

CROSSCURRENT

mitchelton presbyterian church newsletter with agm reports march 05

Why Men Hate Church

There's something about modern Christianity that's driving men away. Jesus brought men to life, but our churches bore them to death. Phil Campbell investigates...



We came down to earth with a painful thump. After years of bravely bucking the trend, the reality finally hit. In our church, men are now a minority. It only seems like yesterday when the statistics told a much more balanced story... back in 2003, a survey showed the genders in our church were almost evenly balanced, at 49% men and 51% women. We gave ourselves a pat on the back, and got on with it. Suddenly, though, something has changed. Quietly, unobserved, the scales have swung. And now, in every adult age group, there's a creeping gender gap. Let's take a look at the hard evidence.

In the 18-27 age group, our church directory lists 49 women and 42 men. That's only 4% off centre... not so bad. The 28-37 age group has a 41/36 ratio of women to men - 53% female. The 38-47 group runs at 27 women to 22 men; and then the gap steadily increases, to 16/4 in the 78+ demographic. That's partly accounted for by the well documented fact that women tend to outlive men by around 10 years. But maybe there are other forces at work.

Overall, it boils down to this: in our 2005 church directory, 57% of our adult church population is made up of women, and 43% men. Mind you, by today's standards, that's pretty good. In his article "Why Men Hate Going to Church," author David Murrow says less than 40% of American church attenders are male, and that more than one fifth of married women attend without their husbands. No doubt they're at home mowing the lawn.

Murrow offers some interesting comments on the problem. For starters, he says, it's wrong to assume men are somehow "less religious" than women. Other faiths have no trouble inspiring male allegiance... whereas Murrow argues that Christianity has bred a culture aimed at "women and older folks."

"Most churches offer a safe, nurturing community, an oasis of stability and predictability," says Murrow. The problem is, that's not what men are looking for. "Men and young adults are drawn to risk, challenge, and daring," claims Murrow. By default, anything that's not comfortable and safe is vetoed by longtime members.

Further, he says, there's a perception problem. "Many guys feel church is a "women's thing." Most men are introduced to Christianity by women... Sunday school teachers, or their mum. Boys meet a feminized Jesus - a tender, sweet man in a shining white dress. Most volunteer opportunities in church involve traditionally female roles: singing, sewing, cooking, caring for kids, teaching, planning social gatherings, etc. "There's nothing for

inside

Take the challenge with
Each One Reach One

**Meet a growing follower
of Jesus** - Sara Phillips

Annual Reports - our year
in review

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for your careful reading

Care Team Report - how
you can help

a guy to do," chides Murrow "unless he has a passion for attending meetings."

So what should we do about it? The problem is critical, because statistically, a lack of male participation is one of the surest predictors of church decline. "The denominations with the biggest gender gaps are also those that are shutting down churches," says Murrow. "On the other hand, churches with robust male participation are generally growing." So here are his seven top tips for creating a "man friendly" church.

Principle one: Cultivate a healthy masculine spirit in your church. From the moment he walks in, a man must sense that church is not just a ladies' club. Murrow is blunt. "The quilted banners, fresh flowers, and boxes of Kleenex in our sanctuaries make a statement. So do practices such as holding hands with your neighbor, "prayer and share" times, or highly emotional displays. Our goal is not to get men to cry; it's to get them walking with God, however that may look."

Principle two: Make men feel needed and wanted. Encourage men to use their gifts, even if they don't fit traditional models of Christian service get them to serve the poor by working on cars or fixing up houses. Let men plan adventures and do "guy things" together.

Principle three: Present Christ's masculine side. Pastors who present a "soft Jesus" week after week run the risk of turning men off. "Even more bewildering," says Murrow, "are today's praise songs many of which feature lovey-dovey lyrics set to a romantic tune. Guys may feel unnatural singing romantic words to another man. Men want a leader, not a love object."

Principle four: Avoid feminine terminology. Christian men tend to use terms such as precious, share, and relationship -- words you'd never hear on the lips of a typical man. Murrow says, "We talk a lot about the saved and the lost; men don't want to be either. And here's a term that puzzles a lot of guys: "a personal relationship with Jesus." Christ's bold, masculine command, "Follow Me!" has been turned into "Have a relationship with Me." We've recast Jesus' offer in feminine terms."

Principle five: Preach shorter sermons. "I know pastors will hate this principle," says Murrow, "but men say that "long, boring sermons" are the #1 reason they avoid church."

Principle six: Become students of men. Although most pastors are male, Murrow claims that few truly understand men. "Women keep the ministry machine going, so pastors focus on keeping females happy and volunteering. This must change."

Principle seven: Create a culture of person-to-person challenge. In many churches, the pastor challenges from the pulpit, but people don't challenge and encourage each other. Person-to-person discipleship, in small teams, is the only way to bring men to maturity in Christ.

Where to from here?

The fact is, historically our church has been strong in a number of these areas. But our current statistics may well hint at the start of a problem. So where do we start in addressing it? Our mpc Wednesday night men's group is as good a place as any! Each week, eight or ten of us get together to work through the weekly bible study and encourage one another as Christian men, husbands, and fathers. (Compare that small number with the fact that around 52 women attend WoW on Wednesday mornings, and you might get a hint of the source of the problem!)

Second, if you're a dad, why not order and read the book "Fatherhood" from Matthias Media? It's a good way to refocus your priorities.

Third, take a look at David Murrow's website <http://www.churchformen.com/> (you may even like to order his book on the subject from Amazon.com). (You can read the full text of his article at www.latechurch.blogspot.com)

Finally, keep challenging the ministry team to shape our Sunday church services and other events in a way that's authentically "man friendly." We're working on it but you need to give feedback on what's helpful for the sort of men you're keen to bring to church events. Email your comments to me at phil@mpc.org.au, or phone me for a chat. **Phil Campbell**





Which side of the Counter?



