

FEBRUARY 2019

Good News

**"I must
proclaim the
good news
of the
kingdom
of God"**

**Catholic Charismatic Renewal
serving the Church**



**The newsletter of the
Catholic Charismatic Renewal.
Melbourne, Australia.**

www.ccr.org.au

God has visited his people!

By LENYCE WILLASON

There are occasions when grace breaks in upon us with surprising delights.

The Conference "A Current of Grace" was one of those special, gold class moments when we knew we were in the presence of God. The comments after a Conference are always on the positive but everyone agreed there was something different, something special this time.

The intercession prior to the Conference had revealed that the Lord was imparting 'unprecedented power' upon the Conference and he was faithful to that word through the community gathered, the Eucharist that was shared each day and through the teachings that our guest speakers provided for our spiritual growth. There was great variety as each of the speakers expressed their experience of going deeper into relationship with Jesus.

Powerful teaching was given us by Jim Murphy, International President of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Ann Brereton, ICCRS Council Member for Oceania and Chairperson of the National Service Committee for Australia, Bishop Colin Campbell, retired Bishop from Dunedin, New Zealand and Pastor Dale Stephenson, Senior Pastor of Crossway Baptist Church, Melbourne. Each speaker, in their own inimitable style, brought Jesus alive for us as they focused on the powerful healing love of Jesus.

One of the essential elements throughout CCR is that Jesus Christ be lifted up, exalted, praised and proclaimed and the powerful praise experienced through these



days together resulted in many healings being received, and others experiencing for the first time just who they are in Christ as they were led to forgive themselves for judging the self of yesteryear. One of those very special moments experienced is shown in our picture where Jim Murphy, International President of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and Dale Stephenson, Senior Pastor at Crossway Baptist Church repented, and asked forgiveness, for the treatment that both Catholics and Protestants had placed upon each other in days past. In line with the requests from our Holy Father, Pope Francis, they prayed for unity and greater acceptance among Christians while Bishop Colin Campbell blessed them as they work for a harmony that will bring glory to God. There was a great silence during this time that was tangible with God's love and healing, and

every person present would testify to a 'presence' that was wrought by grace alone. It was an occasion when we could believe that 'everything is possible, even the impossible.'



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ACROSS MY DESK

By LENYCE WILLASON

For enquiries about Catholic Charismatic Renewal, its events or prayer groups visit the:

CCR CENTRE
101 Holden Street
North Fitzroy
VIC 3068
(Car park entry in Dean Street)
Telephone: (03) 9486 6544
Fax: (03) 9486 6566
Email: centre@ccr.org.au

The Centre is open 10.00am - 4.00pm,
Monday - Friday, except Public Holidays.

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Editor: Lenyce Willason
Email: goodnews@ccr.org.au

Assistant Editor: Andrea Baxter

Editorial Assistant: Mary Crawford

Distribution: CCR Centre Team

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Vera Gelo.

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VIC 3068.
Ph: (03) 9486 6544

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The deadline for the next issue of *Good News* is
Friday 26 April 2019.



"God has visited his people" or as another translations
expresses: "God has come to help his people."

Luke 7: 16b

There are times when we need to be reminded rather
than instructed, and the Conference "*A Current of Grace*"
was a great reminder of what is required of us if we are
to be genuine followers of Jesus Christ. We read in Scripture that "He
came to his own and his own received him not" (*John 1:11*) and for many
he is still only received when and as it suits. God 'visits' us in many
ways, and often we are not alert enough to hear. Sometimes we are
caught up with our own ideas and thoughts and the small, still voice
cannot break through. "*A Current of Grace*" was a "barrier breaker."
God was a tangible presence speaking loudly and clearly through each
of our speakers. There were many 'gems' that became food for thought
for me.

Jim gave us a translation of the word 'Shalom' that is a pearl that has
erased what I had known before - (see page 7 for his meaning of
shalom). His reminders of what we are called to as currents of grace
certainly had power to touch the hearts listening. Then Ann challenged
us with the healing we need in the second half of life. Are we really
ready to enter into the mystery of not hearing God but knowing he is
there? to experience the mystery of 'letting go' as we allow the Holy
Spirit to draw us closer to the fire?

Bishop Colin challenged us with differing images of what it is to be a
current. Using images of water and electricity he drew us into the notion
of constant movement, and warned of the danger of becoming static.

Pastor Dale Stephenson branded two differing statements on my
heart. In speaking about unity among the churches he addressed the
troubles that have faced all churches over recent years. "Don't defend
the indefensible" he said. If the deed is wrong, then call it wrong, and
pray for God's grace to bring repentance and transformation to the
church. How often do we rush to judgement and leap in to defend our
churches instead of acknowledging that wrong has been done and
praying for God's forgiveness?

