

Ann Street Church, Brisbane City 1983 – 2008

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE CITY

The past 25 years have brought a change of face both to the city centre and to the churches within that area. Inner city development has been significant as has been the development of the volume of traffic and subsequent loss of on-street parking. This has partly contributed to the demise of city churches as the suburban church became more convenient from a traffic and parking perspective. Add to this, families moving to the suburbs due to cost of housing.

The 14 years between 1984 and 1998 saw the active membership at Ann Street decrease from 131 to 51. The past 10 years has continued on the decline with the passing to glory of older members and the dissatisfaction of others with the change in focus of ministry to reach out to the present generations. As at 2008, the membership stands at 20.

Despite this, Ann Street continues to maintain a missional approach in its own unique way. In 1980's and 90's the outreach ministry to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders increased until in the 2004, SPEAR ministries (South Pacific Evangelical and Restoration) began to meet as a separate congregation in the Ministry Centre. From 1996 - 2007 the Indonesian Multicultural Church (IMC) met in the chapel following our morning service. Occasionally all congregations would meet together and enjoy the oneness we shared in Christ. Often the Good Friday services were combined and on several occasions Bill Flett, the Ann Street pastor, was guest speaker for IMC.

In an effort to bridge the ever widening gap between those desiring the more traditional service and the desire of others for a more contemporary service, the concept of an AM service (traditional) and PM service (contemporary) was trialled. This worked well for some years, till the declining numbers in both services required a reassessment. The few active workers were becoming snowed under. 2007 commenced with the worship team putting their energies into making the one service, the morning service, one which would be a blessing both to the congregation and the many visitors that the Ann Street church has each week. Tribute must be paid to Tim and Kylie Vincent. Tim is an elder and is fully involved in youth work and visitation ministry whilst Kylie undertakes the music ministry and a home group bible study.

MINISTRIES

TAPE MINISTRY

Noel Abrahams conducted a tape ministry of the morning services to shut-ins from 1991-1998.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Boy's and Girls' Brigade were running until 1994. Gillian Watson with her leaders ran a well organised Girl's Brigade. Tim Vincent along with helpers Ray Moxley and Brad Smith conducted Boys Brigade. The boys' forte was sport and the foyer of the church is graced by the many trophies won during those years. Brigade church parades were held each term with a good response from parents and friends attending.

Murray Harris was instrumental in the forming of Club 47 to replace the Brigades. Gillian Watson, Kylie Sims, Tania Sims, Tim Vincent, Bill & Judy Flett, Ardal and Annette McMahon Jamie Butcher, Des and Lena Mann, Mel Risson, Daun Slauson have been leaders or helpers over the years. This was a thriving club for youngsters with the church bus constantly full to the brim. Due to younger siblings wanting to join the club the name was changed to Club 27 to cater for grades 2-7. Russ & Mel Vincent commenced "Youth on Fridayz", then to become "Checkers", for the high school age group. This ran from 1994-2001. Tania Sims also conducted "11 up" on Saturday nights during 1995. The years passed with not so many youngsters coming on to replace those leaving on reaching grade 7.

June 1999 saw "Together in the City" a weekly bible study, praise and prayer 'Jam" for young people commence.

Sunday School ran for many years with Ray Smith as Superintendent. He was then followed by Lew Vincent in 1980. Ray again became Superintendent around 1990. The school was closed in 1993 due to lack of numbers. The annual Bible School picnic was looked forward to with anticipation. This was held in Brisbane Forest Park with games and lots of food. In the 1980's anniversary teas and Christmas breakups were held. For a period of time, the children brought a toy from their homes to be sent to the Normanton Indigenous church.

Letter box drops/door knocks promoting the youth work and services were held during 1993/94 in the area surrounding the church and in the New Farm area. These were not successful in attracting new folk.

From 2001-2004, Mel Vincent tried an evening Sunday School. This was taken up by Shelley Meihack until she moved inter state. This met a growing need for the number of indigenous youngsters attending. A small Sunday School currently operates during the morning service with Daymon Follett, Daun Slauson and Judith Pelling as leaders.

MIB

MIB – Mission in Brisbane – a team from Knott Avenue Christian Church, USA - have visited Brisbane annually since 2003. They conduct youth programmes and in recent years have travelled to Eidsvold to conduct a VBS there, in conjunction with AICF. As a result of the first visit, in 2004, Daun Slauson felt called to work with the youth at Ann Street church. In 2008, she remains with us. Her primary position is that of "Youth Co-Ordinator", while she also holds the positions of Deacon and Acting Secretary.

