



NOVEMBER 2020

PARTICIPATE

IN LIFE • IN CHRIST



Living Hope Group at Elizabeth Church of Christ

Living Hope was formed in 2018 to provide support for parents who are living with, or supporting family members, who are either addicted to substances or suffering from mental health issues. When a person is caught up in addiction or suffering from mental health problems it not only affects them but also the wider family. It is particularly difficult for the parents who often feel like they are the only ones grappling with these issues.

This group is run by Pat Cailles and Mark Zerna and meets once a month with about 14 people being involved. The meetings usually consist of a presentation either by video or a guest speaker on a

topic that is relevant for those present. Then there is an opportunity for anyone to share what has been happening in their situation and it ends with a time of praying for each other.

A variety of resources is available for group members and connections have been made with a local Christian counsellor and a drug service called Drug Arm. As drug use continues to escalate around us, this type of support service will become increasingly important. We are praying about setting up similar ministry in Elizabeth South where our church has an op shop and a small café.

News and stories from Churches of Christ in South Australia



Grocer with a Heart

Our **Brighton Church** has discovered it's not only possible to maintain a strong and effective witness during this Covid season, but it's also an opportunity to actually commence one of the most important ministries in the Church's history!

Grocer with a Heart is a ministry initiative, born out of the vision of two members of the Brighton Fellowship. It involves the distribution of fruit, vegetables and grocery items which might otherwise be discarded, but which Brighton is now making available to the people of its community free of charge or at bare minimal cost. The shop, located at the rear of the Brighton complex, has been operating since the beginning of the Pandemic and its impact on both the Church and the surrounding area has been nothing short of incredible!

The acquisition of a refrigerated van and the installation of a freezer room and cooler room now make it possible for the shop to offer a wide range of frozen goods.

Grocer with a Heart opening hours are:

Tuesday to Friday - 10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Brighton Church of Christ is at 65 Sturt Road Brighton.

Safe Water September

Record Fundraising by a National Community



In a year where a lot of people and a lot of organisations have been forced to look inward and scramble to keep the lights on, churches and individuals around Australia have demonstrated that unprecedented change and upheaval will not stop them from having a positive Kingdom impact on the world around them.

More than 300 people across more than 50 churches, schools, and clubs took the Safe Water September challenge this year, and drank just water for the month of September to raise money for life-changing safe water projects in rural Zimbabwe and Vanuatu through Global Mission Partners and Churches of Christ Overseas Aid.

This year the national community raised \$177 666, breaking fundraising records for the second year in a row. By giving up all their non-water drinks like coffee, tea, and juice and inviting their peers, family, and friends to donate, challenge takers have raised enough to provide easy access to safe drinking water to approximately 8,000 people in remote and

vulnerable communities.

A lack of access to safe drinking water has profound impacts on communities across the world. Clean water for drinking and washing is the easiest way to dramatically reduce illness in communities, particularly in children and infants. With easy access to clean water, people—particularly women and girls—no longer have to walk more than 30 minutes each day to get water for their families. That time can be re-invested into their families, their education, their farms, and their businesses.

The water projects funded by Safe Water September are community-led in partnership with Showers of Blessing, Zimbabwe, and the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu. You can find out more at safewaterseptember.org.au.

The embody and Global Mission Partners team would like to extend a massive thank you to all the churches and individuals around South Australia who participated in the challenge. Well done, and enjoy your drinks!

Naracoorte Church of Christ



Naracoorte Church of Christ Friendship Centre is a big part of the ministry of the church and meets weekly during school terms. It's a welcoming place for people to gather on Thursday mornings to share time together, encourage one another, play table games, maybe participate in a craft activity which they bring along—or learn a new one if there is one on offer at the time. There's always a lot of chatter and laughter—and a whole lot of caring and sharing. Morning tea is available throughout the 2-hour meetings.

Committee members present a "Think Spot" each week. These are printed and made into a booklet at the end of each year and presented to all participants and supporters of the ministry. Extra copies are made available for hospital visitation or for those who are in the nursing home or shut-in with illness or (old) age.

Of course, meetings were suspended in March until July, due to the Coronavirus lockdown. What a joy it was to come together again at the beginning of term 3, albeit following specific guide lines for group gatherings—sanitizing hands, tables, chairs etc. staying 1.5 metres apart, and serving pre-packed biscuits and cake for morning teas.

During the time of meeting suspension, the committee determined to maintain contact with all participants with phone calls, text messages and emails. A "Survival Kit" was prepared and hand delivered, or posted, to everyone—a novel way of assuring them of our thoughts

and that we were in this situation together. A fortnightly letter called "Keeping in Touch", was published during this period. It contained greetings, Bible verses and notes of encouragement, a Think Spot, some jokes and even a recipe or two and even since re-opening, this has continued.

