



# CHRISTIAN LAWYERS

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# QUARTERLY

## WELCOME

With the Christian Lawyers Society now in its second year, we pray that this quarterly newsletter will encourage and strengthen Christian lawyers in their professional and personal lives. If you know of a Christian lawyer who deserves recognition, would like to contribute to the newsletter, or have any comments, please let us know on [h.skousgaard@student.qut.edu.au](mailto:h.skousgaard@student.qut.edu.au).

Blessings from the Editors,  
Tristan and Heather

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## LAW, VALUES AND CHARITY

Sir Gerard Brennan threw down the gauntlet in a personal challenge to charity in his address to the Christian Lawyers Society at their most recent meeting. In the words of St Basil the Great, Sir Gerard reminded those present that::

'The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry; the garment hanging in the wardrobe is the garment of the one who is naked... the money you keep locked away is the money of the poor; the acts of charity you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit.'

While this challenge to charity may seem daunting, Sir Gerard pointed out that our just God has given due warning of the consequences of not heeding the cry of the poor (Mt 25:41-46):



'Then he will say to those at his left hand, "Depart from me... for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink"... Then they also will answer, "Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty... and did not minister to thee?" Then he will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me."'

Charity is the virtue by which Christ wished his disciples to be known. At a personal level, the duty of personal charity must be to give to those in need what remains after providing sufficiently for oneself and one's dependents. At a professional level, charity also has a particular application to lawyers, who understand the mechanisms of society and professionally meet the rich and the poor, the comfortable and the desperate, the secure and the fragile. This unique role affords lawyers opportunities to practice charity that are given to few. And when those opportunities are met, professional work becomes a stimulus to living and, please God, the source of riches in the life to come.

# FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

This is the first edition of the Christian Lawyers Society Quarterly.

Tristan and Heather Skousgaard are the members whose idea it was and who volunteered to transform the idea into reality. We are very grateful to them for their hard work and enthusiasm. We hope that this publication will fill a valuable role in communicating with all of our members who live outside of Brisbane and who are unable to attend the functions we arrange here.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on 28 February 2002. One of the important aspects of the meeting is the election of officers and committee members. Please give this matter your serious consideration.

Do you have the time, the talents and the willingness to make a contribution to the Society in any of the capacities of Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary or Committee Member, or do you know some other member who has?

This Society will succeed if enough people are prepared to contribute from the talents with which God has blessed them. Please, do consider it seriously.

Graham Robinson  
Vice President

*In September 2001 David Cole attended the first Asian Christian Lawyers Leadership Conference, held in South Korea. Here he shares some of his highlights...*

With delegates arriving from 21 countries throughout Asia, the first Asian Christian Lawyers Leadership Conference included followers of Christ from eleven current and former dictatorships, a miracle in itself. With a theme of 'Mission through the Law', the conference aimed to open the door of mission through international networking, emphasising:

- Networking among Asian Christian Lawyers
- The role of Christian lawyers as peacemakers
- The need to build a united common foundation among Christian organisations and lawyers

One of the highlights of the five-day conference was an alternative dispute resolution ('ADR') seminar presented by Mr Ken Sande, President of Peacemaker Ministries. Taking a Christian approach to ADR, Peacemaker Ministries suggests the following principles as forming a basis to biblical conflict resolution<sup>1</sup>:

- **Glorify God** - Instead of focusing on our own desires or dwelling on what others may do, one should seek to please and honour God — by depending on His wisdom, power, and love; by faithfully obeying His commands; and by seeking to maintain a loving, merciful, and forgiving attitude.
- **Get the log out of your own eye** - Instead of attacking others or dwelling on their wrongs, we should take responsibility for our own contribution to conflicts — confessing our sins, asking God to help us change any attitudes and habits that lead to conflict, and seeking to repair any harm we cause.
- **Go and show your brother his fault** - Instead of pretending that conflict doesn't exist or talking about others behind their backs, one should choose to overlook minor offences, or talk directly and graciously with those whose offences seem too

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.peacemakerministries.org>

# ASIAN CHRISTIAN LAWYERS CONFERENCE 2002

serious to overlook. When a conflict with another Christian cannot be resolved in private, one should ask others in the body of Christ to help settle the matter in a biblical manner.