A Meeting for Partners

As you start flipping through the following pages of financial statements and auditor's reports, you might be thinking, why bother? After all, things at mpc are working just fine as they are. Someone else can read the fine print, while we just sit back and relax.

First, though, it's important that the financial side of our church life is run with both integrity, and transparency. We want to set the highest possible standards of accountability, so that you can be sure that the funds you contribute for the work of the gospel are being put to their intended use. We've been privileged to be served by a fine management committee through 2004, and the integrity of those who handle our funds is above reproach. But they welcome the annual audit process, and are keen for everyone to read the financial statements carefully. Remember, they have been working on your behalf. The same applies to our PWA and Playgroup - the two organisations in the life of our church that handle their own funds.

Your involvement at this point, however, is not just to correct or critique. Ultimately, it's an expression of **partnership**.

Writing to the Christians in Philippi, Paul said this: "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your **partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now..." (Phil 1:5) Later in the same letter, he recalls how, even in the early days of their acquaintance with the Christian message ("the gospel") the Philippian church provided financial support for Paul's work in Thessalonica. "Even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need," says Paul (Phil 4:16) - which is why he could later say to the Thessalonians that he was able to preach to **them** without burdening them financially. The Philippian Christians, in other words, were investing financially in the progress of the message of Christ. They were in every sense Paul's partners in the process of "growing followers of Jesus."

The trouble is, these days the "partnership" mindset has been replaced by consumerism. People "shop around" for a church that "meets their needs" in exactly the same way they browse

the stores for a new TV set. According to a recent seminar I attended, the signs of a consumer church are:

church shopping - always looking for a better deal

a critical spirit - always assessing "what's in it for me"

minimal attendance - I'll come when it's convenient

lack of relationship with others - especially avoiding "serving"

high expectations of leadership - "they should do all the work"

The funny thing is, while it's easy to identify those attitudes, who'd want to go to a church full of "consumers" like that? If those attitudes describe you, I want to challenge you to "jump the counter." The counter in any store is the line between "customer" and "server," "consumer" and "proprietor." The Philippians realised that being part of the church called for partnership - a vital interest in seeing others grow as followers of Jesus, strategic investment in starting other churches, and a deep and encouraging affection for their partner, the apostle Paul, who they supported through good times and bad.

Looking forward

Last year we introduced a refreshed Vision Statement that calls us forward to "**nurture a network of clear, Christ-centred churches**" around Brisbane's north-side. Recognising the way God has strengthened our work at mpc, we're excited by the possibilities that lie ahead of helping to establish (or re-establish) other vibrant churches in our area in whatever ways we can. Two years ago, former mpc trainee Andrew Richardson took on the challenging role of "re-planting" Clayfield Presbyterian Church with our support. There has been encouraging progress. Stuart Atkinson is currently studying at Moore Theological College in Sydney; we'd love to see him come back and begin a similar ministry.

More immediately, we're wondering if one of our goals for 2006 should be planting a new mpc morning congregation in the Ferny Grove/Upper Kedron area, or perhaps somewhere towards Eatons Hill? It's a challenging prospect... on that will require a mindset of "partnership" rather than consumerism.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to **Wayne Fry**, who steps down from our Committee of Management after many years of providing a beautiful blend of wise, gentle but adventurous guidance to our church family. Thanks are due too to our ministry team - **Matt and Jill Rowson** for the way they're making our youth and children's ministry "zing"; **Matt and Kerry Viney**, for boundlessly energetic ministry "behind the scenes"; to **Don Anderson**, our Session Clerk; to **Louise**, who has an uncanny knack for seeing what other people miss; and to **Garnet and Kirsty Swann**, a hugely welcome addition to the team for 2005!

In partnership,

Phil Campbell



Taking the Challenge

Why the Best Missionary is You!

How do people become followers of Jesus?

Can you think back to the time when you first seriously considered becoming a Christian? Some people grow up in a Christian home and hear about Jesus from their parents. Others hear about Jesus through what we might call the on-stage speaker. The on-stage speaker is the person who's up front at some event and presents the message of Jesus to a large crowd. For others, becoming a follower of Jesus might happen as you hear the message from the bold conversation starter. The bold conversation starter is that person who approaches you at the bus stop and talks to you about Jesus there and then. (Then again, maybe you just thought the person who did that was a bit weird!)

For some people though, these are the ways they became followers of Jesus. For many others, though – perhaps the great majority - it was simply through a friend who showed that they were different, demonstrated care, talked about Jesus, and eventually invited you along to things where the message of Jesus Christ was spoken. Sara, who tells her story on the next page, is an example.

Isn't it funny, though, that when we think about sharing the message of Jesus, we get nervous about fitting some sort of stereo type that didn't even work for us!

Being Aware of our Culture

How people become followers of Jesus is in part a reflection of culture. People are not so inclined to listen 'strangers' like the on-stage speaker or the bold conversation starter because they intrude on what we've been conditioned to think of as an increasingly privatized area of life. As our society becomes more technologically advanced, more secular, and more urbanized, people are 'cocooning' within their established 'networks'. It's no longer the stranger who knocks on their door, mails them, or speaks to them from a platform that matters, it's personal relationships within existing networks. It's "friends."

Making the most of Friendships and Networks

With our theme for the year, 'Each 1 Reach 1' we want to encourage you to think about what you can do in your own networks to see people come into contact with the message of

Jesus. It's friendships and networks that are really important.

The first step for you is to identify the types of networks that you're part of. There are four basic types: 1. family, 2. geographical (neighborhood), 3. vocational (career/study) and 4. relational (friends not necessarily in the other networks). In urban areas like our own, it is usually the latter two that are more important. In what areas of life do you have opportunities to spend time with people?

