

## North Sydney Regional Council Annual Report 2000

### Introduction

1. The following is a snap shot of our region, its parishes and agencies which is appropriate at the threshold of a new century and millennium.
2. The Northern Region receives less money from the Synod than the others, and this is reasonable. We will however, receive a greater proportion and will be able to do more with it. Approximately 800 people are now involved weekly in ESL classes, spread over 15 parishes led by 130 local people and coordinated by Rosemary Anderson. In partnership with the people of Thornleigh and Eastwood we support Peter Chung and David Yue in full time Cross Cultural Ministry. Again, in partnership with local Christians we support full time parish based workers in French's Forest, Mowbray and Asquith. We are able to assist in providing student ministers in two parishes.
3. Through our grants we undergird university chaplaincy at Macquarie University and in the past have been able to nurture to viability the work at Putney. John Dickson and Barry Newman conduct missions and training and encouragement in almost twenty parishes. The Council is providing funds to engage a specialist children's worker who would conduct missions for children in the region and help establish or strengthen children's ministry where there is the need to do so. Please pray that God will guide us to the right .
4. With regard to ministry sponsored by the Region, the Council emphasises that we are not creating a Regional bureaucracy - for we seek to be minimalists - nor are we duplicating the excellent work being done in our region by centrally based agencies like Anglicare (Cathy Leader) and YouthWorks (Cathy Hewett, Ken Moser and Grant Maple).
5. We do not forget the fine work of our Anglicare chaplain at RNSH (Ross Weaver), the Deaconess Institution chaplains at Greenwich and Neringah and those who minister as chaplains in Anglican Schools (Shore, Barker, Abbotsleigh, SCEGS Redlands and St Luke's Dee Why). We continue to pray for Jane Flower who continues to need specialist attention and Gordon Lincoln who has hip and back problems.
6. The Rev David Short visited us from Vancouver to minister to the Region at our Conference in June 2000, as well as at two other regional conferences. David is a leader in the Canadian church. Barry Parker from Toronto also came with him. Between them David and Barry represent the leadership the two of the most vibrant congregations in Canada. Ease of travel, the fax machine

and e-mail makes communication immediate and we must exploit this new global reality for Christ's sake.

**Bishop's Affirmation and Encouragement**

7. We are encouraged and challenged by the dedication and faithfulness of those who serve in the Region. Those who lead the large churches live with the particular difficulties of holding together large teams and congregations and finding the money needed. Those who lead youth ministries are often discouraged by fickleness and unreliable constituents. Smaller congregations bring their special problems, aging members, few workers, a resistant demography, difficult individuals, and money is always tight etc.

8. Some struggle with desperate health problems, with no relief in sight. Some are having a rough time with their children made the harder by living in a fish bowl. Nowhere and no one - whether in big church, medium church, or small church - is without problems and challenges that would sap energy and bring discouragement. But as people battle away, often against the odds, we can be humbled and encouraged.

9. We have much for which to be thankful, friends can be rung or visited, not more than a few minutes away. There are many resources at our disposal in the Diocese. We serve alongside people who honour the Gospel of Christ, who believe in answered prayer and who are committed to global mission. The door of Gospel opportunity remains wide open to us here, as well as in many parts of the world.

10. So we face a new century and the dawn of a millennium. We do so with courage and faith in our God. I conclude with two great texts of Scripture.

*The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall rule forever.*

*Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.*

For and on behalf of the North Sydney Regional Council.

PAUL BARNETT  
*Regional Bishop*

21 July 2000