

JILL TABART 14th September, 1993

Jeremiah 27: Jeremiah was a strange young man. He had been called by God as a prophet when just a young teenager and the message he was to give to Israel was about judgement and destruction for a people whose religious practices had become more important than their faith in God. Perhaps there is a challenge for the church today. Perhaps there is a challenge to listen to the voice of our young people. Perhaps the word of God is less disturbed by the voice of youth.

Some of the real life plays he uses to catch people's attention are powerful symbols. A potter's house - smashing the clay pot to make a pot. Excellent bedtime reading - that will be your homework.

Jeremiah stands in the door of the church and says - Change the way you are living - distasteful words. This is the Lord's temple. Repent. They didn't want to know or hear this. While their own religious wants and habits of personal religion were being fulfilled, they would accepted that they needed to change their attitudes. Preparing themselves in religious practices in the temple they could pretend to close their ears and eyes to the needs of others around them.

Demands of a changing world

Jeremiah would not let them get away with it. He said, 'People - do the things you are doing and let your faith be expressed in action and change your ways to keep up with the things around you'. Hard words.

More than 600 years later we find Paul pleading that the people were doing their own thing and not following the teachings. Romans 12: 1 & 2. Paul says that you must present your body as a living sacrifice to God and not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable to God. This is the true worship you should have. Whereas Israel was in danger of being over pious and sanctimonious in the practice of their religion. Here in Rome it was the opposite. Paul says 'Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world'. It sounds as though they were taking the freedom that comes with knowing Jesus too far. 'Let God transform you by a complete

change of your mind'. Which end of the spectrum are you? Are you needing to be pulled back into line in witness in this changing world? I listen to the word of God for you today. Paul says you yourself must change.

The theme of this national conference is "a Christian response to a changing world." Matt 18: 1 - 5. At that time the disciples came to Jesus.

The criterion for entering the Kingdom of Heaven is that you yourself must change. Change and become like a little child. Think of a preschool child that you know. Can you see that child open and honest, fiercely loyal with the right to be loved, to be accepted and to be forgiven.

I will tell you about a young friend of mine whom I will call Jane. Jane was late home from school. When asked by her mother why she was late, she said her friend Clare had dropped her doll and smashed its face. Did you stop to pick up the pieces? Oh no, I just stopped to help her cry. Stop to help people cry! Jane illustrates the child-like quality of to reach out in love, to accept and to forgive and it is that quality that is a prerequisite for becoming part of the Kingdom of heaven.

In this world of change - changes in technology and natural communications and transplants and acceptable colour combinations...in this world where we have seen the end of the cold war, the breaking down of the Berlin Wall, South Africa moving towards elections for all, a Mabo decision increasing the tempo towards land rights. In this world where change occurs with frustrating predictability, there are timeless truths that people want - to live - to accept - to forgive. I assure you says Jesus, unless you change and become like a little child, you will never enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whether you are conforming to the standards of those around you or whether you need pulling into line because you(flow to) Israel with the crowd, centred card prescription impediments the same to love, to accept, to forgive no matter what.

Each one of us have experienced the love of Jesus Christ and His forgiveness that time and again and day after day loves us and sets us on the right path comforted. We know the prescription works - we have tried it for ourselves.

I would like to tell you a story of the congregation that put this into practice in circumstances that they never dreamt that they would be put in. A small congregation regularly gathered for worship in the far West of NSW. Into that little town a man came as a Telecom linesman with his wife and children. He was away for weeks on end and he began drinking very heavily and his times at home became more and more difficult and were filled with violence and abuse. His wife went to that little congregation and found there friendship, love and support and she came back to Jesus. When Alan came back from the trip he arrived on a Sunday morning and when his wife was not at home he went looking for her and found her at church. He stood in the doorway of the church and abused her and the congregation sat stunned. Then he dared them to try and convert him. What would you do? Alan says in the weeks and months that followed they just loved him back into the Kingdom of God. He is now a minister of the Uniting Church and the story starts with that handful of people who did not have special skills but who knew how to love and accept and forgive no matter what and that is my prescription for this changing world. Where do you stand?