- **Go and be reconciled** - Instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationships to wither, one should actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation — forgiving others as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us, and seeking just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences.

In another address Mr Samuel Ericsson, President of Advocates

International, spoke about the need for Christian Lawyers to practice their beliefs whether that be at home or at work. He gave an example of a Prosecuting Attorney whose life was filled with having to deal with predominantly "bad" people. The Attorney contracted terminal cancer and he fortunately accepted God's word as it was read to him on his hospital bed. He so desired to tell the world of his hope in Jesus Christ that during the last two weeks of his life, even when too weak to talk, he wrote on pieces of paper about Jesus. Those notes detailed that 'we should show the world who we are and what we are made of, regardless of the response'.

Another highlight was a visit to the Supreme Court of Korea. This is the Superior court of Korea and consists of a Chief Justice and 13 Justices. The Korean judicial tradition has evolved over a five thousand-year history. It now guarantees maximum autonomy and independence to the judiciary to promote law-governing principles and to protect the basic rights of people.

In the early 1990's Korea faced the dual pressures of opening up its economy and globalisation. This

necessitated a more efficient and professional judicial service. Through various reforms a greater trust is now instilled in the Korean judicial system by raising the qualifications for judges and the establishment of specialised courts.

On a personal note, I was fortunate to meet many Korean people through my host family, including academic and ex-military personnel who explained

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*'... we should show the world who we are and what we are made of, regardless of the response'.*

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Korea's historical and current strategic significance. It is clear that the Korean War has left many scars on its people, however it was my impression that most South Korean people envisage reunification with the North

occurring in the next five to ten years, especially as China now moves towards a free market economy. Attempts to reunify the two Korea's needs our support through much prayer.

The second Asian Christian Lawyers Conference will be held from 15-20 October, 2002, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This year it is hoped that 35 nations will participate in the conference. I pray that, regardless of the geo-political situation, many lawyers will attend and establish strong Christian networks. Australia has much to learn from Asia, with its longer history refining many of its approaches to religion, ethics, morality, culture and law.

I thank the Christian Lawyers Society for this opportunity and encourage you to attend in 2002.

— David T. Cole

David is presently engaged as Barrister for Crown Law and is involved with Towards 4000, a christian ministry to the Brisbane City area. He enjoys traveling, snow and water skiing.

# NO HIGHER CALLING

*"Truth is nowhere to be found and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, and he was appalled that there was no one to intercede." -- Isaiah 59:15-16*

*"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense - Jesus Christ, the Righteous One." -- I John 2:1*

When my mother found out that I was seriously considering law school she asked whether a Christian could really be a lawyer. Likewise, when my future mother-in-law discovered that her younger daughter, Bobby, planned to marry a lawyer she was concerned. Why couldn't Bobby marry someone from a more respected vocation like a teacher or a farmer?

After 30 years in the legal profession, I have concluded that there is no higher calling than the calling to law. No other profession provides daily opportunities to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God in the way that a calling to the law provides. Justice is something that God holds dear, along with her sister righteousness. They are two sides of the same coin.

It is appalling to think that God could ever be appalled. How could Someone who knows the end from the beginning ever be shocked or appalled? Yet the one time Scripture declares that God was appalled was when there was no one to intercede on behalf of those suffering injustice!

In addressing young lawyers - and non-lawyers - I point to the life of Jesus as one reason for choosing law as one's vocation. Jesus spent about 15 years working as a carpenter and three years as a teacher. The trades and teaching professions are honorable

vocations. But according to I John 2:1, Jesus has been our Advocate since ascending to the Father nearly 2,000 years ago. If time invested in a vocation tells us something about its priority, it is easy to see what vocation Jesus deems to be important.

