer meetings, before church, after church, informally and formally in worship – but growth is always possible. Prayer is a simple act yet also a great mystery. We may strive to pray better but we also need to remember prayer is God's gift to us, not something we achieve. I would encourage you to join a group that prays – to pray with others is one of the best ways to grow in prayer and in our relationship with God.

Tuesday prayer breakfast @ 7am

Last week, being five minutes late, I took the stairs to the Velvet Lounge two at a time and tried to enter inconspicuously, slip into my usual seat on the couch and catch my breath. No such luck as I was asked about a "matter for prayer" the moment I sat down! We all arrive at predictable times, Deirdre the earliest, as she makes the porridge for breakfast. This is much appreciated by everyone especially on cold mornings. (We revert to cereal in the summer!) There are usually about 10 of us, including the three interns (Andy, James and Laura) who make a great contribution and keep the needs of the Student Res and the Nightchurch Community before us. Our prayers focus on the church community as well as personal needs and also include prayer for those serving God overseas. It is a great way to start the day – why not give it a try, especially with the warmer weather coming, it is not quite so hard to get up early! (Liz Taylor)



Tuesday Prayer Breakfast. Deirdre Willis is an excellent successor to Ken Lyall in cooking the porridge

Tuesday prayer meeting @ 3pm

We meet each Tuesday afternoon at our place. After a short devotion, we spend time in prayer for church family needs and world needs. Although the group is small it is a rich time of fellowship.

We would love anyone who is free to come and share this time with us. You would be very welcome and I'm sure be blessed. (Val McPherson)

Sunday prayer meeting @ 9.30am

Between five and ten folk gather each Sunday morning before the worship service. It is a privilege to pray for our Pastor, the preacher and worship leaders and any special needs drawn to our attention. This is a low key gathering and some people must come and go to meet other obligations. Not everyone vocalises their prayers. New friends are warmly welcomed. (Kingsley Smith)

Friday Young Adults prayer meeting @ 8am

A group of young adults (around seven of us) meet in The House each Friday morning. Our main focus is to pray for the Res, the broader community and our world. We all really enjoy meeting together to be with our God as a family as well as friends. (Glynn Chambers)

Other Groups

Recently Mark Payne has set up a guys' prayer meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday evening and Erin Juers has taken responsibility for the new-look 6.30pm Sunday evening prayer meeting. I am grateful for their willingness to be involved in this way. Such developments are very encouraging!

Opportunity for Prayer

After the March ministry team meeting, it was decided to set up an "opportunity for prayer" at the conclusion of the morning services. The Nightchurch community had already started doing this, with two people being available to talk and pray with individuals after the service at the back of the church. This had met with an enthusiastic response.

In the morning service, an older person and a younger person are rostered each week for 10 minutes after the service at the front of the Church and Liz Taylor is available for 15 minutes before the service. Sometimes one or two people come for prayer, other mornings no one comes but we have decided to keep offering this opportunity. I am grateful to the members of the team who make this possible – Howard Barclay, Glynn Chambers, James Docking, Amy Hill, Andy Hunter, Helen Lewis, Val McPherson, Bev Smith, Kingsley Smith, Meryl Smith.

A Night of Prayer

The Velvet Lounge has been the venue for two more nights and one evening of prayer – one late in 2007, another at the start of the 2008 Student Res year and one on 5 September with a focus on the challenges and decisions facing us at this time. As well as praying for others, time is given to personal prayer and reflection, with music, Scripture reading, journal writing and painting being used as means of worship and connecting with God and ourselves. Thanks to Steph Bowers who has organised these nights and others who have assisted her. I think all who have shared in them have been blessed and refreshed in their faith journey and in their commitment to prayer.

Liz Taylor



It is not obligatory to have the surname Smith to be involved in pastoral care!

PASTORAL CARE

"A listening ear is one of the gems of life." (Jean Jeffery)

Many people in our community exercise a ministry of care to others, through listening to someone at morning tea, through a phone call, a card, an email, a visit, a gift of food or flowers or some other kindness. Such acts done in love mean a great deal and are a very valuable way of building community.

Small groups and other gatherings such as Ladies Evening fellowship and Chat and Chew can also be special places of care and encouragement. This is a vital part of their ministry, especially as our Church community grows and it becomes harder to know everyone.

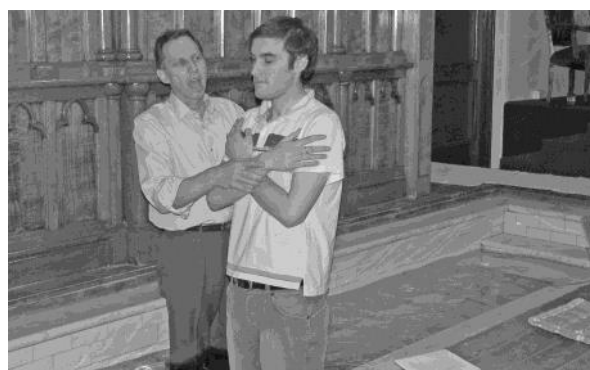
In addition to the above, a pastoral care group led by Rod Pell meets every few months to share ideas and materials we have found helpful and to engage in prayer. The group includes Ken and Edith Lyall, Valarie McPherson, Grace Munro, Valerie Rohde, Robyn Scott, Bev Smith, Kingsley Smith, Lindsay and Meryl Smith, Liz Taylor and Deirdre Willis.

We are very grateful to those who assist at Karana by regular visiting – Bev Smith and Valerie Rohde – or by taking devotions at Chapel: Ken Manley, Kingsley Smith, and Lindsay Smith. Lindsay also voluntarily stands in for Ruth Prentice, the chaplain at Karana, when she is away.

Liz Taylor

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

Formal membership numbers remain stable, but the ongoing overall growth is encouraging. The majority of the growth is among young adults, and therefore in the NightChurch community, though the Vietnamese congregation has also seen good growth this year. It is even more gratifying to note that the numerical growth is accompanied by spiritual, personal and corporate growth. There have been several people who have come to faith during the year in various contexts – through personal contact, the Student Residence, Chat and Chew. Many more have enhanced their gifts in ministry, including in leadership of small groups and worship services.



Andy Mitchell's baptism

This year has also been a year of losses, with the passing of six of our loved older members, as well as three others who have been part of our congregation previously. Stephen Kidner 3.1.08, Bob Pocklington 26.4.08, Alex Stewart 28.3.08, Betty Cordner 8.6.08, Jean Jeffery 9.7.08, Max Tyler 16.8.08, Joyce Bewsher Dec 07, Grace Kennedy 13.9.07, Elvie White 30.12.07, Harold Nicholls 10.8.08. They are greatly missed.

We praise God for his goodness to KBC!