DR. SANDRA HART, WORLDWIDE EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE

If one were to describe our nation today - a land in need of hope; a land in need of many things. One of my fields of interest at the college is in the Old Testament. I find the same kind of things happen in the Old Testament as happens today - men and women forget God. We become selfish and I want to talk to you from the book of Judges. "They did evil because there was no king in the land." I think they did evil because their hearts were evil. We are in need to leaders. When I see the heroes our young people have to follow today I am distressed. I am distressed by what is perpetuated as a good person - someone to follow.

I want to talk about a lady of courage - Deborah.

Judges 4. She was a prophetess and a judge. A prophet is one who hears the voice of the Lord and speaks it to the people. A prophetess is attested because what she hears from God she speaks out. The people brought their family disputes to her and she was able to judge between them. She is a lady worthy of our following.

My biggest heartache is that our children are growing up without knowing God and His values and His standards and who is going to tell them? Many come from dysfunctional families. I want to lay the hope of Australia before you today. You can create the kind of leadership that is needed. I want to suggest this first of all that we should be looking at Deborah. She was a woman of integrity. Someone who was whole and sound morally, spiritually and mentally. Someone who had it together. How many guidelines are there in our generation who has it together and has integrity. Deborah was a consistent and reliable person. She had a temperament that was consistent and yet fair. We need to come up with the goods. We need to women with integrity and reliability.

She was a popular woman. She had wisdom and understanding and compassion. She was able to hear, to listen and give advice. I am sure she cried and laughed with the people. She was a prominent lady - a leader. A lot of our leaders are prominent but I am not sure that they are people of integrity.

She was also a judge. I find it difficult to count on my fingers reliable Christian women in positions of power or influence.. I find it difficult to count? Christian women who could give hope to our community. Where is the Christian education of our children? How much religious education is there in our schools?

Do you know that the problem is not the school. The reason why there are not enough teachers is because there are not enough volunteers to do it. These people have an incredible capacity to go into a school and talk about faith in the living God and talk about hope and give meanings and values and yet we can't raise up enough. You have an opportunity to change that situation by praying every day for 2 minutes for people to come forward to teach Religious Instruction in our schools. If you know anybody who can do it, encourage them. Some of them feel that they are going into a jungle when they go into a school!

Deborah had concern and compassion for the nation. She was not selfishly involved in her own pursuits. Her family did not take this moral leadership negligently and she became a Mother of Israel. They turned to her. A mother has a compassionate and concerned heart - a heart of caring. She had incredible leadership skills and put herself forward for the problems of the nation.

God said to Deborah 'Go and get Barak and get him to fight Sisera'. Barak had no problems. She showed lovely compassion and concern and he said 'Yes, I will go and I want you to come with me'. Some people see this as a weakness. I don't believe it is. He believed Deborah was close to God and though he was going to fight he wanted her there. 'Glory and blessing of a woman'.

Deborah had the capacity to empower others to do their job well. In your churches and fellowships and groups there are emerging leaders under 40 who need your encouragement and your empowerment so they can stand and be counted in this nation of ours. Next year there is a conference for the emerging leaders conference. Church leadership is needed. I want you to pray for young leaders in Australia. Encourage them. Letters of encouragement are really great. You can do that.

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REV. MARY AU YUK CHANG, Minister from Hong Kong - Macau, Vicar of Calvary Church (Anglican), WKS 1980 and now a Fellow.

When I arrived in Devonport I am so happy to meet with SHirley and Joan. I asked them if anybody swam from Melbourne to here. It reminded me that my eldest brother swam five hours from the boundary of China to Macau. He got his freedom! Now you must treasure your freedom with God! and bring your young generation to Him.

'He is able, able, I know my Lord is able...

I was born in a Christian family and came out of Mainland China when I was 14 years old. I was one of 6 children and went to church and Sunday School. I remember the teacher told me about Samuel and he said 'Who wants to be Samuel?' In that time the a girl could not become a woman priest. After that the Communists began to purge the Christians and did not allow us to have fellowships or Sunday School. All the seminaries were closed and I prayed. I couldn't fulfil my promise to God. Even though Visas were hard to get I got one. There is a river between mainland China and Hong Kong. I took the a little empty bucket to Hong Kong and then I crossed the river. I experienced how God delivered Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land across the Red Sea. Therefore I have confidence to stay in Hong Kong even though 1997 is coming. I want to stay with my people because they are God's people, not because I am a Chinese. I know who holds our future and He will prepare us our way. When I stepped to the boundary of Hong Kong I felt myself free like a dove and there was peace in my heart and I learnt English otherwise I couldn't enter school. When I was in Senior High in China, I studied Russian and I began to learn English when I was 14 years old compared with other students I was rather late to catch up the class in Hong Kong. God gave me wisdom. I learnt five months and I then I went to study in the Catholic Secondary School. I admired the nuns who washed floors and windows after school. They taught me person-to-person. AT that time I didn't need a private tutor. I admired them very much, so much so that my father refused to send me back and sent me