Consider a few of the options of service open to those called to the law:

- We can serve as counselors to the powerful and the powerless.
- We can serve as counselors to elected officials who write and enforce the laws.
- We can serve as judges called to do justice and resolve disputes.
- We can serve those on the bench as clerks or as advisors as "friends of the court."
- We can serve as facilitators for peacemaking and reconciliation.
- We can serve those wrestling with the consequences of tragedy or the blessings of plenty.
- We can serve as a voice in "The System" for "the least of these," be they widows, orphans, homeless, infirm, unborn, prisoner or alien.
- We can serve as teachers training the next generation to do justice.
- We can serve as counselors to clergy and church leaders in their ministry.

There is no higher calling than to be a servant-in-law with our Advocate as our Chief Client.

I am grateful that God called me to serve in this profession. And I know that my mother and mother-in-law came around to that view as well.

Sam Ericsson

"No Higher Calling" - Devotional readings for lawyers Editors: Lynn R. Buzzard, Samuel E. Ericsson Reproduced with the permission of Advocates International, Fairfax, Virginia, USA

# GOOD START

with Karyn Cullen



As a complement to the evening lecture series organised by the Society throughout its first year, a less formal, breakfast seminar/discussion series was held on the first and second Friday of each month. The aim is to give members the opportunity to get to know each other, listen to a brief, thought-provoking presentation and discuss issues/views.

The venues offered during 2001 were the Inns of Court (first Friday) and Minter Ellison, Waterfront Place (second Friday). An early start, at about 7.15 am, ensures ample time to enjoy fellowship and be at your desk by 8.30! A light breakfast was included in the cost.

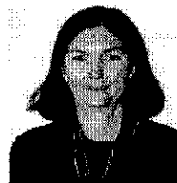
The speakers repeated their topic at each venue, creating the opportunity to attend either venue each month. Busy work schedules often interfere with the best laid plans, resulting in variable attendance at both. Nevertheless, average attendances of about 8 – 10 enabled useful discussion and the opportunity to meet other members.

Speakers for last year included Rev Michael Bennett, Dr Desmond Ford, Pastor Graham Harms and Mrs. Liz Cunningham, MP. Their topics ranged from their personal experiences as a Christian to theological discussions such as Dr Ford's 'Theological Dilemma – the relationship between Law and Grace'.

In this informal format there is always time for discussion and questions around the table. All speakers this year have succeeded in providing food for thought, to go with the croissants!

2002 may see the breakfast series reduced to one venue per month, possibly alternating between the barristers' and solicitors' ends of town. Your suggestions for speakers and suitability of venues and times are always welcome. We trust that the continued support of members will enable this event to provide an opportunity for members to hear stimulating speakers and share their faith. Non-members are always welcome.

As with other Society events, the breakfast series is advertised on the Society's website and members are emailed with a reminder.



Karyn is a senior solicitor working part time for Minter Ellison Lawyers as the Know How Co-ordinator for the Brisbane office. She is married to Stephen, a senior associate at Minter Ellison, and is a member of St Andrew's Lutheran

congregation. Karyn and Stephen have two daughters, Elizabeth and Charlotte, who both attend St Peters Lutheran College at

## Interested in attending a short course in theology?

**BY WHOM:** Dr Desmond Ford  
**ON WHAT:** Biblical Apocalyptic  
**WHERE:** St Francis Theological College (member school of the Brisbane College of Theology) 233 Milton Road, Brisbane  
**WHEN:** Commencing Sat 23 Feb, 9am -11am. Continuing same time on the 2nd & 4th Sat of every month. Concluding 22 June.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$40 for early registrants  
**REGISTER:** Christian Lawyers Society



Many of us struggle with the difficulties of maintaining our commitments to our clients, our families, our churches and, most importantly, our God. However, we believe that Christian Lawyers Society can play an important role in helping you put your faith into practice.

