

# CHALLENGE TO MINISTRY

December 2003

## → 2003 CONFERENCE REPORTS

Praise God for another fantastic year of conferences Australia-wide!

Over these 11 conferences, almost 1200 people were challenged from the Bible to consider training for full-time ministry, alongside some 650 ministers and ministry apprentices. 120 also attended Club 50 in Sydney, to consider how to better serve Jesus and His gospel in their "twilight years".

Below are some of the highlights of the 2003 conferences.

Please keep praying that those who attended these weekends would keep making wise and godly decisions and live every day for the honour of our Lord Jesus.

Mark Barry  
National Office Manager

### **Perth CTVfM**

**August 8-10**

August 8-10 saw about 100 people gather at the CTVfM (Catch The Vision for Ministry) conference in the south of Perth, WA. Allan Chapple explored 2 Timothy with us, highlighting the crucial place God's grace needs to have in our lives, if we are to serve Jesus with passion and gritty tenacity. Archie Poulos ranged further afield in his 3 talks, placing our individual Christian lives and ministry in the context of God's far reaching purposes.

Electives gave participants a chance to explore issues of person interest including "The Challenge of Missionary Service" and "Gender and Ministry".

Although there were a significant number of 1st timers, it seems that for quite a number of "returnees" the weekend helped them make some significant decisions about future ministry.

Tim Thorburn (Director)



### **Sydney Club 5**

**August 15-17**

The Club 5 conference for the Sydney North, North-West and Central Coast networks was held on August 15-17 at Collaroy. Over 300 coaches and candidates heard God's challenge to ministry from 2 Corinthians and from Jonah. "Up front" highlights included hearing from Paul King (CMS missionary in France), and from David Sheath and Luther Symons about church planting on the Central Coast. Private highlights happened over meals, interviews and discussion groups as we talked, prayed and made decisions about how best to serve Christ with our lives. On Sunday John Chapman sent us home with the words of 2 Corinthians 5:15 - *"He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for him who for their sake died and was raised"*.

Neil Fitzpatrick (Organising Team Member)



### **Tasmania Club 5**

**August 22-24**

The second Club 5 Tasmania conference was attended by around 240 coaches, candidates and children, and all were blessed with great Bible teaching from Peter Adam and Phillip Jensen.

Throughout the weekend, there were great opportunities to get to know people from around the state, and plenty of discussions, both organised and informal, on how to be serving Jesus more effectively in training up leaders and bringing the gospel to the state.

Please thank God for the growth in the conference, and pray that more and more people will come along to be challenged to give up their lives for God.

Benny Walter (Director)

### **Melbourne GTW**

**August 29-31**

Late August saw 125 people gather to grow the number of Gospel workers in Victoria. They came from Albury, Gippsland, the metro and beyond to hear God speak through Richard Chin (Matthew) and Greg Goswell (Amos). Tracey Gowing (strand 1) and Jacquie Marshall (Women Coaches elective) were received really well. May God raise up 2000 more team leaders to preach Christ in Victoria, for this generation and the next.

Ben Pfahlert (Director)

## **Sydney Club 5**

**September 5-7**

The Southern Club 5 was held at Stanwell Tops with candidates from Canberra, the Illawarra, St George, South West and Sutherland Shire present. It was a great mix of people who heard stunning Bible studies on Genesis from Dave Starling and a clear call to service by Phillip Jensen. The Genesis studies covered some of the most familiar ground for many people, but we all learnt new things and were inspired to re-read the old, old stories again.

The vibe of the weekend was to think harder about how we live our lives and make our decisions. On Saturday night we heard great stories from some in attendance. One lady was back to Club 5 for the second time. Last year she lived in Sydney, this year in North West NSW where she teaches. She drove down after school in order to attend, and told us of the needs for gospel people in country towns. Another couple told us of their plans to relocate their whole family to Europe to support gospel preachers in a Mediterranean country.

**Archie Poulos (Organising Team Member)**

## **Armidale Club 5**

**September 12-14**

St Marks Chapel UNE hosted another Club 5 event in term 3 of 2003, with about 30 university-aged students travelling to Dorrigo for a weekend of teaching and fellowship.

Rev. Martin Trotman, Rev. Gary Eastment, Rev. Cliff Ainsworth, and Rev. Peter Moore ran workshops and seminars on the topic: 'The theology of Sin throughout the bible'.

As well as coming under the Word, individual interviews were held to discuss future decisions regarding personal ministry.

**Scott Hazelton (Organising Team Member)**



## **Sydney Club 5**

**September 26-28**

There were almost as many coaches as candidates at the conference this year. This meant that coaches were not as stressed in interviews and conversations. It seemed to me to be more relaxed and therefore more informal ministry was able to take place. This made for a better conference all round. Having the Club 50 people there was also a great encouragement to those in Club 5.