instead to an Anglican school. He wanted me to be trained as a nurse because he said 'If you are a nurse you will be paid in war and paid in peace'. After I worked 4 years in an Anglican Church, I saved some money, I said to my vicar 'I want to study in a theological seminary'. He asked 'Why' and he recommended me to the Bishop who asked me to take the school entrance examination and I studied in Theology and Philosophy Department of Hong Kong Chinese University for 5 years. I like practical theology and not philosophy or systematic theology. I got a chance to study in New Zealand after I worked five years for my diocese and I became the Winifred Kiek Scholar. I was ordained in 1975 and entered the priesthood in 1977. Since 1943 we have had ordained women. If you have a calling nobody can prevent it. God will make a way for you. We must say 'Yes' to God. Because you want my work report let me give the details as follows. We are not able, but God is able!

WEDNESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER, 1993

SEMINAR

Betty Brown welcomed people to the meeting and introduced Delphine Stanford, Secretary of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' Christian Congress.

Alison Ison and Delphine Stanford related a dialogue on the history of an Aboriginal and the Aboriginal Race as a whole compared with the White Race. They touched on such things as Education, Land Rights, Imprisonment, Deaths in Custody Employment, Despair, the Bicentennial. "We the invisible people of this land are at last becoming visible" Delphine said.

Liyapidiny Marika led in a prayer and the chorus 'Bind us together Lord' in her own Aboriginal language.

Delphine Stanford spoke on the continuing plight of the Aborigines and urged for a writing of the Aboriginal history. She gave the illustration of the Aborigines wanting to be freed from the birdcage they were in where water and food was handed to them and they were asked to sing on request.

Indigenous Christian Justice paper available. Always was and always will be.

Liyapidiny, explained the meaning of her banner. Out of the rock we drank water, similar to the story in the Bible. The cross is central to our religion. A man speared to the tree who died and then he came alive again and went to the river. This related to Christ dying and being raised again.

The dove is the sign of God's spirit. Our ancestors believe there is a God and there is a relationship to the Bible and that we can sing and dance and relate closely to God and to other people. We are spiritual people and we can relate to God in spirit closer than you people.

Rev. Colleen Grieve said it is an exciting time and we need to get our facts right. She said we must take time, listen and be sensitive in the reconciliation process. Evolution of spirituality over period of time.

Summing up - Archdeacon Lou Daniels

Key Words which sum up this session are hurt, healing and hope. We need to hear, learn and know and walk alongside them on their journey. The Old Testament story we draw on is a sad story of loss fear, failure and frustration. Yet all the way through there is the story of repentance. We try not to see the hurt but when we get to the New Testament it all hangs on the cross. When we closed our eyes and listened to the song by Lipapidiny there was an underthread of pain and an overthread of hope. It is a bonding that is coming and that song is a plea arising from hurt and hope of something to come. We Christians boast we have got there but we haven't. Hurt is where it begins - not ends. Where is the Old Testament or the cross of the New Testament if we don't start there. There is too much pretending that everything is happy and wonderful. Reconciliation begins with mutual tears and sharing of pain. We have had it too good and haven't cried enough because we haven't had to. Perhaps we need to go back to the slavery of our ancestors and begin to put that beside the Aboriginal peoples. It came to me that the centurion at the cross was a Roman who said 'This was the Son of God'. Do we cling and hold to our traditions? We need to discover who made us and then we might understand who made the peoples of all cultures.

SEMINAR FINANCE SEAN BRASCH, ANGLICARE, DEVONPORT

The definition of target group - low income families on poverty line for extended periods of time. After they pay for accommodation, food and basic needs they have no money left for anything extra. This 'grey' living sets the way for alcohol, drugs or gambling abuses. They have a problem we call sexually transmitted debt. Eventually this can lead to marriage breakdown and sometimes the wife is left with not only the children but the husband's debt.

