

## ONE TO ONE

The official quarterly newsletter of SDA Kinship Australia 01/06/07

NEWSLETTER NO 7 ISSUE 2

**OUR PURPOSE:** Seventh Day Adventist Kinship Australia is a non-profit support organization which ministers to the spiritual, social and physical well-being of former and present SDA Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender and Intersexed individuals and their friends and families. Kinship is not supported by the SDA Church. Kinship is a confidential organization which supports the advancement of human rights for all people.

## BRISBANE MEETING

The get together was very warm on a some what cool and wet day. After not having any rain for so long, (Brisbane is on level5 water restrictions) Brisbane had a shower or two and with it being now winter, the temp was around 20 Celsius for the day.

That brings me to the Kinship meeting.

We have not had a get together in Brisbane for some four years that was just for kinship people. Getting people together has always been hard. People live such busy lives and their calendar is always full. There is always something going on in our lives that we can not always fit everything in.

The meeting had a social side as well as a spiritual side. That is not always easy to achieve in a meeting. Making people feel at ease is hard to do when you have not met each other before. It is hard also from our view because of our background in this much as we have been conditioned to feel guilty about our life style and whether our peers will accept us as we may be.

Wendell who was the host for the meeting made every one feel at home. Wendell is in the midst of renovating his home and it is pulled apart with a tarp over the roof so the elements can't get in. We had three new members who came to this meeting and that was facilitated by us who had seen each other before. With the name exchanges and pleasantries out of the way the meeting began by me tilling everyone about Kinship and what is planed for Australia at our Kampmeeting in Sydney in September. This was followed by what is happening in the US front. I also spoke about Scott our fellow Australian who is the Public Relations person for Kinship Int. Scott has informed me about Changes to the web site and the plans for the future.

Then it was David's turn.

David Coltheart is a former Adventist evangelist pastor who was the editor of a bi-monthly magazine called Archaeological Diggings.

We were blessed to have David speak about his journey in life and give us some spiritual food. David spoke about Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.

Speaking of food we had a great spread and like most SDA gatherings there is always enough for all and a little left over.

We all mingled and enjoyed the afternoon. Discussion took place over juice and nibbler's on when we would like to have the next get together.

We plan on having another get together in early August.

The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are.

Joseph Campbell

## BRISBANE PRIDE

June 2007

Pride not Prejudice was the theme.

So live and let live.

Ones values are set by our society and family with religion thrown in, if any.

It was a very clear day and cold if you were not out of the wind. Being in a tent that was very big did not help.

Kinship had a spot in the Big community tent at the Fair Day. We were in a perfect place to be spotted by passes bye.

By having a presents at the fair we are giving others a chance to see you can be Christian and Gay in a non confronting way. That also goes for Kinship people who have not been to a Kinship gathering

So yes it was a successful event in our case.



# GETTING EVEN

## Even: A level playing field. Equal two; a flat surface.

This is something to think about in our daily lives as we go about our business.

The Bible talks a lot about getting even.

We can't move ahead if we're trying to get even.

Frank Tyger

As we grow up, we learn that even the one person that wasn't supposed to ever let you down probably will. You will have your heart broken probably more than once and it's harder every time. You'll break hearts too, so remember how it felt when yours was broken. You'll fight with your best friend. You'll blame a new love for things an old one did. You'll cry because time is passing too fast, and you'll eventually lose someone you love. So take too many pictures, laugh too much, and love like you've never been hurt because every sixty seconds you spend upset is a minute of happiness you'll never get back.

Don't be afraid that your life will end,

be afraid that it will never begin.

From the Sunday Spectrum - Program Archive -- 2003 --

## Forgiveness

In the face of any personal affront, from minor road rage to vicious acts of terrorism, the need for revenge is easily understood. So why should we believe that forgiveness is the more human quality?

**NARRATOR:** Forgiveness is a core belief in most religions, and it has the power to cross community and international boundaries. Forgiveness can also be a motivating force in living our lives as good and caring human beings.

The desire to get even can also emerge when there's a breach of trust in a relationship. But psychologist Rosalie Pattenden believes that seeking revenge is not usually an automatic reaction.

**MS ROSALIE PATTENDEN:** I don't think revenge is something that automatically follows in your thoughts when someone has broken a contract with you around honesty and trust. I think it's sometimes a secondary thing that comes up for you. I think the first thing when someone has done something that seems unforgivable is that you go into shock. You can't make sense of what's happened because the person you thought they were is now in question. If you think that they have intentionally hurt you, then you might feel as if you want to take revenge. That would be a normal human thing. Whether you take it or not is up to what you do with your thought processes.

**NARRATOR:** The path to forgiveness can be a long and difficult one, where the journey's end can seem distant and elusive.

**MS ROSALIE PATTENDEN:** Let's say you've been sexually abused by your father. Now that might be something that you can never forgive, that a parent should never do that to a child. Yet you might still be able to maintain a relationship with that person and love them. So you might still love them as your father and still have a relationship with them but never forgive them for that act that caused such harm to you.

