



KIWI CURSILLO

The Magazine for New Zealand Anglican Cursillo

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Issue 25



Journeys

The origins of Cursillo are founded in the preparation of people in Majorca for a pilgrimage to Santiago de *Compostela* in *Spain*. Pilgrimages are journeys but not all journeys are pilgrimages. So what is the difference?

One suggestion is that a pilgrimage is more about the events during the journey, while a journey is more about getting to a destination. A dictionary suggests that pilgrimage involves a journey that is long and is an act of religious devotion.

The Bible does not often use the term 'pilgrimage' and so one might ask why has the concept of pilgrimage become a big part of Christianity. (Admittedly, the NIV version uses the term in Genesis 47:9 and Psalm 84:5, the King James uses it in Genesis 47:9, Exodus 6:4 and Psalm 119:54, and there are other usages in other Bible versions.

To digress, www.biblegateway.com provides a useful tool for amateur Biblical sleuths. There were (and are) pilgrimages to the Holy Land, to Rome and to Santiago de *Compostela* and *to Canterbury*, and more recently to Lourdes and Fatima and other holy destinations. My answer to the question is that the Bible uses great images of the road or the way (or Te Ara) that we are to follow.

The exodus from Egypt might not have been planned as a pilgrimage, but the circuitous journey through the Sinai certainly was a journey with God for the former Hebrew slaves. Their destination, the Promised Land, was not attained by all but two of the initial escapees. However, they formed into a real community, a separate nation, by the time that they crossed the Jordan near Jericho. The time spent together and following God (who appeared as a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day) was community forming. It is like the 3 Day Cursillo experience as well as the continuing Cursillo experience of Group Reunions and Ultreyas. Community is an important part of being a Christian – Jesus invoked us to love one another as He loved us (Jn 15:12).

A second Bible image of a road is contained in Isaiah 35. After the desert bursts into bloom, Isaiah writes of the highway called the Way of Holiness, which is the road for the redeemed (Isa. 35:8-10). Although we are redeemed by

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*Christchurch /
Canterbury
continue
to appreciate
Prayers
and
Palanca
from
other
Cursillo
Dioceses*

Cont'd from page 1 . . .

Christ, the smooth and broad road described by Isaiah is perhaps like Heaven – here but not yet (or as Jesus proclaimed in Mk 1:1 “The Kingdom of God is near”).

The need to avoid treating the Bible as a prosperity gospel, and thus of treating Isaiah’s Way of Holiness as a future image of Heaven becomes apparent in the third image of a way or road. In Mt 7:14, Jesus referred to the small gate and the narrow road that leads to life.



While on a recent journey with Robyn up the Whanganui River Road (to Jerusalem and then by jet boat to the Bridge to Nowhere), we



experienced many types of road. The very narrow tarseal road, the false hope of a broad road, the freshly graded shingle road, the landslips across the road, and the

workmen clearing a collapsed culvert, as well as the former water highway (the Whanganui River), were the roads that we travelled on. These are potential metaphors for our life’s journey. Our trip was more a journey rather than a pilgrimage (particularly as Robyn had not been told where we were going on our 30th wedding anniversary).

In our Cursillo journey, we travel with other companions and with Christ. We know the Way, the Truth and the Life, and so our Fourth Day should be a continuation of the pilgrimage begun at our Cursillo Weekend (if not before).

David McLay
National Lay Director

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More from David . . .

When asked to speak at the Wellington Women’s 34 Clausura, I realised that it would seem a little strange to be the third man to be asked to speak. But all my concerns about a male imbalance (even though Wellington previously had two women as DSD and DLD) were solved when I remembered that there were four women DLDs in New Zealand and only 1 man in that role.

Indeed, of the fourteen members of the New Zealand Anglican Cursillo Council, there are seven men and seven women. And they are spread quite well geographically as well - North Island 4 men and 3 women, South Island 4 women and 3 men! God has everything in balance.

2011 is the year of change. May Carrell will end her formal roles in the New Zealand Cursillo movement with her relinquishing her editing of this magazine. May was National Secretary/ Treasurer of NZACC from 2003 - 2008 and NT until 2010. As is well known, behind every great man is a great woman, and May has been a tower of strength in supporting and adding to the work done by Bp Brian Carrell.

Bp Brian and May were highly influential in the establishment of Cursillo in the Wellington Diocese, particularly the northern part (which at that time extended into South Taranaki), and later into the Christchurch Diocese.

Although some Palanca to Bp Brian (on the 20th anniversary of his consecration) and to May in response to her letter of retirement were interrupted by the Quake of 22 February, NZACC thanks May for all her sterling work, and to wish both May and Brian a continuing and enjoyable retirement.

*Everyone’s portrait of Jesus is incomplete.
Did someone see Jesus in you today? Did they see enough?*

Keep Cursillo in your prayers . . .

Monday Waikato Diocese
Tuesday Wellington Diocese
Wednesday Christchurch Diocese
Thursday Dunedin Diocese
Friday Waiapu Diocese
Saturday NZ Anglican Cursillo Council
Sunday Teams training for Cursillos/DDUs

Be guided in your prayer by items within the pages of this issue.



The time has come . . .

"The time has come . . ." to hand over Kiwi Cursillo to someone else. It wasn't an easy decision for me as I have enjoyed the years since 2003 when the NZ Anglican Cursillo Council agreed to the publishing of a national magazine. Twenty-five issues later, I believe such a production will continue to have a place in Cursillo in New Zealand. It is too easy for dioceses to become 'parochial' - do their own thing. We need to keep in touch with each other, to remember that we are part of a worldwide movement, and observe and learn from each other.

