



# CHAPLAINCY MESSENGER

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

Vol 10 # 7

1 September 2009

## Chaplaincy Reports have been with us from the beginning

6 August 2009 was an exciting day for me. I visited the Otago office of the national archives in pursuit of my research into the first government appointed Hospital Chaplain. Within 15 minutes of my arrival I had in front of me the first report of John Ainslie Torrance, a Presbyterian Elder, and the first Hospital Chaplain employed in New Zealand by a Government body. It was tabled by the Province's Secretary for Land & Works, and received at the Otago Provincial Council meeting on 10 May 1869. It was handwritten and set out as below.

### *Report of Protestant Chaplain to H.M. Gaol, Hospital, and Lunatic Asylum*

To The Provincial Treasurer,  
Dunedin

Sir,

I have the honour to lay before you my Report for the six months ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 1869:-

H.M. Gaol

I have since my appointment on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1868, conducted Divine Service in this institution every Sabbath morning... To discharged prisoners I have rendered to them every service in my power, either in obtaining employment for them or the means of leaving the country.

#### *The Hospital*

The largest share of my attention has necessarily been given to the Hospital. I have conducted Divine Service every Sabbath evening, and assisted daily with two or three exceptions, for conversation with patients, besides holding occasional services in the course of the week,

#### *The Lunatic Asylum*

In this institution I have conducted Divine Service every Sabbath afternoon, except on two or three days, when owing to the inclemency of the weather, Mr Hume deemed it inadvisable to assemble the patients in the chapel; and I have also visited weekly for conversation with several of the patients.

In carrying out my work in connection with these institutions, their authorities have rendered me every facility.

In conclusion, I beg to state that my labours have been favourably received, and I trust have not been altogether fruitless.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J.A. Torrance,

Chaplain H.M. Gaol, Hospital, and Lunatic Asylum

## Annual meeting of LSP chairpersons (or their representative) with the ICHC Trust Board.

This meeting between ICHC Trustees and our 25 Local Chaplaincy Committees, will be held in Wellington on **Wednesday 7 October from 10am to 4pm**. The venue is the **Conference Room at St John's Presbyterian Church** cnr of Willis and Dixon Streets. If your committee hasn't yet advised us who its representative will be, please do so. ICHC will reimburse the cost of travel to and from Wellington for each chairperson (or another member of the Committee if the chair person is unable to attend). A registration form and a claim form for reimbursement of travel expenses was enclosed with the last Messenger. Our keynote speaker will be Mr Peter Glensor, the Chairperson of the Hutt Valley DHB, and at present Chair of DHB NZ. Peter was formerly a Methodist minister who got involved in the health field by managing a community medical centre for low income families in the Hutt Valley in the early 1990's.

## Chaplaincy Appeal

Appeal envelopes and posters have been dispatched and the first of the envelopes are being returned with donations. If any chaplains, LSP's or groups require more A4 posters or envelopes, for Chaplaincy Week 20-27 September, we have this year arranged things so that we have some extra we can supply. You will see that we haven't put the chaplaincy week dates on the envelopes or posters this year, as we hope this will give them a longer "shelf life."

**2008 Appeal - the total raised was just over \$124,100** final payments will be made to LSP's in September.

## A Reminder - Four weeks Annual Leave - must be taken each year

ICHC has on occasions over the years pointed out the need for chaplains to take all their annual leave when it falls due each year (21 working days = 1 calendar month if taken including weekends). Indeed the Personnel Policies Handbook has been making this very point (section 3.2.4) since 1996. The reasons for this are quite straight forward and have been explained in "Chaplaincy Messengers" and in detail at the NZHCA conferences on at least 2 occasions in the past 10 years. They are that Chaplaincy is a very demanding occupation and it is in the interests of each chaplain's health and safety that they have a complete break each year. Also the money for chaplains stipends from the Government, the churches and raised by LSP's each year, is supplied on the basis of a 12 month budget. Chaplains are paid 12 monthly payments each year. 11 of those months are paid for their work in the hospitals and one of those months is paid for their annual leave. If they take all their leave within 12 months of it falling due there is no problem. Under the contract ICHC has with the Ministry of Health a locum chaplain is not needed while a chaplain is taking annual leave each year as it is a statutory requirement that they take it. As with other hospital staff, where there are chaplaincy teams their duties are expected to be covered by their colleagues.

If chaplains feel indispensable, or decide to apply to carry over leave to the next year, problems start. When they eventually decide to take their leave, they will need to be away from the hospital for more than one month. The hospital can then expect a locum to be employed to cover for the extended absence. But more importantly the LSP Committee or funders of the position have to find extra (sometimes double) the amount of money to fund the leave period that year. For there is only one government subsidy this year for one month's paid leave, not two subsidies for two months paid leave and no extra money to pay a locum, to cover for the chaplain's extra leave.

This issue has been discussed at some of the annual meetings the ICHC Trust Board has with LSP Chairpersons. It is necessary for LSP's to ensure that all their Chaplains take all of their leave each year when it falls due. Many LSP's have in the past found allowing Chaplains to carry over leave from one year to the next, most unsatisfactory as it is a major struggle to accrue the extra finance needed to pay for chaplains to be away more than 4 weeks a year, and also pay a locum. It is in everyone's interest to ensure that all annual leave is taken within 12 months of it falling due each year.

## Office Staff Movements in September

### National Executive Officer

8 Sept Chaplaincy Assistant commissioning Wellington Hospital  
10 Sept Meeting with Anglican Tikanga Pakeha Dioceses, Ecumenical Group  
17 Sept ICHC Executive meeting, Wellington  
20 Sept 10am speaking at Hospital Chaplaincy Week launch @ Christchurch Cathedral

## Thankyou to...

*Rhonda, Ian, David, Michael, Jan, Lorraine,  
Maureen and Edna*

*for your generous hard work in packing up  
Appeal envelopes ready for posting to  
Churches*



Ron Malpass  
National Executive Officer

### Thought for the month:

"An Elder is a person who deserves respect and honour and whose work is to synthesize wisdom from lifelong experience and formulate this into a legacy for future generations."

Formulated in 1975 by the International Federation of Aging