

ONE TO ONE

The official quarterly newsletter of SDA Kinship Australia 01/12/06

NEWSLETTER NO 6 ISSUE 4

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.

SDA KINSHIP AUSTRALIA KAMPMEETING, 2006



Seventh-day Adventist Kinship, International, Inc. was formed after the first Kampmeeting held in Arizona USA in 1980. At that first gathering two Adventist pastors and three seminary professors attended as official delegates of the General

Conference. The two pastors, both familiar with the pain and isolation felt by homosexual members of their congregations, emphasized the need for the church to make a greater effort to understand gay people before judging the quality of their Christianity. The three professors were scholars of the Old Testament, the New Testament and theology, respectively. They concluded that Gods will for people, with a homosexual orientation could not be determined from the few scriptural references to homosexual acts.

SDA Kinship Australia's first Kampmeeting Entitled "Health and Well Being," was held in Sydney on the Labour Day long weekend, 29th of September till the 1st of October 2006.



It started with a getting to know you on the Friday evening at the Metropolitan Community Church Petersham. A number of Adventist Pastors and counselors came to listen to the meeting and provide information to the

attendees and to learn from them. Not everyone had such negative experiences to share, but the few who did found support from the Kampmeeting attendees. This is why SDA Kinship Australia, a Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Transgender organization exists.

Never Alone

The promise is, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee." Isaiah 43:2

The Saturday sessions, were held at a Golf Course Conference Centre at West Ryde. The room, in which

the sessions were held, has a view over looking the golf course grounds. In Sydney it is a privilege to be able to get such nice surroundings, which are of a bushland setting. The room was set up in a square, conference style setting. This gave each person a place to be able to write, if needed and generally support one another amidst the beautiful scenery.

The topics on the program covered many issues important for the 21st century and Adventists gay people: One of our Pastor quest speakers spoke on "**Living Waters: Good news for thirsty souls.**" This was on the woman at the well.



The DVD **Open Heart, Open Hand**, was shown during this session.

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).

There were many serious, tear-filled moments during this session One of the presentations on the DVD was by a mother, Carrol Grady, aka "Kate McLaughlin", who has written a book for Pacific Press, My Son, Beloved Stranger, in which she movingly describes her son's coming to grips with his homosexuality and how she and her family came to terms with it. It also describes how those outside the family responded, including the very negative reactions of his local Adventist church. The son eventually left the Adventist church and joined a "liturgical church." This book now has an added Epilog in it and has been republished, to show how things have moved along since it was first published.

Another session was on **Acceptance, Self Esteem** by Dr Wendell Rosevear. (OAM) Wendell touched on Suicide and Acceptance by society on being truthful to ones self. God's caring love for





and hopefully fruitful.

Even if we think this kind of meeting is at present small and just a beginning, we should have a vision for the future and be encouraged that this many people came this time. Live fully, laugh frequently & love everyone equally.

The conference also included many fun-filled moments. There was also a day-trip to Canberra our National Capital to see the Annual Flower Floriade display and the New Parliament House tour was taken in whilst we were there.

But the point of the meeting was to provide community, "Health and Well Being" for many who face ostracism and discrimination in their daily lives' a chance to open up and be supported by other understanding gay people and heterosexuals.

SDA Kinships goal is to reach out and provide support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and Transgender Seventh-day Adventists and their friends and families. This is done through a newsletter, a telephone message bank service (07)3321 1101), media advertising, local chapter meetings, annual Kampmeetings, and written information. Additionally Kinship has provided informational packets to pastors, counselors and others.

The organization has survived at least one major crisis in the USA: a trademark infringement lawsuit filed by the General Conference USA against SDA Kinship International over the use of the name "Seventh-day Adventist." Kinship won and the US District Court Judge ruled "the terms Seventh-day Adventist and SDA, as used by SDA Kinship, are generic." (CV 87-8113, Central Dist. Calif., Oct.1991).

The organization remains healthy today, according to Kinship Australia. The number of memberships has varied over the years from around 80 in the 1980's to around 110 now. While the current membership is in the lower end of the scale we must remember that the church is a minority and Gay people are of the same. We do get requests for information. The health of the organization is also dependent on the willingness of members to donate time and energy to the organization. The enthusiasm generated by Kampmeeting is a major source of energy for the organization.

What are the major issues confronting SDA Kinship Australia? The group needs to continually improve its ability to find the people who need its support. There will always be a need for the organization because there is a continuing flow of men and women, particularly in Adventist colleges, but really of all ages, who are going through the pain of discovering their innate, and unchangeable, orientation in a church and larger society that is not supportive. We want to be there to provide that support.

SHOULD I REMAIN AN ADVENTIST.

"Sabbath and the Second Coming are still, I believe, two good reasons. But the parable of Judgment Day in Matthew 25 offers perspective no one should miss. Here Jesus says that "just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." By the time his Judgment picture is complete, it's clear

mankind is never ending and Acceptance is with out conditions.

Gods Chosen Agency

Today let us thank God for the troubles which help us grow more like him. The trails of life are God's workmen, to remove the impurities and roughness from our character. The psalmist said, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy statutes." Psalm 119:71

Human love may change, but Christ's love knows no change. When we cry to him for help, His hand is stretched out to save. God does want us to be happy.

