

## THE BRIDGE

linking members, mission and events

### MIND THE GAP

*Living for God in a World of Change*

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Seminar, focusing on the gap between what we know through His word is God's design and desire for families, and how the world thinks and informs and influences our children in



the times we live. A meaty subject and again more than 530 women (and some men) gathered at the Cathedral to be encouraged, to hear and to consider as they seek to see their families grow and flourish under God.

Thank you to all our members and friends who prayed for the planning and the day. Our Heavenly Father answered our prayers and the day was a great success and we give praise and thanks. We have had fabulous feedback. One attendee said: *How do you do it? Year after year, challenging subjects of great interest, practical insight and advice from gifted and highly well known speakers AND an amazing high tea made and lunch served with love and care which I just don't see anywhere else. Thank you.*



As MUSydney, through the hard work of many particularly Christine and her team and Jan and her Southern Highlands members and friends, over the years people have been confident to come to

**Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life.**

our seminars and know that they will have excellent teaching and wonderful, encouraging insight into living as Christian parents.

This year Ann Cunningham was our MC and helped make the day run smoothly. Our speakers were Jenny Salt, Ray Galea and Sandy Galea (look up their great talks on our website) together with the three member Parents' Panel who answered questions submitted from the attendees.



We also introduced a new component on the day, a closed, private FACEBOOK group was launched by our new Community Relations person Kimberly Rispin, enabling the conversations to continue.

Post seminar we have been able to link with new people who attended. This work will expand over the next little while as we seek to grow our online ministry and our members and friends. Please keep praying for this exciting way forward for MU Sydney.



As an organisation God has blessed us through you, our members, and I hope you know how important you are in our broad



ministry. At the seminar we showed our film clip which clearly shares what MU Sydney is about. It caused people to consider the hospital visiting, the court work, the parenting courses, our projects, the shop but also the prayer and being part of worldwide group.

Isn't it great that we all participate together.

In a world of challenge MU Sydney seeks to continue to share Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and Christian family life.

Thank you for your prayers not just for the Seminar but your daily prayers which underpin our ministry.

Love

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glennda'.

## COVID-19 (coronavirus) Impact

As we write this newsletter the effect of COVID-19 is already being felt in different areas of our community and we encourage you all to be particularly careful at this time.

Our shop has been closed since Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Our Annual Festival Service has been cancelled and our AGM will be conducted by email on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

All face to face meetings have been cancelled, including Branch meetings, Area Days and our regional Seminars at Fairy Meadow and Wentworth Falls.

Our Hospital Visiting and Court Ministries are also suspended.

The extent of this is something we wouldn't have seen coming, even as recently as a month ago when we held our Seminar *Mind the Gap* in St Andrew's Cathedral.

But none of this has come as a surprise to God who promises that in all things God works for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Please pray for those affected by the virus in any way and pray that Christians will actively look for the good that God will bring from this difficult time.

Pray that the lives of all God's people will be characterised

by peace and not by panic;

by faith rather than fear;

by self-sacrifice and service rather than self-seeking;

by the proclamation of the gospel to a world that desperately needs the good news of Christ.

Pray that many will turn to Jesus and be saved from the sickness of sin which is far more deadly than any physical disease.



## **Keeping in Touch**

While all our face to face meetings are in recess for our physical health, it's important that we look after our emotional and spiritual health. Individual Branches will work out the best way to keep in touch with their members, and creative ways have already been put in place.

Here are some suggestions, you may want to try one or more:

### **By Phone**

- Create a 'buddy' system within your Branch so each member is paired with another member. The buddies ring each other once a week to see if their partner has any needs, or just to have a chat.
- Set up a network where one person is asked to ring 2 or 3 others each week to keep in touch and exchange prayer points.
- Set up a 'contact chain' where each person's name is on a list. Once a week the person rings the one following them on the list, with the last name ringing the first name.

### **By Email**

- If members prefer they can use emails to carry out the phone contacts.
- Members could agree on a particular day of the week to send any prayer requests or needs to the Branch President or another designated person. Prayer requests would then be circulated to the group.

### **By Post**

- If you are able to go out, you post or could drop a written card into the letterbox of another member who can't go out, so they know they haven't been forgotten.

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