When we have regular contact with people who are not followers of Jesus, we can easily feel guilty that we haven't shared our faith with them or invited them along to some church event. And when a church event does come along, we blurt out some sort of awkward invitation and then we feel discouraged when they show little interest! But we want to say, start with the friendship, develop the friendship and see it as a process. We need to have the aim of progressing the friendship towards something meaningful and real. Desire to move from just knowing their name, to knowing their interests, to knowing their hopes and aspirations. On this we want to offer you a 'Each One Reach One' challenge.

Significant relationship building happens when we take acquaintances and friendships out of the normal context (work, uni, etc) and we invite that person into our own "lifespace" for a meal or a social outing. Choose 2 or 3 people and choose some relationship building moments you can share with them.

We want you to run with this challenge so choose some people, choose some events and choose some dates in your calendar! And enjoy the pleasure of growing friendships.



Everyone has a part to play

You shouldn't think that you will be the sole person to explain the message of Jesus to your friend. In fact, research has shown that before someone will make a decision, they need to hear the message several times and in a variety of ways. (One report suggested that it takes 30 positive contacts before a person is ready to even think about becoming a Christian!)

But at least you can start out by becoming a "bringer"! Almost anyone can invite friends along to mpc events so they can meet other Christians and hear about Jesus from an "expert." You become a 'bringer' when your internal 'self-talk' changes so that when you come to a mpc event, you say to yourself:

"I have been actively talking to my friends about Christ, and this is exactly what I have been trying to show and say to them all along, but this does is far better than I can do it"

OR... "I have been silent in my witness, but this will really help to show them what I'm on about as a follower of Jesus, and therefore I now begin to feel the courage to reach out to them".

A Christian becomes a "bringer" when two things happen: a) the internal thinking mentioned above occurs in response to their own experience of mpc, and b) the Christian brings a friend who wants to come back! That experience confirms the 'bringer' behaviour and turns it into a habit.

How Church fits in

We want our church to offer a positive experience for you that can help turn your 'self talk' in the direction of becoming a 'bringer'. We believe all our services can have a real strategic role in this.

Garnet Swann

the day I gatecrashed church

Sara Phillips is part of our Latechurch congregation. Recently she shared this account of how she came to be a follower of Jesus.

I just wanted to share a bit about my journey over the last few years and how I've become a follower of Jesus. Things started to go a bit crazy when I was 17. I was brought up in a liberal home where doing what you pleased was natural. But things just didn't make sense. I couldn't understand the world, and what part I was meant to play. I couldn't shake the feeling that there was something bigger out there.

So I went searching. I tried cramming my life with things I thought would be fulfilling and lead to ultimate happiness. I had a career picked out, I was making loads of money from my 3 part-time jobs and I always had a boyfriend. At the time I believed that what I was doing gave meaning to my life.

Fortunately, this didn't last long. After awhile I realised that what I was doing only made me more hurt and empty than when I started. I now felt totally lost and couldn't see a future for myself.

It was about this time I met a Christian. We came in contact through friends and decided to play indoor netball together. Out of ignorance, we didn't talk much; he thought I was bad news and I thought Christians were just a bit strange. This guy was so different, he not only believed in a god, but completely trusted in this god as well.

Things came to a head when he asked all our friends to church... except me. I couldn't believe it. So after a few brews one Sunday afternoon, the decision was made to gate crash.

But what an anti-climax - everyone was friendly and normal. The environment was so welcoming that before long I found myself part of a weekly bible study. My friend would pick me up and drive me home afterwards. We'd have long chats about God, Jesus and the love they have for us.

It was through my friend and other Christian friends I made that I learnt about Jesus – how he was punished for our wrong doings and how he wants a relationship with us.

I am still on a journey, but it's drastically different to how it could have been. Through a chance meeting with a Christian, I no longer search for temporary happiness, I now have a hope that will last forever.



Management Committee Report

INTRODUCTION

“We are committed to serving together, generously using the gifts, abilities and resources God has given, for his glory. “ This Mitchelton Presbyterian Church (MPC) core commitment guides the important role that the Committee of Management plays each and every year in administering the money and gifts received, to faithfully carry out the wishes of the congregation and to ensure that these monies and gifts are used in a way that is pleasing to God to fulfill His desire for ministry in the Mitchelton area and beyond.

In 2004 the Committee worked hard in maintaining this core commitment, and ensuring that MPC continued to function effectively. The continued commitment to student ministry training; 'kick starting' financially the new 'On Call Care Team'; repaying borrowings on the church redevelopment and big improvements to the Church and its properties in the area of security to lessen the threat of vandalism were aspects that Committee considered and dealt with through the year. In addition, the Committee oversaw a number of projects throughout the year to ensure that the Church property always remained neat and tidy and repairs and maintenance were carried out with efficiency and as promptly as was practicable.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2004

At the Annual General Meeting of MPC in March the following persons were elected onto the Committee for 2004- Steve Begg; Del Chapman; Geoff Cowles; Wayne Fry; Bob Long; Cathy Lyndon; Glenn Sweeny; Andrew Tuck; Megan Verhoef.

At the first meeting of the Committee the following office bearers were elected:
Vice-Chair - Wayne Fry; Secretary - Geoff Cowles; Treasurer - Megan Verhoef.

In addition Steve Begg was appointed property coordinator, Geoff Cowles was appointed minute secretary and Glenn Sweeny was appointed budget coordinator. During August 2004 Glenn Sweeny resigned from Committee. Wayne Fry resumed budget-coordinating responsibilities on Glenn's resignation. During November 2004 Committee welcomed Evan Burnett, appointed by Session as a new Committee member.

MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE MINISTRY AT MPC & BEYOND

The Committee assisted in MPC maintaining an effective ministry team during 2004 through the allocation of funds for stipends for our two ministers, Phil Campbell and Maurie Cropper and the Youth and Children's coordinator Matt Rowson. In addition funds were available as support to Daniel Bigg our student minister for most of 2004, Jodie Day through to July and Matt Viney who was accepted on a ministry training scheme in July. Financial support was also provided to Stuart Atkinson to assist him with his studies at Moore College, Sydney.

GREATLY IMPROVED CHURCH SECURITY

There were savings that accrued as a consequence of Phil Campbell taking long service leave in the middle of the year. Following a series of graffiti attacks on the Church property and break-ins into church members' cars in the car park during LateChurch, Committee decided to use these savings to provide much needed extra security for not only the Church complex but also to the neighbouring Church owned “Green House” currently occupied by the Rowsons.



A major project was the installation of a 6-foot high weld mesh fence along the entire church boundary near Blackwood Street effectively removing the public short cut access through the church grounds. A 10 metre high light pole was installed in the car



park to provide much needed extra lighting to the car park and for the Rowsons when entering and leaving the Green House. A new wooden fence was installed to replace the very tatty fence that divided the Green House and its neighbouring property. The landing near the crèche facility on the railway side of the Church hall was enclosed following a break in to the church storeroom. A new security door with deadlock was installed at the Green House.

These and other initiatives have ensured that the Church's assets are protected from the threat of vandalism and Church members and their personal property are afforded a higher degree of protection during official church functions.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

One of the important tasks of Committee each year is to ensure that the Church properties are maintained in good order. Throughout the year Committee funded urgent maintenance projects as required including a major repair of the roof over the auditorium cry room and was able to provide an air conditioner for one room in the house used by Matt, Jill and Harry Rowson. Four working bees were held over four Saturday mornings evenly spaced during the year and were well attended by volunteer members.

A feature was the good maintenance of the grounds and Church gardens maintaining a good aesthetic public image for the local community. The Committee wishes to thank all those who supported these working bees as this support is essential to the ongoing property maintenance.

Cleaning of the inside of the church has continued to be under-resourced over many years. The appearance of the complex to newcomers is as important as the outside. The Committee did consider paying a professional contractor at a cost of around \$2500 per annum. The Committee felt such money could be better used for more important ministry projects. A roster system whereby MPC's growth groups take on cleaning of the church for a month at a time has been recently introduced. The success or otherwise of this initiative is still to be assessed.

ADDRESSING AIR CONDITIONING CONCERNS

Committee finally made progress by having a clear and concise position on future options for air-conditioning the church auditorium and hall.

Committee decided in September not to invest in air-conditioning the church in the foreseeable future. The financial cost (approximately \$45 000) could not be warranted given other more pressing ministry priorities. This decision was reached after considerable debate about the merits or otherwise of air-conditioning the complex including the gathering of detailed quotations from air conditioning providers. For the months of December 2004 and January, February 2005 Committee has embarked on a trial of hiring air-conditioning units at a hire cost of around \$3 000. If the trial proves successful expect that a hire scheme will become a permanent feature at MPC during these months each year as a low cost means to alleviate the extreme heat experienced at morning services at this time.

ROSTERS TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW SERVICE TIMES

One of the highlights of the MPC year in 2004 was the introduction during February of new meeting times for both morning and evening services. This required the setting up of new rosters for volunteers to attend to door steward duties, morning teas and church collection counting for both new morning services. A departure from past practice for church collection counting was the introduction of separate counts for both morning services rather than one count at the end of the 2nd morning service. Overall the rosters have proved quite successful although there is room for improvement with the counting variation introduced. MPC places a strong emphasis on being a friendly welcoming church and as such the provision of workable rosters for manning morning teas after each service has been of paramount importance.

SUPPORT FOR THE "ON CALL CARE TEAM"

The departure of Maurie Cropper to NSW to accept a call to become the full time minister at Gosford Presbyterian Church in November created a huge void in the area of pastoral care for needy members of our congregation and the Mitchelton community. Committee wishes to acknowledge the considerable contribution, talent and skill that Maurie brought to his role as pastoral provider for MPC over many years. With the creation of the 'On Call Care Team', Committee has committed funds to ensure that this initiative remains a positive and worthwhile ministry for MPC for the foreseeable future.

As another means of providing support, Committee agreed that the Christmas Day Service offering would be used to support the needs of the "On Call Care Team". The generosity of the congregation resulted in over \$4000 being given, far in excess of any previous Christmas Day offering.

GIFTS RECEIVED

During December 2004 two significant gifts, totally unexpected, were received by the Committee which have greatly improved church services at MPC.

Firstly an anonymous gift of a brand new 41 litre urn for tea and coffee was received which has ensured that we will never run out of water for this important after service ministry. A few days after that fine gesture, Committee was heartened with the news that the wider family of the late Jim Kelly chose to provide the funds necessary for MPC to purchase a new more efficient data projector which has really improved the worship services considerably as well as the problems of auditorium morning glare to some extent. Committee praises God for these tangible gifts received.

The Committee acknowledges the regular support given by so many, be they small or large, which is essential to ongoing ministry of MPC. During 2004, the Committee has seen a significant increase in giving through direct transfers into the church bank accounts and this is assisting payment of regular bills. The congregation met the giving budget for 2004 and much praise to God can be given for this. The annual budget for 2005 adopted by the congregation in December will continue to challenge us as a congregation to give generously in 2005 as we strive to continue growing the ministry at MPC.