Health care - not everything is covered by Medicare e.g. dental, optical expenses, which places pressure on families. Grandparents can't afford to indulge their grandchildren. Low morale, monotony of diet and lack of sport and recreational activities means they feel they are living second-best and causes my clients to tend to 'splurge' in order to feel good. The effect is short-lived and creates more financial problems. Advertising and society create expectations of affordable housing, clothing and opportunities for children. People on the margin can't afford these things and end up with a social apathy.

As a financial counsellor I can help them to budget and arrange debt repayment for them but I can't raise their standard of living. Large scale redistribution of income within Australia and Government policies are formed by the population and the population includes the church.

Question: What is considered the poverty line?

Answer: For a family of 2 adults and 2 children \$350 per week.

Question: Who gives advice to the government?

Answer: ACOSS gives the government figures. We deal with debts and have lobbied for credit reform. Uniform credit reform legislation is being considered at the moment.

Question: What support is given to build up self esteem?

Answer: The best way to help them is to show them what to do.

Question: How much can they earn without losing their entitlement?

Answer: Single - \$60 a fortnight without affecting it.

Betty Brown thanked Sean for his time.

VIKI ELPHINSTONE - NURSING SISTER

Ecc. 3:

Hospice care is about giving people a choice of where to die (within six months of death). If a terminally ill person wants to stay at home Hospice care is there to give their family and the carer support. It is primarily involved in maintaining their quality of life and meeting their spiritual, social and family needs.

In four years we have expanded to a 24 hour service. We have 72 trained volunteers in the north. There is a need for more volunteers. We are there as listening, caring, support people (not there to vacuum clean). We have a five day training program which includes: confidentiality, personal empathy, spirituality, listening skills, grief and children and how they grieve. Visit to a funeral parlour prior to the death takes a lot of pressure off the family when the person dies. You become very close to the people you sit with. It is a privilege to be asked into people's homes and it is important that whatever information is given is confidential to the volunteer. Community Health Nurses give us most of our referrals. Assessment is done and they work out which volunteer would best suit that client. Not all terminally ill people require hospice care. It is up to the client and family to make the decision. Various examples quoted. Statistics are kept.

Look to this day for yesterday is but a dream. Tomorrow is only a vision but today well lived makes every day a day of happiness and tomorrow is full of hope.

Because of the amount of time spent in training, volunteers commit themselves to give 2 - 4 hours per month as a volunteer for six months. They also attend volunteer support group sessions for debriefing.

POUL BOTTERN

I travel around the state training young people with Fusion. It makes me sad to see the situation in this state. I am not sure if you are aware of the depth of despair young people are going through. 15 people committed suicide in the north of the state until June. Young Australians are second only to people in Bangladesh in suicides and say 'I would rather die than go on living'.

28% of teenagers have occasional suicidal thoughts. The leading cause of death among 15 - 24 year olds in Australia is suicide - 23% of all male deaths and 11% of all female deaths in 1990 were caused by suicide. \$100 m per year is estimated as the cost to the community every year for suicide.

Causes are family breakdown, Depression, unemployment and life loses its meaning. People need to determine their own fulfilment in life. I am grateful I am a Christian in my work. I try to help the young people find a meaning beyond what is here and now. Secular workers don't have that outlook. In the past the youth workers would encourage people to get into a career but even that has been cut off. Large numbers of 15 - 19 year olds have lost their jobs in this recession.

The effects of unemployment are -

Shock period is 3 weeks and then there is optimism as they look for work, undertake training courses etc. until week 10. Then they get discouraged and bored and self respect decreases which diminishes their chances of getting a job and then pessimism sets in and finally leads to fatalism. The government is backing off from these situations. 40.2% of youth are unemployed. 2,000 people have lost full time jobs since June in Tasmania. I think the government is feeling helpless about this situation.

We as Christians have the key to hope and we hold the key to our nation's future. We have the message of hope but we need to share it with young people. A lot of young people don't need to be told they are hopeless because they feel that anyway. We need to lobby the government and we need to do practical things to assist the young people to find some sort of work.

SUMMING UP - LOU DANIELS

What you have had is a smorgasbord of life in the last 4 speakers. Jesus constantly went to the margin and there He met the marginalised. How often do we avoid the margins and not meet the children in a youth shelter? Sean talked about the poverty line and we still divide the poor and the deserving poor.

