



JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2010

THE JOURNEY BEGINS...

THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

IN THIS INTERVIEW DAVID ROBINSON, ONE OF THE FIVE TRUSTEES OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES, IS ASKED TO REFLECT ON HIS FIRST SIX MONTH'S EXPERIENCE AS A TRUSTEE.



David P Robinson, Trustee Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

"...I view my role as a Trustee as a ministry of the Church..."

JOURNEYS: Many readers may wonder what is it that you actually do as a Trustee?

DAVID: Well we should start with the fundamental premise: I am one of five Trustees who are stewards of the ministries of Mary Aikenhead Ministries in canon and civil law, responsible for the governance and management of Mary Aikenhead Ministries and accountable to the Member of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (who is the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity) and to the Holy See.

To use a cliché you could say the "buck stops here". While we have a chairman of Trustees in Richard Harpham, all the Trustees are equally accountable. From a practical view point my activities could be distilled down to two areas: that of discernment and relationships.

By discernment, I mean reading and considering a lot of information, and input from many talented people, sharing views with my fellow Trustees and affirming and working with the challenges presented and making decisions. By relationships, I mean it is a deliberate and necessary undertaking to foster understanding of our mission through engagement with as many people as possible.

JOURNEYS: This seems like a significant time commitment?

DAVID: It is, and I must say this is a challenging balancing act at times. My role as Trustee is part time. I have commitments in my Chartered Accounting practice, the corporations for which I act as a director and of course my most significant commitment to my family of young adults and my very understanding wife, Ann. But I view my role as a Trustee as a ministry of the Church – it's not about utilising some spare time – it's about participating as a lay person in the Church. The Sisters of Charity and Mary Aikenhead Ministries have enabled me to contribute to the life of the Church.

JOURNEYS: Did you have expectations prior to accepting the role as Trustee?

DAVID: There were no expectations from my side per se. This is a new journey for all. I was privileged to accept the invitation to become a Trustee in late 2008 and spent the time until last July as a 'Trustee in waiting'. This was an opportunity to share in the implementation of the decision by the Congregation to create Mary Aikenhead Ministries. For the Trustees, it was a time to learn a lot about each other and share our personal experiences of Church and life.

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THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

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JOURNEYS: Was there a process of Formation for your role as a Trustee?

DAVID: My faith journey began with my baptism, my family upbringing and my initial educational experience with the Sisters of Charity at Lewisham. My formation has been as a lay person not as a religious – a different journey, but I believe just as rich. It continues. Formation is an essential element of my personal development and essential to the development of those engaged in Mary Aikenhead Ministries. We see our role as Trustees as ensuring all engaged in the ministries have opportunities for formation. This will be a critical theme for the TMAM/TSCA sponsored conference in July, which I look forward to very much. As a Trustee I have been privileged to have opportunities to deepen my relationship with God through retreat, the presence of the Trustees' spiritual companion at our meetings, sharing of our lives with fellow Trustees and much personal reflection – I can assure you this does have an impact on your personal spirituality.

JOURNEYS: What have been the highlights of your first six months as a Trustee?

DAVID: There have been many. The Commissioning and Blessing of the Trustees was a special moment in my life, shared with my family, friends and members of the Congregation. The many other moments relate to the engagement I have had with people involved in the Ministries. I have witnessed so much evidence of the dedicated work of those in the ministries. The ABC provided an example of this with the *4 Corners* program on 8 February with its story based at the Sacred Heart Hospice in Sydney.

JOURNEYS: Have there been difficult issues during your first six months?

DAVID: To use an expression of a valued colleague... there have been some "Gethsemane moments". But this is the case with any organisation, and especially a new organization created by a forward thinking, proactive group such as the Sisters of Charity. But like Mary Aikenhead and her successors we will discern carefully. Perhaps some decisions we have made and will make will not be easily understood or accepted by some – but those involved in our ministries can be assured those decisions are the result of tremendous energy, thought and prayer.