Grace Munro, Secretary

Membership numbers last year — as at September 2007

	English Speaking	Vietnamese Speaking	Totals
Members	99	20	119
Absentee members	7	2	9
Active non-members	<u>125</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>135</u>
Totals	231	32	263

Active members

Accepted into membership 07-08	English 6	Vietnamese. 13	Total 19
Transferred into membership 07-08	English 2	Vietnamese 0	Total 2
Moved from Active to Absentee Roll	English 2	Vietnamese 2	Total 4
Members who have died 07-08	English 6	Vietnamese 0	Total 6
Members no longer attending whose names have been removed by Roll Revision	English 0	Vietnamese 2	Total 2

Absentee members

Active members moved by roll revision to become Absentee members	English 2	Vietnamese 2	Total 4
Absentee members removed by roll revision	English 3	Vietnamese 0	Total 3

Active participants who are not members

Active non-members who have moved away during 07-08	English 16	Vietnamese 2	Total 18
Active non-members who became members during 07 – 08	English 6	Vietnamese 6	Total 12
New active non-members during 07–08	English 43	Vietnamese 8	Total 51

Membership numbers at September 2008

	English Speaking	Vietnamese	Congregation Totals
Members	99	29	138
Absentee members	6	4	10
Active non-members	<u>146</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>156</u>
Totals	251	43	294

CHOIR

The Choir enjoys contributing to the music of the worship service each month. Our special efforts at Easter and Christmas are much appreciated by those attending as well as the Hymnfest and the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon. We are able to muster a good group of singers for the special events but numbers for the monthly choir are dwindling as some long serving members feel unable to continue to make a regular commitment. New members to the choir are always welcome.

A lot of work goes into preparing the Hymnfest and we were disappointed by the lack of support from many of the regular worshippers at Kew this year. We would be very interested in any feedback from the congregation. Perhaps the date is not suitable or the structure of the service needs to be changed or it is past its 'use by' date and can be laid to rest. Let us know your thoughts.

My thanks to Gwyneth Smith for her wonderful contribution to the music of Kew Baptist and especially her support of the choir. Thanks also to Lindsay Smith for all his work in preparing the special services. Finally a big thank you to all who sing in the choir for giving of their time and talent to the glory of God.

Ian Lowe



MUSIC TEAMS

The music at Kew continues to be a great blessing, and a wonderful way to express our worship to God in response to His love.

The leadership team is currently ten strong, with five new members joining us this year. It's been sad to say goodbye to Ryan Harper, Nic Barclay and Andy Harkness in terms of leadership in the teams, but it's been great to see new people getting involved.

The team loves to encourage the church to have a go and be a part of music, and are diligent in trying to include as many people as they can. There are currently nearly 50 people from our congregation participating from time to time. If you want to be involved talk to someone who is.

Please continue to pray for the people involved in music, as it is a big commitment for the leadership team.

Andrew Hunter

Thank you to Gwyneth Smith for her regular organ playing, David Mynard for playing the piano once a month at Kew and also at Karana services, and to Shirley Tuckwell who helps out from time to time on the organ.



SMALL GROUPS

Small groups are great places for learning, fellowship and prayer. As the church grows in size, small groups become even more important as places where we can get to know some people more deeply and be supported and encouraged in our faith. Groups can also have an outward focus through prayer and in shared ministry.

In term 4 last year, advent groups were run, one in the afternoon, one in the evening. We used the book "Simply Wait" – it had readings and reflections to be done beforehand and findings were then shared at the meeting. The groups ran for four weeks, from mid-November to early December, and were very helpful in preparing our hearts for Christmas.

The "Listening to God" exercises done in August last year resulted in many people expressing a desire to have a church-wide study series with related sermons in term 1 this year. Rod and others put together a 1 Peter study book and 13 small groups were organised. People met in different homes to do the six studies for the 1 Peter series, with 120 people involved. Many groups had mixed ages to facilitate learning and sharing.

In term 2 there were 14 small groups (two youth groups, seven young adult groups, three groups of mixed ages and two older groups) with 121 people involved. These groups included Alpha and Back to Basics groups, Bible Study Groups, a preaching class and a basketball outreach group. In addition there were five prayer groups.

In term 3 all but one of the Back to Basics groups have concluded, the Alpha groups have also finished. At the time of writing there were 13 small groups (one youth group, seven young adult groups, two groups of mixed ages and three older groups) with more than 110 people involved. There are also six prayer groups. It has been very encouraging to see the young adults forming different groups and new people taking on the leadership roles. The two girls' groups and guys' groups are more long term than topical groups, which is attractive to some people. At present the Tuesday afternoon group is doing a series on the Psalms, on Thursdays the mixed age group are doing *40 Days of Purpose*, the Mont Albert group are studying Jonah, Joel and Amos, and the Kew group are tackling Jeremiah.

My sincere thanks to all who host or lead a group – it is a vital ministry you are involved in and well worth the time and effort.

If you are not in a small group but would like to be, please see me. Groups meet at different times and study various topics so there is likely to be a group suitable for you.

Liz Taylor



Small groups meet often, and annual events such as the Young Adult Camp (Feb 08) and Church Camp (July 08) strengthen the friendships, learning and growth.

ALPHA COURSE

The Alpha Course has again been a popular small group this past year, allowing people who aren't sure about faith to look into Christianity, and helping Christians to take another look at the basics. Several groups have been run, with the 2008 groups starting later due to the 1 Peter study. This meant that more students from the Residence came along as they had more of a chance to settle in. However this also meant that numbers dwindled around exam and study periods.

With the Alpha videos becoming quite dated, the younger groups are finding it more difficult to relate to. In coming courses, we may look to a newer Alpha series or run the course with another video series such as 'Introducing God'.

Many thanks to Andy Mitchell, Frances Schuringa, David McKeown, Tanya Pell and Katie Adams for leading and helping out with Alpha this past year. If you would like to get involved with Alpha, or are interested in attending a group, please contact the church office.

Luke Gibbons, Alpha Coordinator

LADIES EVENING FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies' Evening Fellowship meets monthly at various members' homes and we offer our thanks to each host. We have had good attendances this year, averaging 15. This year Edith Lyall did not stand for Vice President and Janelle Benwell has accepted that position.

Our speakers have been most interesting - Alison Jeganathen spoke about 'Women in the Bible,' speaking on her topic from a different perspective to any we had previously heard; Ann Seeley gave us an insight into Harold's and her work overseas in many poor countries, helping financially as well as teaching people to fend for themselves; Alison Lyall gave us an interesting evening telling us about her work as a Cartographer, showing us all kinds of maps and even reading passages from the Bible where 'maps' were mentioned. We look forward to hearing from some of our members who are now overseas on holidays later in 2008.

Through our Annual appeals, donations of \$1600.00 were passed on to Baptist World Aid, Baptist Union Victoria, Home Missions, Global Interaction etc.

