



## Seasons Greetings



For unto us a child is born  
The saviour of the world



As you prepare for this Holy  
Season please pray for all  
Crossroaders and their families  
to have a Happy and Safe 2011



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### Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW Inc.

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

Items for Autumn Newsletter to Editor by 14th February 2011

## Chairman's Chat:



It was a privilege to have been part of the Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW AGM on Saturday July 31st where twenty four delegates from Branches around the State were in attendance and to have sensed a renewed interest in the organization. Positions were filled which have been vacant for some time. A new Editor for Crossroads News was elected thus relieving me of a huge responsibility (Thank you Judy). Whilst there are some important roles still to be filled I believe good things are ahead as we keep looking for inspiration from the One who brought Crossroads into being in the first place.

The Meeting was held at the Angus Bristow Village, Narellan with members of the Narellan Community Congregational Church providing a sumptuous morning tea and a delicious two course lunch. We acknowledge with thanks the great contribution of the ladies responsible for more than adequately caring for our refreshments.

During the meeting we were reminded that next year will mark the 50th anniversary of Crossroads NSW. Crossroads was founded in Newcastle in 1961 by Rev. Chegwidde of Newcastle Methodist Mission and Baptist layman, Hilton Hayes. A lot has changed since then but there is still a need for our Branches to carry on the great work of Crossroads in the name of Jesus for and with people with a disability. As soon as details are known about any celebrations to mark the event Branches will be notified.

I am pleased to report that following the meetings re-election of Ken Rumble as Treasurer on the understanding that he accept the position. When notified Ken has now confirmed that he would be delighted to continue in this office.

One of the high lights of the meeting was the presentation of two workshops which were inspiring and well received. Lesley Gilbert, from Parramatta Branch, challenged us to look at the Biblical Perspective of Ministry with People who have a Disability and then, sadly because of time restraints, spoke on Recruiting and Keeping Volunteers. Both presentations were excellent. Beth Dodd, ably assisted by others from the Shoalhaven Branch, then spoke on ideas for Meetings. It would be doing an injustice to try to pick out one topic over another because all of the presentations were excellent in content and presentation so I would just like to thank all who took part for what I saw as one of the most important parts of the meeting!

The next AGM has been set for July 30th 2011 with it being recommended that we hold the meeting over a weekend at a venue which might be satisfactory for some of our country Branch members to attend. With that in mind it was proposed that we meet somewhere in the Blue Mountains. Any comments would be appreciated.

I am encouraged as we enter a new year of service and feel optimistic believing that if the principles enunciated in this year's workshops are acted upon we can expect to see growth and stability in our Branches.

Len Kingston

## TAG TIME (Thinking about God)

### Paid In Full

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted.

As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box. Curious, and somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the young man's name embossed in gold. Angry, he raised his voice to his father and said "with all your money, you give me a Bible?" and stormed out of the house. Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realised his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day.

Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things.

When he arrived at his father's house, a sudden feeling of sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and saw the still gift-wrapped Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His father had carefully underlined a verse, Matt.7:11, "And if ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father which is in Heaven, give to those who ask Him?"

As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words PAID IN FULL. How many times do we miss God's blessings because we can't see past our own desires?

Les Thomas Shoalhaven  
Crossroads.

## Positions filled at this years AGM

Chairman *Len Kingston*

Secretary *Vacant*

Treasurer *Ken Rumble*

Advancement Officer

*Vacant*

Publications (News)

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*

Thank you for all who indicated a willingness to serve the overall organization. Two positions are still vacant with one being very critical to smooth running. If you have an ability to serve as secretary and sense a call to fill this position please contact either the Chairman or Public Officer at your convenience.

## *Editorial*

During the AGM in July I had the privilege of meeting members from a number of branches. I was “nudged” to take on the editing of your newsletter and assured of support, which I have received from others who were present, especially Les Thomas.