The aim of the magazine has been to encourage and inform. There is a wealth of articles that can be uplifted from elsewhere to be used for us here in NZ Cursillo. Normally the Guest Contributor page is provided by someone abroad. Not always as long as this time! I have kept in touch with USA, England and Australia Cursillos to nurture relationships.

Cursillo for me, has almost been a 'career'! My husband Brian and I were on the planning committee for the first Cursillos in the Wellington Diocese in 1988. I attended Women's 1 & 2 and Brian Men's 2. While serving in the Wellington Diocese, we were both on the first Secretariat and held various appointments over the years. Brian as DSD and Episcopal Overseer, myself as Post Cursillo Director then DLD and co-editor of the Cursillo magazine. When the NZ Anglican Cursillo Council was set up in 1998 Brian became National Episcopal Overseer concluding his time in 2005. I came on to NZACC in 2003 as NS/T until 2010 and as Editor of Kiwi Cursillo from 2003 - 2011.

Despite that last paragraph (!), Cursillo is as fresh in our hearts and minds as when it was introduced in 1988. Only because we have believed in its strategy and methodology. The early founders gave us a priceless gift in the Cursillo movement, one that is to be continually shared with others. They also gave us tools to use, and these haven't changed.

In all Kiwi Cursillo issues there have been articles on the 4th Day Walk. We always need encouragement and new ways of 'doing' or 'seeing'. (See page 15 of this issue for something quite enterprising.) Life as a Christian is never dull!

As we are well aware, witnessing to the love of Christ, is not only a responsibility of Cursillistas, it is a calling for all Christians. Read though what the Rev Pat Miller, President of NECC, USA, has to say . . .

"I think that the Cursillo method is a perfect model for discipleship witnessing. Witnessing as a disciple of Jesus Christ means to share what you believe to be true about Jesus as the Son of God and how that means we are to live. Cursillo is a great way to do it. But it does mean that each of us has to live out the Cursillo 4th Day faithfully. It means that we have to be intentional about our participation in a Group Reunion where we share our successes and our missed opportunities to witness to the love of God.

Guest
Contributor

Group Reunions are where we get support for what we are called to do. Group Reunions are where we begin with our friends to identify others to whom we can be a friend and whom we can bring to Christ. Group Reunions are where we practise living a life of prayer, study and action.

It also means that to live a faithful 4th Day we have to gather with other Cursillistas on a regular basis to hear them share their lives with us. At Ultreyas we get the chance to hear how they witnessed about God's love and Christ's gift, not necessarily by the words they shared with someone, but by the actions of their life which witnessed to other people in some way (Witness Talk) . . .

Our witness is what we say and do, both in the Cursillo community, the Church, and the world. Many people have mistaken Cursillo for the 3 Day weekend, but nothing could be further from the truth . . . The 3 Day weekend is only a small part of our witnessing to God's love and mercy . . . Be faithful to the Cursillo method because it will equip us to live and work for the kingdom of God".

It is all there! The need to be in a Group Reunion and attend Ultreyas. For so many these are now little more than a memory. These are what sustain us in our 4th Day. There are lots of opportunities within Cursillo to do this as the Rev Pat Miller has reminded us.

Apart from our diocesan Cursillo events there have been National Ultreyas - in Christchurch' 03, Palmerston North '06 and New Plymouth '09. Watch out for No 4! Other occasions such as being present at Mananitas and Clausuras when Cursillo is introduced into a new diocese are possible. Planning may be needed.

For the first eight years following the 1988 Wellington Cursillos, Brian and I were in a Group Reunion that met weekly for no longer than 40 minutes. It can be done! One person who can testify to the ongoing help of Group



Reunions is Goldie Oldman seen here speaking as a team member at Waiapu W1. In 2006 Goldie wrote for Kiwi Cursillo, "I have attended two Group Reunions since 1994 - one for Cursillistas and the other for local parishioners. I mark the dates for local and diocesan Ultreyas, Days of Deeper Understanding and 3 Day

Cursillos in my diary as soon as they are announced, and am committed to supporting these events." Now, in 2011 Goldie is still attending two Group Reunions! I am allowed to say that Goldie is in her late 70s!

It is hard to imagine why some people say, "Cursillo has run its course". You may need to read and be encouraged by the article on page 11!

There is a very good article in the July Waiapu News by Jo Crosse which is worth reading. - **"We're on a Mission"**. In the course of her article Jo writes - "Imagine if we were all missionaries and mission was about the whole of our daily lives, about living and breathing the gospel wherever we are, and about engaging with the communities we live in". And, "Being a Christian disciple requires commitment"

This must ring bells for Cursillistas . . . 'communities we live in'. "Changing our Environments for Christ", and "Christian Community" talks are significant talks.

The time has come . . . for me to stop, and it must be to say 'thank you' to my husband for his help in critiquing articles and proofing the magazine; to both Stephanie Johnston and Jocelyn Golding for receiving and processing subscriptions, and to Helen McGowan for her help for a short time with editing. Also, to Fendalton Parish who have photocopied the magazine and kept the costs down.

Please encourage a new editor with your articles (on time!) and subscribing to the magazine.

Every blessing and Ultreya!

May Carrell

National Spiritual Director

Welcome Waiapu

It was a delight to be at the Mananita and Clausura for Waiapu Men's 1. There was the joy of welcoming a new diocese into the Cursillo fold, and the added joy of meeting so many Cursillistas. There was a real feeling of fellowship as I re-made acquaintances of yesteryear.