We give thanks to God for the life and influence of our past President, Jean Jeffery, who was a regular member up to a couple of months before her passing. Many have been blessed from Jean's contribution to our Fellowship over many years.

Our annual weekend to Marysville was held in April and what a glorious and colourful time of the year to visit this quaint little place; 16 members from our Church and three friends had a wonderful weekend.

Many thanks to Gwen and Arthur Davie for opening their home for our Annual Dinner every August and also to Valda Renshaw who is unable to attend our meetings but sends out birthday and get-well cards.

In closing, let us thank God for his goodness and guidance to us all and remember those of our members who are unable to attend our meetings.

Elva Dyer



Ladies Evening Fellowship Annual Dinner, August 08.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sunday School

With some 25 children on our roll, 10.30 am in the Hall is usually a buzz of singing, stories, talk and activities. A dedicated team of teachers faithfully prepare age appropriate Bible lessons each week (usually based on Scripture Union material titled "Light"), and activities to reinforce the message.

During the school holidays the children are supervised together in the Hall and chat while doing activity sheets and colouring.

This year the Sunday School teachers were again encouraged by the Children and Family Ministry Seminar run by Sue Bluett for the BUV.

Rory and Jenny Chambers, Janine de Paiva, Tarnya and Ryan Harper, Claire Kearney, Kylie Kollmorgen, Tina Le, Christine Muller, Marisol Pizarro-Cardenas, Ash and Bron Wright, Natalie Pell and Liz Pell have all been part of the team which provides this important ministry to our families and as a Church fellowship we are very grateful for the way they exercise their gifts for the benefit of the whole body of Christ at KBC. If you would like to join this wonderful group of people and test out or develop gifts in this area, please let me know.

Liz Pell



Thank you to all who lead the children's segments in the morning services!

Creche

From one to six children meet in the creche each week under loving, caring supervision. We use the Possums Playgroup toys and this provides plenty of interest and activity for our pre-Kinder children. During the school holidays we bring our own toys.

The roster is made up each four months and most people take one turn each roster, except for Melinda Le who continues to serve our families in this way once a month.

It's lovely to see children worshipping with their parents and also having the opportunity to share in age-appropriate activities together during the second half of the service. Thank you creche team.

Liz Pell



Youth Group

Our Youth Group (Secondary age young people) meet on Sunday afternoons for Bible Study and tea together, and on alternate Friday nights during term for special events. Here are some of our reflections on the past year:

- *Youth Bible studies happen each Sunday at 5 pm. We've learnt about evangelism and how we can talk to our friends about God.* Christy
- *In youth group this year we learnt a lot of stuff. One of the things that I took out was that we have been put on this earth to tell others about God and not just tell them but to stick by them and regularly check up on them and their relationship with God.* Annie
- *At the start of the term we started learning about Evangelism in youth group. We learnt how to talk to our non-Christian friends about God and to get to know them first and get to know what makes them 'tick'.* Bec
- *Also in youth group we've done some awesome activities. I really enjoyed camp at Point Lonsdale (thank you Brian and Joyce Garth for the use of your holiday house). It was a great weekend away.* Annie
- *We went to see "Prince Caspian" at Balwyn Cinema – it was a fun day and a good movie to enjoy with your friends.* Bec
- *I liked Church camp and Hunt the Leader at Victoria Gardens was great.* Christy
- *I thought UTurn was really good – I enjoyed the speaker.* Natalie
- *Darkzone with North Balwyn youth group was heaps of fun (thankyou James Hayes for helping out that night).*
- *Nothing beats going to the football - the only thing that spoilt the day was the defeat of West Coast. (Thank you Andy Hunter for joining us).* Jennie
- *The best ever was Amazing Race with North Balwyn youth group because our car won – Jenny, Noni, Natalie and Christy!* Liz
- *It was great to be on Church camp with the youth group and see how the girls' relationships with the Nightchurch crowd had developed (an aspect of youth group which we encourage with open house tea at 6.15 at Pells on a Sunday night).* Steph

We have a great team of youth leaders in Stephanie Bowers, Luke Gibbons, Jennie Taylor, Jenny Chambers and Helen Lewis. We are thankful to God for the role models they provide for our young people.

Liz Pell



Youth Group Camp, November 2007

CHURCH CAMP

Church camp, July 11-13, 2008, was a great opportunity again to get to know some new people and catch up with old friends. This year 114 people shared in the weekend at Anglesea. Our guest speaker was Jillian Stewart from Auburn Baptist who explored the theme *Steps on the Journey*. On Friday night we had fun making our *Who am I* collages, using old magazines. On Saturday morning we had input about companions, choices and decisions we make on the journey, and we also shared in small groups. Then, on Sunday, Jillian led the worship service with Janine de Paiva doing a children's segment.



The meals were excellent at camp this year!

Saturday afternoon saw the adventurous doing the high ropes and the flying fox at Camp Wilkin. Others visited Aireys Inlet, checking out the beach and cliffs and most importantly the coffee shop near the lighthouse. The more hardy types did some kayaking on the river despite the cold weather!

On Saturday evening we enjoyed a delicious roast dinner, with trivia at the tables to challenge us. Damper and marshmallows were cooked at the bonfire which followed, and then we had games in the Hall (*Angels and Assassins* was again very popular).

A special thank you to those who prayed for the camp – I believe God answered your prayers in many ways. Thank you also to those who were camp sponsors – your generosity which enabled some people to attend camp is gratefully acknowledged.

Thanks are also due to the camp committee (Janine de Paiva, Andy Hunter, Leonie Hibbins, Rod Pell) and to many others, especially those who looked after the children. The time and effort you put into the church camp helped to make it a very successful weekend.

If you are interested in being on the Church Camp committee next year, please see Rod Pell.

Liz Taylor



Church Camp—a great time for interaction between different age groups. Rhian Davies, Andrea Smit and Zoe Duke on the trampoline; Milly Pizarro-Cardenas and Ha Vo go boating, Emily Hanscamp and Yasmin McGrath watching the high ropes action.



A preaching class session: Krista Celle, Helen Lewis, Emily Hanscamp, James Hayes, Liz Taylor, Andy Mitchell and Mark Payne.

PREACHING CLASS

The Preaching Class at Kew Baptist has progressed again in 2008. From fledgling beginnings last year with eight students, the vestry has found itself much more tightly packed – there have been as many as 13-14 students at some lessons.

Attendees in 2008 have been – Nic Barclay, Laura Bracken, Krista Celle, Glynn Chambers, Rory Chambers, Michelle Edwards, Emily Hanscamp, James Hayes, Andy Hunter, Mark Juers, Andy Mitchell, Helen Lewis, Mark Payne, Liz Taylor, Geoff Trevaskis and Matthew Wood. We have all been ably guided by Rod Pell, initially covering topics such as “Why do we preach?” and “What is the difference between a lecture and a sermon?” The class has progressed recently to preparing, delivering and reviewing sermons both at NightChurch and occasionally at the morning service; sermons at the evening service have been following the theme defining, identifying and the appropriate use of Spiritual Gifts.