Major Kop I would like to have you on my side I think. We need to be a church of healing and reconciliation. The church is often the most unforgiving group of people you have met. Look within to the poor, the sick and the dying. Force us to ask questions about ourselves. We need to be able to answer these questions before we can do anything for anyone else. Viki made that point. Jesus reserved the most violent and abusive language for the Pharisees. Let those words be said to you we polish up the outside but don't do anything about the inside. The thing is how do we minister to those who have AIDS and not think about self preservation. Fear has to be overcome before we can minister to any of these groups.

Viki - the ministry of being there. Youth suicide - what a frightening situation. I would rather deal with the AIDS problem than to try and get into the problems our young people face. Many elderly, lonely old people kill themselves. Many car accidents are suicides and so are overdoses. Poul you have to make them realize the jobs are not out there. I have to say the jobs may never be there but you are important. What are you going to do when you grow up is not a good question to ask a young person nowadays.

Each of these issues is a sign of the growth of compassion in our society. In the past those with AIDS would have been driven out of town and left with the lepers. Suicides were refused burial and went to prison if they failed and were caught. Our society is becoming more compassionate and that is because the church has struggled to raise the level of consciousness for compassion. Those on the margin matter and have value. We the church must strive to give people power for choices in their lives. Quality of life is important - to die living and not living to die. Hospice if anything else means that no one need die alone. Everyone has a value. The spiritual value of a person doesn't depend on a job or the success of what they do, nor can it be reduced to a dollar value. It depends on their being. Each of these is a challenge. Encouraging Poul who is working on the margins. We are not powerless we are the Body of Christ. His Spirit is with us. We are here to serve the people made in His image.

THE EPIDEMIC.

Any stemming of the HIV / AIDS pandemic is premature.

Worldwide

7.1 million ,men

4.7 million women

1.1 million childrenHIV = 12.9 million

AIDS has developed in 2.6 million and 2.5 million have died.
(January 1993)

By this time we are heading for what Africa was 3 years ago.

This crisis challenges us. We need to be a Church of healing

as ~~with~~ this disease cuts across gender..race.
sexual orientations and sexual expressions.

It challenges fear and alienation or isolation. The Church needs to give Pastoral Care and educate supporters of the hurting.

Look at personal resources: opinions, feelings, attitudes
strengths and weaknesses

The following questions should be considered:

- What might be painful for me in my work with HIV-infected people?
- Have I thought about my own death?
- Have I thought about my own risk of HIV infection?
- What is it about people with HIV infection which might be upsetting for me?
- What are my personal limitations in working with people with HIV/AIDS?
- What are my strengths and qualities for working with people with HIV/AIDS?
- What views might I have, for example, on homosexuality, infidelity, prostitution, polygamy, etc.?
- How would I handle objections to this work from my own family, neighbourhood or congregation?
- How would I handle aggression, anger, hostility?
- What is my interest in committing myself to this work?
- How would I handle someone with very rigid views?
- What other questions should I ask myself?

SPIRITUAL CARE

guilt } Person
Punishment } feel
Alienation }

Church offers Healing

PASTORAL CARE of FAMIL

CONFUSION

GREIF

SHOCK

GUILT

SHAME

EMBARRASEME

Church offers
Reconciliation

EVOLUTION OF THE ILLNESS.

(2)

Group I — Acute HIV infection

About 50 per cent of persons newly infected with HIV exhibit an acute transitory illness. The illness is characterised by a self limited glandular fever-like syndrome of short duration and may include symptoms of aseptic meningitis. The test for antibodies to HIV is usually negative at onset and remains so for one to three months before becoming positive. All patients in this group recover from the illness and are then reclassified into groups II or III.

WINDO J —

Group II — Asymptomatic HIV infection

Group II includes all those persons who are infected with HIV and are HIV antibody positive, but who are well and do not have any apparent illness.

Group III — Persistent generalised lymphadenopathy

Group III patients have persistent unexplained lymph gland enlargement in the neck, armpits and groin. Anyone with this problem should consult a medical practitioner if it persists.

