

workers

together

with Him



October 2009

Out of the starting blocks!

Well, what a flying start to life in New Zealand! In my first month as National Director I have spent 5 days at Diocesan synods, met six Bishops, attended the commissioning of a friend from UK as a Baptist pastor, attended a gathering of the AFFIRM council, taken part in two Church Army conferences – New Zealand and Australia - taken 5 flights, and driven hundreds of kilometres! Add in the small matter of moving across the world, setting up home, arranging bank accounts etc., and you will see it has been a busy time.

The CANZ conference was, of course, a real highlight. To be in the company of people committed to evangelism is always a thrill – people who have a sound theological base, but who are activists at heart. It was exciting to hear numerous stories of lives being transformed by the Good News we seek to both live out and proclaim. My experience has been that most New Zealanders are more than willing to talk about spiritual things – the young man sorting my cell phone talked of his desire to live, not just exist – and how God fitted in to that; the couple showing me my motel room, having opted out of the increasingly manic rat race they had found themselves trapped in, and trying to find a balance to life – and how they were searching for a deeper meaning to life...I could go on and on! The tragedy is that few of these people see the church as the place to go for answers. I wonder how we have managed to take the most dynamic, life transforming, earth shattering Good News ever, and make it sound boring, lifeless, dull and irrelevant?

My personal highlight so far in NZ has been a visit to Marsden Cross, the site of the first Christian service conducted in New Zealand on Christmas Day 1814. I was thrilled to discover that Marsden was a fellow Yorkshireman (and his wife came from Hull, my home city!). Part of the missional genius of Samuel Marsden seems to me to have been that he spent years preparing the ground in readiness for the sowing of the Gospel.

He welcomed Maori visitors to his home in Parramatta, getting to know their language and ways, and seeing how Europeans could genuinely enrich the lives of the established people of New Zealand. He arrived in New Zealand with Ruatara as his right hand man, increasing the likelihood of a warm welcome.

Church Army will seek to work in partnership with any who wish to share the Good News of Jesus. We do so readily acknowledging that local knowledge is key in reaching local people – while we can bring our own experience and expertise as Church Army evangelists. We have no interest in building our own kingdom, but only in bringing in God's Kingdom. We long to support, encourage and equip evangelists wherever they are, walking alongside them in their ministry.

My sense is that 2014 (the 200th anniversary of Marsden's arrival) could be a **pivotal year in the short history of this nation**. (That is a massive statement – so please read it again). I believe God is calling the Christian Church in New Zealand to stand together, to lay aside our disputes and divisions, and to make 2014 a year of continual, multi-faceted mission and evangelism so that every single person in the country has a number of opportunities to hear and respond to the Gospel of Christ, and to personally experience the love of God. If this is to happen, then like Revd Samuel Marsden, we need to

pray, listen to God, plan carefully, and move forward in unity.

I have been in New Zealand less than a month, and I do not have a direct line to God – so please spend time in prayer, and let me know what you hear God saying – particularly with regard to the paragraph above.

Bless you for your partnership in the Gospel we proclaim. I genuinely believe that exciting times lie ahead of us, and I pray that Church Army New Zealand will be at the heart of the action.

Phil Clark



+David Reflects on Church Army

Printed below is Archbishop David Moxon's sermon based on 2 Timothy 2: 15, 23-26 which was preached at the Welcome and Licensing Service of Captain Phil Clark.

It is a privilege and a joy to be here as this new chapter begins for the Church Army in Aotearoa New Zealand. I have a great respect for the work of Captain Peter Lloyd as the out-going Church Army Director and I would like to use part of this time to convey my deep thanksgiving for what the Church Army represents and has achieved in these islands.