The students really appreciate the opportunity to grow in this ministry and it seems we have discovered some untapped gifts in 2008. The prayers and support of the congregation has been felt and valued immensely. I encourage everyone to offer feedback on the resultant sermons – it means the preacher is doing their job well!

Matt Wood

*Top: L-R: Bonnie Miller; Sam Turner, Robin Madden, Luke Gibbons; Ray Leigh, Rod Pell, Laura Bracken;
Bottom: Deirdre Willis; Ray Leigh, Andrew Kollmorgen; Ben Prime, Rod Pell*



MINISTRY TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

KEW STUDENT RESIDENCE

The second half of 2007 continued to be a great time of developing relationships, fun times and God's blessings on us spiritually. The Formal in October was outstanding with a Masquerade theme, lots of dancing and plenty of gourmet food. The end of year service was an amazing testimony to the work of God in this ministry and a celebration of what an amazing community we are all so blessed to be a part of. The final function for the year was the break-up BBQ. It was a great time of sharing Kris Kringle gifts, farewelling and games in the park.

During this evening we made special mention of our outgoing Senior Students – Christine Day (CD) and Nathan Plant (Sparky). Both these fabulous young people have shown tremendous commitment to the relationships they have developed in this place over several years. We also sadly farewelled our dear staff member Rory Chambers as he prepared for his upcoming wedding to Jenny in the US. Rory has had an incredible ministry within the Hostel/Res for many years, as a student, a House member and a staff member. We have always appreciated his energy, humour and passion for sharing his faith in Christ through real relationships – and he has been our resident rock star! It is great that he has continued to keep his links with us, even once he left.

But with the sadness of losing Rory, we had great delight in welcoming his baby brother Glynn onto our impressive staff team. Glynn has worked brilliantly alongside Amy. He has an amazing way of communicating with the students and is a much valued asset to this community.



Left and right: Amy Hill and Glynn Chambers, support staff. Amy will be greatly missed when she moves on at the end of 2008. Above: Yasmin McGrath, Senior Student, with Steve Taylor and Boyd Eggleston at the February 2008 Res Working Bee.



Although student numbers in 2007 were unfortunately lower than in previous years, the community spirit that was established was remarkably close. This was evident in the fact that 22 students returned to the Res for 2008. With strategic planning, new branding, extra advertising and a huge public relations push by management and the committee, not to mention lots of prayer, thankfully 2008 started with a "Full house." Further to this, there was also an unprecedented demand for a room in the House so for the first time ever, two boys are sharing the large room, bringing the total to five.

The Commencement Service 2008 was excellent (and quite loud) and it was great to see input from many current and ex-students. Orientation week was very well planned and run by the guys in The House, which has now become a tradition! Fortunately three days before the students moved in we found a new Chef who was not only a good cook but had a great manner with the students. Unfortunately he got a promotion and had to leave mid-year and this position is currently being filled with temporary staff until the right person for such an important role is employed.

Late March most of the students were involved in the Relay for Life Fund Raiser and the theme for the night was 'Cow Boys and Indians' and the Res won first prize for the Best Dressed Team. Kew Baptist Church won the Spirit of Relay award for supporting the running of the event in many ways which included, among other things, Ben Prime's substantial role in the running of the entire event and Janine leading formalities in the Lighting of the Candles Ceremony.

Sport has been another theme for this year which started with the Football Game between the Current students and the All-stars which was made up of a combination of Ex-Students and some guys from Night Church. The match was very physical, but played with a great spirit. The incoming and outgoing managers led the way and were quite easily best on ground, and helped the Res 2008 just beat the All-stars! All jokes aside, it was a great day and good to keep the links with the ex-students and a perfect opportunity to introduce the Dukes who were appointed to be the new Managers around about this time. Three mixed Netball teams were also started this year and quite a few of the students have joined the YMCA gym in High Street.

Towards the end of 2007 the de Paivas made the very hard decision to leave the Res and begin a new phase of life together. As you can imagine, this was no easy decision, as we have absolutely loved every minute spent in this ministry (well, most of them) and we have been showered with God's blessings. After consultation with the Committee of Management we decided to leave mid-year, allowing the incoming Managers the opportunity to move into the Res with many of the routines and procedures already in place. After a prayerful search and interviewing process Stephen and Michelle Duke were appointed and we have all been very happy with the transition process. The changeover has been extremely smooth and we are all adjusting well to the new stages in our family lives. It also must be acknowledged here how easily the transition has occurred has been due in part to the fabulous staff team made up of Glynn Chambers and Amy Hill, supported by Yasmin McGrath (Senior Student) and the members of the House. We can never thank God enough for the fabulous young leaders He has provided in Amy and Glynn.

Prior to the mid-year changeover, we were able to enjoy a few different farewell occasions – the largest being the Farewell Party from the Hostel/Res community and the Church Family at the Kew RSL. This night was full of great, clever, funny speeches, songs, laughs and tears. It was amazing to be able to catch up with so many students from every year over the past eight years. What a memorable and special evening. Thank you to all those who contributed either with food, decorations, ideas, inspiration and people power! Particular thanks to Amy Hill for her energy and commitment.

Thank you to the Kew Baptist Church family for your ongoing prayerful support of this Ministry in the Res, the staff, the de Paiva family and the Duke family. Keep it up!!

Chris and Janine de Paiva

P.S. Thank you to Chris and Janine for writing this report after their "retirement" from the Res. Michelle and Stephen Duke asked them to do it as they were the managers during most of the period covered in the report. They have not only had significant input into the lives of students in the Res, but have made and continue to make a great contribution in the wider church community.



POSSUMS PLAYGROUP AND KINDERGARTEN

Change: good or bad – one thing is for sure: it's inevitable. Over the years, Possums has seen a number of changes – people being the most significant. Every year we say goodbye to several families, some who have been with us over a number of years with several children, and some who have only been with us for a year or less. In the scheme of life, we have a small window of opportunity to impact their lives. How we do this is also open to change.

This year we have said goodbye to a long-serving advocate and friend of Possums. For nearly 20 years Jean Jeffery faithfully attended committee meetings and took the time to write personal, named notes for every Possums family, even though she did not know them, and she attached them to one of her prolific writings as a small token of her interest, love and care for each individual. Jean prayed, and left the rest to God, and it's amazing how many people seemed to get just the right message at just the right time. Who knows how her writings will continue to impact people as they rediscover them in years to come, or what memories they will stir up of their time spent at Possums?

