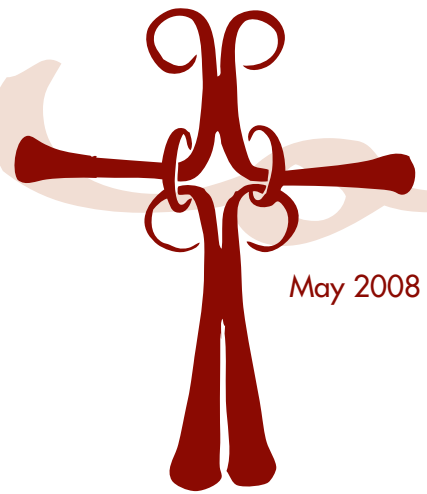


# missio

Newsletter of the Society of the Sacred Mission

Southern Province



May 2008



Christopher Smith at his metal foundry in the old Adelaide Gaol

Photo courtesy SA Life

Crosses made from horseshoe nails, adopted by Society of the Sacred Mission (SSM) members in Australia as a symbol of their commitment to the society, are now being produced in Adelaide by craftsman Christopher Smith.

The story behind the crosses stretches back some years and to the small landlocked country of Lesotho in Southern Africa. The Save the Children Fund had set up a hostel in the capital, Maseru, where young and old from country areas could stay before and after surgery.

While there, residents were encouraged to use their skills to produce handcrafts for sale to bring in some much-needed income. A man named Paschal, who became skilled at ironwork, created the horseshoe nail crosses.

A bishop, seeing the crosses and appreciating their intrinsic strength and simplicity, bought one to wear as a pectoral cross. Over time a horseshoe cross was provided to every bishop in South Africa. Thus identified, the cross was not adopted as a symbol of SSM membership in South Africa as was, later, in Australia.

The cross continues as symbol for the SSM newsletter, now redesigned and rebadged as *missio*.

Thanks to Christopher Smith, members and friends of the SSM now have access to a Lesotho cross as an expression of their solidarity with the society and its mission.

## This issue

### A man for others

Andrew Maxwell King  
1947–2008

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Rev. John Lewis

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Joy Freier

### Prayers

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See back page for details on how to buy your Lesotho cross



Andrew: ever patient and perceptive

## ANDREW MAXWELL KING 1947–2008

### *A fruitful ministry*

Typically, the cartoon characterisation of an English vicar is a clean, well-dressed, educated and intelligent man with a look of permanent surprise on his face; as if he's not quite sure where he is, how he got there or where he is supposed to be going. Andrew found this a useful image to project, especially when making his way around a new parish in which there were large blocks or flats or row housing.

'You wonder around looking lost, wait for someone to rescue you, introduce yourself as the new Anglican priest, accept the offer of a cup of tea (always in the kitchen), get chatting and in half an hour or so you've got a rough knowledge of the immediate neighbours; their hopes, joys and sorrows; who the odd ones are; and what kind of support you may be able to offer.

'The aim is not to get them to church, but to show them that the church is there for them. Do this in a few scattered parts of the parish, and you've laid the foundations of a pastoral ministry. The lost sometimes offer unsuspected riches.'

This anecdote well illustrates the chief features of this man for others: patience, perception, perseverance and the ability to suspend judgement or draw conclusions until as much information as possible is assembled.

These were the assets that stood him (and his wife xxx and family) in good stead in working in Aboriginal communities, subsequent parochial appointments and a brief spell in charge of post-ordination training.

Fortunately, Andrew learnt to cope with unpopularity early in his career, because his role in the disclosure of systematic sexual abuse in the church certainly brought him plenty more. As much as the abuse itself, what concerned Andrew was the refusal of those in authority to acknowledge it. Generally, those at the head of an institution become preoccupied with its financial survival. Was it naïve of him to expect the church to be any different? In the wash-up it wasn't; and many people were hurt and disillusioned because of it. But to Andrew's credit he kept the faith; at least with God. If fellow clergy shunned him, perhaps they were unaware of the dangers of abuse or just plain timid.

*'The aim is not to get them to church, but to show them that the church is there for them. Do this in a few scattered parts of the parish, and you've laid the foundations of a pastoral ministry. The lost sometimes offer unsuspected riches.'*

It must not be forgotten that Andrew took all this on against a backdrop of an 18-year battle with leukaemia. One of the most impressive aspects, was his matter-of-fact approach to his condition: common sense in theory, but incredibly difficult to carry out in practice. Andrew did. He disliked fuss, but of all he disliked gratuitous advice, especially when he was really sick. In this situation, being told to meditate or pray more is not very helpful, and in a way rather arrogant. To retain hope during this period would have been difficult, yet Andrew did it. Two things that helped were the regular recitation of the daily Office and attendance at Mass in the cathedral. Ordinary enough in themselves, but they served to provide a stable foundation in an environment of uncertainty.

Andrew's was a fruitful ministry; may he now rest.