While I haven't met Phil Clark before now, I know of the calibre and quality of Church Army personnel from many years experience. The Church Army, through the ministry of Capt. Peter Allfrey has worked in a number of parishes in my Diocese, including Tokoroa, Inglewood and Putaruru. The RunRIG programme has also been a great success in the Taranaki Bishopric as has the visits of Capt. Peter Lloyd for education in evangelism. The Wilson Carlile Resthome has long been a feature of the Diocese of Waikato, taking its name from the founder of the Church Army. Those who built the home named it after Wilson Carlile because they wanted to express the Church Army vision of Christian outreach and Gospel-centred care to those in need. The Resthome was intended for elderly people who might not ordinarily be able to afford their facilities.

Wilson had founded Church Army mission in 1882 for evangelism in the slums around Westminster in London. He had a vision of evangelical work being carried out to those in a community who were unlikely to be reached by the traditional parish system, to take the Gospel deep into the community and to share in the things that really matter to people. He was seeking to discover ways of creating fresh and relevant expressions of Christian mission on the green edge of the Kingdom of God. He also hoped that Church Army evangelists would largely be lay people who came from the same socio-economic background as the people they were serving so one would meet the other on a level playing field with familiarity and authenticity.

The Church Army in Aotearoa New Zealand has sought to keep faith with this original founding vision in a hundred different ways in many different places.

Therefore, let us take our text of Paul's Letter to Timothy at Ephesus, that we have been given for the text this evening and use it as a way of giving thanks for the special character of the Church Army ministry here that Phil Clarke is inheriting this evening. Firstly, in 2 Timothy 2: 15 the text says that a worker for Christ needs to be approved by God. This word has the meaning of being tried and tested over time, perhaps like beaten gold, rather than having tried and failed. The Church Army here is certainly witness to approval by God in this sense. Having laboured here for many decades Church Army personnel have been tried and

tested in a variety of contexts; from youth ministry, to parish missions, to evangelism training events into new outreach initiatives including the fresh expressions movement. In particular the Church Army has sought to adapt and grow to changing times and contexts and has come through with the respect and appreciation of many.

This verse also says a worker for God has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth. Here the sense is that the worker has learned their trade well and works consistently to good affect. The words, the faith and the action are consistent and the grain runs true. This has been my experience.

Our text goes on to say in verse 23 that the worker for God should have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies that breed quarrels. Here the intention is that a simple, wholesome, spirit-led gospel is preached and lived for its own sake rather than quibbling over small details such as the Pharisees did. In Timothy's day there were philosophical debates about the nature of the resurrection of the dead which led to false teaching about the resurrection. Some were teaching that marriage should be forbidden, some foods were to be avoided and that the resurrection of the dead had already happened.

People were forgetting that the risen Christ is the Living Word of God and that he, as a personal reality, is the person we meet through the written word of God in the scriptures. The main thing is always to keep the main thing as the main thing. This has meant that the Church Army here has been able to move across the diversity of this Church transcending minor differences and seeking the Gospel at the heart of matters.

In verse 24 the worker of God is challenged to be kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, correcting opponents with gentleness. Here we see the special character at the heart of an evangelist. These qualities remind us of the fruits of the spirit that Paul recorded in his letter to the Galatians, Chapter 5, verses 22 to 26:

"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another."

Paul is saying to Timothy that by this "heart" in the worker, God will grant that some opponents will repent and come to know the truth having been held by the snare of the devil in serving evil. Here it is clear that

it is not simply the technique for words that the worker for God uses but the character of the worker themselves that commends the message. The medium is the message; the messenger and the message are identified with each other and where the talk is walked then progress is made. The Church Army in New Zealand has always sought a winsome and evocative heart-to-heart approach to evangelism and to outreach. I have always loved that description of the evangelical moment as when the image of God in somebody, recognises the Spirit of Christ in somebody else. This it seems to me has been the Gospel spirituality we affirm this evening. There has been no aggression or a patronising method of conversion, but rather a clear, warm engagement with people where they are. This is why God has vindicated you and brought you to this point in time, where you are still so clearly needed.

