



A Word from Jackie

Rev Jackie Stoneman,
Director of Studies

Dear Friend,

I love how we see the heart of the apostle Paul as he writes to the church in Thessalonica. In 1 Thess 2:8 he says, "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us".

It's this same heart that I see reflected in so many of the students and graduates of Mary Andrews College, especially amongst those who have taken our Pastoral Care courses. Pastoral Care is so much more than taking a hot meal to someone in need (although that is a very important part of it!).

As Diploma graduate Cheryl Atkins reminds us in her profile on page 3, it's about "supporting people in their faith, praying with them, sharing the Scriptures and walking with them in their journey." It's about sharing our very lives, as Paul says!

This admonition from Scripture is something we take very seriously at Mary Andrews College and it permeates everything we do as we prepare our students for real-life ministry, service and influence.

As you can see from the stories in this month's edition of In Touch, our Pastoral Care students are having a real influence within the Body of Christ and outside it. And I can't help but thank God for friends and supporters like you as I see these men and women transform the culture around them for Christ.

So once again, thank you for your gifts and prayers, which God is using to equip and train women to become 'women of influence'... so that they can serve Christ and help impact the lives of others.

God bless you!

Rev Jackie Stoneman,
Director of Studies. Mary Andrews College

www.mac.edu.au



Mary Andrews College
Level 1, St Andrew's House
464-480 Kent St,
Sydney, NSW 2000
Phone: (02) 9569 2418
Fax: (02) 9569 8872

Spaces still available for June 2010 Oasis Conference!

Many of us feel battered by life or are just plain tired. We long for an oasis where we can catch our breath and find refreshment. Perhaps we are concerned for others who are really struggling in life and we would love to help them find true refreshment as well.

It is only in Jesus that this can be found so let's draw aside and listen to him as he speaks to us through his word and his Spirit brings refreshment to us!

To register, visit us at www.mac.edu.au

Farewell, AMANDA!

After four and a half years serving at Mary Andrews College as a Development Officer, Amanda Garlato has decided to retire. We thank God for what she has done for the college and for the gracious way she has done it. We will miss her greatly and wish her well in her retirement!



in touch

Winter 2010

The Privilege to CARE

How Mary Andrews College is preparing leaders for the 'one-another' ministry of Pastoral Care

One of the biggest challenges for us as Christians is to effectively put God's word into practice. James chapter 1 so pointedly tells us, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says".

The New Testament calls us to be engaged in ministry to one another. To select some examples, we are to live in harmony with, welcome, have the same care for, be servants of, be burden bearers for, be kind, tender-hearted and forgiving towards, encourage, build up, do good to, pray for, confess our sins to, be servants of, be subject to, consider how we can motivate love and good deeds for... one another.

Ephesians 4:11-13 clearly calls all Christians not only to be engaged in the work of service within the Body of Christ, but also to be prepared for this service, to be trained. The outcome of this is that the Body of Christ will grow to maturity.

Yet this ministry of Pastoral Care is not simply about developing skills and gifts. It's about knowing Jesus and being like Him. It is learning to cooperate with the Spirit's work in our lives and in the lives of the 'one another' people we encounter.

Pastoral Care is really about the 'one another' ministry because it involves coming alongside people as they experience life. It answers questions like,

- What will we say to support the person who has just been told they have a terminal illness?
- How will we care for the person who has a mental illness and desperately needs the support of God's people?

continued on page 2

Pastoral Care is not simply about developing skills and gifts. It's about knowing Jesus and being like Him. It is learning to cooperate with the Spirit's work in our lives and in the lives of the 'one another' people we encounter.

in this issue

Congratulations, Graduates!

Cheryl's Story

Book Now for 2010 Oasis Conference!

A Word from Jackie

The Privilege to CARE

continued from page 1

- In what ways will we be helpful to the person who is in conflict with other people or experiencing the breakdown of a significant relationship?
- How will we deal with our sense of inadequacy when we are confronted with a person who is suffering from long-term depression?
- How will we support the family who is devastated by death?
- How will we care for ourselves in the midst of so much emotional pain in life?
- What will it mean to learn to listen and appropriately share from God's word?

Many people are frightened to get involved in people's lives because they don't know what to say. It's important that we learn what to say as well as what not to say. However on an even more significant level we need to learn how to listen.

You may have experienced what it was like being in a difficult situation when people gave you lots of advice, but what you needed was someone who would sit with you and let you express what was going on for you. You didn't want someone to 'fix' you, just someone to be with you.