**REV. DOROTHY McRAE-McMAHON:** For me, it's a variety of things. Sometimes it's a simple act of grace, a real gift to somebody because you recognise that you're both human and you're going to just simply lay down what it was that happened between you. I think sometimes it's in response to very severe wounding and betrayal and it takes a lot of healing. Sometimes we eventually can then move through to laying that down and the breach of relationship that took place. And sometimes you can't ever do that. It's something that you hold and carry with you. But in the end, I think too, forgiveness is often a laying down of the power which someone else has over you. You're not going to live as a victim any longer. You're going to simply lay it down.

I think then it's a much tougher journey to move through to forgive somebody and find a graciousness in one's self. That really comes from the support of other people, from letting them hear about my anger and pain.

## Secret to a long life - get even more often

By Allan Hall in Berlin

March 21, 2006

PEOPLE who smile a lot and say "have a nice day" are headed to an early grave while the grumpy stay fit.

Researchers at a German university - a land where surliness is an Olympic discipline - say enforced jolliness on the job is much more likely to make people fall ill.

They cite flight attendants, sales personnel, call centre operators, waiters and others in contact with the public for extended periods of time as being at risk of seriously harming their health.

Psychologists at Frankfurt University said the fake friendliness led to depression, stress and a lowering of



the immune system itself, which in turn can trigger more serious ailments.

"Every time a person is forced to repress his true feelings there are negative consequences for his health," said Professor Dieter Zapf, a researcher into human emotions.

The study tested students working in an imaginary call centre who were subject to abuse from clients.

Some of the participants were allowed to answer back, while others had to be polite and friendly all the time.

Those who stood up to clients had a rapid heartbeat for a brief period, but for those who had to remain friendly their heart was still racing long after the client had hung up.

The conclusion reached by the psychologists was that "being friendly against one's will causes nothing but stress".

Flight attendants, shop assistants and careers also took part in the study of emotional behavior, which involved 4000 people, Professor Zapf said.

"We are all able to rein in our emotions," he said. "It becomes difficult when you have to do this over a protracted period as cabin attendants are forced to on long-haul flights

"These people need space away from the passengers where they can be on their own and let their feelings run free. We have to get away from the 'customer is king' attitude and show more respect to those working in the service industries," Professor Zapf said.

## SAME SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reported by SSO

An interagency working group released a report into domestic violence in same-sex relationships on Wednesday, finding a majority of people who experienced such abuse did not seek assistance. Assisting the working group were people from community, health and legal organisations, NSW Police, and government bodies.

The report titled Fair's Fair used a survey of 308 Australians sampled from the 2006 Mardi Gras Fair Day to provide a clear picture of the nature of abuse in same-sex relationships, and recommended the implementation of training programs for service providers and key agencies. Speaking at the launch were ACON CEO Steve Clayton, Sydney lord mayor Clover Moore, NSW minister for women Verity Firth, and chair of the interagency working group Brad Gray

Gray said the launch was a moment of both professional pride and personal discomfort.

Visibly shaken, Gray told the crowd of his own experience in a five-year abusive relationship as an example of how speaking up was important. "The first time he hit me I was in shock and didn't know how to react. He apologised and was charming for weeks afterwards," Gray said. "I didn't suffer extreme physical violence but I did experience fear and social isolation. By the end of the relationship I'd lost touch with all but two of my friends and I rarely saw my family."

Gray said recent reporting of domestic violence focusing on female victims and male perpetrators made him feel his experiences were silenced and disregarded.

But watching a woman on breakfast television discuss her experiences publicly made Gray feel more comfortable to talk about his own.

"All victims of domestic violence, whatever gender or sexuality, are deserving of help and support – you don't need to compare your experience to anyone else's." Clayton said there were many ways domestic violence could manifest in same-sex relationships, including threats to "out" a partner or threats related to HIV as a means to control or manipulate.

"The report also shows, rather alarmingly, that the overwhelming majority of respondents do not seek support through official channels. "Why? Because they believe the relevant authorities cannot provide them with a worthwhile service due to a lack of knowledge, understanding and acceptance of gay and lesbian relationships," Clayton said. The report calls for measures by police, courts and healthcare providers to help address the problem of same-sex domestic violence.

For information and support visit [www.ssdv.acon.org.au](http://www.ssdv.acon.org.au) or call the 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline in Your State.



# CHURCH APOLOGY

Report by SSO

Australia's third largest church is to apologise after publishing remarks that equated the "choice" to be homosexual with the choice to molest a child.

The Uniting Church Insight magazine printed a reader's letter in the May edition that said, "I cannot go along with this idea that [homosexuality] is entirely due to genes, DNA, or any other excuse. One might as well say that prostitutes are not responsible for their choices, or murderers or child molesters."

Warren Talbot, of the church's Uniting Network LGBTI group, replied to Insight expressing his dismay. "You should have edited and excluded the odious comparison between gay members of the church and murderers."

Speaking to the Star, Talbot placed responsibility on the shoulders of church leaders: "Once again, the leadership, which is tolerant and benign, just doesn't get the plot.