JOURNEYS: Finally, David what is your vision for Mary Aikenhead Ministries in 20 years?

DAVID: I see Mary Aikenhead Ministries as a vibrant lay/religious partnership within the Church with thriving ministries in Health, Education and Welfare – in whatever forms they may be conducted in that future age. There will be other Congregations who would have transferred their ministries to Mary Aikenhead Ministries. While Mary Aikenhead Ministries will be very much part of the Church, it will have retained its unique place and the special 'story' and mission founded by Mary Aikenhead and carried on by the Sisters of Charity, will have an additional chapter, long since created and developed through Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

JOURNEYS: Thank you!

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION!



'THE HEART OF OUR JOURNEY'

MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES' INAUGURAL CONFERENCE



Sister Kathleen Bryant, a Californian Sister of Charity.

Celebrate the first anniversary of the establishment of Mary Aikenhead Ministries with 'The Heart of Our Journey' Conference – the inaugural conference of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. Set to unite leaders in the exploration of stewardship and the call to serve the poor and marginalised, 'The Heart of Our Journey' will take place at the Novotel Brighton-Le-Sands, Sydney, on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 July 2010.

For leaders in the ministries of health, education and welfare, 'The Heart of Our Journey' will revisit the establishment of

Mary Aikenhead Ministries and will illustrate how the story of innovation, courage and conviction is set to grow into the future.

"Education in theology, scripture and ethics are essential elements of the ministry of lay leadership, especially for directors and executives. The conference is set to educate and further inspire those who lead our ministries. Not only a learning opportunity, the conference will connect leaders from across Australia and reinforce the importance of dialogue and collaboration," explains Sr Elizabeth Dodds, Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

Keynote speaker, Sr Kathleen Bryant, will address issues surrounding the alignment of services within Catholic identity and secular society. Sr Kathleen Bryant will speak of the opportunities that evolve in ministries and how to seize such opportunities.

Having entered the Religious Sisters of Charity in 1967, Sr Kathleen Bryant has worked as far afield as Namwala, Zambia, and was until recently, the Director of Seminarians, Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She completed a Doctorate and Masters Degree in Spirituality in 1990 and a Doctor of Ministry Degree in 1995.

'The Heart of Our Journey' will commence at 5pm, Thursday 22 July with a Eucharistic celebration at St Thomas More Catholic Church, 298 Bay Street, Brighton-Le-Sands, and will be followed by a formal conference dinner at the Novotel Brighton-Le-Sands (a location map is included on page 4 of this newsletter).

The event is sponsored by the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries and the Trustees of the Sisters of Charity Australia.

To view the conference program visit: www.maryaikenheadconferences.com.au

"...not only a learning opportunity, the conference will connect leaders from across Australia and reinforce the importance of dialogue and collaboration."

ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009, A SMALL CELEBRATION WAS HELD TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE FIRST 'HOME' OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES, AT OUR OFFICES IN THE EDGECLIFF CENTRE, SYDNEY.

The selection and fitting out of the offices had not been without some hiccups (for example we were "gazumped" on our first choice of location; the workstations must have been sourced in a far distant country, so protracted was the delivery time). However, the end result is a space which is bright, functional and attractive. We are particularly happy about how our signage, the Mary Aikenhead Ministries Crest and Signature, is presented. Anyone from the ministries who is in the vicinity is very welcome to come and visit us. We offer good coffee at the right price!

We were very appreciative of the generosity of Mark Hales and Leo Tucker from St Vincents and Mater Health who arranged a simple but appropriate ritual and blessing to mark the opening. Joining with the Trustees at the celebration were, among others, our spiritual companion, Brother Joseph Smith, Tracey Batten, Sister Leone Wittmack and Kieran Power from SVHA and Sister Christine Madden from the Congregational Offices.

