

"A CHURCH FOR ALL"

CHELSEA NEWSLETTER



15 February 2009

PRAYERS

Please pray for the following people
Andrew, Dianne, Colin P, Bill Sharrock,
Jacinta, Jonathon & Jeremy, Barry,
Darcy, Jean Carr, Dave, Norma,
Eileen, Kevin Hall, Michael, Joyce,
Victoria, Bob and Judy Rutherford,
Pat, Kaylean, Chris, Bill and Gwen,
Carmel from Big House Communities
and any others on the hearts of our
church family.

Please pray for all those affected by
and involved in the bushfires
(VIC & NSW) and the floods in QLD.

WHAT'S ON

at Chelsea Church of Christ

Monday:

Tuesday:

[CWE](#), 2nd Tuesday of month
[Skilling Australia](#) 9am-4pm
[Bible study](#) 8pm

Wednesday:

[Community Breakfast](#) 8-10 am,
[Men's Shed](#) 9am-12 noon,
[Skilling Australia](#) 9am-4pm
[WAGS](#), 10am-4pm

Thursday:

[Men's shed](#) 9am – 12 noon
[Bible study](#) 3pm
[Pit Stop for Dads](#) 7.30pm

Sunday:

[Worship](#) 10am each week
[Family Service](#) each month

Bushfire memorial service

With the combined churches of Chelsea.
Wednesday 18th February
7.30 pm @ Chelsea RSL function room
(Old Town Hall)

MICAH Challenge Training Day

Micah Challenge is holding a Challenge Training
Day on Saturday 28th March 2009
See poster on noticeboard for more details.

Minister Stephen Rose
3 Blantyre Ave Chelsea
Office: 9773 0301

Secretary: Helena Johnston

Shed Ministry: Keith Holt

Prayer Ministry: Marcus Johnston

Visiting Ministry Val Arnold, Keith Holt,
Andrew Augustine, Syd & Lesley Jackson

Editor: Margaret Dowlan

See phone list for other contact details

A WORD OR TWO ABOUT THE WEEK....

Many of us have had days in the last week where we found it hard to concentrate, I know I have been feeling overwhelmed by the tragedy of the bushfires. I have wrestled with my feelings and what we might do to be of help. I thought we could be a drop of point for donations, then load up my trailer and deliver the goods, but then I heard no more general donations please, specific things are needed. So what can we do?

Mark Conner at City Life Church suggested the following 4 responses

Here are a four things we can do in response:

1. Pray. Pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones and who are dealing with feelings of grief, pain, and even anger. Pray for the fire fighters and emergency workers who are still trying to get 31 fires across our state under control. Pray for rain and favourable weather conditions.
2. Help. For those with a direct connection with people affected by the fires, offer emotional support and practical help where possible. There is a lot of work to be done as people start to rebuild their lives after this terrible tragedy.
3. Give. Consider making a financial donation to the bush fire relief appeal. The federal government has already given \$10 million dollars but more will be needed. You can donate by calling 1800 811 700 OR by going online to www.redcross.org.au OR at any local Bunnings store. (Editors noteL In addition Jean & John are collecting for the Red Cross Bushfire appeal and donations can be given to them. Note all funds from the trading table will also go to the Red Cross.)
4. Support. Send a note of encouragement to the fire fighters and emergency workers. These people are working tirelessly and sacrificially to serve our local communities at this time.

Further: The following letter from Churches of Christ HQ gives us some good specific ideas. And another donation point that will be very effective as the money will be handed out by local churches that will really know who needs it.

The Victorian Bushfires: CareWorks 2009 Bushfire Appeal

In one way or another all of us have been greatly affected by the devastating bushfires in Victoria over the weekend of February 7-8. For some of our churches this has been very personal. It has meant the loss of property, in some cases housing, and in one case the loss of life of a leader. For some, it has been the loss of loved ones or friends, or knowing others who are experiencing tragic grief because of death or property loss. For others all this has been real but surreal, from a distance, as we have observed disturbing footage and images via the media. For yet others, it has re-connected them with an earlier grief, sometimes caused by fires, or by other disasters. This impact will go on, in different ways, for a long time. These are indeed tough times. We all want to do something, to make a difference, to offer help and hope to those whose lives have been so suddenly and indiscriminately changed.

I'm sure most of our churches have already been praying for people right around the state who have been impacted by the fires. I know that you will continue to do so. With regards to Churches of Christ, at the time of writing, we are aware of the fire's impact on members of the following churches.

Please join us in praying for them, their ministers and for their communities.

- **Horsham** (senior minister Simon Risson). Property losses, including sheds etc.
- **Latrobe Regional/Morwell** (no minister currently). Property & housing losses.
- **Warragul** (ministers Tracey and David Ware). Property losses.
- **Wallan Gateway** (a joint CofC/Baptist church plant, minister: Andrew Adams). Property and housing losses. One death.
- **Bendigo** (minister Andrew Colquhoun). Some temporary evacuations, but no losses.
- **Upper Yarra** (Yarra Junction, minister Malcolm Clark). Fire surrounded the area, precautions were taken, all are OK.
- **Foothills** (Ferntree Gully, minister Steve Barrington). Some temporary evacuations.
- **Nillumbik** (Eltham, minister David Buesnel). Members in the affected areas, but no reports of impact.

We have yet to hear back from **Churchill Co-operating Churches** (minister: Bob Brown) and **River Valley** church (minister: Andy Bennett, although we know their community support office has been inundated).

In partnership with the Council of Churches of Christ in Australia (CCCA), and as an immediate, emergency response, the Vic/Tas Conference has today put in place the following actions:

- (a) **We will make an immediate donation of \$10 000 from the CCCA National Disaster Fund (NDF) to the current Salvation Army Bushfire Appeal,**
- (b) **We will release a further amount of up to \$10 000 from the NDF to enable local churches impacted by the fires to make small grants/gifts to those in need in their community,**
- (c) **We will invite churches and members nationwide to support the Churches of Christ CareWorks 2009 Bushfire Appeal.** All donations to this appeal will be distributed to the current Salvation Army or Red Cross Bushfire Appeals in Victoria or to enable local churches impacted by the fires to make small grants/gifts to those in need in their community.
We believe it is realistic to have a target of \$100 000 for this Appeal. Donations over \$2 will be tax deductible, when made on the attached form, by cheque made out to Churches of Christ in Vic/Tas Community Care, or by credit card.
- (d) **We will invite churches in Victoria to make pastoral skilled people resources available** for support of people in the areas affected by the fires through the Victorian Council of Churches Disaster Plan. Support is already being given to people through the VCC Emergencies Ministry. Please notify the VCC office on (03) 9650 4511 regarding your church's response capacity.
- (e) **We will seek the support of churches nationwide to replenish the NDF as early as possible.**