

CROSSROADS NEWS

The Official Journal of
Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW

Autumn 2011
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Subscriptions

Please check the top right hand corner of the label on the envelope to see when you have paid till. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year and are due April.

Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW Inc.

A Ministry advocating for and involving people with Disabilities
Established 1961
ABN 90 070 601 357

Items for Winter Newsletter to Editor by 28th May 2011

Autumn is the time of the year we prepare for the coming cold and rain of winter. This past summer many people have already experienced their yearly rainfall and more. While others are still trying to rebuild their lives changed by fires, cyclones , earthquakes and tsunamis.

Let us remember them all in our prayers, especially those who now have a disability whether it is only of a short term nature or has permanently affected their lives.



Chairman's Chat:

Have you ever felt, having met people for the first time, that as they spoke you were on the same "wave length"? That's how it was for me having met **Prabhu** and **Nancy Rayan** along with their daughter Paran for the first time this past January!

Prabhu and Nancy were in Australia, having travelled from India where he is the **Executive Director of International Fellowship for the Handicapped**, to be at the graduation service of one of their daughters (Paran) who had just completed a PhD on Tropical Medicine at Queensland University.



Nancy and Prabhu Rayan

As they spoke and shared as to how the **Lord Jesus Christ** had captured their lives and how He had led them into the work with people with a disability, I sat captivated as testimony after testimony was shared as to how our Heavenly Father had been and was still meeting the needs of the ministry and of the family. I realized I was sitting with people of **great faith**.

As they said, ***"The Gospel is not disabled that it cannot save disabled people!"***

What an attitude—and one many of the churches in Australia could well remember and act upon.

It's true as they stated, "That to give charity" - as most of us think, is the way to go, "Will take a person to his or her grave, **But to give Christ, will take a person to eternity!"**

What hit home most of all was the statement made by Prabhu when he said, "If all the disabled people of the world came together and formed a nation **it would be the third largest nation on earth next only to China and India"**.

Disability knows no nationality, religion, class, caste or creed. It could happen to anybody. WOW! What a ministry we are involved in. Within a short time I was convinced that Church, Ministry and Mission must always include reaching out to disabled people.

The title on their brochure really said it all in regards their attitude and heart for disability. It stated, **CELEBRATING GOD'S DESIGN**. It reminded me that other major religions had little regard for the disabled. Of all the stances displayed which include, 'objects of benevolence; no value, fatalism and a host of other attitudes it is only Christianity which has the power to rescue disabled people from isolation.

At the conclusion of the fast moving hours we had together we held hands to pray. Crossroads Branches - you were included. May each of us involved in the work of Crossroads, at no matter what level, endeavour to make 2011 a year that will tell for the kingdom's sake.

The Lord strengthen and bless you.



Len Kingston

TAG TIME (Thinking about God)

In the past few months two faithful supporters of Shoalhaven Crossroads have died. They were women of faith. Elaine was 65 years old and after a very short battle with cancer died in October 2010. Elaine was known as the "God bless you" lady as this was how she ended every conversation with all to whom she spoke. Elaine had a deep understanding that Jesus was her Lord and Saviour and although she may not have been able to explain the depths of Christian doctrine her faith and her consistent witness to Jesus left no doubt about her relationship with Him.

Margaret who was 80 years old died on 14th January 2011. Over the past year, she too had battled with cancer. As a very active member of the Salvation Army, Margaret's faith was real and practical. At the time of her death she was the longest serving member of the Nowra Corps. Her funeral service was a celebration of her life, her commitment to her large family and her Lord.

Both Elaine and Margaret had a great assurance that they were going to heaven. In their younger years they had trusted Jesus asking Him into their lives and then asking to

live for Him each day. They believed the promises they read in God's word that as they trusted in God's only Son they received the gift of eternal life.

The new heaven that John writes of in Revelation is a place where God dwells with His people. There will be no death, sorrow, crying or pain; the old world and its evils will be gone forever. (Rev 21:3-4) Is it presumptuous to say that you can be sure of going to heaven? That is a good question but the Bible has a clear answer. We can take no credit ourselves, salvation is a free gift, it is not a reward for good things we have done, we cannot boast about it but we can have assurance when we believe. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

And this is what God has testified. He has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. Whoever has God's Son has life, whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. (1 John 5:11)

As Elaine would have said "God bless you".

Beth Dodd
Director
Shoalhaven Crossroads.



Crossroads Committee

Chairman *Len Kingston*

Secretary **Vacant**

Treasurer *Ken Rumble*

Advancement Officer

Vacant

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Editor *Judy Thompson*

Public Officer

Andrew Blamey

Regional Advancement Officer

Beth Dodd

Web Site Editor

Elly Byrne

Training Coordinator

Elaine Beddie

Touring Officer

Len Kingston

Two Committee positions are vacant. One is critical to the smooth running of Crossroads NSW.