There were people from many dioceses and including Cursillistas going back to the first two or three Wellington Cursillo weekends over 20 years ago. It reminded me that one (but only one) of the reasons that we 'go to church' is to meet and support each other in our Christian walk. Similarly, one of the reasons we go to Group Reunions, Ultreyas, Mananitas and Clausuras is to support each other in our Fourth Day walk as Cursillistas. Thank you to all who supported our new Waiapu Cursillistas (and me!) by appearing in Hawkes Bay at the start of Waiapu's participation in the fine movement that is Cursillo in New Zealand.

May Carrell Steps Down

National Lay Director, David McLay, has noted elsewhere in this issue that May Carrell is standing down as founding editor of Kiwi Cursillo. I don't want May's retirement to pass without expressing my own admiration for the inspiration, dedication and sheer hard work that May has put into the movement since its inception in New Zealand. *"Thank you May."*

Group Reunions and Spiritual Direction - Progress Report

Many of you will know that I have made it a bit of a mission to find ways of introducing spiritual direction to Cursillistas in New Zealand. Spiritual Direction is supposedly a part of authentic Cursillo. Alas, it seems to have fallen off the boat on the way to New Zealand and has never become an established part of our method.

As I consider what we do in properly functioning Group Reunions I notice that their objectives have much in common with the aims of spiritual direction. So, it seems to me that if we could bring to Group Reunions an awareness of the methods of group spiritual direction we would both renew our Group Reunions and meet the movement's hope of having Cursillistas receiving spiritual direction.

To this end, the NZACC commissioned the Rev John Franklin to write a manual for training people in group spiritual direction (peer companionship he calls it). To keep you all up to date with progress, John has produced the draft of his manual and it is my hope that before too long we will run a training weekend for selected Group Reunions and other interested individuals in Dunedin and Christchurch dioceses. The idea would be that this training weekend would enable the participants to trial this new variant on Group Reunions for a year or so to see if it is helpful. If it is, then the aim would be to introduce it more widely to the movement. (Of course, none of this precludes Cursillistas exploring spiritual direction individually or in groups by other means.)

'Closure' - My pet hate!

This is nothing specifically to do with Cursillo. It's more in the nature of a 'stream of consciousness' – that is to say a half-baked idea! I hate the way so many people - often standing outside a courtroom, tell us that *"this gives us closure"*. This closure usually refers to some concluding event related to an unpleasant experience. It seems to imply that this "closure" allows them to leave the unpleasant experience behind them and move on into the future.

I have invented a new word which I think conjures up a much more positive way to look at the moving on - **'Openage'**. It is intended to give a picture of a way ahead. But not a way ahead that closes the door on the past. The 'openage' allows us to go through the door into tomorrow, while still leaving open the possibility of turning around occasionally to remember the past – to learn from it, to mourn it, to celebrate it, to become wise through it. I look forward to the day that a family stands on the steps of the High Court and says in hopeful tones, *"This gives us Openage"*!



'Merienda' from the National Spiritual Director The Rev Rory Redmayne

Having just arrived back from Hawkes Bay, where I attended Waiapu Men's 1 Mananita and Clausura, I am conscious that this Merienda will be circulated to over 30 new Cursillistas – that's in addition to any 'graduating' from Cursillo weekends in existing Cursillo dioceses. So, a BIG WELCOME to our new Cursillo diocese. May the movement contribute to the mission (Christian Action) of the Church in Waiapu and enrich the lives of all of you.

For the benefit of new Cursillistas, I should perhaps explain what these Meriendas are. Merienda is Spanish for 'snack'. I try to circulate spiritual snacks from time to time to encourage Cursillistas in their Cursillo Fourth Day. It is, if you like, another form of Palanca.

This Merienda was inspired by one of the songs we sang at the service I attended after the Mananita of Waiapu Men's 1. The song was 'You are born in us again' - a Mark Wilson song from Carol Our Christmas. The first verse contains this word picture:

***"You are born in us again.
Like the warmth of the Summer wind you come,
To melt away the icicles of vanity and pride . . ."***

Vanity and Pride, the two archetypal 'me' sins. Vanity which says look at me, aren't I pretty/clever/holy, and pride which congratulates me on actually being pretty/clever/holy, whether or not I am any of these. These two sins (and others, of course) form ice-like seals around the doors of our hearts. Then comes the Holy Spirit, with Pentecostal wind and fire, and melts the icicles of vanity and pride, allowing the door of our hearts to swing open to receive the mind boggling, heart warming, whole-person enveloping grace of God.

There, that's not just a snack. That's a whole meal!

Ultreya!
Rory Redmayne

KIWI CURSILLO EDITOR

The New Zealand Cursillo Council seeks expressions of interest by Cursillistas for the position of Editor.

NZACC wishes to ensure that the magazine continues as the focal point for sharing the good news about Cursillo within the broadening New Zealand Cursillo family, and Cursillo in other countries.

If you have some administrative gifts and an ability to use a computer, plus a passion for Cursillo, you are qualified for this position.

Please contact David McLay (NLD) on (04) 914 1054 or d.mclay@barristerscomm.com if you would like to apply or to get additional information.

The children were lined up in the church kindergarten cafeteria for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The teacher made a note and posted it on the apple tray. "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the line at the other end of the table was a large plate of chocolate chip cookies. On it a child had put a note. "Take all you want. God is watching the apples"!