He then went on to speak about the call God has on all of us – to be
stewards of the mysteries of God. As good stewards we work towards
bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people, but until 'making
disciples becomes as simple as soccer, it will not go viral.' As simple as
soccer? He went on to explain that soccer is universal – it can be played
by anyone, anywhere, anytime, even with a tin can in an alleyway. Is
it possible that making disciples be as simple as playing soccer? Is it
too simple? It is a challenge we need to run with. In *Acts 4:13* we read
a description of Peter and John that very well could describe each one
of us – agrammatos idiotayse – men of no learning– but Luke tells us
they could see that they had been with Jesus. Perhaps this is the way
to play soccer – allow people to see that we have been with Jesus. I
certainly have started praying that the Holy Spirit will teach me to play
his form of soccer!

To be a current of grace is to walk totally in the fruit of the spirit – and
to walk in the fruit of the spirit is to go 'out on a limb' – we have to go
out on a limb trusting that God will show up even though we cannot
see or understand anything. The next time you are tempted to anger
or frustration take a quiet moment and ask God to fill you with his love
for the one who turning up your emotions. Start pushing the envelope,
start taking chances and watch God show up.

THE MYSTERY OF HEALING

By JAMES MURPHY

Many times, God heals through the Eucharist, he heals through prayer and ministry, through his word and through community, but I would like to take a step back and talk about healing by taking a look at the bigger picture of restoration.

When you are the person who is hurting, from whatever woundedness, sometimes the pain is so bad that it is all we can think about. Sometimes it just hangs on us, and that is very understandable. But the Lord is doing something much bigger than just heal certain parts of your body.

"And then I heard a loud voice say: 'behold the dwelling of God is among you today and he shall wipe away your tears; there'll be no mourning or crying or pain or death anymore.

Alleluia, for the Lord God almighty, omnipotent reigns.

Our mighty God, our risen Lord,

All the glory and honour and power are yours evermore""

That song is a song that was sung in the early days of Renewal - in essence it talks about the restoration of all things.

There really is a heaven – this heaven, this state of being is a place where the Scripture says that God is with us, we are with God and we are the wedding feast of the Lamb.

What excites me most about heaven is we will be at peace with God and the most amazing thing of all is that we will be at peace with ourselves. Everything we carry like chains will be gone! Do not give up – it is worth it!

Revelation 21 talks about the perfection of all things. It is interesting because it is the last book of the Bible and the opening pages of the Bible, Genesis, form a type of bookend. We see in Genesis man and a woman are at peace with each other, in right relationship with God and when the author says they were naked but had no shame – there was a lot more being said than simply they had no clothes. What it means there is there is nothing to hide, nothing to protect, there are no games being played. Their fullness of their humanity is present to one another and to God. "Scripture says they walked with God in the cool of the evening. Walking with God – when Scripture says 'walking' it signifies being in agreement with" – that is why he says "come and follow me". He does not say "come over here and stand with me". Jesus is on the move and he invites us to walk with him. Remember a current of grace?

So in Genesis not only is God the Father ok with our nakedness he made us this way and wanted to see us authentically as who we are. And we were ok with that – the whole thing worked. Death and sin and suffering was not part of God's original plan – That entered in because we believed the original lie which preceded the original



sin. The original lie was that God was trying to manipulate us. That lies at the core of every sin. Every sin at its core is choosing self over God – every sin at its core basically has pride – you can sugar coat that – but there it is. Sadly, our parents believed the lie. And they gave up everything by making a deal with the devil. It was that choice that humanity made, not God that opened the doors to sin, suffering and death. We all want to blame someone else – we are very, very slow to own the truth. We stepped out of the order that God had set for us.

Enter now into humanity's situation: sorrow, death, heartache, war, disagreements among ourselves – all the things that we all say *God, WHY?* "Why is this happening to me? Why is this happening to us? This doesn't seem fair! It does not matter what religion you are – there is not one of us that has not asked the question: *God why is there suffering?* We can all tell a story of something that is so bizarre, so unjust that we can't make sense of it. This is where we come to a fork in the road.

When people are confronted by the mystery of suffering you can walk away and say, "I'm done – if there is a God, I don't want anything to do with him. If that is the way God works then I don't want anything to do with him. And you can enter into a world of bitterness and cynicism.

You can stand at the same place in mystery and heartache and say - "God I don't understand, to my limited human understanding this seems unjust, this seems unfair – I don't get it. BUT I make a choice to keep following you and if you want to reveal that to me – ok – and if you never reveal it to me, I choose to say you are a good God, even with tears running down my face. I choose to believe in you God even though at this moment I feel nothing but devastation. I choose to say I will follow you all the days of my life even though I don't have a clue where you are going or where you are taking me.