SUPPORT FOR OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Committee set aside funds to ensure that Session were able to maintain MPC's bible teaching weekends involving keynote guest speakers. These events are a regular and vital part of MPC's church calendar each year and have proved popular with members and their invited guests. In 2004 Committee also underwrote a amount of money to ensure that the biannual Carols in the Carpark in December could be staged. Needless to say this year's event was an outstanding success.

MAKING MPC WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY COMPLIANT

During 2004 Committee commissioned Steve Begg and Del Chapman to undertake an audit of the church complex to determine whether MPC had any major deficiencies in complying with its workplace health and safety (WPHS) obligations.

Overall the audit found that MPC takes the matter of WPHS seriously but there were a number of areas where improvements were warranted. Throughout the year Committee carried out the necessary projects to ensure there was compliance in all areas. Del will have ongoing responsibility for ensuring that WPHS aspects are taken into account when new projects are planned and undertaken.



CHURCH MASTER PLAN including CRECHE IMPROVEMENTS

There are many ministry needs for which the current halls are inadequate. There are more children in KidzBiz and also more children attending the crèche facility as a consequence of the growth in numbers within our congregations over all services. While this is very pleasing to report it emphasizes that time cannot stand still and the matter of the future needs of the congregation at least five and ten years from now needs to be well thought out now.

As an interim measure the crèche facility has gained some extra 'breathing space' through relocation of certain office equipment from the boardroom to the office, replacing the standard permanent standing tables with movable folding tables and removing unwanted items from these areas.

Despite these measures Committee understands that a key aspect is for a master plan to be implemented in stages as needs grow and finances exist. Committee is aware of the need to balance physical expansion with other ministry growth, a strategy identified by Phil Campbell in his vision presentation to the congregation given during August.

The development of such a master plan will be high on the agenda for the new Committee. There will be a need for God's guidance in ensuring that the right decisions are made when the time comes to progress the matter further

VOTE OF THANKS

To conclude this report I would like to firstly publicly acknowledge the contribution of **Wayne Fry** to this Committee over a continuous fifteen-year period. Wayne has indicated his intention not to stand for re-election in 2005.

The Committee would also like to acknowledge and thank the many 'quiet achievers' who daily give of their God given talents and skills for the betterment of MPC in so many practical ways and for no other reward than wishing to serve Jesus faithfully and with good grace. Committee salutes all who have given of their time and talents to MPC during 2004.



Wayne, Lyn, Craig and Kimberley Fry

Geoff Cowles
Secretary

Mitchelton Presbyterian Church Statement of Income and Expense For the year ended 31 December 2004

(Funds managed by Committee of Management)

Income

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
General Account		
Offerings	236,171	208,917
Missionary Support Fund	8,358	10,435
Other donations	1,298	746
Miscellaneous (receipts with matching expenditure, interest)	3,715	3,970
Sale of books and CDs	1,076	2,026
Special offerings	5,219	739
Property use	5,679	3,924
Redevelopment Account		
Donations/offerings	18,042	31,991
Interest income	-	269
Catherine Pankhurst Memorial Fund		
Interest income	620	542
Camp Account		
Proceeds from camp weekend	5,137	-
Provision Account		
Donations	6,000	-
Other income	310	-
Trust Account		
Other income	-	30
Total income	291,625	263,589

Mitchelton Presbyterian Church
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2004

(Funds managed by Committee of Management)

UNAUDITED - FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

	Notes	2004 \$	2003 \$
Assets			
Current Savings			
Catherine Pankhurst Memorial Fund		12,325	12,215
MPC Camp Account		1,818	417
MPC General Account		272	2,789
MPC Provision Account	1	17,650	726
MPC Redevelopment Fund		28	283
MPC Trust Account		8	8
PCQ Capital Fund Deposit			
MPC Missionary Car Fund		6,598	6,598
Total Cash at Bank		<u>38,699</u>	<u>23,036</u>
Other Current Assets			
Goods and services tax receivable		<u>255</u>	-
Fixed Assets at Committee Valuation, 2001			
Buildings	2	452,750	452,750
Contents	2	52,790	52,790
Land	2	307,000	307,000
Total Fixed Assets		<u>812,540</u>	<u>812,540</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>851,494</u>	<u>835,576</u>
Liabilities and Equity			
Liabilities			
Other creditors		259	870
Accrued employee benefits	1	6,393	-
Funds held in trust		8	8
MPC congregation member loan	3	10,000	10,000
PCQ capital fund loan	4	196,880	219,527
Total Liabilities		<u>213,540</u>	<u>230,405</u>
Equity			
Catherine Pankhurst Memorial Fund		11,667	11,667
Current equity		626,287	593,504
Total Equity		<u>637,954</u>	<u>605,171</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		<u>851,494</u>	<u>835,576</u>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Mitchelton Presbyterian Church
Statement of Income and Expense
For the year ended 31 December 2004

(Funds managed by Committee of Management)

Expense	2004	2003
	\$	\$
General Expenses		
Teaching		
Youth/children's ministry coordinator	33,671	33,340
Minister	53,185	56,001
Teaching program	3,825	2,883
Pastoral		
Assistant minister	55,222	41,573
Pastoral program	441	498
Training (students)	10,330	11,183
Outreach	1,593	1,602
Core Facility Support		
Assessments (Church Offices & Presbytery)	12,180	13,723
Office expenses	7,349	7,081
Property maintenance	8,572	2,627
Property services (electricity, rates, insurance, etc)	17,658	15,877
Services (offering envelopes, music licences, tapes, etc)	646	611
Wider Church		
Donations	2,298	1,660
Missionary family support	15,300	15,000
State mission program	7,520	9,230
Other		
Miscellaneous	3,762	5,459
Asset Maintenance		
28 Ruby (Rowson residence)	624	7,587
Loan Repayments	17,700	5,350
Redevelopment Account		
Loan Repayments	18,300	31,650
Catherine Pankhurst Fund		
Donations (Rowsons, Croppers)	500	470
Bank fees	11	-
Camp Account		
Camp weekend expenses	4,109	-
Trust Account		
Expenses	-	1,435
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expense	274,796	264,840
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net surplus/(deficiency)	16,829	(1,251)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Mitchelton Presbyterian Church
Statement of Cash Balances
As at 31 December 2004