During 1998/99, Ann Street partnered with Brisbane North church in conducting the Disciple 1 & 2 Courses and in 2001/02 a 'Marriage Works' Course. This partnership was most beneficial with thanks to the minister of Brisbane North church, Graham Woodward, a gifted small-group facilitator.

IN 1999 Jason Brown conducted a series at the PM services "Jesus – the Real Deal".

CVF – Ann Street has always had an active women's ministry. The CVF supported both Aboriginal and overseas missions, participated in the AICF clothes packing days at the Logan Aboriginal Centre and helped supply many of the local church's practical needs. The women met twice a month with a devotional/outreach meeting and on the alternate week, bible study. As the members aged, with no younger women becoming involved, in 2007 the ladies decided to close after 94 years.

Chikky Chat began in 2006 to reach out to the younger women and their friends. They have met 4-5 times a year with an outreach/devotional get together.

In 2002, a **Men's Ministry** recommenced with Alan Sims. The men participated in 'Joshua's Men' studies and a quarterly dinner with their spouses.

Mags – (Middle Aged and Going Strong) met the desire for fellowship, fun and an opportunity to invite friends for a group of mid age folks. Between 2003 – 2005, they met bi- monthly.

An Alpha outreach during 2005 was very successful in reaching some of the backpackers in the city.

Wildlife first commenced in 2000 with Fraser Evett as an outreach to those 18 years and over. Fraser moved to the UK . Then during 2005/2006 , Clinton and Mali Rivers were living in the city and wanted to provide a friendship outreach to the international students attending their home group and the church. Mountain climbing, hiking and surfing were part of this outdoor programme.

MUSIC

Music has played a major part in the life of the congregation. In early years the Ann Street choir was well known. During the 2000's once again an Ann Street choir was formed under the leadership of Kylie Vincent. The choir travelled far and wide bringing ministry.

CAROLS IN THE SQUARE

For the years 1993 and 1994 the Ann St congregation and IMC joined together to present a Christmas celebration in Cathedral Square.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

At the end of each year, it was customary for the following year's social activities to be planned. With members scattered across the suburbs, this was a means of getting to know one another, especially new members. The programme included barbecues, musical concerts, bush dances, fancy dress concerts, progressive dinners, Bible Society annual project dinners.

SPORT

The Ann Street Cricket Team under Ray Smith's captainship, regularly played until 1993. An annual Cricketers' church parade was held.

TESOL

English Conversation Classes have been run weekly in the church hall since 2001. As well as providing opportunities for conversation, and English grammar, there are opportunities for conversations on Christian concepts, parables to discuss and friendships that develop.

COMMUNITY BARBECUES

Each month a banner covers the notice board announcing the community barbecues. The barbecues began in 2006 in an endeavour to get to know the city dwellers within the church vicinity. Despite a shortage of workers, this has been a great blessing in speaking into peoples lives from those living on the street to the international visitors keen to make contact with Australians.

CHURCH LIFE

The Ann Street church's oversight ministry of Glen Eagles Retirement Units and Clive Burdeu Nursing Home, New Farm continued up until 2007 when the complex was sold. Services were held in the community hall of a Sunday and the Ann Street CWF held bible studies and outreach coffee mornings twice a month.

From 1997, the Awakening 2000 Easter marches looking towards the Millenium, saw a keen group of 'Ann Streeters' marching under their banner.

Up until 2006, Ann Street youth had teams participating in the State Youth Games.

In 2007, *Life groups* replaced the two existing home group bible studies. As at 2008, *Northlife*, Stafford, *Northlife* Chermside, and *Citylife* have an average overall attendance of 35.

Various seminars for worship leaders and musicians; deacons and elders; Scripture Union training days for youth workers have all helped equip members for service in ministry.

2008 saw the introduction of a monthly Sunday picnic lunch. With a growing number of International visitors in the worship service, this enables a valuable time of friendship building.

“THE MESSENGER”

Mr Norm Watson continued as editor of the weekly church paper until 1994, when Judy Flett assumed the role of editor in which she continued up until 2008.