At the fork in the road you have a choice. The choice is yours entirely. Even God will not make that choice for you, because he gave you something way back in the garden that is called "free will". The reason God allows to you to walk down either path that you choose is because if you didn't have the capacity to walk down the path of anger, bitterness and cynicism; if you didn't have that option then simply walking along like a robot of faith would have been no true decision. So, every day we have a choice to make, a decision to make, and let's be honest, some days it is an act of will. The reason we are all here today is because we have all made a choice.

Ed: To listen to more of Jim's talks contact the CCR Centre and order the CD's of his talk at the "Current of Grace" Conference.

*“If the words
in the Scripture
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Vince Fitzwilliam

The Word of God

By VINCE FITZWILLIAM

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” *John 1:1*

This is a powerful statement at the start of *John's Gospel 1:1-14*. We hear of how God's Son Jesus Christ was present with God the Father, in the beginning, before time itself began. This opening verse takes us back to the start of the bible in Genesis, where the spoken word of God brought all things into existence. “God said, ‘Let there be light, and there was light,’ What follows is the creative act of God's word throughout all of the first chapter of Genesis. God said... God said... God said... and it was... and it was good, until finally with the creation of humankind in His image it was very good.

God's creative love, bringing transformation from chaos to divine order.

With the revelation of Jesus Christ, the power of the Word of God continues into the New Testament, and “In Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth...all things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” (CCC291; Col 16-17).

The universe once created through the Word of God, is now being renewed through the same Word that came into the world in the flesh, as Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (CCC 1042)


A Gospel commentary puts it this way: ‘The Word of God is not so much an abstract principle or an audible power but a Divine Person, God the Son. This eternal Word, once a mediator of creation, has now become a mediator of salvation through His Incarnation.’ (Rev 19:13.Jn 1:14; 3:17).

The great mystery of the person of God revealed, when at the Baptism of Jesus, the heavens are opened and the Holy Spirit in the visual form of a dove descends upon Him and a voice from heaven proclaims witness to Jesus as the Son of God. “This is My beloved Son, with you I am well pleased.” (Lk 3:22)

Jesus emphasises the importance of this personal relationship when He is about to start His journey to the Cross. He says to His followers “if you know Me, you will know my Father also”. (Jn 14:7). Once again letting them know that the power that is in Him comes from God the Father who dwells in Him, and with whom He has a unity of purpose. (Jn 14:10; 10:30)

The intimacy and dependency of their relationship is evident at Gethsemane when Jesus, greatly distressed in prayer, will cry out for help to His Father in this most intimate and personal way: Abba ! (Father). The personal loving relationship of Father and Son where total dependency is on God as Father. (Mk 14:36). Following His suffering and death, His followers are perplexed and fearful, but Jesus fulfils all His promises and in proof of all his life-giving words and actions, he appears, risen from the dead!

In the book of Acts, the Good News of the “Kingdom” is central to the preaching about Jesus. From the opening chapter (Acts 1:3), by Philip (Acts 8) and by Paul on many occasions. Before Jesus' ascension departure His disciples ask Him point blank, “Is this the time you will restore the Kingdom to Israel?” Acts 1: Their thinking is of this world. As Paul would later say ‘Jesus in rising to new everlasting life is the messiah, the heir, who sits on the throne of David and rules over his restored Kingdom.’ The same Jesus who stood before Pilate and proclaimed “My Kingdom is not of this world.” Jn 18:36 says to them in what would seem to be a mild rebuke but which turns into a life giving participation in the divine fellowship of the Kingdom. “It is not for you to know



times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be my witnesses...to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:7-8). A profound gifting of grace (Charis) that will be ongoing through all time. “The Word” that became flesh speaks to our inner being the Word of life, through the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that Jesus Christ the Son of God, the Saviour of the world receives in the river Jordan. (Jn 3:13-17)

Now there is new hope, fulfilled in the great promise to be experienced in just a short time. “Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high.” And so “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:1-4).

When Jesus set out on His final journey of His passion and death, He reassures us: “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive... I will not leave you orphaned”... I appointed you to go and to bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask Him in My name”. (Jn 15:16)

The reality that in following Jesus and being baptised into His grace there is the invitation to receive the power of His Spirit, and to enter into a close relationship with Him forever, so as to continue the mission He has started. To be bearers of Good News and Good Fruit.

In Luke’s Gospel the appearance of John and Jesus in human history was the explicit work of God’s Spirit - The Holy Spirit.

John was ‘filled with the Holy Spirit even from His mother’s womb.’ (Lk1:15)

John’s parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, were also filled with the Holy Spirit. (Lk1:41; 67)

Mary conceived through the Holy Spirit. (Lk1:35)

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism. (Lk 3:22)

Jesus ‘led by the Spirit’ was tested in the wilderness. (Lk 4:1)

When Jesus himself begins His ministry following the temptation in the wilderness, he returns to Gallilee “in the power of the Spirit”. (Lk 4:1). Then in Nazareth at the synagogue, He stands up and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah is given to Him, and He reads “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” (Lk 4:18-19) We too who are baptised receive this anointing as the encouraging words in the first letter of

John tells us:

“You have been *anointed* by the Holy One,the *anointing* which you received from Him abides in you” (Jn 2:20;27).