Group IV — AIDS and related conditions

Group IV covers all those patients with serious illnesses associated with HIV infection. These include systemic symptoms (eg fever, night sweats, unexplained weight loss, diarrhoea, persistent cough, fatigue and/or loss of appetite); neurological disorders (eg dementia); secondary (opportunistic) infections (the commonest of which is pneumonia caused by infection with *Pneumocystis carinii*); and some forms of cancer (eg Kaposi's sarcoma and lymphoma).

The prognosis for persons with Group IV HIV infection is usually poor. According to the statistics recorded in March 1988 all persons diagnosed as having AIDS before June 1984 have died, as have 88 per cent of those diagnosed between July 1984 and June 1985, 80 per cent of those diagnosed between July 1985 and June 1986, and 37.5 per cent of those diagnosed since July 1986.

4 yrs
8 yrs
10 yrs to death

103

BUT WE HAVE REAL PROBLEMS....

3

The Virus is passed on by Sexual Intercourse...vaginal...anal...oral....In marriage such intercourse is the expression of total Love and the channel of the love of God to enrich and sustain the bond between husband and wife..it is utter..self giving...abandonment.....but now it comes into question.

The Virus is passed on by Blood to Blood (needles or cult ritual) So the Church does not approve of Intravenous drug users etc. but what of diabetics..haemophiliacsear piercing..tattoos...transfusion It is well to be cautious but not the Christian thing to be holier than.....

The Virus is transmitted by mother to baby (birth or feeding) So where is our prejudice here? Whenever there is a crisis it ends at the Church door.

Our business is RECONCILIATION OF OUR RACE HUMAN TO GOD.

HUMAN RIGHTS:-

Among the basic human rights stated in these instruments, to be enjoyed without distinction of any kind, such as on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth or other status are a number of fundamental rights of importance during the crisis presented by HIV and AIDS as Sieghart points out. They include:

- the right to life; *TIME BOMB TO DEATH*
- the right to health; *LONG ILLNESS*
- the right to liberty and security of the person; *LIMITATIONS AND NO GUARANTEES*
- freedom from inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; *DISCRIMINATION-ALIENATION*
- the right to freedom of movement; *ISOLATION*
- the right to privacy; *CONFIDENTIALITY BUT NO SUPPORT*
- the right to marry and found a family; *NOT NOW*
- the right to work; *WORK PLACE POLICY - UNWELLNESSES*
- the right to education; and *NO FUTURE*
- the right to social security, assistance and welfare - *INSURANCE & PAYMENT INSECURITIES*

The body of international law on human rights is not simply a series of statements of pious platitudes drafted by politicians and then forgotten. It is part of international law. It is binding on the community of nations in differing degrees, depending upon the ratification of international instruments, whether the rules stated in them have become part of customary international law and part of the law of the country concerned.

Life becomes a War Zone

PERSON

- Issues to Explore !!

FOUND TO BE
INFECTED

- Progress of HIV and AIDS
- Living with uncertainty about the future
- Safer sex
- Coping with feeling of loss, and fears of future dependency, disability, disfigurement and death
- Who to tell dealing with discrimination and/or rejection
- How to maintain good health

PROBLEMS

CONFIDENTIALITY.

- The Churches procedures ?
- Who is responsible for letting people know the situation ?
- Who is accountable if confidentiality is breached ?
- Is there conflict with your personal ideas ?
- Who owns the information on who has AIDS ?
- What about your Church's integrity and trust ?
- What about entrusting your family to workers ??
- Who decides on the person with AIDS being in groups, musical drama, children etc ?
- How do you make decisions and keep confidences ?
- At internal discussions how is this area handled ?

The "Outcast Syndrome"

Loneliness in this suffering can be accentuated when the real nature of the patient's illness cannot be talked about openly. Feelings of shame often accompany such a silence. Sensitivity is required in the way these issues are handled otherwise we will perpetuate the "Outcast Syndrome" which is already evident in some proposed responses.



Prejudice against Homosexuals

To understand fully the anguish of persons who contract A.I.D.S. through homosexual activity, we need to consider some attitudes about homosexuals. Homosexuals may find themselves faced with the difficulties of fear, prejudice, rejection, alienation, isolation or oppression from the broad community. Often people see homosexuality only in terms of sexual acts which they find abhorrent. The Christian attitude must recognise and value the human person, even when life-styles and moral values may differ from ours.

