

Georges River Regional Council Annual Report for 2010

(A report from the Georges River Regional Council.)

Introduction

1. The Regional Council met six times during 2010. Archdeacon Ian Cox led the meetings in local churches in the Region. One of the highlights of the Council meetings is having the rector of the parish give a Bible study and then inform the Council about the activities and challenges in the parish. The Region embraces some of Sydney's most culturally diverse parishes and suburbs. From the large Asian area of Hurstville, to the multi-cultural areas of Bankstown and Liverpool the Region offers challenges to clergy and congregations. The Council continues to seek the Lord's wisdom and strength as we seek to encourage ministry in this diverse region. The Georges River Region is a picture of what Sydney will look like in future years.

New Ministries

2. During the year a number of fresh initiatives were begun in the Region.

3. Mr Paul Tait, a return missionary, and his family moved into Arncliffe parish and began an outreach to the many Muslim people of that area. His ministry was supported by the Regional Council, private supporters and the parish of Arncliffe. An oversight group meets with Paul to hear of his progress and to encourage him in this challenging work.

4. The Rev Seti Latu moved from the parish of Cooks River to Canterbury in May 2010 and began a ministry to South Pacific Islanders. The Council was able to provide a small grant for Mr Latu. His other supporters are the parish of Canterbury and personal friends. This ministry is more of a regional ministry as people come from many western suburbs to attend the church meetings on Sunday.

5. The suburb of Lakemba is recognised for its many Middle Eastern restaurants as well as the Lakemba Mosque. At the beginning of the year the Rev Ben Bathgate began a ministry to the people of Lakemba. The regular congregation at Lakemba continue to meet regularly. The parish council agreed to use some of their invested funds to support Mr Bathgate in making an effort to connect with the people of Lakemba. We are grateful to God for the willingness of the congregation to support and encourage this work. It will take time for a new congregation to grow in this suburb. The work there is almost like a missionary work in a foreign country.

6. Ministries that have begun in previous years have continued and we thank God for the progress of the Gospel in those suburbs. Mr Ross Ciano at Marrickville has seen his small work grow to a regular number of people gathering with him on Sunday afternoons. The Rev Steven Christoforidis began an outreach ministry among the Greek speaking and Greek descendants in the Earlwood area. His work has been sustained by friends and supporters. The Rev Raymond Leung continues his Mandarin work at Bankstown as well as at the Milperra Campus. In the parish of Fairfield and Bossley Park, the Rev Cam Phong has continued to see the work among second generation Vietnamese people expand with Bible studies and youth groups. The Rev Stephen Frederick began a new ministry at West Fairfield. Many parishes in the Region have started new ministries or changed old ones in order to better penetrate the suburbs where the Lord has placed them.

Structure

7. The significant committees are the Executive Committee and the Oversight Teams.

8. The Oversight Teams are as follows –

- Marrickville
- E.S.L.
- Women's Ministry
- Lakemba

9. The senior officers of the Council are –

Acting Chairman	Archdeacon Ian Cox
Vice Chairman	Mr Clive Ellis
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Richard Graves
Honorary Secretary	Mr Michael Toull

Distribution of Grants

10. In 2010 the Council received a synod grant of \$100,000 for ministry purposes. The Council's income is assisted by the interest from Ordinance money directed to the Georges River Region.

11. The Council distributed grants in 2010 totalling –

Purpose/Parish	Allocation \$
ESL Coordinator	12,800
Cross-cultural Ministry to Women The Rev M Powell	97,627
Cross-cultural Grants	Allocation \$
Bankstown - Mandarin Ministry	20,000
Sadleir	20,000
Marrickville/Church Planter	67,352
Regents Park (PCR)	6,804

Appointment

12. When the Archbishop appointed the Rev Peter Hayward as Bishop of Wollongong we offered him our congratulations and support. He had been a very important member of the Regional Council and his contribution to the Region had been appreciated.

Conclusion

13. The Council continues to work on strategies that will encourage ministry in the Region. The Georges River Region has nearly 1 million residents and many of these people are new arrivals to Australia. Many have never heard of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many do not know a person who attends a local church. Evangelism and church planting is a way forward in reaching the people of this Region. We believe that the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will not only change people – it will also change the suburbs and cities where God's people live and work. We give praise to the Lord for the way He continues to bless and encourage His people throughout the Region.

For and on behalf of the Georges River Regional Council

IAN COX

Archdeacon of Liverpool: Georges River Region

June 2011