YOUTH WORKERS

- Adrian Nowitske 1987 (volunteer 1 year)
- Murray Harris 1994 (paid position 1 year)
- Ardal McMahon 1995 (student 1 year)
- Jamie Butcher 2003/04 (part time 1.3 years)
- Daun Slauson 2004-2008 Youth Co-Ordinator

SECRETARIES

- 1983 –2001 Norman Watson
- 2001 - 2003 Gordon Jones
- 2003 – 2004 Jeff Mathieson
- 2004 - 2006 Clinton Rivers
- 2006 Acting Secretaries Mel Vincent, Judy Flett
- 2007 – 2008 Daun Slauson (acting Secretary)

TREASURERS

- 1983 –1986 W.J. Erskine
- 1986 – 1988 Jim Ferguson
- 1989 T.W. Thorpe
- 1990 - 1992 Ian Woodward
- 1993 - 2001 Colin Colston 1995-1996 R. Vincent (Assistant Treasurer)
- 2002 - 2004 Russell Vincent
- 2004- 2007 Dallas Steigenberger
- 2007- 2008 R. Vincent, T. Vincent (acting Treasurers)
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Mr L.J. Mainwaring continued as Auditor up until 2007.

DEACONS

1994 – 2002	Colin Colston	2002 - 2003	Darryl Muller
1994 -2004	Timothy L. Vincent	2003 - 2007	Dallas Steigenberger
1995 - 1997	Noel Abrahams	2003- 2004	Brian Lee,Jeff Mathieson
1995 -2007	Russell S.Vincent	2004 – 2006	Beris Gwynne,Clinton Rivers
1995 - 2006	Mrs Kylie Vincent	2005 – 2007	Mrs Melissa Vincent
1999 - 2001	Gordon Jones	2003 - 2008	Mrs Lena Harris-Mann
2001 - 2003	Trevor Hoines, Alan Sims	2006- 2006	Jaider DeOliveira
2000 - 2008	Des Mann	2006 – 2008	Daun Slauson

ELDERS

1983 – 2004	Norman Watson (served continuously from 1963 until 2004)
1992 - -1998	Raymond P.Smith
2004 – 2006	Alan Sims
2007 – 2008	Bill Flett
2004 - 2008	Timothy Vincent

The minister of the church has always been one of the elders.

PASTORS SERVING IN FULL TIME MINISTRY

Feb 1982 – 1987 David J. Eagling
Sept 1987 – Sept 1990 R. K. (Bob) Aldred (unpaid minister)
Feb 1991 – Dec 1991 Stephen England (interim)- passed away 4 Feb 2000
Feb 1992 – Dec 2006 W. J. (Bill) Flett (part time 2002 – 2006)
April 2007 - 2009 Craig Boettcher

CONFERENCE OFFICERS – FROM THE ANN STREET CHURCH

CONFERENCE SECRETARY

1957-1989 N. Watson 1973 – 1989 K.W. Ludgater

PRESIDENT OF WOMEN'S CONFERENCE/QWM

1985 Mrs N Woodward 1995 Judith Flett
2004 – 2008 Australian representative to WCWF Judith Flett

CONFERENCE COUNCIL

1988 -1989 C. Colston 1957 – 1989 S.L. Neil
1995 -1996 Mrs J Flett

ADVISORY BOARD

1984 – 1991 N. Watson 1999 – 2001 Mrs J Flett

DEPT OF MEN'S WORK

1984 – 1990 C. Colston

CHRISTIAN ECHO

1960's – 1989 N. Watson (Business Manager)

QUEENSLAND ABORIGINAL & ISLANDER FELLOWSHIP

1985 -1986 Mrs N. Woodward 1993 -1995 Mrs J Flett
2001 – 2008 Mr T Vincent

DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT/RESOURCE MISSIONAL TEAM

1993 -2003 Mr W Flett

CENTENARY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

1995 – 2008 Mrs J Flett

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

1984-1990 Mr E. Potter, Mrs D. Potter 1984-1994 Mr J. Smith, Mrs T. Smith

OVERSEAS MISSIONS BOARD

1984 – 1986 D. Eagling 1987 Mr R. Proud

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

1984 /1989 Mrs L Henderson 1994 – 2001 Mrs J. Flett

KENMORE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

1984 D. Eagling 1986 K.W. Ludgater, Miss N. Prior

CHURCHES OF CHRIST CARE

1995-1999 Mrs J. Flett

June 2008

Back Row: 2 students, Pastor Craig Boettcher, Jon Tapau, Daymon Follett, Lena Harris-Mann, Alan Pelling, Charles Chan, Oscar...
Middle Row:..., Nita Day, Zantanna Wano, Syrita Wano, , Tim Vincent, George Missi, Des Mann, Beverley McCulloch, 4 students
Front Row; Bastian Kastanya, Jessiah Day. Mary Day, Judith Flett, Dorrie Stocks. Kylie & Tyson Vincent, Judith Pelling, Daun Slauson , Lorelle Smith, Claudia , Hayden & Samuel Vincent.