MORE PROBLEMS :-

LEGISLATION (decriminalisation.... homosexualityneedle exchanges)
HOSPITAL (and individual Doctor) Issues and restrictions
VISITORS - CHAPLAINS - CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

WORKPLACE GUIDELINES

The Church finds 'split bags' with condoms and clean needles against codes and this needs discussion openly given.

JOHN 9:1 (blind man) Did he need to beg in order to live...??must the AIDS persons do this too ????

PROBLEMS

(4)

Legal Issues

Legal measures relative to HIV/AIDS seek to balance individual rights with the interests of public health and safety. However, tensions arise when laws apply either directly or indirectly to specific groups rather than specific risk practices. In the area of HIV, existing regulations covering homosexual activity, prostitution, use of illicit drugs and the possession of such drugs or injecting equipment sometimes affect the willingness of infected persons or those at risk to present for testing, counselling, or treatment; to participate in educational programs; or to reveal their HIV status.

Legislation dealing with HIV/AIDS is not uniform across the States and Territories of Australia. Persons working in the field must consult their own local statutes when advising clients or when formulating policies or procedural guidelines. The following are some areas affected by law in Australian jurisdictions:

- ◆ Duties of health care providers
- ◆ Consent to testing, medical treatment, research, experimentation and clinical trials
- ◆ Medical complaints
- ◆ Euthanasia, suicide and natural death
- ◆ Confidentiality and privacy
- ◆ Public health law including notification, contact tracing, duty to inform
- ◆ Anti-discrimination law
- ◆ Offences for transmission of HIV or exposure to risk of HIV infection
- ◆ Prisoners and the criminal justice system
- ◆ Injecting drug use
- ◆ Sexuality related offences
- ◆ Sexual assault (adult and child)
- ◆ Sex industry
- ◆ Censorship
- ◆ Condoms (standards and availability)
- ◆ Compensation
- ◆ Superannuation and insurance
- ◆ Procedures upon death
- ◆ Family law - custody, access
- ◆ Drugs and therapies
- ◆ Employment and industrial law
- ◆ Travel and immigration
- ◆ Adoption and foster care

(5)

CHRISTIAN RESPONSE.

Not a time for Moral Legalism
Not a time for self righteousness.
We hold the keys to the Kingdom-FORGIVENESS.
We preach a Gospel of Acceptance not Blame.
"Please just love me" I am going to die." — STEVE

"THE BODY OF CHRIST IS HURTING.....IT HAS AIDS"....what a statement
How then should one part of the body respond when the other
is hurting ????
The person diagnosed is hurting..embarrassed...anger rules..
frustration..alienation...isolation..anxiety...rebellion.
They loose their FAITH just when it needs to be activated most.
We should be there to guide a pilgrim through death..that is
our business as a Church.

CHURCH STRATEGY...

1. BE INFORMED...get relevant information in your district covering your medical ethics and workplace policies.
2. DEAL WITH YOUR OWN INSECURITIES AND PREJUDICES.....look at sexual behaviours and the alternative behaviours — see *Peter Dileo*
hate them as much as you like but look squarely at them because they will become stumbling blocks to your support and care unless you do
3. Know what FEAR and Anxiety mean (isolation.....death) *Anxiety Disorder*
4. Be familiar with the suffering of a person with AIDS.
5. Look at GRIEF counselling because everything that life has to offer including family is threatened and becomes a loss.
6. OVERCOME what you feel is against Church doctrine by LOVE ..UNDERSTANDING HUMILITY...this is the way Jesus went.
7. Develop creative images and values to guide their new lifestyles.
(Brian) *Tapes of music (STEVE) House of Care*
8. Discover ways to move from the alienation of guilt to the reconciliation of forgiveness. *VICIL (Mother of John)*
9. Nurture and sustain them on their spiritual journey to God.
10. Help them to die living not live to die. *Brian's parents Tar*
11. Change behaviours of our new generation so that AIDS is wiped out.
12. Educate and Inform the young..Teach the youth leaders. *Burleigh - Burre*
13. Urge your Church to set up a policy based on Human Dignity.
14. Make a POSITIONAL STATEMENT for your Church so all members can follow.

REMEMBER WE PREACH A GOSPEL OF ACCEPTANCE NOT BLAME....HEALING ,
NOT WOUNDING.