

8/96 Communication of the Gospel to the Elderly

(A report from the Deaconess Institution's T.A.B.A. Committee.)

1. Last year the Synod resolved -

"Synod notes that resolution 22/89 appointed a committee on Communication of the Gospel to the Elderly and that the Synod received a report from that committee in 1991 recommending the formation of a Committee to and by the Ageing. The Synod understands that the main recommendations of the report were taken up by the Anglican Deaconess Institution which appointed a committee for Ministry to and by the Aged (T.A.B.A.), and requests the Council of that Institution to report, or have its committee report, to next year's Synod on progress to date."

2. The Committee for Ministry To the Aged by The Aged (T.A.B.A.) was largely set up at the instigation of Deaconess Mary Andrews. It was initially formed in response to a motion from Synod and has now come under the auspices of the Anglican Deaconess Institution. It is made up of volunteers who have an interest in ministry to our Seniors.

3. With the ageing of our population there is a greater need for ministry to Seniors and more than ever before we need to harness the abilities of the older members of our congregations to reach them. Primarily the T.A.B.A. Committee's aims are to support and encourage this ministry of evangelism by our parishes.

4. The Committee has produced an occasional newsletter *Ageless* which has been increasingly well received. We have received many requests for more supplies of these, but as the Committee operates with minimal funding we would request every parish as they receive this newsletter to copy and distribute it throughout their congregations.

5. A number of issues have been covered in our newsletter with articles from such people as Dr Russell Clark and Bishop Dudley Foord. Dudley Foord's recent article *Ministry to, for and by Seniors* states very clearly the principle which our Committee seeks to follow: "the Senior Christians are the best means to reach the Senior outsiders".

6. Other articles have included *Is Retirement a Biblical Concept*, *Practical Suggestions from our Think Tank Day on Ministry to Seniors*, *Successful Models of Senior Ministry* and other helpful hints in ministry to older people.

7. The Committee has been able to respond to a number of requests for assistance in setting up Seniors programs in parishes and is always willing to support these endeavours wherever possible.

8. In recent years we have been able to organise and hold some training days to help people understand the needs of Seniors and ways of ministering to them. We would welcome any opportunities of running such training sessions in the various regions of our Diocese.

9. We are presently working on a program called *Retired to the Retired* which is an evangelistic tool to reach out in parishes. We are looking for Senior volunteers prepared to be part of a team who would visit parishes for a mission style outreach program to Seniors.

10. The Committee is always ready to assist parishes in their work amongst Seniors and would be happy to hear from anybody who feels they are able to support our work in any way or who has any requests for help.

11. Please feel free to contact any of the following committee members -

(Editorial Note: Names and phone numbers have not been reproduced here.)

For and on behalf of the T.A.B.A. Committee

Chris Baxter
Chairman

24 August 1997