Membership is open to every person involved in the practice, administration, teaching or study of law and who professes Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

To join please visit [www.christianlawyers.asn.au](http://www.christianlawyers.asn.au) or call Lauren on (07) 3211 4366.



# AUSTRALASIAN CHRISTIAN LEGAL CONVENTION 2002

Grab your calendar now and mark a big red circle around May 2-5, 2002. This is the weekend when God's role in your life will take on new meaning at the Second Australasian Christian Legal Convention. To be held in the picturesque surroundings of the Gold Coast's Bond University, the Convention will focus on the theme of 'Seeking God First – The Key'.

Boasting a plethora of distinguished speakers, attendees will have the opportunity to hear from the likes of Advocates International President, Dr Samuel E. Ericsson, Peacemaker Ministries' President Ken Sande, Professor Ron McCallum, Rev. Tim Costello, and of course, our very own Patron, The Honourable Paul de Jersey, and

our President, The Honourable Mr Justice McPherson.

Last year's Australasian Christian Legal Convention in Melbourne was a very special time of fellowship and encouragement for all involved. Lawyers from the United Kingdom, Papua New Guinea and almost all states of Australia gathered together for what was described by one attendee as an "incredibly valuable experience".

"From the beginning I could tell that this weekend was going to be something very special," said Mr Matthew Turnour, who travelled from Brisbane to attend the event.

"Even from the first night I could sense a kindredness of spirit building amongst the participants,"

he said. "President Mason set the tone with his welcome. It was more than a welcome. It was a sharing of his own hopes and expectations and an articulation of our own.

"He gave us all permission to be ourselves and share our hopes and hurts: and we did. Even just heading down the street to buy icecreams became this amazing experience of sharing and understanding – talking with those who've walked down the same path as us, and grappled with those same issues that we're facing daily."

To catch the latest 2002 convention details as they come to hand, visit <http://conference.christianlawyers.asn.au>



**Dianne Grace** is a Solicitor with Neumann & Turnour Lawyers in Bris-

bane, practicing in Family Law, Domestic Violence, Children's and Women's Issues.

**When and where were you born?**  
I was born in Toowoomba in 1960 though I spent most of my childhood in Singapore and Hong Kong as my Father served in the Armed Forces.

## Christians in the Law

### Your Family?

I have 2 sons, Daniel (17) and Nathan (13). Daniel finished year 12 last year and is now working on a property out west. Nathan has just started Year 8 at a Presbyterian Boys School in Brisbane.

### When did you become a Christian?

I was raised in the Uniting Church in Toowoomba and I became a Christian at the age of 13 while attending a Christian Youth Camp. The surprising thing was that I

didn't enjoy the camp at all as I didn't want to be away from home, but one afternoon as I walking around Burleigh Heads I made the decision to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

### Why did you choose to be a lawyer?

When I first decided to study Law, I needed a challenge, academically and otherwise. I certainly got it, and have not regretted the decision

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Chaplain's Corner



## The Power of a Well

### Timed Word

When Sigmund Freud discovered that symptoms of emotional distress could sometimes be relieved simply by talking in certain ways to his patients he was puzzled and intrigued. Years of medical training had conditioned him to think of people as merely biological and chemical entities. He had concluded that the problems like anxiety, depression, or phobias must reflect some physical disorder treatable only through medical intervention.

Had Freud spent time studying the Book of Proverbs, perhaps he would have been less surprised that mere words can have such a strong impact. Listen to what the inspired writer has to say about the power of words:

*(Continued from page 6)*

to practice Law. I cannot claim that it was for any moral reason or even because I had a desire to see Justice being done. I was quite clinical in my approach in that I knew that I could do it and that I would be good at what I do. (eventually!)