Over these last 50 years the leadership of the papacy has been calling us back to the need for mission and evangelisation as the responsibility of ALL the people in the church. From Pope Paul VI speaking on Evangelisation in the Modern world, to Pope Francis, who constantly calls us to claim the powerful grace of our Baptism and Confirmation. Not all are called to be evangelists, but all are called to evangelise.

Pope Benedict XVI spoke in a particular way to us here in Australia when he chose the theme for World Youth Day 2008 “You will receive Power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be My Witnesses”. (Acts 1:8).

While still in Rome on the Feast of Pentecost of the same year, and prior to coming to Australia, he spoke of *Baptism in the Holy Spirit; how ‘the Holy Spirit consecrates the person and at the same time makes him or her a living member of the Mystical body of Christ, sharing in the mission of witnessing to his love. And this takes place through the Sacraments of Christian initiation: Baptism and Confirmation.’ Then speaking about the World Youth Day which was to take place in Sydney the same year, he said ‘I have proposed to the young people that they rediscover the Holy Spirit’s presence in their lives and thus the importance of these Sacraments. Today I would like to extend the invitation to all: let us rediscover, dear brothers and sisters, the beauty of being baptized in the Holy Spirit; let us recover awareness of our Baptism and our Confirmation, ever timely sources of grace. Let us ask the Virgin Mary to obtain also today a renewed Pentecost for the Church that will imbue in all, and especially in the young, the joy of living and witnessing to the Gospel.*

When we speak of the relationship between prayer and the Lord’s word, it includes the words of the Spirit and the words of the Scripture; or the Lord’s word in the Scripture and the Lord’s word in the Spirit. In reality, these two words are just one. Baptism in the Spirit opens us up to an understanding of the Holy Spirit, as being the person of God alive and active for us, as an experiential grace for every part of our lives. (Heb 4:12)

If the words in the Scripture do not become the words in the Spirit, then they are words merely in our memory and in our intellect but have not entered into our spirit. Being open to this grace invites us to pray for the Holy Spirit to bless the word to be a living word speaking to our hearts, bringing understanding, guidance, and the grace to produce good fruit on our spiritual journey. Jesus said “He (the Holy Spirit) will glorify Me, because He will take what is mine and declare it to you.” Praying for this anointing every day brings alive to us both the sacramental life of the church and the scriptural Word of God.

Vince Fitzwilliam is the director of CCR for New South Wales.

YOUR IDENTITY: A CURRENT OF GRACE

By BISHOP COLIN CAMPBELL, NZ



I do not think the term 'current of grace' used by Pope Francis about CCR was original. It appears to hark back to that great promoter of CCR, Cardinal Leo Suenens. He had described CCR as "a flow of grace". Supported by Pope Paul VI who gave CCR his blessing, Cardinal Suenens said that CCR was not a movement. He said it is "a current of grace, a renewing breath of the Spirit for all members of the Church: laity, religious, priests and bishops. It is a challenge for us all. One does not form part of the Renewal, rather, the Renewal becomes a part of us provided we accept the grace it offers us."

Pope Francis repeated this statement in Rome in 2015. A year before that he had said in an address; "your movement's birth was willed by the Holy Spirit to be "a current of grace in the church and for the Church. This is your identity: to be a current of grace."

What are the characteristics of a current? We think of a current of electricity running through conductors, we think of water flowing in a river or sea with a current. It is a favourite Scriptural image – *Psalm 64*: "Your river in heaven brims over...you drench its furrows..." See also *Ezekiel 47: 1-12* and *Revelations 22: 1-2*. It is an image that Pope Francis makes use of. He speaks of the Holy Spirit flowing out like a dam bursting that cannot be contained; it spreads everywhere. The 'current of grace' speaks clearly about movement; there is nothing static about the work of the Holy Spirit moving where he will. This image of movement was picked up by the Vatican II Council which described church as the people of God, a pilgrim people on the move and a church that would go with the flow. The Constitution on the Church puts it this way: the promised restoration already begun in Christ, is carried forward in the mission of the Holy Spirit, and through him continues in the Church." (N48) Notice, it is a constant movement; nothing static.

There was a comparison done with the Lake Galilee which had an inlet and outlet and so a constant stream whereas the Dead Sea had only an inlet and no outlet; so, a static and stagnant situation with of course, no fish or life, is so aptly called the Dead Sea.