### **Merv Porter**

Merv was a professed SSM member from 1965–1975 and remains a firm friend. Now in retirement in Adelaide, he maintains his strong interest in mediaeval history.



Rt Rev. H John Lewis AM SSM

## SELF-SUPPORTING CLERGY

*far-north Queensland 1978–1996*

Securing an adequate supply of clergy to serve the parishes of the diocese was a persistent challenge for John Lewis during a quarter of a century as Bishop of far-north Queensland. To meet it, he set about training lay men and women based on the apprentice model of SSM founder Father Herbert Kelly and missionary and theologian Roland Allen.

John implemented the model with unflagging determination despite early scepticism, which abounded, and more than 100 men and women were ordained as priests, with a number going on to work in the Australian church. The apprentice model has subsequently gained broad-based acceptance.

John's thesis, *The self-supporting ministry in the diocese of North Queensland*, based on implementing the model, earned him a Master of Theology. It will be published mid-year.

"Isi illaorem digna conulput nostie vel inibh esequamet nulla feugue vel dolobor suscidui exeros amcore mod er ilit wisse doluptat lobortio conulput dolortionsed.

Father Herbert Kelly

"Isi illaorem digna conulput nostie vel inibh esequamet nulla feugue vel dolobor suscidui exeros amcore mod er ilit wisse doluptat lobortio conulput dolortionsed.

Roland Allen

## FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE

*Behavioral Change*

It was while working in Darwin in the Student Services Branch of the Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training that lay member of the SSM, Joy Freier, first came into contact with Terry O'Connell and the concept of restorative practices.

Terry, a former police sergeant in New South Wales, had been awarded a Churchill Fellowship for developing the Family Group Conference, a new response to juvenile crime and school misconduct. A train-the-trainer program enabled Joy to be part of the implementation of restorative practices in schools.

The old adversarial approach that she had grown up with worked on punishment and asked what happened, who was to blame and what punishment was needed.

'When I was in primary school in the early 1960s I remember Graeme, one of the boys in my small class of about 10, being caned every morning for not doing his homework.

'I can still hear the cane hitting Graeme's hands, shivering at the sound of the thuds and thinking that this was not fair. 'It didn't help Graeme and his learning or his relationship with the headmaster! This approach seldom worked, I doubt if the headmaster ever talked to Graeme to understand why his homework was never done. 'This situation might have been solved if Graeme had been able to tell his story. 'For punishment and consequences to be effective in changing behaviours, they need to be delivered in a context that provides both meaning and relevance.'

At one of the schools where Joy worked, she was asked by the principal to talk to a small group of girls who had recently fallen out with each other. One of the girls felt she was being isolated and bullied and her mother was distressed. 'These breakdowns in relationships happen all too often in schools, and here was a situation that could be resolved using the voluntary restorative practices conference approach. 'Students were spoken to individually and then in a conference setting, using the conference script, the students, their parents and school staff were asked the restorative questions. 'All the voices were heard—students, their parents and school staff; hurts were understood; and those involved took responsibility for their actions and made undertakings to make reparation. 'Restorative approaches help schools and organisations manage conflict and tensions by focusing upon repairing harm and strengthening relationships.'



Archbishop Philip and Joy Freier with Bishop David Vunagi (Diocese of Temotu, Solomon Islands) at Ubirr, Kakadu National Park



## Events 2008

- > Southern Province  
Chapter meeting  
St John's College Brisbane  
7-11 July
- > New priory dedication  
Maseru, South Africa  
26 September

To place your order for a Lesotho cross signifying your support for and/or membership of the SSM.  
Telephone 08 8xxx xxxx Email xxxxx@xxxxxxx.com.au Cost \$

### Postscripts...

#### A fruitful ministry

Archbishop Jeffrey Driver, in response to the Mullighan Inquiry in child sex abuse in South Australia, has urged the government to adopt all of the inquiry's 54 recommendations. 'I strongly support the recommendations', he said. Encouraged by the Archbishop, the SSM has reviewed its own professional standards, the report to be presented at the chapter meeting in Brisbane in July.

#### Self-supporting clergy

The SSM wishes 'Calm seas and a prosperous voyage' to John Lewis and Joyce Bleby, who will marry at St John's at 8pm on the 8th day of the 8th month 2008—at the same time as the Olympic Games open in Beijing propitiously when the elements align.

#### Educator Joy Freier

Joy's career spans 27 years in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Victoria, working in primary, secondary and technical and further education. Positions range from teacher and advisory teacher (behaviour and wellbeing) through to assistant principal. She is married to Philip Freier, the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne.

> To find out more about restorative practices go to [www.realjustice.org](http://www.realjustice.org)

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

The Society of the Sacred Mission, an Anglican religious community, is a means of uniting the devotion of ordinary people, using it in the service of the Church. By making a donation or bequeathing 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 South Africa.

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#### Donation Form

My cheque for \$..... in support of the Southern Province of the Society of the Sacred Mission is attached. I will be contacting my lawyer to amend my will to make a bequest. Yes/No

Signed ..... Dated .....