#### **Why do you enjoy your work?**

In the Family Law area where I work it is a quite an art to learn to become detached emotionally from the clients problems in order to apply the law effectively. This detachment has taught me to work

- 'Death and life are in the power of the tongue' (Prov. 18:21)
- 'Pleasant words are..... sweet to the soul and healing to the bones' (Prov. 16:24)
- 'Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances' (Prov. 25:11)

The Scriptures also say that speaking light words of cheer at the wrong time is 'like one who takes off a garment on a cold day' (Prov. 25:20).

Words are important. They have real power. James warns that although the tongue is a small part of the body, it has the power to determine the whole course of human existence (James 3:5-6).

through issues and problems logically, rather than emotionally. I have found that I have been able to apply this to other areas of my life and have become a better person for it.

#### **What is the hardest part of being a lawyer and a Christian?**

I don't find it hard at all being a lawyer and a Christian. The only time I feel a flutter of concern is when I read Matthew 23:27. Jesus addresses the teachers of the law and the Pharisees telling them they are like white washed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on

We live in a world of words. Some build up, some break down. God instructs us to encourage one another. Doing kind deeds are good in God's sight. But the capacity of words to do serious damage or great good makes verbal encouragement an especially important part of our life.

A simple question to ask myself, 'is the word or words I have spoken to another the word or words I would like them to speak to me?'

Some words are '*Antique*'. They turn a person from thinking they are worthless to believing they are priceless.

Cheers, Pastor Ron Allen  
Chaplain

Dr. Larry Crabb/Dr. Dan Allender, "Encouragement: The Key to Caring", Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 1984, pages 19-20.

the inside are full of dead men's bones. However I remind myself the moral of the story applies to every person regardless of their profession, not just lawyers.

#### **What changes would you like to see in the legal profession?**

Law Firms should become more active in their local communities, for example by supporting community groups, sponsoring sports teams and generally building good will. I feel the single greatest problem with the legal profession is that sometimes we can become insulated from the real world.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

