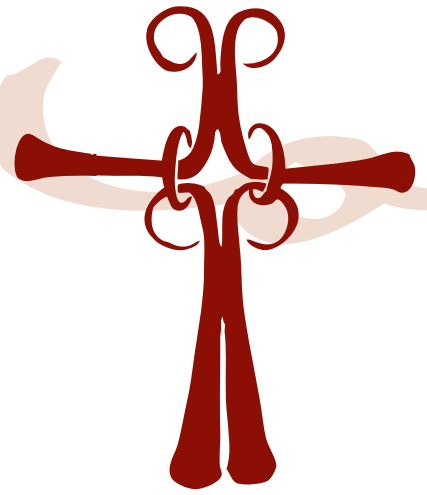


MISSIO

Newsletter of Sacred Mission Australia

Summer 2010



Bust of Father Herbert Hamilton Kelly by United Kingdom sculptor John O'Rourke

Meetings between the Provincials in 2010 further strengthened links between the three Provinces of the Society of the Sacred Mission (SSM).

The first meeting took place after the South Australian Chapter meeting in March. The second was a serendipitous coming together on the Feast of Michael and All Angels, called Michaelmas, in Lesotho, Southern Africa, in September.

Saint Michael is the Patron Saint of SSM. Traditionally, Michaelmas is celebrated on 29 September, but festivities were brought forward in Lesotho this year so that all of the brothers could take part. Several of them were about to embark on new roles or fields of study, which would take them away from the Priory.

In Lesotho, Michaelmas is the day when the brothers gather to honour their commitment to God and each other and when new companions are formally welcomed. Southern African Provincial Father Michael Lapsley conducted the customary celebratory

Mass, which was followed by a blessing of a wooden bust of SSM founder Father Kelly. The bust takes pride of place in the Priory.

New United Kingdom Provincial Father Colin Griffiths happened to be in Lesotho at Michaelmas. Southern Province Provincial Father Christopher Myers was also visiting. In conversations, the three Provincials explored ways of aligning the three Provinces more closely.

The trio expressed interest in the idea of a global website for SSM, for its potential to give the Society a unified look and feel. However, each Province would have independent online capability through separate web portals.

Christopher undertook to explore the concept more fully from Australia. As a starting point, interviews were conducted with the brothers in Lesotho as a record of their hopes and dreams. Excerpts of a few of these interviews are included in this issue of *Missio*.

This issue

Hopes and dreams

The brothers in Southern Africa

Kelly's relevance today

An exploration

Speaking up

Missionary Susan Bellett

The possibility of a global website was raised at the most recent meeting of the Australian Chapter in November, and will be pursued more fully before the next meeting in July 2011.

More broadly, this meeting was another important step in the process of redefining Sacred Mission Australia and the core of its work. 'There is no doubt we're infused with a new sense of purpose as we chart our course for the next decade', says Christopher.

'The seeds of the future are in our hands.'



Father Kelly's 'idea' explored (see back page)

Hopes and dreams

The Australian Province sponsored interviews with the Lesotho brethren as a gesture of goodwill. The full interviews can be found on the Society's Australian website www.sacredmissionaustralia.com.au



Moeketsi (Max 1) Motojane

'I now feel I can go wherever God sends me'



Father William

'I want to help break down barriers for black people'



Father Robert

'I feel that I have been blessed by being here'



Brother Mosuoe

'SSM can play a role getting antiviral drugs from village to village'



Father Tanki Mofana

'I want to be a role model for our young people'



Brother Barry, OGS

'I'm excited to be joining SSM'



Nkoenyana Moroka

'My next steps are to take vows of commitment and further my studies'



Sello Moholisa

'I want to make a difference to the lives of my brothers and sisters'

Diocesan connection



Christopher (left) met with the Bishop of Lesotho, the Right Reverend Mallane Adam Taaso in Lesotho. The meeting provided an opportunity for Christopher to hand over a cheque from the Southern Province, for the support of the wives and children of clergy in the Diocese. The possibility of future cooperation with the diocese was another topic canvassed at the recent Chapter meeting. The donation from the Southern Province honours the Ministry of Father David Wells in Southern Africa.

Melbourne Cup 2010



St John's Parish mixed fun with fundraising at its 2010 Melbourne Cup Lunch, which attracted 38 guests. In excess of \$1100 was raised on the day, and all proceeds went to the orphanage across the road from the Priory in Maseru, Lesotho.

Susan Bellett, who works with the children (see *Speaking up*), recommended that the money be spent on hats and shoes, as the walk to and from school in the heat is hard—on both heads and shoe leather.

When asked how she goes about buying so many pairs of shoes in so many sizes, Susan says: 'Getting the shoe sizes is not too difficult. I just go with my piece of paper with everyone's names and ask the kids—they all know what size shoe they take. I know right from the start that it will not all go smoothly, so you just take one step at a time and after many trips to the shoe shop everyone has their shoes and that is all that matters; not how difficult it is or how I think it could be done so much better! I am always learning things here; and nothing is ever how you think it might be.'

Hopes and dreams

SPEAKING UP

Susan Bellett, Missionary and SSM companion speaks up in this issue of *Missio*.



I arrived in Maseru, Lesotho in September 2008 after being asked by a friend at church in Christchurch New Zealand if I would like to go and work in an orphanage in Africa. At the time I thought that God was calling me to this position, but not being 100% sure I decided to trust Him and step up. I didn't want to think, 'What if?' down the track.