National Episcopal Cursillo Website (USA) www.nationalepiscopalcursillo.org

Read their 4th Day Magazine on-line; purchase NEC Libraries; check updates for NEC Library; check out resources available. On-line Registration Form for National Conference; Frequently Asked Questions section.

Dunedin Diocese



Greetings Cursillistas! What a blessing having the gift of snow during the school holidays and at a time when there wasn't too many lambs gracing our paddocks.

Our Christchurch neighbours are still in our prayers as there are many ongoing obstacles for them to deal with. There will also be many of you who have assisted family and friends and even complete strangers so thank you for all you have done.

What has been happening?

Our **'Taste of Waimea'** day on 16 April at Lumsden was a real treat. We were blessed with two amazing and heartfelt witness talks that had us reflecting on them for quite some time. There was real warmth as we shared our ancestral history. God's presence was very evident and even though the numbers were not huge the Holy Spirit was. We continue to encourage Cursillistas to reach out to their parishioners, especially those in the smaller and more remote parishes, and inject a good dose of God's love.

NZACC in Wellington. Margaret McLanachan (National Secretary/Treasurer) and I attended. It was a great experience. Cursillo is in good hands! Wellington Cursillo, our 'mother ship' has really got it going on. With their gifting to Waiapu, Prison Fellowship, Men's & Women's 3 Day Cursillos and a Young Persons' Cursillo this year. Truly inspirational, and I must mention their new database that has all the relevant information at their fingertips. They are also utilising Facebook & Twitter for social media. Certainly something that Dunedin will need to look at in the future.

Oamaru Ultreya was held on the 7 May. The theme for the day was 'Seasons' and the witness talk was given by Jennifer King. Whether it was the cold day or the furthestmost location in our diocese but only 4 out of towners made the trip to Oamaru. This would have been disappointing for the organising team and it may have an effect on their decision to run an Ultreya next year.

As I have previously mentioned, petrol costs are a real factor and also other events happening within the diocese that demand our time. It may be something to ponder on - the need to have more localised Ultreyas to cater for the needs of the Cursillistas within those districts. Wanaka may already be underway with this concept so well done to them for their forward thinking.

I would like to quote something from the Wellington Diocese that I have found very relevant:

"As we march forward no-one is to be left behind. Whenever change is evident and necessary, it is important to take all on this journey with us."

As a newly appointed Lay Director I've decided it's time I looked over the Cursillo Manuals to bring myself up to speed on what I'm really meant to be doing! They are really well written and have some very useful and encouraging information in them. Who would have thought! I would just like to quote a few paragraphs which struck a chord with me. They talk about including Cursillo in our church Pastoral Plan:

"The natural viable and proper unit within the Anglican Church for evangelical mission and ministry is the local congregation or parish. However, that congregation often is so concerned with the pastoral ministry to its existing membership and the maintenance of plant and buildings that it has no real and effective mission to the world outside in terms of the gospel."

"There are many areas of life, environments, which can be touched with the life of Jesus Christ only by Christians prepared to 'come alongside' the people in those environments - eg areas of high unemployment, single parents etc. Cursillo provides the challenge and opportunities for some Cursillistas to take up the challenge of mission (apostolic action) in these environments and be supported in them."

"In far too many cases the Church at parish level fails to put into effective use the newly found energies and renewed faith of Cursillistas."

There are 4th Day Groups within our diocese that are no longer functioning. There may be many reasons why this has happened but we must remember to invite the Holy Spirit into our meetings. We are servants of Christ and he will lead us, but we must be listening, and not setting our own agendas. To keep our Cursillistas energised we may need to look beyond just a group meeting and taking up the challenge of mission in our communities!

Ultreya!
Jo Hook, DLD

Coming Events 2011

20 August	Ultreya	Gore
12 November	Ultreya	Dunedin

Praise God! Cursillo has come to Waiapu

Hot news from Cursillo. 'Waiapu Women's 1' and 'Waiapu Men's 1' were prayerfully and joyfully completed during May of this year. Thirty-four pilgrims from Waiapu, thirty-five team from Wellington and two from the Waikato, combined to bring about the start of the Cursillo movement in our diocese.

An end and a beginning for Bishop David

For Bishop David Rice, the May events in 2011 mark an end of a beginning. With his Christchurch Cursillo experience, Bishop David has for some time wanted to see Cursillo come to Waiapu. Twenty months ago he convened the first ginger-group of Cursillistas from other dioceses to see who would share his vision and make Cursillo happen here. He encouraged some Waiapu men and women to attend Wellington's 33rd Cursillos as pilgrims last year, to be the fore-runners for this year's events in our diocese.

Cursillistas from the diocese of Wellington intensified their efforts over this time to liaise with Waiapu, ably led by Peter and Christine Johnston from the Parish of All Saints, Hataitai. These two Cursillistas gave talks, made visits, supported the Waiapu fore-runners, answered the many questions and kept things moving forward despite the many questions and uncertainties, both strong in prayer and determination to make things happen. And happen they did.

A gift from the Diocese of Wellington

'Waiapu Women's 1' and 'Waiapu Men's 1' were the gift of Wellington Diocese to launch us into our own programme. Wellington has had Cursillo for twenty three years. They have now started us off by running the first Cursillos in our diocese. The women gathered at Lindisfarne College in Hastings 28 April – 1 May; the men came together three weeks later (19-22 May) at Riverbend Christian Centre near Havelock North.

Teams of mostly Wellington laypeople and clergy led the talks, singing, prayers and worship, with opportunities for reflection, silence, contemplation and creative expression. Audrey Moonlight (below left) and David McLay (below right) were the Lay Directors.