At times over the past few months I have felt I couldn't do this work as I wasn't very well. Now I have recovered and started putting this edition together I feel a sense of purpose and joy being able to use my skills to keep the Crossroads Newsletter going out to you. I have been retired from my work with people with disabilities for sometime. However my husband and I continue to attend meetings when ever possible as well as serve on the Shoalhaven Committee.

If you have items or articles of interest please send them to me for inclusion in future editions of the news.



Judy Thompson

Email:  
rth85430@bigpond.net.au

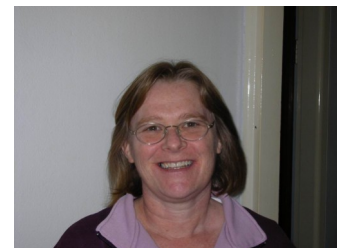
Post: 40 St Anns Street Nowra  
NSW 2541

## AGM Workshops

Lesley Gilbert (Parramatta) presented a thought provoking workshop on Recruiting and keeping volunteers at the AGM in July. Lesley began by Introducing Biblical Perspectives, looking to Bible texts for inspiration.

### Recruiting Volunteers

1. Make Crossroads a visible Ministry
2. When asking for new volunteers be specific about assistance needed-start small
3. Be available to contacted
4. Be Enthusiastic
5. Encourage people to come and have a look.
6. Educate your church.



Lesley Gilbert

### Keeping Volunteers

1. Communicate often
2. Get to know your volunteers
3. Value your volunteers
4. Train your volunteers
5. Resource your volunteers
6. Give specific roles
7. Allow volunteers choice of roles
8. Happily accept absences
9. Pray for volunteers

Keep in touch with past volunteers-if possible– they may one day come back

Resource for more ideas: “Care and Feeding of Volunteers”

Bolten, Bright and Cressy

“Expressing Faith in Jesus” Ronald C Vredeveld

“Friendship Unlimited” Joni Eareckson Tada

Next Newsletter:

“Ideas for Meetings” presented by Beth Dodd (Shoalhaven)

# IS THE GOSPEL DISABLED?

By  
**Prabhu and Nancy Rayan**

(A case study in the Indian context)



Disabled people are everywhere, you cannot avoid seeing them or watching them pass by because 11 % of our population is disabled i.e. over 150 million!

Have you ever thought about their eternity? “No Kidding!” You say. What? You reason in your mind, “Disabled people are naturally meant for charity.”

We don’t talk about the Karma Philosophy or the Fatalistic thinking, as we are Christians.

OK, then what about the Christians? “We are the ones who brought about a great revolution in their lives - from isolation to institution. Isn’t that enough?”

Let us pause for a second and let us ask you these questions -

Is life meant only to be lived in institutions?

How can a person be called rehabilitated without the rehabilitation of their spiritual life?

That was exactly where we were in the city of Mumbai, India in the year 1980, when we met Param, a young man, who had become blind at the age of 16.

Having come from a staunch Hindu background, Param sat rather dejected and despondent in the company of other visually disabled people, whom he helped before he became blind for his house was near the National Institute for the Blind, Worli, Mumbai. No amount of rehabilitation gave him real peace and joy because he knew that his gods have punished him. Friends and relatives who were with him and who admired him for all his good characters, now left him desolate the only reason being he was blind.

We shared about the Lord Jesus Christ, who loves sinners; to our surprise, he readily accepted the Lord as his Saviour.

Why were we surprised? We were Christian workers, yet when sharing the gospel with disabled people, our human mindset, which was charity mindset, took precedence and blurred our spiritual vision. We saw people with disabilities outwardly with their bodies disabled and deformed. Like the world our minds exaggerated their disabilities and concluded that they are handicapped devoid of anything good. What we failed to realise was that they have “a beautiful healthful soul within a deformed crazy body.”

The Lord was teaching us that the gospel is in no way disabled that it cannot save people with disabilities. “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

It came like a thunderbolt. That was a revelation to us! We had to change our thinking and align our thinking with God’s thinking. “Let this mind which was found in the Lord Jesus Christ, be found in you?”