This testimony was from one of the kinship members who attended.

We felt it was such a great weekend spending time with all of you. Spiritually it was a high note. It was a good time to meet new friends from the same flavour of church background. Sharing one another's experiences was very helpful and at times touching as we all have our stories to tell and can empathize with one another.

The presenters/speakers were very positive and encouraging and it was good to have some thoughtful Bible teaching. It was excellent to have three pastors from current Adventist Churches to participate and speak. And it was even better that they were two encouraging gay people to come and worship with them in their churches - sure different from the past. The venue was most comfortable and the day on Saturday, moved along so we didn't have any time to get bored. Food was great and a repeat of that next year would be ideal. We enjoyed the Sunday and the fellowship and discussion for the future was stimulating

that how I treat others determines my eternal destiny."

"It seems, then, that the last quiz question is about compassion—about whether you've helped people, especially underdogs, to flourish. And just as the last quiz question is not about hair, it's not about what you eat or how you dress or whether you comprehend the enigmas of prophecy and doctrine. It's just: Were you kind? Did you, or did you not, make life better for others?"

"Compassion—loving others; helping them flourish—is the bull's eye."

By [Charles Scriven](#) Spectrum

This to me is the very reason we should hold to the faith of Christ and not mankind.

Today this topic is a hot potato among Adventist, of faith, works, legalism, verses Grace.

reading' section included an American book, "A Gay Man's Guide to Prostate Cancer", published last year.

Mr Beresford said although there were an estimated 100 new cases of prostate cancer among SA gay men (and between 12 and 24 died from it) each year, gay men could feel a bit alone when diagnosed. This was especially so in view of the lack of gay-specific support, compared with other conditions such as HIV/AIDS.

Most with prostate cancer grew up in an era when homosexuality was still a criminal offence, and it could be a struggle to 'come out' at mainstream support groups and discuss sexual issues, as well as dealing with the cancer and all that entailed.

"A simple picture of guys hugging makes you feel that society embraces you, while the rest of the booklet gives you much of the information you need," he said.

Produced by the Queensland Cancer Fund, the booklet is available from the Cancer Council.

Blaze

KAMPMEETING SYDNEY 2007

Next years Kampmeeting will be on the topic of Being Connected. Connected first of all to God through Jesus and an emphasis on community integration and acceptance', "sharing the love - of Christ and to our fellowmen", "we are family" – being connected to each other, relates to all men and women regardless of race, gender and religion. Next years meeting is in the same city (Sydney) and place, West Ryde Parramatta Golf Club. Dates are 28th- 29th of September 2007

We have excellent speakers who are willing to come to this event and give us their thoughts on the subjects above. So, all we need is you to come and be partaker of this event. We are Connected.

ADELAIDE'S FEAST

GLBTI picnic in the park on [Sunday the 26th](#) was a success for Kinship. We had a very good response to the display marquee. The day was Hot and most people were able to get into the shade or by the pond that is in Rymill Park.

PROSTATE CANCER AND GAY MEN

A free booklet "Sex after Treatment: Prostate Cancer" is now available –and it gives a passing nod to gaymen who are affected by cancer.

GLBTIQ with Cancer Network spokesperson, Marcus Beresford, said there was a first for a mainstream Australian cancer publication — the booklet included a picture of two men holding each other, while the 'further

QUIT FOR LIFE!

Tobacco smoking is the single biggest cause of premature death, disease and disability in Australia.

Every year, about 19,000 Australians die from diseases caused by smoking. And smoking, more than anything else, contributes to the gap in healthy life expectancy between those who are most advantaged and those who are most in need.

Because of this strong link between smoking and poorer health, Gay Men's Health South Australia has been funded to commence Phase 2 of the Gay Men and the Tobacco Project. The project raises awareness of the harms of smoking, offers information and support around quitting through Quit for Life courses, aimed at gay and same sex attracted men.

So just how common is smoking among gay men?

Key findings from initial research by the Department of Public Health at the University of Adelaide include:

- smoking is taken up unrelated to gay sexuality (like the general population), but is reinforced and continues in order to cope with the Stresses of being marginalised because of gay sexuality;
- Risk-taking is prevalent among gay men and the social environment in Gay culture relies on smoking as a means of belonging to a 'scene' or Community;
- Gay men often see mainstream health messages as being irrelevant because they focus on long-term health effects, long-term benefits of quitting and use traditional family imagery. Gay men in the study's focus

groups preferred strategies to focus on sexual identity and attractiveness, social environment, improved sexual performance and gay-specific support services.

It isn't easy to quit smoking and often people trying to quit make several attempts.

See Quite for Life in your state! Beat the Habit.

Remember: if you do not want any negative consequences, do not use the drug and, no matter how many times you have used a substance, never be blasé.



Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays

May you all have a great family get together and a safe holiday season for 2006.

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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

P-flag Australia For parents
and friends of GLBT people
web site: www.pflag.org.au

Associations of Kinship Elsewhere SDA KINSHIP
INTERNATIONAL 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: From a quite mind comes vision; From vision comes knowledge of Unity; From knowledge of unity comes compassion for all.
From compassion ~ comes greatness.*

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