The Possums Ministry Support Team is the vehicle through which we aim to link the Possums and Kew Baptist Church communities. The team members, Rod Pell, Ray Leigh, Lindsay and Meryl Smith, Deirdre Willis, Jenny Clark, Ann Seeley and Anastasia Panagiotidis, are at Possums each week. They interact with and support the families who attend. Jean Jeffery was also part of this team. If you are interested in the missional opportunities that Possums offers, then perhaps you could prayerfully consider whether you might join this team!

The Possums Committee is the group of people who look after the actual functioning of our playgroups and 3 Year Old Kinder groups. Ray Leigh, Deirdre Willis and Rod Pell are the links between the Committee and the Support Team, as was Jean. The Committee is led by Claire Ballot, our President, and David Benwell is our treasurer. Other Possums community members have various roles: Jo Giarracca and Naomi Allen are our enrolment officers and Paula Issa is our secretary. Maria Sweeney posts a birthday card to each child.

Tracie Christopoulos heads up fundraising, which is a major role of this group. We hope you will join us on Saturday, October 25 for what promises to be a fun-filled day, where we hope to raise sufficient funds to enable us to upgrade part of our playground. We hope to create a child-friendly natural discovery area that will stir the imagination and offer opportunities to learn and appreciate a little more of the world we live in. If you are able to help out on the day, or know of a business that you could approach for donations for our auction, we'd love to hear from you.

In August 2008, Rod Pell led another six week parenting course attended by parents from the church Possums Playgroups and Kindergarten.

Certainly, everyone involved in any aspect of Possums values your prayers and goodwill towards us, as we seek to show the love of God to all we meet.

Miriam Schmidt, Possums Co-ordinator



Children learning at play; Miriam Schmidt and Claire Ballot.

CHAT AND CHEW MEN'S LUNCHES

Chat and Chew is in its fifth year of operation. During that time we have had fellowship with 51 persons. This year we have had 23 potential members and five helpers.

Since we started, 17 have died, five have had changes to their circumstances and two have moved away. Our average attendance has been 24, half from Karana and half from KBC.

At our last meeting we received many comments, and here is a selection:

- We should continue this ministry
- Only nice blokes come to Chat and Chew
- Enjoy the fellowship with the residents
- Programs are varied and interesting and the food is excellent
- I am sometimes lonely and enjoy the company. I talk more at Chat and Chew than anywhere else.
- The lady helpers are great, the atmosphere is great and I can't wait until the next get-together.

Financially we break even. Donations of \$5 are encouraged and sometimes we receive more generous gifts. The Karana catering staff do a great job and make very reasonable charges.

We appreciate the prayerful encouragement of church members, friends and the leaders.

Kingsley Smith

BASKETBALL

God gives us interests/passions/desires
He then allows us to choose what we do with them
We can decide to use them to build his kingdom



The basketball players have an advantage at the annual Student Res footy match—at least they are fit!

Initially I had a very different idea of how Basketball could operate within the framework of our church community. The ministry has adapted over the first few months and we now have about 10 to 12 regular players. We have seen over 40 different people involved in the program at various times, most encouragingly. These people have come from a very wide range of social networks. Some live in close proximity, some are from the Student Res, some have been invited along by housemates, some are from NightChurch, and some from uni networks.

We have seen the basketball ministry as a great way to connect with guys in the community by facilitating and building of friendships. It is particularly useful when encouraging new people in the community to get involved.

The second semester has seen the basketball ministry take on a new aspect. Headed up by Mark Payne, a prayer meeting is now held before basketball to encourage guys to bring any needs, worries and challenges to other guys for prayer. As well as just hang out and catch up.

James Docking, Intern

KARANA

The ministry at Karana continues and God's faithfulness is evident as we face the ongoing challenges of increased workload, regular loss of residents and adjusting to staff changes.

Heather Rota has been our Manager during the last year and has done a sterling job considering the demands of her role. Heather is very supportive of Pastoral Care at Karana.

Last year we held the 11th Anniversary of the Sunday Chapel services in September and it was a lovely time of remembering and giving thanks to God for his goodness and sustaining throughout another year. Professor Basil Brown led the service and this year Rev David Griffiths will be our guest speaker and once again it will be an encouraging time for all.

In August we held our Volunteers' Afternoon Tea which was a time of catching up with one another over a cuppa. Karana is blessed to have over 90 Volunteers who assist with leading services mid week and on Sundays, visit residents, and generally provide support for our Community. Their contribution is highly valued and is a wonderful encouragement to staff and residents alike.

Twice a year Thanksgiving/Memorial services are held for those residents who have passed away during a six month period. These services are very much appreciated by families and give them the opportunity of returning to Karana.

Our staff are facing ongoing demands of increasing workloads as well as the continuing loss of long term residents. Please support them in prayer and Karana as a whole.

Visitors sometimes comment about the lovely atmosphere at Karana and I believe it is due to the number of praying people who are here and that God's Holy Spirit is at work in our Community. We thank God for the strength and grace to face each new challenge. HE IS FAITHFUL.

Ruth Prentice

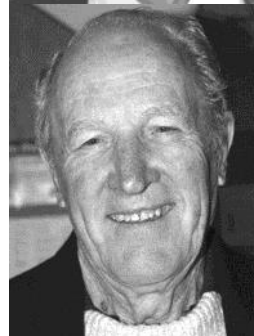
MISSION, AID AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Farewell Jean and Stephen. Two faithful members of the MAD Group, Jean Jeffery and Stephen Kidner, were "called home" to be with their Lord in the past year. Both made very significant contributions to the discussions, and were the source of much inspiration and encouragement to others in the group, especially to young adults regarding mission. Five of the eight meetings this year were held at Jean's home.

Highlights of 2007-2008. At every meeting, post cards were written to missionaries and young adults doing long- or short-term cross-cultural ministry, and a time of prayer shared for matters discussed. In July 07, personal priorities for the group were discussed, and agreement reached about aims to research, raise awareness and learn about the vast areas of need around the world, what the causes are, and appropriate action that we can take. A decision was taken to bring a focus at worship services to such ministries throughout the year, not only during May. Since July 2007, we have had the privilege of hearing from the following people involved in specific cross-cultural ministries:

Michelle Stancliffe: Michelle was in Melbourne for a working visit, 18 months into a long-term commitment to work in Arusha, Tanzania, with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). Her long-term dream is to work with street kids, and she was preparing for a period of training and mentoring of three African women workers to do this, on her return to Tanzania. When teams of visitors come to YWAM in Arusha, Michelle has the responsibility of looking after them, and she is also involved in feeding programs, a sponsorship program for disadvantaged children to attend the YWAM school, and training programs aimed at helping families and young people become self-supporting.