If you are able to serve as secretary and sense a call to fill this position please contact either the Chairman or Public Officer at your convenience.

**Crossroads NSW
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 30th July 2011
(Venue to be advised)**

Editorial

The last few months have been traumatic for many people who faced floods, fires, earthquakes as well as personal trials. I hope your faith in the Lord Jesus has helped you through this difficult time.

Looking ahead we will soon be celebrating the Easter Season. The sadness of Good Friday gives way to the Lords resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Take care during this Easter holiday week-end especially if you are travelling.

Remember; not too many hot cross buns or too much chocolate.

Have a restful and

HAPPY MOTHERS

DAY

If you have items or articles of interest please send them to me for inclusion in future editions of the news. These can include short stories or poems.



Judy Thompson

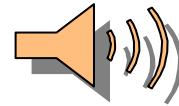
Email: rth85430@bigpond.net.au

Post: 40 St Anns Street Nowra

NSW 2541

Having trouble reading Crossroads News?

A wonderful volunteer by the name of **Ted Barker** who lives in Bradbury presently has a service available for all sight impaired and folk with reading difficulties. Ted reads the Crossroads News and sends it out on a CD! If this service would be a help to you he is contactable on **4625 0507**. Give him a call and discuss your needs with him.



Stop Press

Blamey Family News

We're pleased to let you know that our first grand daughter, little Aria Joy, was born to Allison on 24th March.

Her name means 'song of joy', which we think is just beautiful.

Our other two daughters were both married late last year— Jo in October and Sue in November.

Andrew and Karen Blamey



Sydney Crossroads Holiday to New Zealand 2010/11

Fifty people attended the 2010/11 holiday to the North Island of New Zealand where, for the majority of the time they stayed at **Epworth Retreat & Recreation Centre** on the outskirts of Cambridge situated on the Waikato River.



Jeanette Kingston with her group of wonderful ladies.

Everyday proved to be a high-light with the centre's management, **Jim and Maeg Hughes** going beyond the norm to make sure everyone of us had a time never to be forgotten!

Extra bonuses included being entertained by a **Maori Haka**; visiting a **Kiwifruit farm** at Tauranga where we learned about this remarkable fruit; **seeing glowworms** on the Waikato river at night; looking at the **thermal wonders** of Rotorua plus many other wonderful adventures.



The happy holiday makers at Rotorua on the grounds of the old bathhouse

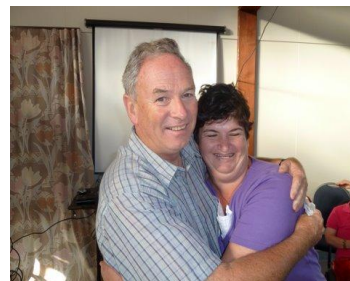
All of the carers and many of the passengers meet the day before departure at the **Mercure Airport Hotel Arncliffe** where, following dinner, people were introduced to their carer. The next morning

we were taken to the international departure point where we went through the usual procedures before catching our **Air New Zealand** flight to Auckland.

The flight over really set the atmosphere for the rest of the holiday with airline staff going out of their way to make everyone happy and they succeeded!

Arrival at Auckland went without any problems and on leaving the custom's area we were met by our coach driver, **Max Briggs**. Max very quickly became more than "just our driver". He was one of those people who you could not help but like and his involvement and thoughtfulness meant that we not only had a driver but another carer as well!

With his extensive knowledge of the North Island, Max took us to places we may never have visited and cared for us as if we were his family. We can only express our gratitude for Bethlehem Coaches giving us the **VERY RIGHT PERSON** for the job. (It is hoped he may be able to come to Disneyland with us next year).



Rose Amorosso receiving a hug from Max after thanking him for being our driver and friend.

Our dedicated team of carers included **Hal Drayton**-known to many. **David and Hilda Caine**, **Len and Jeanette Kingston**, **David Shaw**, **Talitha Wilson** and **Wally and Sue Pearce**. Talitha Wilson replaced **Edith Shaw** who unfortunately was not able to travel at the last minute owing to an incident just days before departure which left her incapacitated. With thanks to Air New Zealand (a wonderful airline) we were able to change tickets very promptly which meant we had our compliment of carers needed for the holiday. Talitha proved to be a great asset as she not only had experience with disability being an assistant at Shaw Possibilities in Canberra, but also being a dedicated Christian. Everyone was happy to learn that she will be one of our carers to America.