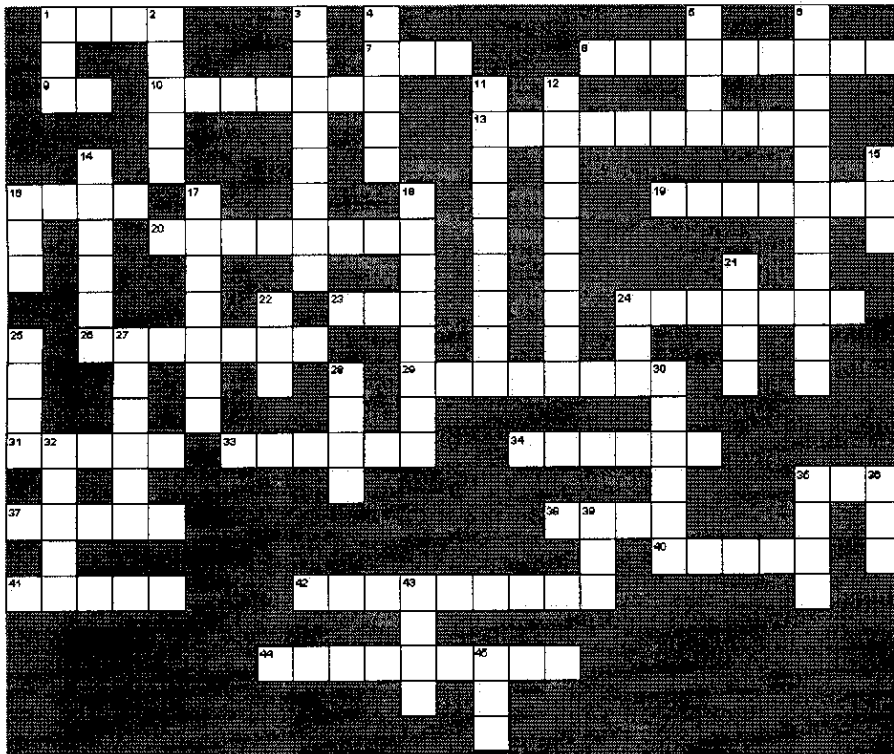


- Don't forget to come to our AGM — to be held in the Banco Court on Thursday 28 Feb at 5.30pm. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.
- Why not have Breakfast with the Christian Lawyers Society? On 15 Feb, arrive 7 for a 7.15 am start at Minter Ellison, Level 22 Waterfront Place. On 15 March, join us at Level 5, Inns of Court for another 7.15 am start. \$10 will win you a light breakfast, warm company and an entertaining speaker.
- Club 4000 is a ministry to the people who live and work in Brisbane. On 20 February Dr Desmond Ford will be addressing a Club 4000 breakfast on 'Chapter 1000 of Scripture: The Centre and Summary of The Bible' — 7.15am to 8.15am sharp at Alexander's Restaurant, cnr Little Edward and Leichhardt Streets, Spring Hill (undercover parking). Contact Pastor Ron Allen 0411 721 993 or citytabn-rallen@powerup.com.au

Got ideas, comments, or suggestions to improve this newsletter? Can you contribute an article?

Let us know on (07) 3341 5436 or email us at h.skousgaard@student.qut.edu.au

## CHRISTIAN LAWYERS CROSSWORD



### DOWN

1. '...., we would see Jesus' (John 12:21) (3)
2. They asked Jesus 'Art thou ....?' (John 1:21) (5)
3. Japanese firms with interests in banking, industry and shipping (8)
4. 'His .... came and sowed tares' (Matt 13:25) (5)
5. 'Behold I stand at the .... and knock' (Rev 3:20) (4)
6. Vague, ambiguous or doubtful (11)
11. To meet again for same purpose (9)
12. The condition of being a slave (9)
14. Nomikos (Gk.) (6)
15. 'He lieth in wait, as a lion in his ...' (Ps 10:9) (5)
16. 'My ....., give me thine heart' (Prov 23:26) (3)
17. Type of free socage tenure (7)
18. Household (Norman) (8)
21. 'Now abideth faith, . . . . ., charity' (1Cor 13 : 13) ( 4 )
22. Eve was formed from this. (Gen 2:22) (3)
24. 'There was no room for them at the ....' (Luke 2:7) (3)
25. Guardianship (Lat.) (4)
27. Intentionally abscond from custody (6)
28. A legal obligation (4)
30. To find (6)
32. City of Bible Students (Act 17:10) (5)
35. Sacred bull worshipped by Egyptians (4)
36. The subject matter of the discipline of jurisprudence (3)
39. '..... no man anything' (Rom 13:8) (3)
43. A written order issued by the Court (4)
45. Daniel saw a ... which had two horns (Dan 8:3) (3)

### ACROSS

1. Free from danger (4)
7. Greek form of Noah (Matt 24:37) (3)
8. I will wash my hands in \_\_\_\_\_' (Psalms 26:6) (9)
9. In the matter of (lat.) (2)
10. Quaere (lat.) (7)
13. A body of electors (10)
16. 'Evil shall .... the wicked' (Ps 34:21) (4)
19. The legal owner of trust property (7)
20. Until (lat.) (8)
23. Thing (lat.) (3)
24. To seize or confiscate (7)
26. The Royal Rights (7)
29. An allegation of law or fact contained in a charge which the prosecution intends to prove (8)
31. Variant spelling of Abijah
33. 'The servant of the Lord must be ....' (2 Tim 2:24) (6)
34. Seller (6)
35. 'Sell .... that thou hast' (Luke 18:22) (3)
37. City governed by Sihon (Deut 2:36) (5)
38. 'Take my .... upon you' (Matt 11:29) (4)
40. Master (5)
41. Landmark on Asher's Border (Josh 19:28) (5)
42. Cognisance of facts or truth (9)
44. Head of a family (Acts 2:29) (9)

Answers in next newsletter!