Two of the Spiritual Advisers were Rev'ds Anne Aspen and Ross Downes. They were supported by a sizeable line-up who developed their teamwork through weekend meetings over the previous five months, and included a few Waiapu veterans: Shane Story, Gail Spence, Dot King, Mary Rowlands, Richard Spence.

How did it work out? Of the nineteen women and fifteen men who became foundation Waiapu Cursillistas Max McFarland had this to say -

"If one thing came out of the weekend for me, it was that I hope friends of mine will be able to have the same experience that I have had. It is time well spent, and I would like to do this again, and soon."

Gifts

Waiapu received from Cursillistas in the Diocese of Wellington the generous and gracious gifting of people's time, experience, love, prayers, advice and handwork, among other riches. Numerous Cursillistas were involved in preparing making banners, designing and making the various crosses, preparing songbook cases, gathering gifts for new pilgrims, preparing resources – all the things needed for a successful Cursillo experience, they were there, thanks to all involved - prayerful and loving people. And we could see and feel the love with the turnout and support shown at the Mañanitas and Clausuras for

each Cursillo. What an inspiration to see some there from Wellington's M1 and W1! What a gift to Waiapu – such a blessing!

Wellington supported and led the follow-up DDU on 16 July at All Saints church, Taradale, Napier. National Lay Director and Lay Director Waiapu M1 David McLay ran the event with around 50 attending. What an inspiration! Wellington's speakers were David, John Roche (DLD), Derek Keatley (DSD), Audrey Moonlight (LD Waiapu W1), Patricia Harvey (Team Waiapu W1). Wellington passed over seed funding – a further gift - to help grow Cursillo. Many Waiapu veterans offered their services to the new Secretariat to help build the servant community in Waiapu.

Next steps for Cursillo in Waiapu

Waiapu has been richly and graciously resourced with advice, people, materials and experience. The foundations have been laid. Wellington Cursillistas continue to offer their assistance to help in whatever way they can. Shane Story is to be LD for Waiapu M2.

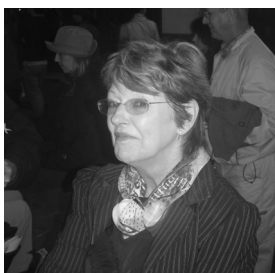
Quite soon, preparation will begin for 2012. It's a major task. We are in conversation with our neighbours to the north, the Diocese of Waikato. We are looking forward to moving Cursillo through our Diocese. Already the feelers are going out for a Bay of Plenty ginger group to help spearhead the growth of Cursillo in their area. There is much to be done.

Please continue to support us in Waiapu with your love and prayers as we grow our Servant Community through Cursillo to make Jesus known in the real world.



Waiapu Cursillo Secretariat

At the Clausura of Waiapu M1 Bishop David commissioned an embryo Secretariat for Waiapu - below.



Gail Spence - Diocesan Lay Director: An ex-secondary school languages teacher and now a self-employed consultant, Gail worships at All Saints' church in the Parish of Taradale, Napier. In 2010 she joined W33 in the Wellington Diocese to experience Cursillo with a few others from Waiapu, then was on team for Waiapu W1 this year.

Subsequently commissioned by Bishop David to the role of DLD, Gail is also the nominated Lay Director for Waiapu W2.

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Richard Spence - Diocesan Spiritual Director: Ordained in Waiapu in 1995 as a Priest in Secular Employment, Richard caught the Cursillo bug from a work colleague, Peter Johnston, while working around Parliament. He did his Three Days at Wellington Men's 29 under Leith Power.

On his return to Waiapu Richard became Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers at the port of Napier, a post which enables him to combine his deep love of the ocean with his commitment to workplace ministry.

dr.dick@xtra.co.nz



Mary Dunn - Secretary/Treasurer/Registrar: Mary is a Cursillista from the Wellington Diocese. Worshipping at All Saints, Hataitai, Mary went on W19, and subsequently joined team for W21, W25 and W27a. Mary works in the Diocese of Waiapu as Parish Administrator for the busy Taradale (Napier) Parish and its churches of All Saints and St Thomas,

Mary is putting her shoulder to the wheel and drawing on her rich experience and exceptional administrative skills to help Cursillo grow in Waiapu.

cursillo@waiapu.com

Waikato and Taranaki Dioceses

A contribution from Cursillistas in the Parish of Katikati in the Western Bay of Plenty.

Since 2005, when there was one active Cursillista, this has now grown to nine in 2011 meeting fortnightly in a Group Reunion.

Contributing factors:

- Took the opportunity to showcase Cursillo at Ultreyas held in the parish with a notice board display. Inviting parishioners to these Ultreyas.
- Active involvement of Cursillistas in parish and community life.
- Sharing at services the importance and value the Cursillo movement has played in individual lives.

The group have responded to three questions put to them . . .

What decided you to attend a 3 Day Cursillo?

- As an invited guest to an Ultreya, seeing and feeling the joy in a new Cursillista's life inspired me to want to know more.
- Being greatly impressed with Cursillistas' witness at a Lay Ministers' training weekend - their sincerity and humility.
- Curiosity about the rainbow scarves and the obvious bond between those wearing them appealed to something spiritual within me which I felt I needed to experience and nurture.

In what ways has this changed your approach to your life?