(Funds managed by Committee of Management)

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Current Savings		
Catherine Pankhurst Memorial Fund	12,325	12,215
MPC Camp Account	1,818	417
MPC General Account	272	2,789
MPC Provision Account	17,650	726
MPC Redevelopment Fund	28	283
MPC Trust Account	8	8
PCQ Capital Fund Deposit		
MPC Missionary Car Fund	6,598	6,598
Total Cash at Bank	<u>38,699</u>	<u>23,036</u>

Notes to Statement of Financial Position

- 1 The provision account comprises funds that are restricted as to their use by the donor or transferred from the general fund for specific use. At 31 December 2004 the provision account is comprised of funds to be used as follows:

	\$
Projector for church	6,000
On-call Care Team	4,020
Employee benefits payable to ministry team	6,393
Other	1,237
	<u>17,650</u>

- 2 Fixed assets have been recorded as at 31 December 2004 at valuation determined by the Committee of Management. On an annual basis the Committee reviews the value of buildings and contents and applies an appropriate value for the purposes of financial statement presentation. Valuations taken up do not exceed cost. In relation to land, the Committee relies on the estimate of the property's value set out by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines in the annual rates notice.
- 3 A loan of \$10,000 from a congregation member is outstanding in relation to redevelopment activity in 2001. This loan is non-interest bearing and is due for repayment in 2010.
- 4 During 2001 a loan was taken out with the PCQ Capital Fund to fund the building renovation. The loan bears interest of 6% per annum and must be repaid by October 2011.

Independent audit report to the members of Mitchelton Presbyterian Church

Qualified audit opinion

In my opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation on my audit procedures referred to in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, as described below, the income and expense of Mitchelton Presbyterian Church (the Church) for the year ended 31 December 2004 and its cash and bank balances as at that date.

This opinion must be read in conjunction with the following explanation of the qualification and the scope and summary of my role as auditor.

Qualification

Cash from donations and other fund raising activities are a significant source of revenue for the church. The Committee of Management has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of revenue from these sources prior to entry into its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to me regarding revenue from cash donations and other fundraising activities was limited, my audit procedures with respect to revenue from these sources were necessarily restricted to the amounts recorded in the church's financial records. As a result, I am unable to express an opinion as to whether revenue from cash donations and other fundraising activities is complete.

Scope

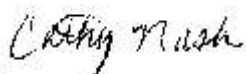
The financial report comprises the statement of income and expense and the statement of cash balances for Mitchelton Presbyterian Church (the church) for the year ended 31 December 2004. The Committee of Management of the church is responsible for the financial report. The Committee of Management has determined that the cash basis of accounting used is consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the church's constitution, and the members have agreed that this basis of accounting is appropriate to meet their needs.

I conducted an audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the church. My audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My audit did not involve an analysis of the prudence of business decisions made by the Committee of Management.

In conducting the audit, I carried out a number of procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly a view in accordance with the cash basis of accounting whereby revenue is recorded when it is received, expenses are recorded when they are paid, and no assets or liabilities, other than cash and bank balances, are recorded. Australian Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views are not applicable to the cash basis of accounting adopted by the church, which is consistent with my understanding of the church's cash position and performance as represented by the results of its operations.

The procedures included: examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. This included testing, as required by auditing standards, certain internal controls, transactions and individual items. I did not examine every item of available evidence; evaluating the accounting policies applied and significant accounting estimates made by the Committee of Management in its preparation of the financial report; reviewing the overall presentation of information in the financial report.

My audit opinion was formed on the basis of these procedures.



Cathy A Nash
Chartered Accountant

Brisbane
8 March 2005

On-Call Care Team Update – March 2005

Thankyou to everyone who has given of their time, talents and money to share in the work of the On-Call Care Team in supporting one another within our church and the wider community. All who have been called to serve in some way can speak of the great joy and blessing which comes from serving others.

Growth Group members are the first port of call for providing help, and this is working well. When Growth Groups are stretched to their limits, the help of the wider church is drawn upon. This can happen in instances such as the current baby boom and the fact that many of these families belong to the same Growth Groups. Then there are those within our church who are not members of Growth Groups who may need the help of the wider church family.



Here's an example. What do you do if you can't pay the rent, and you've been ordered out of your home by the end of the week? Your only companion is your pet dog - and both of you will be homeless. The Care Team received a call like this, and moved into action - furniture removal and storage, dog accommodation, crisis refuge accommodation and a listening ear were all part of the service... together with on-going follow-up and monitoring of the situation. Rob McCall says, "Timing was crucial. The fact we were able to help when we did has made a huge difference."

We've been working to compile lists of those willing to help others in various ways and thank all who responded. We have heard since that there are still those who would like to offer their services, or who may not yet have considered what they can offer.

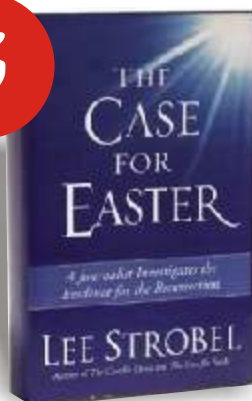
Please consider **NOW** what you are willing to give to your Church family. There is still an urgent need for helpers on several of our lists especially,

- . providing transport to appointments
- . cooking meals
- . light housework
- . yard work
- . emergency child minding

Remember, the On-Call Care Team though willing workers themselves, looks to the congregation to provide help and support to fellow members of MPC and the wider community. Phone us any time on 04009 32009.