It was during his baptism that the Lord impressed in our hearts and the call was clear. “Today, Param is added in my Body, where are the millions of disabled people in My Body.” In response to that we resigned our jobs and started sharing the good news with people with disabilities. As a result India Fellowship for the Visually Handicapped was born.

Our aim is to preach the gospel and integrate them in the existing churches; at the same time motivating and mobilising the churches to do the same.

## Parramatta Branch =Update

It's been awhile since Parramatta branch has had an article in the Crossroads News. I'm not sure if some of this is old news but we are giving you an update from the last twelve months.



Parramatta Crossroads has been very busy and has moved 'house'. St. Clements Anglican Church at Lalor Park has become our new home and we have settled in since winter '09. Although we are no longer located in Parramatta it was felt that we would retain the name of Parramatta Crossroads. We have seen new member and new helpers come along but unfortunately have seen others move on.



We say a special goodbye to Wayne and Warren who have moved north. Rosemary is no longer able to attend regularly.



Jackie has just married and moved south.



We have fun singing, dancing and playing lots of games.



Also we have made pompoms, friendship bracelets, placemats and cooked pizzas.



Learning about Jesus' life and the things he taught, using both drama and watching

sections of the Jesus DVD has been most interesting. We have talked about how we can follow him, serve God and others in our day to day lives.



In September we went for an outing to the circus. Everyone loved the clowns, the amazing acrobats and had a great time.

We look forward to getting together over the next few months.

## **Tamworth Tidings**



Hello there from the Country Music capital.

We've been a bit quiet lately as regards sharing news of our activities but I can assure you that our group is quite active. Our Thursday night meetings on the the first week of the month have each featured a craft activity, generally an indoor game or games, devotion and supper. Each night a different church group from the town prepares and conducts our program, For our devotion we've been looking at some of the parables of Jesus and aren't we finding them interesting. Our big news for the year is that this is our 25th Anniversary. To help commemorate the occasion we're having Peter and Julie Halyburton as our special guests. It was Julie's dad Hilton Hayes who started the great Crossroads movement. We're having

the celebration at our December Christmas meeting and special 25 year badges are being struck, so we wait expectantly for photos of the event.

Best wishes

Geoff Webster.

## **Dubbo**



At Dubbo we have about 30 members and some times there are up to 40 people at a meeting. We originally had only clients from an establishment called "Westhaven". This has now extended to many of the DADHC group homes. This has had an added bonus of carers coming with the clients. The outreach opportunities have been realised as well. We have a great reputation in Dubbo. We have many local churches coming and offering a program on different months. We only meet monthly.

Robyn Stack and Jeff Neill

## **Shoalhaven**

Like many other Crossroad groups our members meet monthly. We have a rather large number of members and



often have 100

people, including carers and supporters at evenings. We meet on the second Friday of the month at the Nowra Baptist Church. Each month we have a "host" church group who assist during the evening, bring supper and take TAG (thinking about God) Time.

Next year we celebrate our 10th Anniversary. We are not sure how we are going to celebrate but I'm sure it will be a great party.

The year has been busy for our committee and we now take a break till February to recharge our batteries.

Greeting and Blessings from the Shoalhaven Committee and Members

## 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 3229 9011

#### Tasmania

03 6431 2289

#### Victoria

03 8809 3000

#### Western Australia

08 9380 9427

2012 HOLIDAY  
With  
CROSSROADS

## ADVANCE NOTICE

Expressions of interest now being invited for  
Crossroads Sydney's 2012 holiday to



Email Len Kingston at:  
lenkingston@gmail.com  
and ask to be placed on the  
mailing list for further details.  
This trip will be open for all  
Crossroads families and friends.

**Attention: To all who may be interested in the  
Holiday to Disneyland:** We need people who would be willing  
to travel on this trip as a **part time carer**. If this is you a subsidised  
fare would be offered. This holiday will commence Tuesday January  
17 2012 and will include accommodation, most meals, travel  
insurance, coach travel, economy class air ticket and entry costs to  
Disneyland and other attractions. Contact Len Kingston for further  
particulars.

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action.

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