As I have a diploma in early childhood teaching, my role initially at the centre was to work with and encourage the teachers in the preschool, which catered for both community children and those from the centre.

I have learned so much while I have been here, in particular, when working as a missionary you should never rush in with all the answers, because in the first few months we think we have all the answers. Now, I realise that the longer I am here the more I have to learn and that my answers are not always the right ones.

My role over the two years has grown: I am still involved in the preschool and each day I walk 10 grade one children to and from school. I have also been given a room that I am

converting into a classroom, and each afternoon a different age group of children come and we do mathematics and English. To me these things seem so little, but I see that the little things done with love and consistency over a period of time lead to bigger things—and really, for me, the bottom line is being open and obedient to God.

In my first two weeks in Maseru I was held up at knifepoint. When this happened I remembered having read that if you are in trouble call upon the name of Jesus, so I did, out loud. The men took my money, but gave me back my bag with my cards and house keys and then ran off. I was in shock, but choose to look to God and by later that afternoon I was able to pray for the young men who had robbed me.

Why do I tell you this? Simply, life happens to all of us and it is what we chose to do with it that changes the outcome—for us and for those we work with. God is a good God, and even though we go through tough times he will always be there with us. I never thought of returning home; I did, however, put some things in place to keep me safer. I wonder what God is doing in the lives of the three young men?

I love being here and feel amazingly blessed to be able to do what I am doing. Yes, at times the things I see are horrible and unfair and I miss my two grown kids, but as I keep my eyes on Jesus and trust him then it is not so overwhelming.



The 106 children at the centre are amazing kids and I have learned so much from them. They may not have very much in material possessions, but they have each other and a relationship with God. I pray for them that this will grow into a life-changing relationship and that they will be open to be used by God; thus giving them a future and hope.

New beginnings



Matthew and Bishop Philip Huggins

11 November 2010 marked a new beginning for the parish of All Saints, Ascot Vale, Melbourne.

The induction of Father Matthew Dowsey as Priest-in-Charge marked the reestablishment of the parish after a four-year

amalgamation with St Thomas', Moonee Ponds. It also brought to a close a very demanding year in which the Parish church and hall underwent major redevelopment and refurbishment.

'The enthusiasm of the people and their commitment to their church has brought them to a new start in an older suburb in Melbourne's west, which is developing as a mix of older established houses and new areas. Feelings were summed up as we sang the final hymn: *God gives us a future*', said Matthew.

Father Kelly today

It has been said of SSM's founder Father Kelly that, 'He speaks to us today with astonishing freshness'.



Members began an exploration of the relevance of Father Kelly's 'idea' (as he called SSM and its work) at a previous Chapter meeting in the Barossa Valley, and it continued in November at the meeting at Victor Harbor.

Geoff Pridham led a discussion around taking Father Kelly's thinking, and seeing how it applies to the present time.

'I think we would all agree that the discussion on Father Kelly at our last Chapter revealed much about the many changes that have taken place in the attitudes of the Society and the Church over the last century. While some of

Father Kelly's Principles are timeless, others (mainly of a procedural nature) are dated.

'Therefore, it would be an interesting exercise to study the relevance of Father Kelly's teachings to our present time. In this regard, what could be more helpful than Margaret Dewey's publication, *An idea whose time has come?*

'I have read the booklet several times and continue to be astonished at how Margaret has succeeded in assembling a cohesive collection of deeply penetrating insights into how Father Kelly's teachings relate to the now', says Geoff.

Geoff said of the many questions he could have posed arising from the booklet, he selected 10. The following two (with a brief commentary) were addressed at the recent meeting:

Page 12, Melvyn Matthews wrote: 'Mysticism is a form of deconstruction, a way of deliberately unravelling the falsities to which devotion, religious practice and religious speech are prone.'

Q. What are some of these 'falsities'?

Page 14, Hilary Greenwood wrote of 'the mystique of Kelham Chapel'.

Q. Why and how was Kelham Chapel so important in the life of the Society?

The questions remaining will be topics of study at future Chapter Meetings.

Prayers

Please keep in mind Matthew as he begins his new Ministry and Gregory as he considers ordination after successfully completing his theological studies.

Happenings 2011

Chapter meeting

11-17 July

Townsville, North Queensland
(In honour of John Lewis' Ministry as Bishop of North Queensland.)

Lesotho Cross

To place your order for a Lesotho Cross, telephone 08 8223 2671 or email ssm.s.province@esc.net.au
Cost \$25 (plus \$5 postage)



To the glory of God in the doing of God's will

The Society of the Sacred Mission is an Anglican religious community that unites the devotion of ordinary people, using it in the service of the church. By making a donation or bequest to the Society, you will be acknowledging the work of members who share a common life of prayer and fellowship in a variety of educational, pastoral and community activities in England, Australia, Japan and Southern Africa.

Contacts

www.sacredmissionaustralia.com.au

Provincial Office 14 St John Street Adelaide SA 5000 | Tel/Fax 08 8223 2671 | Email ssm.s.province@esc.net.au

St John's Priory 14 St John Street Adelaide SA 5000 | Tel 08 8223 2348 | Fax 08 8223 2764 | Email stjohnsanglican@adelaide.on.net

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I give and bequeath to the Society of the Sacred Mission the sum of \$..... for the general purposes of the work of the province, and I direct that such bequest shall be free of all duties, and I declare that the receipt of the society's provincial officer for the time being shall be sufficient discharge for the same.