



# CHAPLAINCY MESSENGER

For: All Hospital Chaplains, Chaplaincy Assistants, LSP and Trust Board Members

Vol 10 #4 3 May 2009

## Pandemic Alert

The events of the past week will have had chaplains dusting off our Pandemic Plan document, as has happened in some hospitals that have also been affected by the Norovirus in the past year or two. Chaplains who have joined us since 2007, may however, not be aware of the ICHC and LSP Pandemic Procedures. We are therefore with this "Chaplaincy Messenger" sending to each chaplain another copy of the ICHC Policy Guidelines for "Responding to an Influenza Pandemic".

ICHC has an understanding with the Ministry of Health and DHBs that there will be changes to the contractual expectations on ICHC Chaplains during the active phases of any pandemic. These include that ICHC chaplains **will abide by the local DHB Pandemic action plans and policies.** In some places chaplains may be given specific roles within, or outside the hospitals during a pandemic. In other places, chaplains are likely to be among the first hospital workers required to leave, or be asked to remain at home. This is because their duties involve going throughout the hospital from patient to patient, which could result in them becoming carriers spreading disease. If requested, chaplains must leave the hospital immediately and only return when asked to by the appropriate authorities.

In a pandemic or epidemic situation the ICHC undertakes to Chaplains and LSP's, that as far as it is able, its staff will:

- Continue to see LSP's and paymasters are paid the government subsidy for each chaplain's position, so chaplains may continue to receive their stipend during the period of any Pandemic emergency.
- Maintain telephone or electronic contact with Chaplains, LSP chairpersons or secretary's, the ICHC Trust Board Chairperson and Trustees.
- Provide advice and information from its national office.

The ICHC Trust board recommends that all chaplains endeavour to safeguard the health and safety of themselves and their families at all times. In 2006 some chaplains, who did not have any commitments to dependent family members, indicated they may wish to forgo their own safety and to ask ICHC to allow them to go into isolation with infected or dying patients, to provide ministry to them. If the Health authorities are willing to allow this, any chaplain wanting to do this will need to notify ICHC and must understand the full implications of their actions. ICHC would not be able to accept responsibility for their health or safety and they may need to remain in isolation for an indefinite period which could be weeks or months.

## UN Decade for Inter-religious Cooperation for Peace 2011-2020 ?

The World Council of Churches has announced that forty-five religious and interfaith organizations from five continents have agreed to form a committee to advance the idea of a "United Nations Decade for Inter-religious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding, and Cooperation for Peace." Participants included representatives of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Shinto, Sikh and Zoroastrian faiths as well as indigenous groups. The president of the UN General Assembly, Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, has urged religious leaders to work

together with the United Nations as religious institutions have the "staying power" in the face of these challenges. A strategy committee will promote the decade idea among UN member countries. It is hoped the members of the UN will endorse the proposal for a UN decade to begin on 21 September 2010 which is the International Day of Peace. Hospital and Tertiary chaplaincies are among the groups where inter-religious co-operation already takes place in a number of countries.

## BOI CHAPLAINS FAREWELL Rev Dr JOCK HOSKING



Pictured with Jock from left, William Cash, Bay of Islands Co-ordinator Beverley Deverell and Helen Brew

Recently, the Bay of Islands Chaplaincy team of thirteen, including three new recruits from Kerikeri got together over lunch to farewell Jock who has been the longest serving member of the Whangarei Chaplaincy Team over the past ten years. Over those years he has been responsible for the training of Assistants from the Bay of Islands, Whangarei, Dargaville and Kaitaia and now he says its time for a change. Jock was presented with a beautiful handcrafted kete made by local weaver Ritihia Kopa and inside was placed a freshly baked loaf of rewena bread that signified that his basket would always be full according Maori custom.

### ICHC Administrative Assistants

The ICHC office is restructuring the tasks undertaken in the office as Doreen Hakeagaiki plans to reduce her hours to part-time and Johanna McGuire who has managed the recording of donations to the ICHC Appeal will finish in the near future. The ideal Administrative skills we are seeking in the mix of full and/or part-time (2 FTE) positions are to carry out word processing, data entry using Microsoft Excel and Access and other general office duties. If you are interested in exploring working in the ICHC office team please contact Margaret Poynton on 801 8008 by Friday 15 May.



Photo of Greymouth Chaplaincy Team with Rev Robert Anderson  
Left back: Val Williams, Wayne Wright, Robert, Janet Hogan, Karen Davidson, Thelma Efford Convenor, Jenny Hodgson. Left Front: Janet McCann, Roma Wright, Steve Neale.

### Office Staff Movements in May

#### National Executive Officer

- 6 May Wellington Region Chaplains potluck tea at ICHC
- 26 & 27 May Regional Chaplains training day at Rotorua
- 31 May Attending Commissioning Rev Moega Lasei in Christchurch

#### National Administrator/Trainer

- 6 May Wellington Region Chaplains potluck tea at ICHC
- 18 May Meeting with ICHC accountant re MoH subsidies
- 25-29 May Upgrading ICHC Database (out of office)
- 26 May Planning workshop with Waitemata LSP

### Performance Appraisals

A further group of chaplains will shortly be receiving papers for their 3 yearly appraisal, as we continue to work through all our staff.

#### Thought for the month:

"We are on the side of religion as opposed to religions, and we are among those who believe in the wretched inadequacy of sermons and the sublimity of prayer."

Victor Hugo 1862 in *Les Misérables*

Ron Malpass  
National Executive Officer