Howard Barclay: Howard, a regular member of the MAD Group, had just returned from a trip to Nepal and India, where he had been travelling with his



son, John. He reported on the 50th anniversary celebrations of a church he had attended in 1968, now the largest in Nepal. The celebrations had been attended by many thousands of people. The churches in Nepal are growing and well-managed. It was encouraging to hear that, despite a name for bloodshed in the past, the Maoists are in fact in support of religious freedom, and that Christians now have freedom to go where they want. During his visit, Howard was able to meet with the second in charge of the Maoists, who is one of his former students. The strategy for mission work has radically altered since Howard established and ran the mission in Nepal – now Christian workers are placed in carefully selected areas of need, to share their lives with the local people, and there are no longer any large institutions.

Andy Hunter: Andy (at right) spoke about his six months in Yemen, a Muslim country, teaching English to adult students from Yemen, Iraq and other middle-Eastern countries. Yemen is the poorest country in the Arab world, and people are locked into a strong caste system. One of the greatest problems in Yemen is the addiction of the majority of the population to the drug Khat (legal there but not elsewhere), which has crippling implications for the economy. The Yemeni Christian church is an underground church, but foreign Christians are tolerated in order to obtain their much-needed skills. Andy was able to share his faith with friends he made, and had many spiritual conversations.



Yasmin McGrath: Yasmin (at right) shared experiences from her two months in Fiji, working in a small church-run orphanage in Lutoka, which receives little support from the Fijian government, and relies partly on hand-outs from local resorts and partly on the support of churches, including local missionaries. Yasmin gave hands-on care to the young orphans and shared with other overseas volunteers in giving the Fijian staff a break during the summer period.



James Docking: James (at right) had returned from six months in Mexico, doing part of his Business degree, including some Politics subjects, on exchange at Monterrey Uni. He also studied some basic Spanish, to facilitate communication. He took a month off to work as a volunteer with an aid organisation in the tiny poverty-stricken country of Belize, where he stayed with a local pastor and helped lay the foundations for a primary school. James spoke enthusiastically of the friendliness and warmth of the beautiful people he met in both countries.



Rod and Liz Pell: Rod and Liz spoke in the morning and evening services regarding their mission trip to Africa. Members of the group took a keen interest in hearing of their plans and praying for them on their travels. It was encouraging to hear of their visits to former students in Zambia and Zimbabwe, speaking at the Graduate Enrichment Seminar at the Theological College of Central Africa (where they taught from 1987-1996) and at the Pastors' Conference in Harare organised by the Baptist Union of Zimbabwe.

Katie Ward: As an optional segment of her "Year in the Son" course at Tabor College, Katie went on an 18-day trip to the Philippines, staying at a number of Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) guest houses. The main focus of the trip was to investigate culturally-appropriate means of providing Bible-study materials for Filipino people. Christians in the Philippines often have only what is available to download from the Internet, with the inclusion of much inappropriate material, and the implication that there is no value in the local culture. Unfortunately the locations that the group intended to visit were badly affected by Cyclone Nargis, so plans had to be totally changed at the last minute. They observed effective Bible translation processes at first hand, and learnt much about trusting God to work things out.



Philippines Trip: Anna Muston (pictured at left) came to the August meeting to talk about the proposed trip to the Philippines to be undertaken by Laura Bracken, herself, James and Laura Owen and Niru Ramasamy (pictured at right), to make an awareness-raising documentary about living conditions in the Smokey Valley slums in the Philippines. Anna gave information about an upcoming fund-raising event, and objectives of the project, including additional promotional videos to benefit small aid organisations already working in these slums.



Amy Hill: Throughout the year, the group has followed with keen interest various aspects of Amy's part-time job at the Migrant Resource Centre in St Albans, some of which was funded through the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. Her work included developing networks into the local community for newly arrived migrant young people, through sporting involvement. When funding for her job ran out, Amy acquired a new position as Youth Settlement Worker, and has been using her social work training in a range of roles – as case-worker, mediator and more, to meet the very diverse needs of those she meets. At the August meeting, the group heard of Amy's desire to move into a new phase of ministry, outreach and community-building, together with others from KBC who share the vision, amongst migrant and refugee communities in the Collingwood high-rise area.

The group: Those who have attended MAD Group in 2007-2008 include Rod Pell (Chair), Katie Adams, Howard Barclay, Nic Barclay, Steph Bowers, Glynn Chambers, James Docking, Thomas Docking, Amy Hill, Andy Hunter, Jean Jeffery, Stephen Kidner, Yasmin McGrath, Andy Mitchell, Grace Munro, Anna Muston, Ali Nicholson, Marcia Ribbons, Jenny Smith, Steve Taylor, Katie Ward, Deirdre Willis and Erin Wilson.

Membership of the MAD Group is open to any interested person. Visitors are very welcome at any of the meetings.

Plans for 2008-2009: The group is committed to continuing to support, write to and pray for those from our fellowship working in cross-cultural ministries in Australia or overseas. New and exciting directions that will be closely followed and supported are those being explored by Amy Hill and others for outreach and inner-urban ministry in our own city of Melbourne.

See page 32 for the allocation of funds for Mission, Aid and Development

Deirdre Willis

BEING CONNECTED

We all need to belong to a family even if we only are connected in an irregular way. Being a Christian means we belong to a large spiritual family and being a Baptist brings us into touch with a specific group of Christians scattered around the world. We are grateful for the larger community of God's people and share as deeply with them as we can while retaining a special concern and interest in our own particular community of faith. We try to be as connected as we can.

How is that expressed through Kew Baptist? We support various mission and serving agencies as this report makes very clear. But we are also represented on the Kew Inter Church Council which plans various activities and shared enterprises as Rod and Grace support these meetings. In this way we participate in such activities as the annual Good Friday service in Petrie Square and the Carols by Candlelight service in December. Again, our pastor is actively involved in the Kew Ministers' group in which local church leaders can share and plan together. We are grateful for these opportunities to share with fellow-believers in our own area.

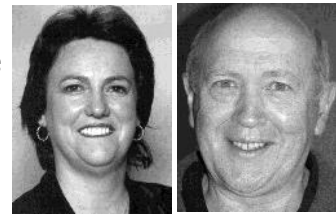
The young adults in the congregation have taken several initiatives in building and strengthening links with neighbours and churches in Highbury Grove, the Bush Dance on 29 August being the most recent event which was organised with this as one of the aims.



Bush dance: Josh Carter, Mat Hunter, Lauren Smith, Amy Hill, Kate Steel, Yasmin McGrath

Coming to our Baptist family we are connected at several levels, even if our personal opportunities to share in every possibility are limited. First, we are members of the Baptist Union of Victoria and in this way support a wide range of ministries that no one church by itself could undertake. We gather

from time to time to hear reports and to plan our future. These are usually inspiring and educational experiences. For example, in 2008 some 12 men and women will be ordained. We read about these and other activities in the monthly 'Witness' which is distributed through our church. Here we learn about our regional ministers and about the work of Baptcare, Whitley College, our Baptist schools and a wide range of other ministries. We also make a financial contribution through the Baptist Union of Victoria to help state-wide Baptist work.