**Peter Hughes (Director)**

## **Brisbane Ministry Matters**

**September 26-28**

We were again pleased with what the Lord did during our Ministry Matters camp this year. We heard about the "Incredible Church" from Ephesians. We were firstly challenged to read the Scriptures more carefully by Phil Campbell over the weekend, with an encouragement to serve the church of Christ toward good deeds & truth in love. The electives (this year) were designed to place the call & cost of the gospel on our lives, AND to understand that ministry is still a privilege and honour. We continue to ask God that he will use this weekend to further his kingdom.

**Tony Rowbotham (Director)**

## **Sydney Club 5**

**October 3-6**

The long weekend Club 5 Conference was an opportunity for many to be stimulated in their thinking regarding the future direction of their life.

David Cook taught us from 1 Thessalonians of the priority to grow and mature in godliness by resisting the ways of the world. We were challenged by Phillip Jensen to keep thinking through the aspects of life that prevent us making ministry decisions. As in previous years the electives provided a stimulating time of hearing about ministry opportunities and gave a chance for people to talk with experienced missionaries and pastors.

**Patrick Benn (Director)**



## **Asian Club 5**

**October 3-6**

Asian Club 5 was a wonderful opportunity to meet together with other Asian men and women who were seeking to find out more about paid Christian ministry or were on the path towards it. During the time, we addressed issues that are particularly relevant to Asians considering fulltime paid ministry, including parents and ministry and reasons why I should and shouldn't. We also took a look at the Asian 10% vision - what we need to do to see 10% of Asians in Sydney come to know Jesus, and how we can play a part.

We were challenged from God's word to ask ourselves as Asians where is it that we find joy - in the here and now, in our jobs and the status it brings to us and our family, in our success and wealth or rather in gospel partnership, in gospel citizenship and in gospel advance. To see that to live is Christ and to die is gain.

We were called upon to watch our own growth - to ensure that we grow in godliness and holiness, to watch out for false teachers as well as examine ourselves and live lives that reflect the fact that Jesus - the great King is coming again soon.



## Adelaide CV

October 3-6

CV 2003 was another significant step forward for many of the delegates as they think through their response to the grace of God. As usual, "career diversion" was on the cards and whether it was in the talks (ably given by Stephen Raison, Bible College of SA principal or Paul Harrington, rector of Holy Trinity) or in the ministry discussion groups, electives, seminars or interviews, delegates had their plans and directions challenged by the Gospel imperative.

The number of delegates was up significantly this year with many coming back for the second or third time. This was a great answer to prayer. It meant that those delegates were continuing their thinking towards vocational ministry and could also offer a significant example to those at CV for the first time.

One of the highlights for all concerned was "the Panel" (think Channel 10), which was a feature of each of the main sessions. The

Panel, made up of a constantly changing sea of delegates and staff, gave the rest of the conference a window into their ministry world, where they had come from, how God had been at work through them and a hint of where they were longing to head. It helped set the tone for the weekend and encouraged the delegates to network like mad.

We are very thankful to God for the challenges He offered us over the weekend through His word and we pray that He will help us take them up.

Warwick De Jersey (Director)



## Sydney Club 50

August 16, September 6,  
September 27 & October 4

The secular world has spawned an endless number of seminars preparing people for retirement. A secular view of retirement has, as a consequence, become widespread & embedded in the minds of many Christians.

Club 50 was launched 12 months ago & four further Club 50 days

have been held in recent weeks. These have received an immediate and warm response by many in the 50 years and over sector. This warm response has been occasioned when they realised there is a distinctive Christian view of retirement and very importantly when they saw the wide spectrum of exciting possibilities of engaging in part/full time Christian ministry in their local Churches or other spheres.

This excitement was heightened by 2 aspects of Club 50: -

1. Becoming aware of the surprising widespread variety of opportunities & spheres of ministry available to them now.
2. Hearing from various speakers from their age group who have actually stepped into ministry situations in their Churches

Dudley & Elizabeth Foord (Club 50 Taskforce Members)

### Club 50 2004

September 18 - Stanwell Tops  
September 25 - Kurrajong

Club 50 Website:

[www.mts.com.au/club50](http://www.mts.com.au/club50)



## Club 5 Conferences 2004



CONFERENCE	DATE	LOCATION
<i>Tasmanian Club 5</i>	<i>August 20-22</i>	<i>Tasmania - Ulverstone</i>
<i>Sydney Club 5</i>	<i>September 17-19</i>	<i>Sydney - Stanwell Tops</i>
<i>Sydney Club 5</i>	<i>September 24-26</i>	<i>Sydney - Merroo</i>
<i>Ministry Matters</i>	<i>October 1-3</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>
<i>Sydney Club 5</i>	<i>October 1-4</i>	<i>Sydney - Merroo</i>
<i>Sydney Asian Club 5</i>	<i>October 1-4</i>	<i>Sydney - Merroo</i>
<i>CV</i>	<i>October 1-4</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>
<i>Armidale Club 5</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>Armidale</i>
<i>CTVfm</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>Perth</i>
<i>Gospel to the World</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>

[www.mts.com.au/club5](http://www.mts.com.au/club5)