On average, 35 attended the meetings each week between the period July 2019—March 2020, and an average of 29 attended July—September 2020 despite the Covid-19 restrictions. About half attending do not have further affiliation with our church. We pray that more will feel the need to come to Sunday services but, for now, Friendship Centre is their "church".

Friendship Centre is in its 34th year of continuous ministry, which commenced in May of 1987 during the ministry of Grant and Julie Simpson.

The group supports the Global Mission Partners Christmas Gifts Appeal by the sale of donated garden produce, homemade jams and sauces, or the sale of craft items and original poetry booklets. Each year it is exciting to see how much there is in funds to purchase items needed in various parts of the world. Participants and church members also collect their 5-cent coins throughout the year for this cause.

Over the years, items of clothing and blankets have been knitted or crocheted and forwarded on to CareWorks, or to Ruth Telfer, to be distributed where best needed, either locally or overseas.

For many years the group and church members have made, or purchased, items to include in the Samaritan's Purse Christmas (Shoe) Box Appeal—the aim is to fill 70 boxes each year. A dedicated couple, who have this ministry close to their hearts, entuse others to participate. Friendship Centre has also supported the local Pastoral Care Workers funding for many years—mainly with donations from the sale of garden produce in the 3rd term.

The Cancer Council is supported through donations at Friendship Centre's version of the Biggest Morning Tea, corresponding with its birthday in May each year.

Other appeals are considered on their merit as they arise.

We usually have a special mid-year Soup and Sandwich lunch at the end of term 2, though it was not possible this year.

Extra effort is made at the end of each year to make Christmas relevant and show participants, particularly non-Christians, that it is a special time when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. The meeting hall and chapel are decorated appropriately and our beautiful nativity scene set up in the chapel. A special Christmas program is presented with carol singing, quizzes, a group craft activity relating to the chosen Christmas 'theme', followed by a Christmas lunch provided mainly by the committee, with participants bringing Christmas 'finger-food' goodies as dessert. (This may need to be modified this year, depending on the restrictions—but we will adapt and still make it a special time.)

There is a dedicated team on the committee who have maintained the ethos of a Friendship Centre, sharing their friendship, care, gifts and talents throughout the years. We trust that the light and love of Jesus will be seen in our contact with those whom Jesus draws along each week. We long to see more come to know Him as Lord and Saviour.

CareWorks



CareWorks has been made aware that a number of refugees who are in community detention are to be transferred into the community on "Final Departure Bridging Visas".

In South Australia there will be 20 families (74 people) released with three weeks' notice. The visa allows them to work but they get no assistance from the government other than access to Medicare. Clearly, this will be a traumatic and stressful time for these people. Support for housing, food and employment opportunities will be of paramount importance.

So, what can we, as individuals, and Churches do?

CareWorks will use its networks with partner agencies to ensure that your support is directed to the support services.

- You can make a financial donation, by sending it to CareWorks and we will forward it on your behalf to the Welcome Centre.
- Donations of non-perishable foods can be delivered to CareWorks Torrensville office, and it will be delivered to Australian Refugees Association.
- If you have a room, a granny flat or a house that you can release as low-cost accommodation, we will put you in touch with one of the accommodation providers.



JOIN US FOR A
COMBINED CHURCHES OF CHRIST
YOUTH NIGHT

YOUTH TOGETHER

**A NIGHT OF GAMES, FOOD &
CHALLENGE FOR YOUTH!**

**FREE ENTRY • 7:00PM-9:00PM
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27
MARION CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOR ALL SCHOOL AGED YOUTH AND THEIR LEADERS**

PARTICIPATE

IN LIFE • IN CHRIST

CHURCHES OF CHRIST CONVENTION NOVEMBER 13-22

FRIDAY 13TH 7PM
ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY 15TH 1PM
BERRI CHURCH OF CHRIST

WEDNESDAY 18TH 7PM
HAPPY VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

SATURDAY 21ST 1PM
NARACOORTE CHURCH OF CHRIST

SATURDAY 21ST 1PM
NARACOORTE CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY 22ND 10:30AM
REDCLIFFS CAMPSITE

THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SA & NT INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL
OCCUR ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 10TH AT 7PM ONLINE VIA ZOOM.

AT THESE SMALLER EVENTS THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF THE REVIEW THAT
CHURCHES OF CHRIST SA HAS UNDERTAKEN AND HOW THAT IS INFORMING THE FUTURE DIRECTION FOR THE
MOVEMENT. EACH GATHERING WILL BE THE SAME SO YOU NEED TO ONLY ATTEND ONE.
PLEASE RSVP TO THE STATE OFFICE FOR CONVENTION GATHERING YOU WISH TO ATTEND

CHURCHESOFCHRIST-SA.ORG.AU



Churches
of Christ
in South Australia
and Northern Territory

2 Danby Street, Torrensville SA 5031
Phone: 08 8443 7572

reception@churchesofchrist-sa.org.au



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