Sue Bluett and Steve Taylor represent KBC at BUV—in families ministries and finance respectively.

The Baptist Union of Victoria is in turn a member of the Baptist Union of Australia which brings a national focus and energy to our mission as Baptists. Our current President is Dr Ross Clifford and a new appointment is Dr Brian Winslade as National Ministries Director. This assists work especially in the remoter parts of our country.

Global Interaction is our national missions organisation working in various countries and amongst our indigenous people. Once again we can learn about this important aspect of our shared mission through reading 'Vision' also distributed to our congregation. This guides us in our prayers and we are pleased to hear regular reports of this work in our services. For some years KBC has financially supported Allan and Merryl Gamble, who have recently returned from Indonesia, and Grace Munro, who worked in the national office until moving to work in the church office in January 2008. Our prayer and giving are highly valued.

Similarly, we support the work of Baptist World Aid Australia. Some of us support children in a sponsorship scheme and assist in development programs and disaster relief in times of crisis in many parts of the world. Again, we receive regular information about this in our church news.

We are a part of a world family and this is expressed through our membership as Australian Baptists in the Baptist World Alliance. Through this body we can gain special inspiration. Many of us recall the World Congress here in Melbourne in 2000 (and why not plan to attend the next Congress in Hawaii from July 28 to August 1 in 2010?) Through BWA we support world relief, missions in difficult parts of the world, foster Baptist scholarship and fellowship and encourage human rights and freedom around the world. Here at Kew we are a global support church for BWA which indicates our deep commitment to support our fellow-Baptists around the world, many of whom experience persecution and great hardship.

So, as we sit in our services and enjoy our community life here at Kew, it is encouraging to know we can support the various avenues through which we are connected with others in our family.

Ken Manley

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Teaching Christian Religious Education is quite a challenge and Marisol Pizarro-Cardenas and I represent Kew Baptist at the Kew Primary School. Marisol has also been teaching at Kew East Primary School.

On a personal note I started teaching because I was asked to, and took the view that because there is a shortage of teachers I had to be better than no-one, irrespective of my teaching skills. I was encouraged by the advice that, in years to come, most children remember what the teacher was like, rather than the lesson content, so I try and represent Christian values and friendliness.

I have been pleasantly surprised how much some children know, but there are quite a few who have little understanding of the Christian faith.

The school is tolerant to CRE being taught but it is not compulsory, so about ten of the class are not involved but stay in the classroom and can hear what is going on. We are very careful to comply with school regulations and work in with the teachers because if they are "on side" it makes a huge difference. As there still is a shortage of teachers at Kew (which means that some classes have no CRE) you are invited and encouraged to take this up as a ministry to our community.

Should you wish to do so, speak to me or Marisol about it.

Ray Leigh

VELVET LOUNGE

The Velvet Lounge has continued to be used for a wide range of regular activities, including Sunday school, youth group, small groups, prayer groups and NightChurch music team and leaders' meetings.

The second half of the year is proving to be a busy one for the Velvet Lounge. In August we have had a Games Night, which was another great way of getting together, building relationships and connecting new people to the community. Then there was a fundraiser to raise support and awareness for a documentary to be filmed in the Philippines by members of the NightChurch community. Then came a Taste of India night, learning from some of our people who have helped with the ministry of Mukti Mission.

At the end of semester three an exhibition will be held showcasing artwork from students within the Kew Baptist community. If you would like to suggest ideas for, or organise an event in, the Velvet Lounge you can get in contact with any of the interns. And don't forget to make a booking with the church office.

James Docking

CARRICAL BOARDING HOUSE BBQ

This year it has been great to have so many committed people from the church community become involved in the BBQs, which is really appreciated by the residents. New friendships are being formed and strengthened, and it's also been exciting to see a few of the guys visit the morning and evening services at Kew Baps.

Over the past year or so there have been a few tragic events; the deaths of Kevin, and Tibor Pasko, who are deeply missed by the guys. Some of the residents also suffer from ongoing mental illnesses and depression. Although the managers, Pat and Brian Hall, and CEO Matt Maudlin do a great job supporting these people, some of them require additional medical or professional help. However, due to current pressures in the health system, many people miss out on the support they need – so your ongoing prayers and support are especially valuable. As part of this ministry it's been very encouraging to get alongside these guys and spend time together playing pool, darts, or simply chatting and hanging out, as relationships are being built and some people are feeling more comfortable and open to talking on a deeper level.

Some prayer points for the monthly BBQs and residents of Carrical;

- Thanks to God for the current enthusiastic team who have been willing to give their time and become involved with the BBQs.
- That people (from the church community or other) will continue to be involved and committed to the BBQs and that friendships with residents will keep growing.
- That the residents may come to know that they are valuable, important individuals loved by God, and that they can make a positive contribution to our society.
- That Kew Baps, through Christ's strength, will continue to show their love and care for these hurting people and participate actively in current and future groups and events like Carrical in our local and wider community.

Christine Muller and Dave McKeown

GOOD GRUB

"Good Grub" is an initiative of Uniting Care, the Social Service arm of the Uniting Church. Every Tuesday a hot meal is prepared and served by volunteers at the Uniting Church Hall in Highbury Grove, Kew, in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. At present we are serving about 50 meals to needy people in the area, mainly from rooming or boarding houses where cooking facilities are not always available.

There are always fresh fruit and hot drinks, a cupboard of tinned foods and toiletries and good clean clothing on hand. It is all free and supported by donations from churches and service organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch. Rotary provides the Christmas dinner and Nandos provides the meal once a month. Volunteers include folk from churches and the local community.

Rev Pam White oversees it all, and Good Grub is certainly fulfilling a need in the area.

Ken and Edith Lyall

MINISTRY SUPPORT

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Through the kindness of a number of people, we achieved an enormous amount of much-needed Maintenance this past year. We are indebted to tradesmen like Andrew Prior (Electrician); Geoff Oliver (Carpenter/ Builder), Graeme Seeley (Plumber); and a floor covering fellow for much of this work.

But, in addition, we are indebted to the many volunteers in the Church – ladies and gentlemen, who joined us during two Working Bees for the year, making possible much of the myriad of small jobs which always go with a large property.