- I feel a deeper sense of belonging and have a more committed approach to living every day of my life for God. I feel more open, loving and filled with joy that I am 'a child of the most high God'.
- Really listening to others more, along with the realisation as to how 'inward' my life has been.
- I strive to always be the hand of Jesus here on earth, recognising that every pair of eyes I see belongs to someone who is loved by God - a wonderful goal to work for.
- The joy of the love, connection and praying together with others is something which has never left me. Now I share the joy with others and will continue to serve in this way.
- All my life I have enjoyed freedom, reality and intimacy with God. Now, I add wholeness.

How do you believe that this is of benefit to the whole parish?

- I am praying for guidance from God as to

where else, in addition to my present commitments to the parish and community, I can shine a light for the parish in the name of Jesus.

- The immeasurable help in my preparation for, and in leading services in the church.
- Feeling the need to make progress in encouraging the parish to acts of more purposeful 'outreach' into the community.
- An appreciation of the importance of taking God's word into the wider community. Recognising who I am, where I am, and what God wants me to do.

Ultreya!
Nan Robinson
Katikati

Seeing is believing

It is amazing how every Cursillo is so different. The Holy Spirit touches each one, so it seems, in infinitely various ways – like Bible passages taking on new meanings.

In my most recent Cursillo, the very special moment came to me in the meditation on "The eyes of Jesus".

To contemplate Jesus looking into my eyes, my soul, with love, ultimate warmth, understanding of all that makes me "me" is a profound moment. He knows me so much better than I know myself.

One's whole life may be taken in by Him – not in a 'flash' - for He is in charge of time too. I am known with no condemnation. I am understood and truly loved. That is worth a life time of experiences, good and not so good. Eyes are windows of the soul. So my soul is seen.

And if I have the courage to raise my eyes I can see something of the soul, the mind of God. Only a glimpse, for me, of course – but what wonderful eyes, in my contemplation, look back at me.

Coming Events

12 November Diocesan Ultreya
North Taranaki

Christchurch Diocese

Community Meetings – one response to the Christchurch earthquakes.

The earthquakes have caused some rethinking for the Christchurch Secretariat. The September earthquake led to the hunt for a new venue for Cursillo weekends (as well as for Secretariat meetings). A change from the Girl Guides to the Boy Scouts solved that problem!

Then February 22nd arrived and a major rethink followed, resulting in the cancellation of the one 3 Day Cursillo planned for 2011.

We then realised we needed to think outside the square. For all of us on the Secretariat, one of the significant aspects of our own Cursillo weekend had been the depth of community formed amongst the pilgrims and team. We all had fond memories of our Cursillo weekend, and the relationships we made with fellow pilgrims and team have been significant aspects of our continuing involvement.

Realising we had something to build on, and also thinking that strong communities was something Christchurch needed at the moment, we devised a new meeting format that we hoped would assist the strengthening of community bonds within Cursillo and between parishes.

The ***Cursillo Community Meeting*** is the result. These meetings are aimed at parish clusters and are intended to supplement, not replace, Ultreyas and 4th Day Group meetings. In the two trial Community Meetings held so far, Cursillistas of 2-3 neighbouring parishes were invited to meet, reminisce, and consider their present and future involvement with the Cursillo Movement.

Getting people to interact and share their experiences was no problem, and the concept of Community Meetings was endorsed - with many attendees asking to meet again in the near future.

Secretariat prepared a leaflet to guide Cursillistas in running their own initial Community Meeting, and is now expanding the suggested starter questions to cater for future meetings.

Based on our experience so far, Community Meetings seem likely to become a regular feature of Cursillo in the Diocese of Christchurch. Our prayer, and our long term goal, is that they will be effective in stimulating the formation of community between parishes, and in the wider church community.

Ultreya!
Glenda Prosser, DLD

Reality

The winter snowstorm of 25 July was a reminder of how we can cover up the harsh reality of our world with human creations. Just as the covering of snow blotted out the earthquake damage in the eastern suburbs, the Sumner/Redcliffs area and the central city, the heart ache, frustration and despair of the people remains.

In our own way we can blot out the harsh reality that exists in our communities as families struggle with the increasing costs of living, child abuse through denial, avoidance with discussion papers, inquiries and additional laws. Parallels with the religious leaders of Jesus' day.

As the snow melts the picture post card view of the world returns to the everyday reality. The social needs remain and we are reminded from the scriptures the need to have both faith and works to bring about effective social change.

Jesus stood up for the marginalised in his time, it is our task to carry on the work of being kingdom builders today. May we continue to be the 'thawed' people of God enabling unconditional love to flow to those in need of companionship, the basics of life, and advocacy. Let us also continue to give thanks through prayer and practical support to those involved in outreach.

We also need to challenge the slowness of dealing with child neglect and abuse. The maintenance of the sanctity of the family is enabling the abuse to continue behind closed doors. Openness is the avenue through which those parents who need support to care for their children can access what is required. Jesus was clear about the importance of children who were marginalised in his time. There are many marginalised children in our country today.

Help us to be aware of those who need support, knowing what we do in ministry, is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ivan Jones DSD



Wellington Diocese



Women's 34

St Matthew's Collegiate,
Masterton

21 - 24 July 2011.

The Lord gifted this Cursillo weekend with a presence of His Holy Spirit that permeated the whole event. The pilgrims embraced all the inspiring talks given by a brilliant team that were dedicated to imparting all the Lord had for the pilgrims over the three days together.

The theme for W34 was 'A New Creation', allowing God to bring us from the very rough, and refining us to the not so rough and then on into the smooth as He continues to work with each one of us for the rest of our lives.

