

## GOSPEL UNITY

One of the things we say we believe in when we recite the Apostles' creed

is "the communion of the saints" but what does that mean? Is it some kind of spooky connection with the disembodied spirits of the dear departed? Of course there is a connection with those who have gone before. As Christians we belong to "the whole family of God in heaven and on earth" (Eph 3:15). It's the only family that death cannot break up. We are one with all believers who have ever lived.

But in the New Testament "the communion of the saints" is very much more down to earth. The word for it is "koinonia", translated as "fellowship" in the NIV. This fellowship as seen in

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the New Testament is not at all sentimental. It is much more than a warm fuzzy feeling towards our fellow Christians. It is a very practical partnership between local churches for meeting each other's needs and for the advance of the gospel in the world. It involves the sharing of personnel and finances amongst other things.

In 2 Corinthians 8&9 Paul uses the word to describe "the collection" (cf also Romans 15:25&26) - a famine relief fund gathered from the gentile churches around the Mediterranean for the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. This was much more than a social welfare program. It was a demonstration of what the gospel does in breaking down "the middle wall of partition" between Jews and gentiles. Paul clearly believed that Christians and churches have a mutual responsibility toward one-another. As Christian churches we owe each other recognition, assistance, love and co-operation. The unity of the church is not simply a platonic ideal, a nice idea; it must be a concrete reality in our world for people to see (John 17:20-23).

For Vision 100 the challenge is for us to look beyond our own immediate needs to where the need is greatest. In 2 Corinthians 8&9 Paul challenges the Corinthians who are slow to give what they had promised, with the willingness of the Macedonians who gave more than they could afford. He assures them, "Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time

"Has God given you all you need? Don't put it away in a reserve fund. Trust God with it."

## A CHALLENGE AHEAD

The annual Challenge Conference is fast approaching. Edward and Christine Borst share their experience of last years' conference and challenge you to consider coming along.

The SMS said "Coming to the challenge conference? You can get the big kids looked after by grandparents and take Finn". And so, not being able to think up a decent excuse, we registered to attend. (In true Tasmanian fashion the registration was not sent off until the Monday before the conference, resulting in us getting a room filled with bunk beds, though doubled up mattresses on the floor proved quite cosy.)

We set off in fear and trepidation, afraid that we would be head-hunted to become full time paid ministers of the word. That's what the conference is all about right? Well, as it turned out, it was not like that at all. After dropping off the kids and all that jazz, we arrived on Friday, just in time for David Jones' talk which set the tone for the rest of the weekend... Six sermons, an interview and a forum in the space of two days kept us on our toes.

We were definitely challenged, particularly by the messages on devoting your whole life to Christ, whether you are in paid service or not. God wants a complete sacrifice, not half a bull with the other half duct-taped together and put back in the paddock! We were challenged by a man with the most fantastic accent to glorify God in and through all our work, no matter how menial the task. Not just our 9 to 5 work but in all we do. Hey, even Adam and Eve had to work before the fall into sin. And so the challenges continued, get rid of sin, get rid of temptation, love your neighbour, suffering for the gospel, many members but one body, getting off the cruise boat and into the life raft.

The interview was the one thing that we were most cautious about. What are they going to ask? What are they expecting? Why do they want to interview us? Will they ask us to sign up?

From Page 1 (Gospel Unity)

your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality," 2 Cor 8:13&14.

In the Vision 100 network some churches are strong and financially viable while others are struggling to find their feet, genuinely finding it hard to make ends meet. Some church plants are thriving and others are struggling because of socio-economic factors. Opportunities go begging for lack of resources. Has God given you all you need? Don't put it away in a reserve fund. Trust God with it. He has given it to you for others. Our surplus giving potential is for the building of his kingdom.

"The communion of the saints" is a bold ecumenical initiative. It is an exercise in inter-church co-operation. It is the sharing of our resources to meet each other's needs and so advance the kingdom of God.

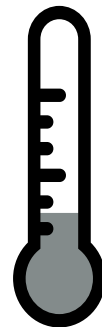
David Jones

## FUNDRAISING PROGRESS

We continue to be thankful to God for your generosity and for the great ministries we are able to support with the funds you have donated. Here is an overview of each of our projects, showing the targets we have committed to give this year and the amounts received for each of these projects so far in 2010. We'll continue to keep you updated as the year progresses.

FUND:	TARGET:	AMOUNT RAISED:
Midlands	\$ 20,400.00	\$ 4,000.00
Huon Valley	\$ 20,000.00	\$
FOCUS	\$ 5,000.00	\$
Uni Fellowship	\$ 5,000.00	\$
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$ 50,400.00</b>	<b>\$14,979*</b>

\*We have also received \$10,979 in general donations



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS RETREAT

16th - 18th July - Sydney  
Brian Vaatstra and Mike Lynch will be visiting the Tasmanian students at Bible College in Sydney. This will be an opportunity to stay in contact, provide pastoral care and teach those studying about having a vision for ministry.

### TIM CHESTER VISITS TASMANIA

20th August  
Tim Chester, a leader in The Crowded House, an international family of church planting networks, will be speaking at a Vision 100 leaders training day.