Chris McCall

\$3



Just in case...

Just in case you're hoping for an opportunity to explain "Easter" to your friends, we bought a load of copies of The Case for Easter, by award winning journalist and pastor Lee Strobel. In it, he painstakingly examines the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ... the event that transformed history. And the great news is, a copy will cost you less than the price of an easter egg!

another idea from reach



we bought a case-load!

youth and children's ministry report

Children's and Youth ministry is moving along in leaps and bounds! Our numbers continue to grow, especially at the 1030am service, and there's an explosion of 2004-5 babies that we're planning to integrate into our programs in years to come.

Something New!!!

This year we have extended our boundaries by introducing a new program for "Tods" (18 months to 3 years) to help them through the transition from Creche to Kidzbiz. This has proven very successful so far.

Kidzbiz

Kidzbiz has seen a shift this year in numbers from the 9am to the 10.30 service. This is proving a challenge for the 9am teachers as the classes are quite small and has also meant recruiting a new wave of teachers and helpers for the 10.30 service. It would be great to see more families gravitating to the early service, to help spread the numbers. Also, can we encourage you (and your children) to be regular - especially if you're part of the early congregation. We may not be able to continue offering some classes if there are only one or two children per week.

Youthchurch

Youthchurch continues to grow as well as our regulars invite their friends along. This is always very encouraging as their friends get to hear the gospel each week and see what following Jesus is all about.

The growth in Latechurch (while not part of the Youth and Children's ministry as such) has been a very fruitful supplier of new leaders for both Kidzbiz and Youthchurch. A big thankyou to all who have been involved in leading and teaching in the last year.

Matt Rowson

Presbyterian Women's Association Annual Report 2004

As usual, our year commenced with a communion service at Ann Street Church for representatives of Branches of the P.W.A. of Australia (Qld. Unit). Though our membership is small (8 members in all), we have continued to meet on the third Wednesday of each month and have maintained an average attendance of 7 members. We appreciate that our Minister spends time with us at the beginning of our meetings, giving us the opportunity to be brought up to date with Church news or to discuss any matters of concern.

We have been able to maintain our financial commitments to help the support of missionaries Chris and Ian Case (W.E.C), Leah Stock (Interserve), High School Chaplaincy (through Scripture Union), The Presbyterian Inland Mission and the P.W.A. Burning Bush Project which for the year 2003-2004 has been maintenance and improvements required at the Moogerah Dam Camp Site.

We conducted a Pie Drive in June to help raise funds for the above work, and the Women's Dinner we held in September was also very successful in this regard. As well as enjoying the social activity, those attending the dinner listened to an interesting talk by our Guest Speaker, Dr. Barbara Arnold, who had been a missionary in New Guinea for many years. We thank the members of our congregation who have supported our efforts, especially the men who worked hard to make the September Dinner a pleasant night for us.

Our President, Mrs. Betty McClenahan, represents us on the State Council of P.W.A. and is a member of the P.W.A. Federal Executive. We thank her for the work she does on our behalf at those meetings and here on the local scene. Though our numbers are small, we hope to continue as a branch of the P.W.A. and so help support the work of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.



Secretary

Independent Audit Report

Mitchelton Presbyterian Women's Association

Scope

The preparation of the financial report for the year ended 31 October 2004 is the responsibility of the elected officers of the Mitchelton Presbyterian Women's Association (the Association). The financial report comprises the statement of receipts and payments and the statement of cash balances for the Association. The officers have determined that the cash basis of accounting used is consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Association's constitution, and the members have agreed that this basis of accounting is appropriate to meet their needs.

I conducted an audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Association. My role was to conduct the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My audit did not involve an analysis of the prudence of business decisions made by the officers.

In conducting the audit, I carried out a number of procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly a view in accordance with the cash basis of accounting whereby revenue is recorded when it is received, expenses are recorded when they are paid, and no assets or liabilities, other than cash and bank balances, are recorded. Australian Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views are not applicable to the cash basis of accounting adopted by the Association, which is consistent with my understanding of the Association's cash position and performance as represented by the results of its operations.

The procedures included: selecting and examining evidence, on a test basis, to support amounts and disclosures in the financial report. This included testing, as required by auditing standards, certain internal controls, transactions and individual items. I did not examine every item of available evidence; evaluating the accounting policies applied and significant accounting estimates made by the officers in their preparation of the financial report; reviewing the overall presentation of information in the financial report.

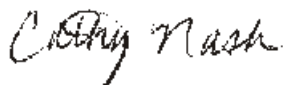
My audit opinion was formed on the basis of these procedures.

Qualification

Cash from donations and other fundraising activities are a significant source of revenue for the Association. The Association's officers have determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of revenue from these sources prior to entry into its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to me regarding revenue from cash donations and other fundraising activities was limited, my audit procedures with respect to revenue from these sources were necessarily restricted to the amounts recorded in the Association's financial records. As a result, I am unable to express an opinion as to whether revenue from cash donations and other fundraising activities is complete.

Qualified audit opinion

In my opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation on my audit procedures referred to in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, as described above, the receipts and payments of Mitchelton Presbyterian Women's Association (the Association) for the year ended 31 October 2004 and its cash and bank balances as at that date.