Perhaps our Second Timothy passage was chosen instinctively for tonight's welcome because it echoes the special character of the Church Army in Aotearoa New Zealand. Because the Church Army has sought to be faithful to these words of Paul to Timothy, that faithfulness has been vindicated and is the final reason for the abiding life and good health that we give thanks for this evening.

The Church Army is still needed also because from its foundation in Westminster, it was years ahead of its time. It is truly a fresh expression of the Gospel, long before that phrase was used. Parishes still struggle with the vocation and charism of evangelist to this day, which is why the Church Army is still so relevant. Parishes still struggle with outreach beyond their borders and congregations which is why the Church Army is still needed today.

So Phil, this is the faith community you enter tonight and the mission you inherit. It is in good heart and I know it will be in good hands. God be with you and bless you richly in your time amongst us. We pledge you our support, our prayer and the hope that is in us.





Adam@Yellowknife. Canada

A huge shout out to you, all the way from the golden city of Yellowknife. Been here a month and they got me working at Sidedoor – a youth drop-in centre that helps youth off the streets to hang out in a christian environment (www.sidedoor.ca). I'm working with kids who turn up at 3pm-5pm after school, and also with Senior Sidedoor which runs Mon, Wed, Fri, and Sat – no set programme for that – they just get to hang out, play video games and pool, sometimes you can have a convo with them which is cool! Sometimes we have to kick them out if they're drunk or something, I usually like to sit them down and have a chat be we usually have to ask them to leave. Have also had some 'Living Room' shifts –

that's a homeless emergency shelter for 13-19 year olds from 11pm-8am each day. Sometimes it's quiet about 3am so that's when we kiwis get to catch up through facebook! Loving the dudes I'm living with, we get to go to Hilltop on Saturdays which is where most of the poorer people are, we get to give them food from 'food rescue' and talk to them if we can. Really thankful that I got here safely, it's just great. Please pray for Sidedoor and that we can keep the Skateboard ministry going during winter. If you want to touch base with me directly email:trombonechad@hotmail.com and check me out on facebook

Adam Ferry-Parker!



Ryan@Berkeley. Australia

Sorry for taking so long to touch base but I have been kept very busy, learning lots and having a great time. Been continuing my Adopt-a-block and taking some of the Berkeley people with me watching them step up to the plate and grow too. I'm really enjoying teaching scripture in schools, starting to build some great relationships with the kids who are asking some really great questions. It's clear they are learning heaps about Jesus. My work with youth is progressing slowly – building good relationships with them and though

they can sometimes cause some trouble their behaviour at church has improved a massive amount. We're working on developing our programmes and building in some structure. We are going full steam ahead on the new building with the help and support of other churches and folk. We are wanting to put in the new building, a church, an op shop, and a big youth centre where we hope to have boxing and martial arts to give the youth stuff to do and teach them discipline. I feel like I am growing heaps spiritually, got my first chance to preach a sermon – loved it, got a great response and some good feedback

too. I felt like God was really with me through my preparation and delivery. It's going to be hard to say goodbye. Once again, thanks to everyone for their prayer and support with the whole Gap Year programme, it means a lot to me and I appreciate every bit of it.



Jenny@New Orleans

Its hard to believe that three months has already gone – had the fourth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina at the end of August – helped out with a clean up and a beautification at a high school. Got to see a Second Line Parade – a parade led by a brass band which is traditionally for a funeral, after the body is buried, friends, relatives and

passerby will march and dance through the streets led by the band to celebrate the life of the person who has died – it was good to remember the victims who had died in Hurricane Katrina in this way. I've been volunteering at Audobon Charter Elementary school helping out two teachers – one class has 25 kids years 2-4 and the other class are year 1 kids. While its been enjoyable I can definitely say that teaching 7-9 year olds is not my calling! Supervising the new entrant kids in their activities and journal writing has been much more enjoyable for me although having to manage a class of 20+ easily distracted 5 year olds, two of whom did not stop crying for several hours, my respect for early childhood and primary teachers has increased immensely!! Its tricky trying to remain settled into the rhythm of life here yet knowing that my time here will soon be at an end. It has been an invaluable experience for me, I will have a lot to reflect on as I return home. Please pray for God's guidance for Communitas over the next few months and give thanks that we made it through the hurricane season WITHOUT any hurricanes!