From early days Cardinal Suenens, echoing the vision of Ezekiel (and quoted by Pope Francis) said: "May

the Charismatic Renewal disappear as such and be transformed into a Pentecostal grace for the whole Church: to be faithful to its origin, the river must lose itself in the ocean. The river must be lost in the Ocean. Yes, if the river comes to a halt the water becomes stagnant; should the renewal, this current of grace, not end in the ocean of God, in the love of God, it would work for itself and this is not of Jesus Christ, this is of the evil one, the father of lies. The Renewal continues, it comes from God and goes to God."

At the fiftieth Jubilee in Rome, he went on in a similar vein. In his address he said: "Fifty years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. A flood of grace of the Spirit! Why a flood of grace? Because it has no founder, no bylaws, no structure of governance. Clearly it has given rise to many expressions that, surely, are human works inspired by the Spirit, with various charisms, and all in the service of the church. But before this flood of grace one cannot erect dikes or put the Holy Spirit in a cage!" He mentioned that the Spirit is leading us on this journey of conversion sweeping across the entire Christian world and that CCR was in a privileged place for pursuing the path to unity. "The flood of grace is for the whole church, not just for some, and none of us is the 'master' and the other servants. No. We are all servants of this flood of grace."

Pope Francis spells out what the Church and the Pope expects from CCR; "To share the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone in the church, to praise the Lord unceasingly, to walk together with Christians of different churches and Ecclesial communities in prayer and activity on behalf of those in greatest need, to serve the poor and the sick."

There, brothers and sisters, we have our job description!





Pope Francis has warned against the increasing narcissism and “spirals of hatred” found on social media networks, encouraging people to cultivate community in their internet interactions.

In his World Communications Day message, published yesterday, Pope Francis said that online discussion is “too often based on opposition to the other”.

“We define ourselves starting with what divides us rather than with what unites us, giving rise to suspicion and to the venting of every kind of prejudice (ethnic, sexual, religious and other),” Francis wrote.

This creates a digital environment that nourishes “unbridled individualism which sometimes ends up fomenting spirals of hatred,” he explained.

“As Christians, we all recognise ourselves as members of the one body whose head is Christ. This helps us not to see people as potential competitors, but to consider even our enemies as persons,” he said.

“We no longer need an adversary in order to define ourselves” because in “the all-encompassing gaze we learn from Christ” our identity and our relationship in communion with others, he explained.

The Pope also commented on data privacy and the risk posed by social networks that profit from using people’s personal information for their own benefit.

Social networks “lend themselves to the manipulation of personal data, aimed at obtaining political or economic advantages, without due respect for the person and his or her rights,” he said.

Pope Francis clarified that the Catholic Church sees the internet as a tool that can be used for the betterment of humanity.

The internet provides the “opportunity to share stories and experiences of beauty or suffering that are physically distant from us, in order to pray together and together seek out the good to rediscover what unites us,” he explained.

The Pope’s message was released on the feast of St Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists. Francis again warned this year against the dangers of “disinformation” in internet communication, in addition to “an extraordinary possibility of access to knowledge” found online.

This year the 53rd World Communications Day will take place on the feast of the Ascension of the Lord on June 2.

Source: CNA.

Shalom: means more than peace or wellbeing. It has a deeper meaning - restoration to a state prior to original sin – the peace that was first experienced and was the original plan of the Father.

JIM MURPHY

The Spirit in American Samoa

By ADRIAN COMMODEUR

Recently Adrian Commodeur returned from American Samoa. This is his report.

I had been invited to conduct a Life in the Spirit Seminar in American Samoa. Bishop Peter Brown CSsR invited me also to speak to priests, permanent married deacons, catechists, young people and married couples and families. About 14 talks in 7 days! It is a small island diocese of 12,000 Catholics among the 58,000 inhabitants. There are 18 parishes each with a priest, a deacon and a Catechist. Some parishes are quite small. Called ‘*Life in the Spirit*’, the visit allowed me to speak about the grace of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the work and action and gifts of the Holy Spirit. I was privileged to pray for all groups of people for a fresh outpouring or first Baptism in the Holy Spirit. A large planning committee was formed to organise every detail of my visit. The hospitality was out of this world, with many garlands of flowers (as given to important guests), and many outstanding meals. About 200 young people attended the youth session. I brought cardboard cut-outs of sheep, one of which was lost. Someone was sent to find the lost sheep and in the process found a cut-out of a kangaroo as well! We all had a bit of fun hopping around like a kangaroo.

Irene Yap, whom I had met on a pilgrimage in the Pathways of St Paul, was instrumental in inviting me. She was also my hostess and driver to see the extent of the island, including several parishes, their churches, their parish centres and the local scenery. We came to the coastline which was very close to the dateline. American Samoa is one day behind New Zealand and Australia! Larry Sanitoa was an excellent chairman and a candidate for the parliament of AS! He was most generous with his time.