Cathy A Nash
Chartered Accountant

Brisbane
12 November 2004

PWA Accounts

Mitchelton Presbyterian Women's Association STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2004

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	PAIDMENTS	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Admission Fee	44.00	PWA Aist - Affiliations	44.00	44.00
Church Bursar	61.00	PWA Aist - Dining Room	51.00	51.00
MSM	41.45	Donations - A & M Shanks	86.45	51.00
School Chaplaincy	70.00	Donations - P/L	92.45	92.00
Subscriptions & News	15.00	School Chaplaincy	23.00	170.00
PWA Aist - Christmas Cards	27.00	PWA Aist - News & News	23.00	5.00
Spa PWA Christmas Cards	63.00	PWA Aist - Christmas Cards	63.00	35.00
Salv of Pies	1412.50	Salv of Pies	1212.50	52.50
Functions - Entry Fees	85.20	Functions - Entry Fees	851.50	694.60
Functions - Skills	92.50	Women's Dinner Expenses	192.50	319.60
Donations	195.20	Donations	195.50	119.10
Salv of Cheeds	41.90	Salv of Church	31.90	87.20
Interest - Bank	5.00	Interest - Bank	5.50	500.00
Total Receipts	2952.24	Total Payments	2652.24	2051.90
		Excess Receipts		200.04
			2952.24	2052.24

ACCUMULATIONS ACCOUNT

Balance at Bank	382.87	Balance at Bank	382.87
Excess Receipts	200.04	Excess Receipts	200.04
	582.87		582.87

ACCUMULATIONS ACCOUNT

Balance at Bank	382.87	Balance at Bank	382.87
Excess Receipts	200.04	Excess Receipts	200.04
	582.87		582.87

mpc playgroup - little kidzbiz



**Mitchelton Presbyterian Church Playgroup
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 31 December 2004**

Receipts	\$	Payments	\$
Fees	1,487	Craft/Equipment	847
Other (donations from MPC)	288	Outreach/Outings	380
Bank Interest	10	Gifts to helpers, children etc.	445
		Bank charges	10
Total Receipts	<u>1,785</u>	Total Payments	<u>1,682</u>
	<u>1,785</u>	Excess Receipts	<u>103</u>
			<u>1,785</u>

Statement of cash balances

Balance at 1 January 2004	433	Balance at bank - 31 December 2004	<u>536</u>
Excess receipts	<u>103</u>		
	<u>536</u>		<u>536</u>

Independent audit report to the members of the Mitchelton Presbyterian Church Playgroup

Scope

The preparation of the financial report for the year ended 31 December 2004 is the responsibility of the officers of the Mitchelton Presbyterian Church Playgroup (the Playgroup). The financial report comprises the statement of receipts and payments and the statement of cash balances for the Playgroup. The officers have determined that the cash basis of accounting used is consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Playgroup's constitution, and the members have agreed that this basis of accounting is appropriate to meet their needs.

I conducted an audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Playgroup. My role was to conduct the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My audit did not involve an analysis of the prudence of business decisions made by the officers.

In conducting the audit, I carried out a number of procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly a view in accordance with the cash basis of accounting whereby revenue is recorded when it is received, expenses are recorded when they are paid, and no assets or liabilities, other than cash and bank balances, are recorded. Australian Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views are not applicable to the cash basis of accounting adopted by the Playgroup, which is consistent with my understanding of the Playgroup's cash position and performance as represented by the results of its operations.

The procedures included: evaluating the accounting policies applied and significant accounting estimates made by the officers in their preparation of the financial report; reviewing the overall presentation of information in the financial report.

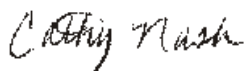
My audit opinion was formed on the basis of these procedures.

Qualification

Cash from donations and other fundraising activities are a significant source of revenue for the Playgroup. The Playgroup's officers have determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of revenue from these sources prior to entry into its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to me regarding revenue from cash donations and other fundraising activities was limited, my audit procedures with respect to revenue from these sources were necessarily restricted to the amounts recorded in the Playgroup's financial records. As a result, I am unable to express an opinion as to whether revenue from cash donations and other fundraising activities is complete.

Qualified audit opinion

In my opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation on my audit procedures referred to in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, as described above, the receipts and payments of Mitchelton Presbyterian Church Playgroup for the year ended 31 December 2004 and its cash and bank balances as at that date.



Cathy A Nash
Chartered Accountant

Brisbane
8 March 2005

Meet the Middletons



Matt and Marg Middleton - the fictional, computer generated, mpc average couple.

Ever felt just a little bit average? Spare a thought for Matt and Marg Middleton - our computer generated "mpc average couple." Their faces were generated by proportionally blending representatives from every adult age group in our mpc photo-directory, with impressive results. Statistically, Matt is aged around 43 and Marg is 47... and as you can see, they're both smiling, friendly, and happy to be part of our church family. Remember though, that while Matt and Marg represent our average adults, the actual average age of our whole congregation would be much lower when you factor in the under 18s.

What else did we learn from the facts and figures in our 2005 Church directory? For starters, we've grown numerically since the 2003 directory by 87 people. By far the most active growth area has been in the 7-17 age group, which has rocketed from 83-113 kids and teens - matched closely by the 28-37 age group, representing the parents of those kids, which has climbed from 48 to 77. The Uni-student/ young worker age group barely moved at all - from 88 to 91 - between 2003 and the start of 2005, but significantly, our Latechurch congregation has had a burst of energy between January and March, with a bunch of new faces in that important demographic.

Overall, it's great to be part of a growing church that is ministering effectively to all age groups - but just as important as growing in number, is that we want to be people who are growing to be more like Jesus. We do that by paying attention to his Word, keeping in step with His Spirit, and keeping on encouraging one another as His people. Keep at it! Best of all, though, is that quite a number of the new faces in our church directory are new Christians. As we take the opportunities to speak the gospel message to our friends, God brings about results in most surprising ways. We want to work hard at being a church that makes the message of Jesus clear to our community, and that keeps making space for new members in the family!

To view a graph of these statistics online, go to <http://articles.mpc.org.au/> and select the file named **graph.gif**