We also have the privilege of praying for one another – and while that is simple to do on one level – many people feel totally inadequate when an opportunity arises to pray so they let it pass.

There is another aspect to the importance of all this. Jesus said that the world will know we are His disciples by the way we love one another (John 13:35). The way we care

for one another impacts the witness we have in the world.

Mary Andrews College recognises that there is a great need to provide this sort of training. We are being intentional about how we can build up the Body of Christ by offering Pastoral Care courses that provide the training, support and the opportunity for people to be equipped in serving 'one another' as Christ commands.

Why not take up the opportunity and challenge to be intentional as well?

Semester 2 begins 19 July, so enrol now for subjects. Due to popular demand Mary Andrews College is offering 'Introduction to Pastoral Care' as well as 'Practical Pastoral Care' in Semester 2. It is possible to do both subjects if you would like to do that.

The lectures are fortnightly and in 8 sessions you will have completed a subject and learnt some great things to help you influence our world for Christ. See the enclosed Course Brochure for details of subjects and times, or visit us at www.mac.edu.au



Jesus said that the world would know we were His disciples by the way we loved one another (John 13:35). The way we care for one another impacts the witness we have in the world.

CHERYL'S Story

Recent graduate shares how MAC prepared her for effective Pastoral Care ministry

If you ask most lay people what Pastoral Care is, they'll probably say it has something to do with casseroles. But not Cheryl Atkins! As a Diploma graduate from Mary Andrews College, Cheryl now knows that Pastoral Care is about so much more than taking someone a hot meal. It's caring for them in a holistic way.

"What MAC taught me was that Pastoral Care is about supporting people in their faith, praying with them, sharing the Scriptures and walking with them in their journey," says Cheryl. "It's letting them know God does care."

Cheryl says the course gave her confidence in a general sort of way. "When you know your Bible more you are more confident in sharing with others," she says. "You are more confident of God's plans and purposes."

Today, Cheryl ministers at Hammond Care in the area of age care and she is presently a senior pastoral care worker specialising in ministry to high-care dementia patients. She loves it and her face lights up as she speaks of her ministry. "I get annoyed when people say that I shouldn't 'bother



"What MAC taught me was that Pastoral Care is about supporting people in their faith, praying with them, sharing the Scriptures and walking with them in their journey," says graduate Cheryl

with these people as they wouldn't know anything anyway."

Cheryl finds the opportunities are amazing to share the good news of Jesus with people – often relatives who wouldn't be interested under different circumstances. Cheryl says that her course at Mary Andrews College as given her ways to sensitively take up opportunities to do that. She is never pushy but is always conscious and prayerful of when God might be opening up an opportunity. It is natural to share the hope that Jesus gives.

Cheryl said her training in pastoral care at Mary Andrews College was invaluable but it was also really beneficial to do the whole Diploma course. "I would recommend people doing that if they possibly can as it gives you such a good foundation. I still refer to my notes from the course."

When Cheryl first started at Mary Andrews College she had no idea how she would use her studies. She studied for four years part-time and is truly amazed at what God has done. What is an added bonus is that she loves every minute of it!

Pastoral Care courses can either be studied individually at Mary Andrews College facilities or within a group setting at your own church. Please contact us at macmin@mac.edu.au or ring (02) 9284 1470 for more information about having a MAC trainer run a group Pastoral Care course at your church.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



This past March saw the graduation of seven students from the full diploma course, each of whom is now better equipped to serve the Body of Christ. The staff and faculty of Mary Andrews College wishes each of the following men and women the best as they take what they have learned into life and ministry!

Helen and Susan are two of the seven graduates better equipped to serve the Body of Christ

Graduate Profiles

Helen Reid

Helen started her Diploma in Canberra, and actually travelled to Sydney for a number of her subjects. She has been studying for 10 years, and was recently awarded the inaugural Mary Andrews Prize. This financial prize of \$500 was awarded for Academic Excellence to the student with the highest mark in the High Distinction grade in any subject in 2009.



Susan Weenink

Susan first began studying because she wanted to do hospital visiting and she responded to some advertising about the course at Church. Doing the Diploma course has had a huge impact on her relationship with God and her ministry skills. In the long term Susan still wants to pursue her original goal of being involved in hospital ministry. At the moment she is getting further training in mental health.

Enrol now for Semester 2 courses

Lenore Adams	Diploma of Theology
John Davis	Diploma of Theology
Margery Day	Diploma of Theology
Jennie Everist	Diploma of Theology
Jackie Hooper	Licentiate in Theology
Helen Reid	Advanced Diploma of Ministry
Susan Weenink	Diploma of Ministry