I am sending this report as a thank you for all who helped with prayer to make the visit a success. One trip cannot answer all the issues facing the bishop and people of American Samoa, but I know the Lord touched a number of people with physical healings, as well as very pertinent words of knowledge. I thank you all and ask you to continue to pray for Bishop Brown (a New Zealand Redemptorist), his priests and deacons and people.

May the Holy Spirit inspire each one with the gift of persevering in the Life in the Spirit.





GUEST SPEAKERS



ANN BRERETON

ICCRS Council Member and Chairperson
Aust. CCR National Service Committee



DEACON CHRISTOFF HEMBERGER

ICCRS Vice President representing the CCR
in Northern and Western Europe

LAUNCH OF THE FIRST ICCRS CHARISM SCHOOL

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

27-31 MARCH 2019

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Short walk down Holden Street
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For further enquiries phone the
CCR Centre on 9486 6544.

ICCRS INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC
CHARISMATIC RENEWAL SERVICES

REGISTRATION FORM

One form per person. *Please print clearly.*

TITLE: <input type="checkbox"/> MR <input type="checkbox"/> MRS <input type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> REV <input type="checkbox"/> BR <input type="checkbox"/> SR	
FIRST NAME:	SURNAME:
ADDRESS:	
CITY/STATE:	POSTCODE:
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	
REGISTRATION: FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION \$595.	
DEPOSIT ENCLOSED:	
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$	
BALANCE \$	PAYABLE BY 01/03/2019
PAYMENT METHOD: <input type="checkbox"/> CHEQUE <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT DEBIT	
CARD NUMBER: _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _	
NAME ON CARD:	
EXPIRY DATE: _ _ / _ _ _ _	CCV NO: _ _ _
SIGNED	

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: Catholic Charismatic Renewal DETACH AND MAIL FORM TO: Catholic Charismatic Renewal 101 Holden Street, North Fitzroy, VIC. 3068	DIRECT DEBIT: BSB: 033 135 A/C NO: 230074 REF: "SURNAME"	OFFICE USE ONLY: DATE: RECEIPT NO: AMOUNT:
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NOTE: If paying by EFT please email registration form and bank deposit receipt to centre@ccr.org.au

TUNING INTO GOD

By DUNCAN MITCHELL



With 24 hour news, relentless chat on social media, iPhones and the internet, how do we hear the still, small voice of God? Duncan Mitchell explores how God speaks through the Bible.

'The word of God is something alive and active' (*Hebrews 4:12*). I experienced something of the truth of this promise when some years ago, at quite a young age, I suffered a minor stroke. In retrospect, it was not very serious, but at the time, with a distraught family around me, it was a big deal. As I was strapped to a stretcher, feeling very disorientated and unwell in the local A&E department, the following words from the Bible came into my mind: 'I shall not die, but live and recount the works of the Lord' (*Psalms 118:17*).

It was immensely comforting. From all the difficulty and chaos of my situation, this gave me the hope and knowledge that I was in God's care: from that moment I experienced no more worry and recovered my health.

The Bible is able to bring us into God's presence, into life and wholeness.

Difficult To Hear God's Voice

However, for many of us, it is difficult to hear God's voice or experience much sense of His presence in our lives.

Part of the problem in tuning into God lies in having to tune out of so many other noises. Often we find ourselves caught up in the routine of work and study responsibilities, commitments to family and friends.

Our free time can easily be swallowed up by the constant traffic of social media and our need to stay connected. Yet, without a connection to God, our lives risk becoming diminished and all our hard work will not bear the fruit that it could do if only we were more in tune with God.

This is where the Bible can really help. It is difficult, if not impossible, to have a relationship with someone you don't know and whose language you don't speak.

The Bible reveals God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and tells of God's love and desire for us. It shows how merciful God is when we sin and fall away from Him.

The Bible Helps Our Relationship with God

We find a language with which to speak to God about what is going on around us and in the depths of our hearts.

This language can develop and our relationship with God can grow when we pray using the Bible. The Church calls this approach *Lectio Divina* (literally "divine reading").

I have found this really powerful in my own journey of faith and want to outline some suggestions that may help.

- Make a realistic time commitment— something you can commit to daily. (I started with 15 minutes after work once I was home and all the chores had been done). Once you have consistently managed this-for at least a few months- you can increase the time as appropriate.
- Find a place where you are least likely to be disturbed.
- Read a short passage from the Bible (perhaps the Gospel of the Day; a parable from the New Testament, a Psalm). Read it carefully. Note what affect it has on your thoughts, emotions, imagination and desires and speak to God about this. Try and have some time for silence at the end.
- Distractions are common-don't be discouraged. When they arise, feel free to return to your Bible passage and then resume praying.
- It can be good to make a resolution or a decision for that day at the end of your prayer time.
- Find a Bible you understand and enjoy reading.