"If it was Aborigines or migrants they would never circulate that sort of material."

Insight deputy editor, Stephen Webb, said Talbot had "misinterpreted" the letter.

"The letter was making a point about the use of DNA evidence and people's choices – it wasn't saying that homosexuals are the same as murderers." However, Webb said an apology would appear in the next issue.

Meanwhile, in another example of a layperson standing up to their church, a Catholic parishioner has taken his message of gay equality to the lectern.

Paul Harris's local priest invited him to talk at St Joseph's church in Newtown at Mass on 10 May.

"Being human is about being able to love and let others love you in return," said Harris. "And to me that love is towards a man." The response was rapturous, Harris said.

Does he feel his words will make a change to the Catholic Church in Sydney, which under Cardinal George Pell has taken a hard line on gay members?

"One parish is a tiny drop in the ocean. My talk isn't going to change the attitude of the pope but it might change the heart of a few people who were there."

Reverend Karl Hand, pastor of the Sydney Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), which is popular with gay worshippers, believes non-mainstream churches are the best way to get GLBT religious issues raised.

"I understand and I respect people who stay in mainstream churches and try and change from within,"

he said. "[But] if the church says 'we don't accept people who are gay' and you stay inside and try and change – that won't work."

Rev. Hand is not unduly worried by the rise of Pentecostal churches such as Hillsong, which, according to the latest National Church Life Survey, have seen their congregations rise by 30 percent over the last decade.

MCC, he said, has seen many "spiritual refugees" from charismatic congregations who "hear a view of God that is compassionate and embrace it with open arms".

While admitting their socially conservative viewpoints aren't desirable, Rev. Hand also sees some light in the darkness.

"If charismatic spirituality makes the traditional churches re-encounter what it is they are about, there will be some positive aspects of the new trends emerging."

## Attention MCC

This is a sad note, just to let everyone know of the passing of Rev Ivor Holmans from Brisbane MCC.

Rev Ivor Holmans Retired Pastor Metropolitan Community Church Brisbane

G'day folks:

Sadly I have to tell you that Ivor passed away peacefully this morning (Friday 22 June) at about 10:30am. Adrian and Tim Collier were with him at the time.

I have been asked to officiate at a service to Celebrate the Life of Rev Ivor Holmans - next Tuesday (26 June) at 10am at the Mount Gravatt Chapel, Main Road, Mount Gravatt.

Cards or letters can be sent to:

Adrian Buganey  
PO Box 282  
ANNERLEY QLD 4103  
Australia

John Fowler



## REMINDER

Kinship Kampmeeting on the 28th of September.

The Labour Day long weekend for NSW.

Come and be connected to each other in fellowship

Kinship does honour and respect the experiences and beliefs of others, wherever they find themselves on their own, respective, spiritual journey. It may be that your sense of the underlying assumptions of things spiritual are now far different from those made by evangelical Christianity, but that does not mean that we still cannot share our common heritage.

### SDA KINSHIP AUSTRALIA

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## ORGANIZATION FOR PARENTS OF GAY/LESBIAN ADVENTISTS

Someone to Talk to.... Carrol Grady  
(aka Kate McLaughlin My Son, Beloved Stranger),  
Coordinator.

Web-Site <http://www.someone-to-talk-to.net>

### My Son, Beloved Stranger

by Carrol Grady

This excellent book has been reprinted with an added epilog. This is a great book to have in your library and to have extra copies to give to parents, pastors, friends and anyone else who deals with having a loved one come out to them. "Contact your local Adventist Book Center to request them to carry the book!" This is a must have resource for both GLBTI people and Parents that are Adventists and have a gay child.

### Open Heart, Open Hand ( Video/DVD )

- USD \$14.95 plus postage

Three conversations about homosexuality and the family - a life and death matter. Introduced by Dr. David Larson, a professor with the Faculty of Religion at Loma Linda University, this new resource features interviews with Adventist parents of gay and lesbian people: Dr. Walt and Virginia Cason (physician/daughter of Elder H.M.S. Richards), Dr. George P. Babcock (educator) and Mrs. Carrol Grady (minister's wife).

To order your copies of these, both Book and DVD/Video contact **Carrol direct** at [carrolgrady@hotmail.com](mailto:carrolgrady@hotmail.com)

P-flag Australia For parents  
and friends of GLBT people  
web site: [www.pflag.org.au](http://www.pflag.org.au)

Associations of Kinship Elsewhere SDA KINSHIP  
INTERNATIONAL [www.sdakinship.org](http://www.sdakinship.org)

## MEMBERSHIP FOR KINSHIP IN AUSTRALIA IS WELCOME.

Membership is **FREE** in Australia, but relies on donations, to reach out to other people within the GLBTI community.

***Finally: Appearances come from what is there, Value comes from what is not....***

Articles in this News Letter are not necessarily Kinships view: Contributions to this news letter are welcomed and encouraged.  
(The Newsletter One to One has been prepared by N Thorpe --- Co-ordinator.)