### CHALLENGE CONFERENCE 2010

27th - 29th August  
Mike Lynch, Dave Thurston and Belinda Straatsma will be speaking. If you would like to sign up for the Challenge Conference look out for brochures coming soon or check our out website in July:  
[www.vision100.org](http://www.vision100.org)

### WEEK OF PRAYER

20th - 26th September  
If you put the Prayer Day into your diary (advertised last issue) we apologise because plans have changed! We will be holding a movement-wide Week of Prayer in September. Stay tuned for more details.

From Page 1 (A Challenge Ahead)

But our fears were soon put at ease as the couple that interviewed us were probably more nervous than what we were... Again we were challenged, not in a confronting way, but in a caring manner. These people were actually interested in what we did. They prayed for us, encouraged us and give us plenty of tips (especially on mentoring).

Meals were a highlight, particularly the much anticipated spit roast. It was great to be able to share a meal with new acquaintances and get to know them. This conference was so much better than what we had expected. It was not aimed at a particular group of people as we first thought. The talks were awesome, inspirational, thought provoking. We left invigorated, refreshed, challenged, and humbled. I think the only way the conference could have been better was if all our friends were there to share in the experience. After all, we all need to work together to promote and spread the gospel.

Edward and Christine Borst

## GREAT WORK

Thank you to everyone who participated in Go to Work for Vision 100 Day on Monday 31st May. We have received some pledges but donations have not yet



come in (at the time of printing). We are thankful (in advance!) for your generosity and hard work. And if Monday 31st passed by and you'd still like to work a day for Vision 100, it's not actually too late!

To make a donation:

Vision 100 Resources  
National Australia Bank  
BSB 087-007 54-875-7295.

# GRAND PLANS: REPORTS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Vision 100 Grand Plans evangelistic grants have helped fund a range of exciting initiatives around the state. We bring you these encouraging reports and ask for your continued prayers for gospel initiatives such as these.

## COLLISION SCREENING

On Saturday March 13, St George's Anglican Church in Battery Point hosted the Tasmanian premiere of Collision, a film following a series of debates between British atheist Christopher Hitchens and American pastor Douglas Wilson.

Almost a hundred and fifty people from a wide range of backgrounds; agnostics, atheists, local residents, Presbyterians and Anglicans attended two screenings. The screening was funded through a grant from Vision 100, while the University Fellowship of Christians helped run and publicise the event.

In the film itself Hitchens and Wilson debate the question "Is Christianity Good for the World?". Consequently their discussion focused on the morality of Christianity rather than the origins of the world or the existence of God. Amidst the sharpness of the public debates, the two share a surprisingly warm relationship with mutual respect and a mutual appreciation of P. G. Wodehouse.

Hitchens' central criticisms of Christianity focus on its claim that Jesus vicariously takes away responsibility for sin and that its God is an Orwellian Big Brother, a ruler tyrannising people's lives.

To criticise a system of belief you need something to criticise it with, and in response Wilson argues that Christianity's great contribution to Hitchens is that, when his belief system leaves him morally overdrawn, Christianity gives him the moral categories with which to form his criticisms of the morality of Christianity.

Overall it seemed the event was an evangelistic and apologetic success. The timing and publicity were important, with Easter and the global Atheist Conference occurring at nearly the same time.

Christians could leave the screening feeling confident about the

presuppositional arguments for the Christian world view. People considering Christianity could leave knowing that Christians in Tasmania were happy to think clearly, carefully and confidently about their faith and its challenges.

Non-Christians would leave challenged and provoked to think more deeply about their basic belief systems while also comforted that these type of debates don't need to be antagonistic. Hopefully this screening of Collision will deepen the discussion between modern Atheism and Christianity in the public space, which in turn will help the Kingdom grow in Tasmania.

Luke Isham  
Minister at St George's Church,  
Battery Point

## 11<sup>TH</sup> HOUR LAUNCESTON

11<sup>th</sup> Hour is a group of committed Christians in Launceston who want to see the gospel preached to the un-churched. Out of this desire a series of events has been run monthly in a local cafe in the heart of Launceston. The evening revolves around a gospel-centred talk and is supported by live music and free coffee and cake.

Up to this point there have been a number of non-Christians attending and some fantastic conversations have been held with them. The gospel has been preached through topical subjects by a range of local speakers.

These events have been made possible through the support of Vision 100 and the grant made to 11<sup>th</sup> Hour in the latter half of 2009.

At this point the group is spending time reassessing its goals and approach, with the aim of clarifying what the future will look like for these events. To this end we request your prayer; particularly giving thanks to God for the contacts that have been made, and asking for continued opportunities; also for the continued

provision of a place to meet and openness by the owners of the cafe.

Julian Dykman (on behalf of 11<sup>th</sup> Hour)

## FRIDAY NIGHT BOOST

Friday Night BOOST is held at the Branch Christian Church in Launceston once a month on a Friday evening. It's aimed at young people from year 9 to about age 25 and is open to youth-groups and youth from all over the Launceston area.

The aim of the event is to open God's word in a friendly, casual environment where Christians and non-Christians can make new relationships and learn from God's word.