- We painted the manse externally.
- We re-furnished the toilets in the Church Hall, and the foyer floor. Then another kind gift gave the job a touch of class in a very nice finish.
- The manse oven was replaced – another kind gift.
- The offices in the Church were modernised.
- Much needed timber reconstruction was done for both Hall and the Possums area.
- The whole of the Hall foyer was freshened up with a coat of paint.
- The Hall Partitions were patched and re-painted, far cheaper than a replacement cost, and they look great.
- A major up-grade took place on the lights in both Church and Hall, fitting cheaper low-cost globes, "and saving many black balloons!" Have you seen any around lately?
- All around the property, fences were repaired, dead trees disposed of, and the area cleaned up appreciably. The Residence benefited with ready-to-burn cut firewood for the cold winter nights.
- Every Working Bee, we cross off at least 30 small items that are dealt with.



A falling tree hit the BBQ at the hall

Sincere thanks to the ladies who cook lovely cakes, slices and scones for Morning Cuppa on the Working Bee days. We dispose of these items with very little difficulty.

We still have the external areas of the Hall to paint – a really big job, and a few other smaller jobs.

Two projects we would like to consider in the coming months would be the refurbishment of the external entry areas at the top of the steps at the church (that is, to replace the tiles and the two sets of doors), and the external painting of the church. These projects will be possible if we receive gifts to cover the costs as budgeted maintenance funds would not provide for these major projects.

Again, your gifts and interest have been greatly appreciated.

Lindsay Smith

AUDIO AND DATA PROJECTION

There is a team of around 20 people who are involved with looking after the audio system and data projector for morning and evening services—some with long experience, others still in the process of learning. John Hollow assists by managing the hearing loop and providing copies of services for people unable to attend the morning services.

Thank you to each one who is part of the team. You are providing vital help through the use of your technical ability. In particular, thank you to those who train others in running the system.

CHURCH OFFICE

It has been a bumpy ride for the past two years in the church office, with Gillian Tonson concluding, then Neville Thomas beginning and taking up not just Gillian's work but also some of the financial bookkeeping. When Neville left in September 2007, Steve Taylor picked up the bookkeeping in his "spare" time, while Gillian Tonson graciously stepped in to help the office work. Then I began in January 2008.

Somehow, Rod Pell managed to keep the wheels turning while we newcomers were learning the ropes and during the period when Gillian's help was limited to a few hours per week. Few know how much extra effort was involved for him.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work in the KBC office. I worked 17 years in Zambia and 17 years at the head office of Global Interaction and will **not** be working 17 years at Kew! Hence I see my challenge in the next few years as trying to relieve Rod of some tasks (he will fill his time with other things!), support the ongoing ministries of the church to the best of my ability, and develop structures and processes which might make life easier for us now and for my successor in due course.

Despite everyone's best efforts and no-one's failure, the office had not been able to keep up with the growth of the church, the increasing ministry needs, and the complexity of bureaucratic demands from government and other departments. No-one had had time to sort out the backlog of records on or off the computer. It looked as if the committee which is said to have designed a camel, so strange is its structure, may well have added our records onto the MYOB financial package. We have a consultant helping turn the resultant camel into an elegant equestrian horse!

I'm very appreciative of the help given by Robyn Scott, Karen Lim, Bev Smith, Audrey Bennett and Natalie Pell, for Steve Taylor's multitude of patient emails in response to my questions about MYOB and finances and for Rod's commitment to excellence coupled with great patience.

Grace Munro

FINANCES

An Interview with the Treasurer

Question: *What do you do as treasurer and do you have any help?*

Answer: My role is that of overseeing the finances of Kew Baptist. This includes ensuring financial reports are prepared for the monthly deacons' meetings and quarterly church meetings and presenting these, arranging for the preparation and audit of the annual financial report and preparing the budget for the next financial year.

The work is very much a team effort with numerous people involved. I'm very appreciative of the work done by Grace Munro, our Office Administrator. Grace is responsible for the day to day work including managing the banking, paying accounts and wages, maintaining the wages records, and entering the accounting data into our MYOB accounting package. Grace also prepares the monthly financial statements using the MYOB program and sends them to me for reviewing.

Bev Smith, Audrey Bennett and Valerie Rohde assist in various activities and I receive valuable input from Rod and the deacons at our monthly deacons' meetings. Thanks everybody for your assistance!

Question: *How did the church finances go for the year?*

Answer: As can be seen in the following financial reports, the church made a deficit (loss) of \$1,987; we were budgeting for a small surplus of \$280. Brief details of the main variances between actual and budget are as follows:

Variance – Favourable (Unfavourable)	Income/Expense Item	Comments
280	Budgeted surplus for the year	
1,496	Sundry income	Monies received for course fees, book sales etc. not in budget.
144	Rental income	Overall in line with budget.
4,808	Investment income	Interest higher than budget as cash levels maintained during the year were higher than anticipated.
(9,848)	Salary costs	Additional staff were appointed to support the growing ministries of the church.
(1,204)	Outreach & ministry costs	Made up of various minor variances.
4,849	Administration & other expenses	Includes advertising (website development) \$1,919 not spent as yet (to come in 08/09), and various other items where expenditure was less than budget. Amounts paid to the Baptist Union of Victoria include \$2,968 for the July-December'08 period.
(2,512)	Property expenses	Insurance & property maintenance expenses higher than budget.
(\$1,987)	Net deficit as per Income & Expenditure statement	

In addition to the above, it should be noted that:

- Offerings received of \$166,066 were slightly above budget. This was very encouraging.
- Mission Aid & Development distributions of \$18,039 were approximately 11% of the amount received for offerings. Distributions made during the year were:

Global Interaction – re Allan & Meryl Gamble (& Jennifer & James)	4,900
Interserve – re John & Janine Barclay (& Aidan)	4,200
Global Interaction – re Grace Munro	1,050
Youth with a Mission – re Michelle Stancliffe	1,800
Natalie Smith - previously with Leprosy Mission, on study leave	500
Christian Missionary Alliance - re Pastor & Mrs Tin Phan	1,750
Missionary Aviation Fellowship – re Lisa Detlefson	875
Baptcare – re Asylum Seekers' house in Brunswick	1,000
Kew High School Chaplaincy	250
	16,325
Amount not distributed, carried forward to next year	1,714
Total	18,039

- Donations of \$64,200 were received for our property reserve fund (see Note 6). These were greatly appreciated. The property reserve fund is used for paying major expenses in maintaining our buildings and property.
- A bequest of \$10,715 was also received from the estate of Daisy Barclay; \$15,000 had been received from Daisy's estate in the previous financial year. Daisy's generosity is also much appreciated.

Question: *What does the church budget show for the coming year and how do you see the church's financial situation?*

Answer: Please see the budget report. We face a big challenge in meeting the various costs of the church, which include wages, administration and property expenses. These expenses are essential to support the current ministries of the church. While the amount of additional income required for the coming year is a challenge, I am optimistic that it can be achieved.

It is important for us to recognise that all we have comes from God, and when we bring our gifts and offerings we are giving them to Him, not just to the church. We continue to need God's guidance and wisdom for planning in the days ahead.

Steve Taylor, Treasurer