Workers Update: Glenis

In this past year I have become more confident in who I am in a number of ways. Even though there have been some pretty major challenges along the way, there have been (and still are) some really neat stuff happening! The next steps of the journey, are starting to develop so I'm quite excited to see what they end up looking like! :-)

Joys:

Jack
The RunRIG team
Being a part of something bigger than us
Having Lynne being a part of the 3-2-1 Holiday programme here last year (even though she didn't know about it until she got here! :-)
Jack's naming day
RunRIG's 10th Birthday at the beginning of June

Challenges:

Ensuring the All Saints 2008 holiday programme was organised etc.
Being a full time student doing the Diploma in Biblical Studies course through Laidlaw College

Writing bits for RunRIGers
Being 'stretched' personally, spiritually and in terms of ministry.

Successes:

All Saints 2008 holiday programme being more of a success than I anticipated
Certificate in Evangelism (my first ever qualification!)
Adlibbing etc for the first time (with Unk)
Helping to prepare parts of 'The Shed' 2009 Holiday programme
Writing bits for RunRIGers

Highlights:

Certificate in Evangelism presentation day (16 August 2009)
RunRIG's Afta-Skwl programme
3-2-1 BlastOFF Holiday programme 2008
Easter Convention at El Rancho
The Shed (Part 1) 2009
Making new friends in different parts of the country
Discovering more of 'me'



Editor's note: Glenis is now working towards being accepted as a Church Army New Zealand Officer. Watch this space!

A significant number of young people lose their faith when they start their Tertiary Education. How can we help?



Introducing the FORGE

a CA-NZ & Birkdale/Beach Haven Anglican Church initiative

The Forge is designed to help prevent this by providing an environment where young adults can continue to grow in their faith while adjusting to the rigours of academic study. Discover authentic Christian Community and Discipleship by living together with others at The Forge. It's a great way to develop your leadership potential and skills!

Cost: \$100 pw (covers food, power, phone & net)
Available from Semester 2 2009 for a min. stay of 6 months

For more information contact:
Peter & Lorraine Lloyd 09 483 6989
or Lahti Jeddiah 09 482 5205

Congratulations Anne & Happy Birthday!

On Sunday **18 October 2009** at Christ Church Wanganui, Anne was presented with her Certificate of Evangelism and authorized by the National Director, Capt. Phil Clark, to work as a Church Army New Zealand Associate Office. It was a wonderful day of celebration for all who were able to be present, especially for Anne as it was also her birthday. Please continue to pray for Anne as she continues to grow into this ministry.

Generous Giving - response forms

Over the past few years we have been working to have each of our ministries able to support themselves financially. Your generous gifts to Church Army can be given to any one of the following ministries

- Run Ministries
- North Island Field Worker (NIFW)
- Canterbury Kids Coach (CKC)
- GAP year
- RunRIG
- Director's Ministry (to provide for the National Director of CANZ)
- General Funds

If your gifts are not specified for a particular ministry, they go into the General Funds, so if you wish your gift to go to a particular CA-NZ ministry, please specify so on your response form. Thank you.

If you do not wish to receive this magazine please contact the office - see details below

Together we can make a difference

WILL YOU JOIN US BY GIVING GENEROUSLY TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES IN THE FIELD?

Contact us at: **PO Box 26-209, Auckland 1344** Phone: **(09) 630-2282** or **(09) 630 2201**
Fax: **(09) 630 2201** Email: **office@ca-nz.org** Website: **www.ca-nz.org**