There was a good mix of ages from 25 to 70 years and it was a blessing to see the love and aroha extended to one another. Chapel times were a very special time. The Saturday Fun revealed much theatrical talent amongst the ladies both team and pilgrims.

The process of the 3 Days building on one another truly does witness to the Cursillo methodology by the time the Sunday evening arrives, and this is borne out in the witnessing given by pilgrims. I am sure each one that attended W34 would testify to this, albeit feeling very tired from such a jammed packed weekend.

As for the team, the process has been much longer, but just as rewarding, beginning with the first training day in January of this year. With much of the work done behind the scenes from all concerned, all is brought to fruition over the weekend with pilgrims and team coming away with a true sense that they have met with their Lord and Saviour in one way or another at this time.

Ultreya!
Robyn Podjursky, Lay Director

Coming Events 2011

13 August	DDU	Palmerston North
12 November	Diocesan Ultreya	Palmerston North
24 - 27 November	Te Ara Pono 5	Rimutaka Prison

When the rope breaks!

There is a story about a monastery in Europe perched on a cliff several hundred feet in the air.

The only way to reach the monastery was to be suspended in a basket which was pulled to the top by several monks who pulled and tugged with all their strength.

Obviously the ride up the steep cliff in the basket was terrifying. One tourist got exceedingly nervous. About half-way up he noticed that the rope by which he was suspended was old and frayed.

With a trembling voice he asked the monk who was riding with him in the basket how often they changed the rope. The monk thought for a moment and answered, "Whenever it breaks".

CHRISTCHURCH Coming Events 2011

14 Aug	Diocesan Ultreya St Stephen's, Ashburton 2.00 - 4.30 p.m.
20 Sept	Chch Servant Community 6.00 - 8.30 p.m. St Augustine's, Cashmere
24 Sept	Special Ultreya followed by Dinner/Party St Silas, Redwood \$5 pp, details to come
16 Oct	Diocesan Ultreya 2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. St Barnabas, Fendalton
15 Nov	Chch Servant Community As Above
02 Dec	Advent Ultreya & Service 5.30 p.m. (BYO tea) - 7.30 p.m. Venue to be advised

Has Cursillo Run its course?

During the General Convention in Columbus, Ohio last June, I had the pleasure of running into an old friend who just happened to be a bishop.

I was aware that the Cursillo movement had once been alive in his diocese but was now dormant. I asked him about the movement and about getting it restarted. He replied, "Bob, Cursillo has run its course in the diocese".

I guess I was so shocked I did not have an adequate reply. None the less, this comment made me think about the movement. Has it run its course? As I thought about that I quickly came to the conclusion that the answer to the question was NO!

Since when is meeting with a few friends to discuss your spiritual life in terms of piety, study and action run its course?

Do I need to be accountable for my journey? I believe we all need to be held accountable. In my life, it has never run its course and is still a powerful tool in my walk.

Group Reunion and Ultreya are the cornerstones of the Cursillo Movement. Look around your diocese and see if you think Cursillo has runs its course? If you think it has, then maybe you need to go back to the basics. Weekends are the means by which we strengthen and grow our groups. They are not an end in themselves.

Has Cursillo run its course? No, and as long as we are serious about our life in Christ, it never will.

From the NEC 4th Day Magazine
The Rev Robert Dendtler, VP NECC



Group Reunions

Helping Christians to become effective apostles and grow as saints is the work of the Cursillos, and is the role played by the 4th Day. The Group Reunion is the first step.

Grouping reflects the practice of our Lord when he paired his disciples as he sent them out into the world. It claims Jesus' promise that . . . "Whenever two or three of you are gathered together, there I am in the midst". (Matthew 18:20)

The most vital and vulnerable moment in the life of a new Cursillista comes in the days immediately following the Weekend. If grouping begins here, it is likely to solidify the message of the Weekend and result in a fruitful life in the 4th Day.

If, however, the new Cursillistas do not become quickly grounded in a group, the message and impact of the weekend may very likely 'evaporate'.

From 'The Fourth Day First' booklet
NEC Library



"The Bishop"



"Oh, good . . . you're not busy."

Wisdom has two parts:
1. Having lots to say
2. Not saying it.

A personal trip from 'ugh' to 'ok'

"Grumble . . . do we have to do that again?" "Do we have to do it every time?" I confess - not too long ago, that was me. I came to Ultreyas and loved the friends, enjoyed the music, learned from the talks, gobbled up the food . . . But at each Ultreya, the Floating Reunion Group kept coming back. What should I say? I'm an introvert and not a big sharer, and here I am sitting with three people I don't know that well. What studying? Are you kidding?

So what to do? My suggestion is to persevere. Relax. Try again. How many times in life has Christ asked us to do that? How many good things have occurred because we simply persevered? That's what I ultimately had to do. And, it has been worth it.

The process of changing did take time. First, I came to realize how truly loving the community gathered at each Ultreya was. No matter how lame my response, no matter how little I had actually done, they were always receptive and supportive. If I had nothing to say or add, that was always okay too. Each time I sat in a group -month after month -- there were gradually fewer and fewer people that I knew nothing about.

There were many wonderful witnesses for Christ's love and lay action, but there were an equal number who struggled just like me. There were always those who were more comfortable saying very little. And, no matter what, it was all acceptable to the group. It was always okay. So I began to relax.

