

MAY – JUNE 2007

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH BRISBANE (MCC)

Volume 1, Issue 3

May 2007

## FROM THE PASTORS PEN

### Pastor's Pen

I would hope that everyone who reads this would already know that Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) consider ourselves to be inclusive churches.

And we probably all realise that this means in part that we use language in worship and official documents which is inclusive of both male and female persons, and that we do not call God only 'He', but **acknowledge that God is Spirit**, and so we use both male and female pronouns for God, as well as using many other appropriate terms for God.

**Inclusivity goes beyond gender however, and this is what I want to highlight with you in this issue of the MCC Brisbane newsletter. Inclusivity fits really well with the Australian culture of a 'fair go', for inclusivity means we do not discriminate on any 'given' grounds. That is - we are born male or female (or male in female body - or female in male body - or indeterminate gender), we are born gay or lesbian or bi-sexual or heterosexual, we are born right or left handed, we are born with a particular colour of skin, eyes, hair etc., we are born with, or acquire, a particular level of ability, and we have no control over the family into which we were born. These are 'givens' which are never (or should never) be a basis for discrimination of any sort! A policy of inclusivity means we will not talk or act in ways that promote any one of these above any other. That is - we will not promote male above female, fair skin above dark skin, abled above disabled etc.**

**This is important for us all to grasp. We have, attending MCC Brisbane at this time,**

**people from many different cultures, and people with a language other than English as their first language. We have gay, straight, bi-sexual, transgendered and lesbian persons worshipping with us. We have people with disabilities, we have people of different skin colours and body shapes, and we have people from different socio-economic backgrounds, and as an inclusive church we will make sure that each of these people are included in the life of our church.**

**It is always easier to mix with people who are 'like us' and to ignore those who are 'unlike us' - and it is easier to mix with those we already know and like than it is to go outside our comfort zone and include the newcomer or loner. But if we do this we become a 'comfy little club', rather than a church reaching out to all people.**

**I mostly see people doing well at mixing with others and including everyone in the life of our church - this however is a reminder to continue to be vigilant in being inclusive, and to especially make sure that new-comers know they are welcome whatever their sexuality, race, gender, level of ability, cultural or socio-economic background might be. Let us make inclusivity in all its aspects a priority at MCC Brisbane.**

**Hoping to see all of you at our housewarming on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May .**

Shalom

Anne James - Pastor

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### **From the Editor:**

- If you have anything to say or share with the rest of the congregation, please email me at [sde-beer@hotmail.com](mailto:sde-beer@hotmail.com) and I will gladly include it in the next newsletter.
- Also inform me of any speakers or events you know about that we can all attend and benefit from.
- Until next time, God Bless

Susan

# MATTERS OF THE CHURCH



## ROSTERS

At MCC Brisbane we have a roster system for many of the tasks involved in running a service. Some of the tasks you could go on roster to do are greeters, readers, acolyte, musicians, preparing supper and leading prayers. Some people are also invited by the pastors to preach, give the congregational story and serve communion.

The pastors are always looking to learn the talents of people in the church in order to empower them to use these gifts in ministry within MCC Brisbane. If you believe you have gifts we can use here at MCC please make sure the pastors know about them.

## PASTORS ARE HAVING A PARTY

Anne and Iris has been blessed with a wonderful new home. You are hereby invited to attend the house blessing and a BBQ at **9 Wyeth str, Wynnum at 16:00 on the 19th of May** . All you need to bring is your own meat and drink, Anne and Iris will provide the rest. Hope to see you all there. **UBD143 C15**

**Anne & Iris will also be away for a few days between 31st May and 3rd June. All urgent matters can be referred to a board member.**

## Zero Tolerance Policy

MCC Churches have zero tolerance for sexual harassment or predatory behavior of any kind. At MCC Brisbane we want all people to feel safe, and we will do all in our power to see that no sexual harassment, bullying or predatory behavior happens at any church function. We have a risk management policy which covers this and other matters and is available for perusal before and after church - just ask the greeters to show it to you. Please feel free to speak with the pastors or any member of the BOD should you experience sexual harassment, bullying or predatory behavior at any church function.

## PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

### REV IVOR HOLMANS

Unfortunately the news from Ivor's side is not to good. Ivor is back in hospital and is very sick. We pray that God will heal Ivor and help him restore his strength. Also think of Adrian who is going through trying times at the moment.



*“this is my comfort and consolation in my affliction : that your word revived me and gave me live” Psalm 119:50*

### Robert C.

Our deepest condolences goes out to our brother Robert and his loved ones on the passing of his mother a couple of weeks ago. We pray that God that gives them the strength to go through this time of mourning.

### Ray B.

Ray has been hospitalized with a heart condition and will be undergoing an operation soon. We ask that you will remember Ray in your prayers for a speedy recovery.

## LIBRARY

The church has a library of books which are predominantly for and/or about glbtqq persons - these include male and female fiction, studies and information on sexuality issues, some good literature on sexuality/spirituality and on homosexuality and the Bible. The library also contains many videos and DVD's that are of interest to

glbtqq people. There are over 300 titles to choose from and these are maintained by Iris. The library is housed at the pastors' home at 9 Wyeth str Wynnum and you can view it there on a Sunday morning or by arrangement. Iris brings a selection of books to church each

Sunday evening.



**If anyone has books or DVD's from the church library that you have had for a time could you please return them as soon as possible. Thank you.**

# PFLAG CONFERENCE

## Brisbane Convention Centre

Pflag Brisbane is hosting the Third National Pflag Conference at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre at Southbank on the 9th and 10th June. The conference is shaping up to be a very exciting event with the opening address being given by Mr Rodney Croome OAM, one of Australia's leading gay activists. Other guest speakers include David Graham of Big Brother and Dancing with the Stars fame, Wendell Rosevaar, Vicki Ogilvie and Ross Daniells, to name a few.

In line with the theme, One Voice Together Everyone Achieves More, they will be running workshops over the two days looking at developing a National Pflag Policy and discussing how to organise Pflag groups more effectively and efficiently. The guest speakers will cover topics such as Rural Issues and How to combat Homophobia in the Bush; Family Issues; Human Rights; Legal Issues; Same Sex Parenting; Ageing; Marriage; Youth and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Submission.

We need to know if you will be attending by the 20th of May. If you don't have an application form, that's ok just email [pflagbris@hotmail.com](mailto:pflagbris@hotmail.com) or call 0409 363 335 if you would like more information. Cost \$90 for 2 days - Dinner extra

## LESSON OF THE DAY

This is God.

Today I will be handling All of your problems for you. I do Not need your help. So, have a nice day. I love you.

P.S. And, remember...

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do Not attempt to resolve it yourself !! Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. I will get to it in MY TIME. All situations will be resolved, but in My time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic, don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work; Think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad; Think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another week end; Think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance; Think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror; Think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; Remember, things could be worse. You could be one of them!

Should you decide to send this to a friend; Thank you, you may have touched their life in ways you will never know!

Now, you have a nice day,  
GOD



**NB: LETTER FROM  
GOD TO YOU**

## SISTERSPEAK

When I was little, I used to believe in the concept of one best friend, and then I started to become a woman. And then I found out that if you allow your heart to open up, God would show you the best in many friends. One friend is needed when you're going through things with your partner. Another friend is needed when you're going through things with your mom. Another when you want to shop, share, heal, hurt, joke, or just be. One friend will say, "Let's cry together," another, "Let's fight together," another, "Let's walk away together." One friend will meet your spiritual need, another your shoe fetish, another your love for movies, another will be with you in your season of confusion, another will be your clarifier, another the wind beneath your wings. But whatever their assignment in your life, on whatever the occasion, on whatever the day, or wherever you need them to meet you with their gym shoes on and hair pulled back, or to hold you back from making a complete fool of yourself ... those are your best friends. It may all be wrapped up in one woman, but for many, it's wrapped up in several... one from 7th grade, one from high school, several from the college years, a couple from old jobs, a few from your sisterspeak group, on some days your mother, on some days your neighbor, and on some days, your sisters. So whether they've been your friend for 20 minutes or 20 years, make time for them and share the beauty of friends.

**SisterSpeak** is a group for all who identify as female. If you identify as female please consider joining us as we support each other in our life journeys and seek through fellowship and discussion to grow in faith and understanding.