BOOST is taking off well as new people and regulars are coming along each month. The evening's primary focus is the Bible talks and just hanging out and talking about real things. The structure of the evening largely depends on numbers and audience. The impact on the kids is great as God's word is proclaimed and they engage in discussions on topics relevant to their situations.

As the event is ongoing newcomers are invited to come along again in order to build relationships and grow in God's word to be equipped for service to Christ in everyday life at school. Response cards are handed out in order to get details of those who come along so that contact can be maintained.

As it is still early days our primary focus is to build up a strong base of youth-groups coming along to encourage inter-denominational relationships and numbers. Because of this most of the advertising is aimed at Christians and it is up to the

Continued next page

kids to invite their non-Christian friends along.

BOOST doesn't want to candy coat Christianity by holding back on the Bible, instead we aim to make the Bible accessible and confronting to people who don't yet know Jesus. As the gospel sells itself, it's by the grace of God people are saved.

Whilst we are a small committee, having the funds supplied early on helps us greatly as we can focus on the event and not have to worry about money. The funds are mainly spent on advertising, food and Bibles and other books to give away to interested parties. It has been a huge blessing. Once we are set up we can focus on raising the funds ourselves but until then the money given to us from Vision 100 will not go to waste.

Zoe Vandervelde  
(On behalf of the BOOST committee)

## THE UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS

What's going on down at the University in Hobart? New MTS apprentice Amy Tivendale explains:

The University Fellowship of Christians, also known as the Uni Fellowship, is part of the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) organisation.

The Uni Fellowship changed its name from FOCUS in 2009 (allowing International Bible Ministry to fall in line with other international student ministries nationwide by adopting the name FOCUS).

The Uni Fellowship is currently being led by the new Campus Director Mike Lynch, who took over from Sam Green at the end of 2009. Sam Green is continuing on as a Senior Staff member and focusing on his work with the Islamic community on campus.

The Uni Fellowship seeks to engage with students on campus, many of whom are thinking about deep and life changing subjects such as religion and spirituality, by presenting Christianity and the gospel to them in a clear and readily understood way.

Weekly meetings take place every Tuesday at 1pm on the main campus in Sandy Bay, and monthly Citywide meetings are held on the last Thursday of every month at 7.30pm at the School of Fine Arts in Hunter Street. The Citywide meetings have great attendance and usually finish with a trip to Salamanca to get ice cream.

The Uni Fellowship engages with the community on a large scale through events like the Islamic/Christian



debates coordinated and participated in by Sam Green. These debates have proved to be very successful both in attendance and in the many ongoing discussions which have followed.

Another particularly popular event was the recent Disney night, which saw around 30-40 people crammed into our cosy lounge room eating pizza and watching four Disney classics.

The annual Mid Year Conference is a big event for the Uni Fellowship. In the first week of July staff and students will be going away for a week-long camp. This is usually a great time of learning and fellowship as students are challenged to live out their faith and grow in their knowledge of God. This year the topic is The Kingdom of God.

The Uni Fellowship has a very hard working and gospel-driven student committee who are dedicated to bringing the gospel to the University community. The Committee is

### Vision 100 Partners

**Cornerstone** Mount Stuart, Richmond & Midlands Outreach under David Jones' leadership

**Crossroads** South House, North House, TBT & Classic under Dan Sheppard's leadership  
**Kingston** One Way, Bay, Summerleas & Redeemer under Brian Vaatstra's leadership

**The Branch Evangelical Reformed Church** under Fred van Hulst's leadership

**AFES Tasmania** - Northern and Southern Uni Fellowship and FOCUS under Sam Green's leadership

**The Crowded House Tasmania** under Brian Wilson's leadership

### Vision 100 Committee

Brian Vaatstra - Chairman 0439 899 121

David Jones - Vice Chairman 0400 134 701

Mikey Lynch - Secretary 0414 669 554

Brian Wilson - Northern Representative

Ian Headley - Public Officer

Ric Straatsma - Treasurer

Jo Hext - Fundraising

Bronwyn Bultman - Publications and Promotions

### Vision 100 Newsletter

If you would like us to start (or stop!) mailing the newsletter to your postal address please contact Bronwyn Bultman. Telephone 0408 149 393 or email [bronwynbultman@gmail.com](mailto:bronwynbultman@gmail.com)

### Vision 100 Contact

[info@vision100.org](mailto:info@vision100.org)  
Vision 100 Resources  
PO Box 683  
KINGSTON TAS 7051

[www.vision100.org](http://www.vision100.org)

### Donations

Vision 100 Resources  
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currently presided over by Aaron Johnstone, with Andrew Wong as the Vice-President and Chris Ives as Secretary.

The committee organises many events such as giveaways, parties, movie nights and other such opportunities to socialise and evangelise. The Committee also runs fellowship groups which are led by members of the committee and involve Bible study and prayer.

As the semester draws to a close we are thankful for the great time we've had so far this year. We would appreciate your prayers for God's kingdom to grow through the work on campus and for all the AFES staff; Sam Green and Mike Lynch, MTS apprentices Alan Reader and Amy Tivendale and for Luke Hansard at FOCUS.

Amy Tivendale