Then, the whole purpose of a Reunion Group began to work. Once I was more relaxed, I could see the support and reassurance that the group was always willing to give. Then, knowing that I would be part of a Group again next month, I began to focus more on what action I was taking . . . what moments close to Christ I had experienced. And, voila! The next month, there was more to share. It wasn't that I really did that much more. My daily life did not change. It was just that I came to recognize the parts of my life that were part of a bigger plan. I began to participate in that plan in a more intentional way. I began to see why the Reunion Group is sometimes called an Accountability Group.

But what about that study part? I'd completed EFM years ago, so I couldn't fall back on that. We had study programs at church, but not every month. And, oops, I'm just not able to stay awake when reading essay or meditation type books. With progress being made on the other aspects of the Reunion Group, study became my next challenge. It finally dawned on me that I could find something to study that suited my own interests. Being very interested in history, I "googled" topics that combined religion and history. I hit a treasure trove and now I keep my "study" book

on my bedside table to read every night.

Growing acceptance of the monthly Floating Reunion Group had another positive effect for me. For years, I had tried different ways to be in my own small group reunion. Like so many of my Cursillo friends, getting around the issues of scheduling, geography, and inertia seemed to make it a difficult I went long periods without truly being in reunion.

Of course, that made the Floating Group Reunions at the Ultreyas even more difficult. If you're not doing one, it's harder to do the other. So, as I began to feel more at ease each month at Ultreyas, I saw the urgency to strive harder to be in my own group reunion with a few Cursillo friends. And, that was the final part of my little trip. It took a bit of manoeuvring with schedules and time, but I'm now part of a regular reunion group. We meet and enjoy a lunch, we share our activities, and we support each other. At last!

So, is the Floating Reunion Group my favourite part of Ultreyas? No, not really. But, I don't mind them anymore. I've found value in what I've learned in them. They've given me new friends. I've seen the power of action for Christ in other's lives. I have seen what can happen if I just relax, persevere, and give them a chance.

From the NEC 4th Day Magazine
Harriet Duff
Diocese of Kansas & West Missouri & Iowa

... the whole purpose of a Reunion Group began to work . . .

What are Floating Group Reunions at Ultreyas?

... The purpose of the FGR is to share our lives in Christ with others who have the same ideal. The level of sharing is not expected to be as deep or as thorough as in a permanent GR. It is a grouping of those in Group Reunions. It can give a glimpse of the way in which Christ is working in other groups and other individuals in our larger community . . .

From the NEC Library 'Ultreya' booklet, p12/13

Christ in the moment

Most of us lead pretty busy lives, distractions run aplenty in our worlds. It's wonderful to think about taking time to smell the roses, to lead nicely balanced lives and to sit around sipping coffee or tea, but that reality is far from my day to day living. There is a different way.

Instead of fighting the chaos, find Christ in it. What, you say!! Think about the life of Jesus. He had huge crowds wherever he went. He had to leave before dawn to find any quiet. He was surrounded by chaos and yet found God in the midst of it all. He could attune to the moment and focus his energy and Spirit on the one he was attending to. We too can have that sense of presence. You can find God in all moments in your life, but it needs to be done consciously.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Put "Post It*" notes all over - in your car, on mirrors, refrigerators, books, phones, pockets - that say, "Where do you see God right now?" Take a few seconds and find God. God is truly everywhere all the time. The more you make it a habit to find God, the more you will.



2. If you have a cell phone, for 5 days, set alarms to ring between 5 and 10 times a day. When you hear it, that is your cue to find God in that moment or to take thirty seconds to listen to God in prayer.



3. Ask God in prayer to reveal himself to you in the world. Then keep your eyes and ears open, God wants to amaze you everyday. Broaden your horizon of what is truly miraculous. We need to learn to see God in the small things of life, not just the stunners.



Build the habit of seeing God at work in the world. Extend the presence of your Fourth Day. Engage God and use the Holy Spirit's grace and power to change the lives of those around you.

From the NEC 4th Day Magazine
Steve Rodgers, Oregon Cursillo Chaplain

Lily Marsh



Lily is the daughter of the late Marie and Tony Marsh. Both were very involved in Cursillo in the Wellington Diocese before moving to Napier. Their deep desire was to see Cursillo introduced to the Waiapu Diocese. Sadly, this was not to be while they were alive. They held a Group Reunion for a number of years. Lily spoke at W1 in Waiapu, saying that she had always wondered what her parents were so keen about, but now she did! Welcome Lily.



Audrey Moonlight leading the Clausura,
Waiapu Women's 1



27-29 October, 2011

A reprint from Issue 14 . . .

We are introduced to 'De Colores' and 'Ultreya' at our 3 Day Cursillo. De Colores, we are told, comes from a Spanish folk song of the same name.



The song was popular long before the beginning of the Cursillo movement. When a bus broke down in Spain with a load of Cursillistas, they were forced to walk something like 20 miles and passed the time by singing the song over and over again.

De Colores literally means in Spanish 'O the colours!' It is also often associated with the rainbow ("*many colours of God's love*"). The rooster, in medieval times was used to signify the exultant greeting at the dawn of a new day.



'Ultreya' on the other hand is the cry that the early pilgrims called out as they regathered strength for the next stage of their journey. 'Ultreya' - onwards and upwards. Persevere! Keep on going! And so, this comes after our Cursillo as we 'cry' a word of encouragement to each other in our 4th Day. "Keep on going." "Persevere" !

So, 'De Colores' at our Cursillo. 'Ultreya' on our 4th Day.

Thank you to all who have donated money to keep the subscription to \$5.00. It has been amazing to think that there hasn't been an increase ever, and I can leave a credit in the bank! Ed.

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