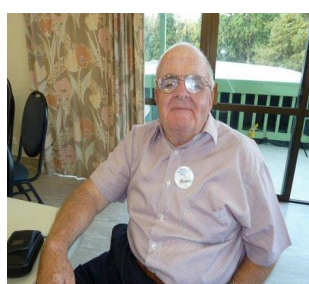
Peter Kuczma & Cathy Graham

Lots of our passengers have been coming away for many years and some of them include **Robert Boxall**, **Megan Spurway**, **Erin Carroll** and **Sue Sindell** to name a few.



Terry Whitehouse

The shop owners must have been very pleased with our visit taking into account the amount of souvenirs purchased. Wherever we stopped for a coffee break the souvenir section would be raided and lots of money changed hands! We were able to meet many other tourists to the cheery investigative skills of **Terry Whitehouse** who had the ability to nail everyone from Sydney to Timbuktu in every tourist place we stopped at. He had the ability to find out their names, where they lived and sometimes, what they had for breakfast.



Robert Boxall



Sue Sindell



Megan Spurway & Erin Carroll

Like all good holidays, this one had to come to an end and the day we were to leave Auckland for our return home was spent looking at great bays as well as the Auckland Museum. Thanks again to Max we had a great time before being dropped off at the airport to arrive home into the hands of welcoming carers, parents and friends who had come to meet us.

Next year it's off to **Disneyland (Anaheim, California)** and anyone interested in this holiday is advised to **BOOK EARLY** as the interest shown is greater than the numbers we are able to accommodate.

Disneyland 2012

Look what you get

-
- A night's accommodation with dinner/breakfast in Sydney prior to flying out to America.
- Carer supervision.
- Transport to the departure terminal from the hotel.
- Travel Insurance for the group.
- Coach travel from Los Angeles International Airport to the Holiday Inn, Anaheim.
- Twin (or single) accommodation.
- All meals
- Transport to and from the hotel to Disneyland
- A five day pass into Disneyland
- A day's outing by deluxe coach to Los Angeles.
- A day's outing to SeaWorld
- A day's shopping expedition to outlet malls.
- Return transport to Los Angeles
- Breakfast with Disneyland Characters.
- Lots more!!!

ALL OF THIS FOR ONLY

\$5,600

**For further information including registration
and other necessary papers**

contact

Len Kingston

Email: len@abvn.org.au

Mobile: 0408 241 020

Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW Inc.

We are a "Christian" Fellowship
What does this mean?

- We believe that Jesus is God's Son and that we are saved by grace through faith in him alone. Jesus death is the means by which we can know forgiveness of sin and a restored relationship and friendship with God.
- God loves us all equally for we are all equal in His sight—no matter what our level of intellect, physical ability, personality or social standing. We are sinful, rebellious people saved by His grace. (See: Romans 5:8, Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9)

How will this be evident at Crossroads?

- We will care for each other and accept one another.
- We will seek to be like Jesus in all we do and say.
- We will strive to create an atmosphere of love and acceptance.
- We will desire to share our faith in a sensitive and appropriate way with others.
- We will pray for one another.

It is a spiritual ministry— as we seek to talk of God and encourage Crossroaders to trust in Jesus there will be opposition

It is important to have people praying for your group, your meetings and your members.

Beth Dodd.

From: An Interactive Workshop

Facilitated by Shoalhaven Crossroads for the
AGM in July 2010

Crossroads Branches

COUNTRY

Bowral	02 4421 5129
Dubbo	02 6884 1380
Shareability Canberra	02 6254 2012
Lismore	02 6621 2725
Mudgee	02 6372 7609
Newcastle	02 4951 8106
ShellHarbour	02 4297 6425
Shoalhaven	02 4421 8137
Tamworth	02 6764 4243
Wollongong	02 4225 3436

SYDNEY AREA

Annangrove	
Kenthurst	02 4587 8841
Bankstown City	02 9773 4754
Central Sydney	02 9817 2289
Kindilan -Trips	02 9809 4235
Kingsway(Caringbah)	02 9527 2410
Macarthur District	02 4628 6386
Wesley Video	
Fellowship Sydney	02 9267 5555
Parramatta	02 9624 3130

STATE OFFICES

NSW

02 9980 8911

Queensland

07 3350 8500

Tasmania

03 6431 2289

Victoria

03 8809 3000

Western Australia

08 9380 9427

Disneyland



Are you able and willing to push a wheelchair during the 2012 trip to Disneyland?

Two people are needed for this important task. Subsidised cost available: Include: Travel Insurance, all meals, entry into attractions and accommodation on a twin share basis, coach transfers and airfare. This trip needs to be seen as ministry to people who otherwise would never be able to have a holiday such as this.

If you are interested in this unusual ministry, for further detail please contact

Pastor Len Kingston : 0408 241 020
Email: lenkingston@gmail.com

Crossroads News is a publication of Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW INC. It serves to be a voice for Crossroads Christian Fellowship as well as being a forum for ideas to help stimulate thought and action.

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