Some Resources

For prayer whilst travelling/commuting:

www.pray-as-you-go.org

Duncan Mitchell is a member of Cor et Lumen Christi Community.

"Unless you serve you will never ever lead.
Leadership is a piece of cake when you
learn how to serve. There is no greatness
without servant hood. There is no success
without submission."

Tommy Nelson

YOUTH CELEBRATE ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

By ADRIAN COMMODEUR



St Mary Star of the Sea Church, West Melbourne, was the magnificent setting of an unusual event. Ten students took a personal step to enter or complete their entry into the Catholic Church. Boys from Simonds Catholic College, supported by their enthusiastic Religious Education teacher, Andrew Sciberras, took their final steps of Baptism, Confirmation and

First Holy Communion on Thursday 15 November 2018. Celebrated by Msgr Greg Bennett, Vicar General of the Melbourne Archdiocese, and assisted by Fr Anthony Bernal the Parish Priest, the Mass was attended by about 300 young collegians from many ethnic backgrounds. It was no doubt an inspiration to all, including parents and relatives, that these year 7 to 12 students made a mature decision to become Christian Catholics.

Principal Peter Riordan introduced the ceremony for the candidates of various backgrounds such as Australian, Asian, African and Italian. Msgr Bennet related how he followed Google Maps in London, only to find that he had travelled in a large circle, coming back to the place where he started. He spoke about the superheroes, the Saints and declared that “we can transform the world by love”. He told the young men to be brave and courageous; that they could be sure that God was with them.

Six boys received Baptism and nine boys were Confirmed in their faith with the gift of the Holy Spirit. One boy, already Baptised and Confirmed, had missed his First Holy Communion through his Primary School years. Oscar Cain (Yr 9) explained that his nan died at the time he was to receive his First Holy Communion, but said that he was now more committed as a young Catholic. Malok Ajang (Yr 7) said he felt ‘great’ and ‘complete’, and said he had responded to his teacher Mr Sciberras’ invitation and explanation of the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith. Andrew Yuan (Yr 7), was born in Australia and was inspired by his mum who was thinking of becoming a Catholic and his father supported him in the step he has taken. He said “I feel free and I am happier now”. He confessed that “my sins are wiped away.” James Blay from Year 10 said that he was actively involved in his R.E. classes and made the decision to be Confirmed because he believed in the values of the Catholic School. He had some wonderful support from his family. James plays soccer and hopes to join the army.

Over a cup of tea and some nice cakes, Peter Riordan thanked Andrew and others involved in the completion of the Christian Initiation of the ten boys. He congratulated them on following the school’s Catholic values, on attending special preparation classes and on their courage to take this step, a step which they took in front of their family, friends and the School Community.

A morning reminder that you are a current of grace

Finebone china coffee mugs, gift boxed.

\$15.00 plus postage.



A WORD... FROM MIRIAM

By MIRIAM MARKIS



Many of you know of and remember Martin Luther King, as the strident and passionate African American Civil Rights Advocate of the 1960's. King marched and fought a seemingly never-ending battle for his people with fervour, despite discouragement at times that things did not seem to be changing. It was an era of great turmoil and protests abounded in many areas of American life at the time. Luther had his strong advocates and opponents. It is said that King often referred to and was greatly influenced and inspired by the women in his life namely his mother Alberta, his wife Coretta Scott-King and the woman who is said to have triggered the movement for Civil Rights, Rosa Parks. Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus which was segregated and later became known as the "first lady of civil rights".

In a Civil Rights march in Washington King ended up giving the speech "I have a Dream" which is said to have been influenced by his good friend and supporter, the singer Mahalia Jackson. After speaking for some time to hundreds and thousands of supporters gathered there, King was firstly not engaging with the people when speaking only of facts and figures. And so, it was at that point that his closest aides began to encourage King to speak from his heart. He did. The people took hold of and envisaged his dream becoming a reality and were encouraged to keep fighting for Civil Rights. King never lived to see his dream come true but slowly, slowly things began to change. Are things ideal? By no means. But things were actioned by a dream. It was the beginning of change.

In thinking about this issue of dreams lately, I realised how important it is to give voice to our 'dreams'. Jesus often did when he said, 'the Kingdom of God is at hand' (Mt 3:2; 4:17; Mk 1:15). Jesus envisaged a world around Him that would be open to justice and truth. A world that would listen to His Father so "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me". (NIV John 17:21). Jesus, the Word made flesh, the author of life, created us all equal and did not want to see boundaries and division in our personal lives, our communal lives, in our denominations nor in our societies.