For any future meetings contact Anne at 33487914.



## TIT BITS FOR YOUR INFO

### A message for Ivor

Nicky has come up  
With the brilliant  
Idea to send Ivor a  
Recorded message. The  
Recording will be  
Done on Sunday 20 May  
At the evening service

### **Sub - Regional Conference — Melbourne**

Thursday night 11th October 2007 for pot luck at the church

#### **Friday and Saturday sessions,**

#### **Friday night out for tea**

#### **Saturday night social gathering at the church and entertainment??!!**

#### **Sunday afternoon session followed by tea**

#### **ending Sunday 14th in worship at 7pm.**

**as most of our sub region people are unable to attend general conference due to the costs, it is planned that sub regional conference will be nurturing, informative, on opportunity for open sharing, participatory as well as a fun for all.**

In June we will be starting a discussion and prayer time - once a month - hopefully the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month - starting at 3pm at The Quaker Meeting House 10 Hampson St Kelvin Grove. This will be followed by a pot-luck tea around 5pm before our evening service at 7pm. It will cost us extra to use the Quaker Meeting space for this time and we would appreciate people attending making a donation towards the cost.



**HAPPY MOTHERS-DAY TO ALL THE MUMS OUT THERE**

**MAY – JUNE 2007**

MCC Brisbane meets twice on a Sunday

9:30 am 9 Wyeth str  
Wynnum

19:00 10 Hampson Street  
Kelvin Grove  
Brisbane  
Queensland

Postal Address:

Po Box 317  
Fortitude Valley  
Brisbane  
Queensland  
4006

Rev Anne James & Rev Iris Sagers

Phone: (07) 3891 1388  
Cell: 0401 434 564  
Email Anne : spaganne@iinet.net.au  
Email Iris : isagers@iinet.net.au

*All inclusive in the name of God*

**We have a web address**  
**[www.mccbris.asn.au](http://www.mccbris.asn.au)**

The next BOD meeting is  
Monday 14 May 2007 at  
19:00 at 9 Wyeth str Wyn-  
num.



**Services** :People who attend Metropolitan Community Churches often come from widely diverse faith backgrounds as well as from a no-faith background. Here at MCC Brisbane we try to create services which will be welcoming and provide some familiarity for those from various faith backgrounds.

Our Sunday **Morning services** are a cross between a Home Group and a discussion group with a very informal Holy Communion thrown into the mix. These are held at the pastors' home at **9 Wyeth str Wynnum**.

On the **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays** of each month our evening service would be an **eclectic mix of mainly modern protestant worship styles (think Uniting Church- sort of)**.

On the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month** we have our **Pentecostal style service** of worship which we call our Crave Celebration Service.

On the **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday** of those months which have a fifth Sunday we have our '**Old Style**' service and this service has some traditional elements from Catholic / Anglican worship along with music which is probably more traditional Baptist style music.

All are welcome at any of these services, or you can find the worship style which works for you.

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### GET TO KNOW YOUR BOD:

**Partners name:** Anthea and I have been together for just over 2 happy years.

**Pets name:** No pets here yet, but 1 cute 7 year old pomeranian back in South Africa

**Any kids:** Noooooo, they scare me, wouldn't this scare you too

**Favorite Food:** Chinese

**Favorite book:** Any action packed thriller or any books telling me how to get stinking rich

**Favorite TV program:** Lifestyle on Fox

**What do you like least in life?** Incompetent people, and people violating the rights of other people

**If time, and fear was no issue what would you still like to do before you die?** Have a tattoo

**What message would you like to send out there?** Don't be scared to do what your heart tells you to do. Ask yourself what is the worst that can happen? Best is it may never even happen and you could have had the time of your life.

**What do you like most in life?** Currently, my new life in Australia

Susan d B



The BOD now consists of The Pastor as Moderator, The Clerk - Marie S, The Treasurer - Tracey N, Johann d J, Ray B, Susan d B, and the Lay Delegate - Robert C. These people seek to carry out the business of the church in such a way that money is used wisely and with integrity. They meet monthly generally on the first Monday night of each month. Members and friends are welcome to attend BOD meetings with voice but not vote.

