

RAINBOW CONNECTION

Anglican Cursillo Tasmania

July 2020

A Reflection on Romans 8: 35-39 and 2 Corinthians 1: 20-23

from Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Peter Johnson (full transcript at cursillotasmalia.org.au)

Peter begins by saying that he just can't help thinking about St Paul with all that is going on in the world. For many weeks we have needed to hide from each other. Most of us have been physically inconvenienced and emotionally strained. The cause of all is the minute thing called a Coronavirus. We have been under threat; the threat of sickness or death and the threat of losing loved ones. Peter says this has been going on since the beginning of time. Nothing has changed other than the title of the present invader. Peter reflects on the first passage of scripture from Romans which is used a lot at funerals, *'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "for your sake we face death all day long: we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered". No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord'.*

Peter emphasises that neither death nor life will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Despite any threat from danger or whatever, despite the Coronavirus with all its power and venom, nothing can overcome the love of Christ. How can we be sure of this? Paul explains when writing to the people of Corinth,

'For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his spirit in our hearts as a deposit, promising what is to come.'

Peter says 'wow!' This not something just for the future, this is for now. God's promise for forgiveness, healing, blessing and hope have already been fulfilled in Christ. They are here with us right now. Peter wants us to keep this knowledge of the presence of God with us **all** the time. Let's rejoice and look around at whatever the world can throw at us and happily keep in our minds that we have this promise.

Save the Date



You are invited to our Zoom Ultreya

On Sat 8th August 2020

1 pm - 3 pm

Theme:- "God has plans for you"

Theme Verse:- Jeremiah 29:11

Witness Speaker:- The Rev'd Jane Lamont

Join in from the comfort of your home.

An email about how to connect to the Zoom Ultreya will be sent out closer to the 8th August.

Update on Mez Thomas (Tas Cursillista in London)

Mez is a NHS nurse who was re-deployed for a while to work with the Covid patients on ventilation at the Nightingale field hospital. Due to a Government decision the Nightingale was shut down at very short notice and the patients were sent to other hospitals. Mez and the other NHS staff were sent back to their former jobs, again at very short notice. Mez received a text message on her day off from Nightingale to return to her Clinic work the day after her time off. It was a week of very mixed emotions for her. Although Mez enjoys her Clinic work, her time working in ICU had given her space to re-consider her working life and consider God's plans for her future. For a while Mez has wondered about full time ministry. Perhaps God is leading her in that direction. Mez is starting to explore and find out more. She would value prayers for discernment and timing in all these decisions.

A Message from Shirley Tongue

As I write this, it's a glorious Winter's afternoon. The bees are busy, our local lapwing is sitting on eggs, the camellia is covered in buds and the lawn is ablaze with hot pink oxalis flowers ... The promise of new life and spring is all around us. There is also promise of new emotional and spiritual life as we gradually creep out from isolation and start to meet together again, albeit cautiously and appropriately physically distanced. May there be a freshness in your relationships with your church family as you reconnect and a freshness in your relationship with Jesus as a firm anchor in a year of ever-changing 'new normals'. Cursillo is also re-emerging from isolation. We will have to be innovative in how we run things, to stay within the Diocesan and State guidelines, but if there is one thing that 2020 has taught us, it's how to be flexible and creative. (Make that **two** things. ☺)

- An important change for Cursillo Tasmania since the last Rainbow Connection is that **Catherine Woodberry** has replaced Jane Lamont as Secretary. We are deeply grateful to Jane for her good-humoured efficiency and hard work over her 3+ year term and are overjoyed that Catherine accepted the invitation to take her place. May the Lord bless them both abundantly.
- Jane is currently awaiting commissioning as the **National Spiritual Advisor** for Cursillo Australia. I'm confident the Lord will use her mightily in that role.
- Secretariat is still looking at the how, where and when of a Diocesan ultreya, but we are hoping to reschedule our postponed **Very Very Northern Ultreya** on Flinders Island for later this year. If you would like to attend, stay tuned for a date!
- We have also decided to go ahead with MW34 in October, so please start inviting **candidates**. Also please continue to pray for Greg, Kathryn and their team.
- Several Dioceses have been hosting ZOOM ultreyas and Tasmania has one planned for **August 8th**. I pray as many of you as possible will be able to 'attend'.
- In the absence of ultreyas, we have not been able to circulate the Rainbow Box for **donations**. If you would like to contribute to the ongoing running costs of Cursillo Tasmania, we would be most grateful. Online transfers can be made to: Diocese of Tasmania Cursillo Movement Westpac: BSB 037-001 A/C No. 129075

May you spread colour and joy throughout your environment, flourishing as the oxalis in our lawn, De colores!

Cursillo Web Page

We are looking for someone with the necessary skills to take over the Cursillo website. The web page needs to be revamped into a fresh site using Wordpress or a similar platform. Please contact Wes James if you can assist. Email: wbjames@iinet.net.au Phone: 0428400989