So that was Jesus' dream for humankind! So, what is your dream? What is my dream? We each have a dream! Who was Jesus influenced by? Who are we influenced by? In John 5:19-24 (NIV) we see Jesus' answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." Are we listening to the Father? Are we doing, as Jesus did, the things that the Father wants us to do?

Our lives, as Christians must be influenced by Jesus' example of prayer followed by action at the appropriate time. Then, perhaps, we might see changes in our own lives and those of our families, our parishes, our communities, our Charismatic Renewal, our Church that

would bring our dreams to reality. Is this difficult? Yes, no doubt it is! But Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door will be opened to you" (Mt 7: 7-8; Luke 11:9).

My dream is that each member of my family would come to know Jesus personally; that the Renewal would flourish this year in new and innovative ways and make new inroads into the lives of those around us and in our Church and spill over into the next generations in an never ending flow; that the whole Church would foster healing and unity in the spirit; that our government would truly be a government for all its peoples; that our Country would continue to have the unique protection under the sign of the Holy Spirit; that the world may embrace peace and justice for all peoples so that harmony abounds and poverty would be no more; that all human life would be protected from its natural beginning to its natural end; that we would all love one another as Jesus first loved us. (John 13:34) This was His new commandment to us all. It was His dream too!

May you and I never be afraid to voice our dreams. Then we should begin to pray for our dreams. So that they can become reality in accordance with the Father's will.

Can't make it to a Healing Prayer Centre during the week?

**Saturdays 23 March, 22 June,
28 September and 30 November**

You are welcome to come to the Open House
Healing Ministry Day.

9.30am - 2.00pm at the CCR Centre.

Would you like a see-change?

WANTED

**2019 Hosts for our Charismatic Healing & Respite
Country House in Okuku,
North Canterbury, New Zealand.**

CURIOUS?

See replenishhealing.co.nz and contact
replenishnz@gmail.com or phone Di Ingle
+64273009887.

It is a 1 year volunteer position but full board and vehicle is provided. It would suit people with loving servant hearts, have mission and/or community experience, who have some administrative ability and who are capable of looking after a rural property.

MARK YOUR DIARIES...

Renewal Day

An opportunity for fellowship with others and growth through teachings.

2019 Dates: 18 May, 17 August and 16 November.

Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, 49 Nicholson St, East Brunswick.

NO PARKING IN SCHOOL GROUNDS. *Public Transport:* train to Parliament Station, tram no.96 along Nicholson St to stop no.22.

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Saturday 16 February, 7.30pm

Where: Hisense Arena, 2 Olympic Boulevard, Melbourne.

This is a free event, but group bookings can be made through the website: grahamtour.billygraham.org/

ICCRS School of Charisms

27 – 31 March 2019

Learn about the Charisms of the Holy Spirit and how to use them.

Guests: Deacon Christoff Hemberger, ICCRS Council Member for Northern and Western Europe and Ann Brereton, Chairperson National Service Committee CCR Australia.

Venue: CCR Centre, 101 Holden Street, North Fitzroy.

CHARISMATIC MASSES	TIME	VENUE
Third Sunday	12 Noon	St Benedict's, Burwood
HEALING MASSES	TIME	VENUE
Each Sunday	7.00pm	Holy Family, Doveton (Ministry after)
First Saturday	2.30pm – 5pm Adoration followed by Healing Mass	St Peter's, 38 Guinane Ave, Hoppers Crossing
First Sunday	2.30pm	St Peter Chanel, Deer Park
	3.00pm Praise & Worship, 3.30pm Mass	St Christopher's Parish, 5 Doon Ave, Glen Waverley
	5.00pm	St Benedicts, Burwood. Prayer Ministry after Mass, Praise Rally at 7.00pm
	5.30pm Praise, Worship, Adoration 6pm Mass, followed by Prayer Ministry	St Marks, Fawkner
First Monday	7.00pm Praise, 7.30pm Mass	St Joseph's, Springvale Phone 9547 9557
First Friday	8.00pm	St Anthony's, Glenhuntly Cnr Neerim Road & Grange Road, Glenhuntly
	8.15pm	St Peter's, Clayton
Third Wednesday	7.30pm	St Mary's, Castlemaine
Third Thursday	7.30pm	Our Lady Help of Christians, Henry St, Eltham
Third Friday	7.00pm	707 Holy Cross Parish, Caulfield South. Mass, Adoration and devotions to the Holy Cross
Third Sunday	5.30pm	St Francis Xavier, Frankston
	5.30pm Praise, 6.00pm Mass	Good Samaritan Chapel, 1-29 Southern Cross Drive, Roxburgh Park
Fourth Tuesday	10.00am	St Joseph's, Chelsea

St Peter's, East Bentleigh - Healing Masses: Mondays 17 June, 18 November at 8.00pm. Celebrant for all 2 masses will be Fr. Wahid