As the offices were blessed, the candles of love, hope, justice and compassion were lit to the accompaniment of beautiful instrumental music from the John Michael Talbot CD, *Pathways of the Shepherd*.

The words of Mary Aikenhead were proclaimed with vigour:

"May we try never to act contrary to justice and truth, and let us be guided by charity in all our actions and words."

Our offices were at last open and operative! We look forward to your visit.

CELEBRATE OUR JOURNEY

'THE HEART OF OUR JOURNEY' INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES, WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE NOVOTEL BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS, SYDNEY, ON THURSDAY 22 AND FRIDAY 23 JULY, 2010.



THE HEART OF OUR JOURNEY

MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES CONFERENCE 2010

The Conference celebrates the first anniversary of Mary Aikenhead Ministries and aims to explore the notion of stewardship, and the call to serve the poor and marginalised.

Holy Cow Design, a member of our Conference Organising Group, has developed the conference identity, which draws inspiration from the theme, *'The Heart of Our Journey'*.

The logo references the typeface, colours and symbology used in the

Mary Aikenhead Ministries Signature – the heart is a symbol which represents our Gospel values – love, hope, compassion and justice.

The lines traversing the heart symbolise the paths and roads taken upon the 'journey', alluded to in the Conference theme, being that there are many roads travelled by the one heart, some of these paths continue and some end. The upper central section of the heart also includes two paths or journeys converging to form a cross.

We believe that the conference identity will provide the perfect complement to the Signature of the major conference sponsor, Mary Aikenhead Ministries, when seen together.

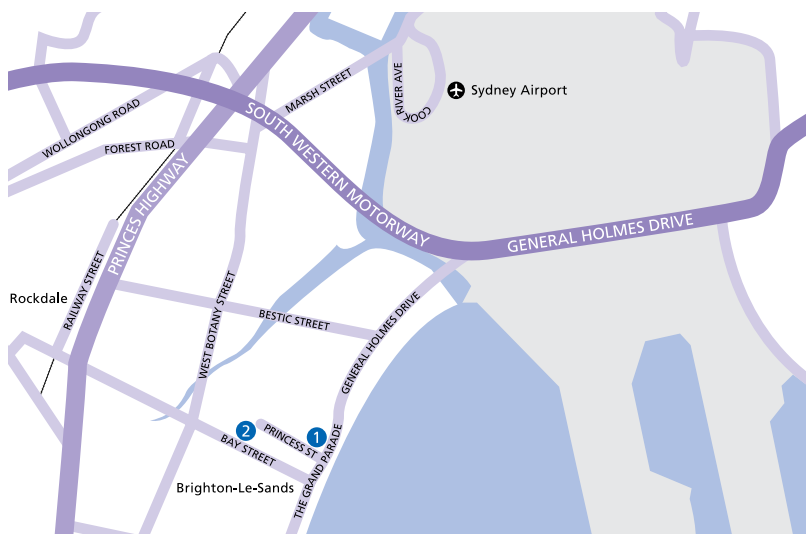
MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES VISUAL IDENTITY GUIDELINES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The latest updated version of the Visual Identity Guidelines is now available on our website: www.maryaikenheadministries.com.au

The identity has been designed to convey our traditional strengths and values, whilst acknowledging our heritage and traditions. Our identity affirms our continuing commitment to serving others in this fast-changing world.

The Guidelines detail the correct use of the Ministries' Crest and Signature. Consistent application will ensure the integrity of our visual identity.

It is important to note that any use of the Mary Aikenhead Ministries crest or signature formats must be approved in writing by the Trustees (a permission form is included in the Visual Identity Guidelines).



1 *'The Heart of Our Journey'* Conference
Thursday 22 July, 5pm
Novotel Hotel
Corner, The Grand Parade & Princess Street
Brighton-Le-Sands

2 Eucharistic celebration
St Thomas More Catholic Church
298 Bay Street
Brighton-Le-Sands



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