



Advent Christian Conference of New Zealand Inc.

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Papakura 2246, New Zealand

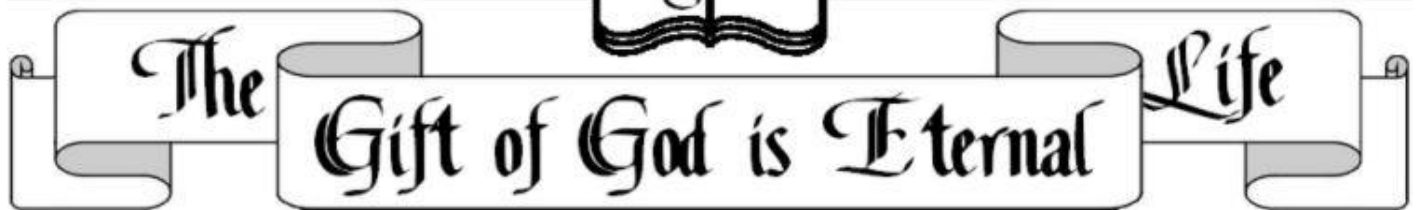
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Special Edition—Volume 10.4—July 2007

Thames Church of Christ  125th Anniversary—2007



Introduction by David Burge

Greetings prayer partners and supporters. From time to time we have shared with you news of what is going on in our Thames Church. Though few in number over recent years they have continued to be faithful supporters of our ministry and mission. What an opportunity to celebrate that faithfulness—and more than that, God's faithfulness—as we celebrate together the 125th anniversary of the Thames Church. Join us in praying for this event. Be there if you can. Doug Campbell mentions below his desire to retire from pastoral leadership. Join us in praying that God will provide a pastor for the Thames Church. Pray for another 125 years of fruitful ministry should the Lord not come sooner!

Invitation: Thames Church Celebrates 125 Years—July 22nd

An invitation to share in the celebrations for the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Thames Church of Christ Life & Advent—on Sunday, 22nd July, 2007—is given to all: Present members and friends of the church, Past members and Sunday School scholars, Bible Class students, Christian Endeavour and Young Worshippers League members, church family descendents and friends who have attended or been involved in the Church's activities—including former outreach services at Hikutaia, Turua, Matatoki, Tapu and Te Puru, and of course to fellow ACCONZ churches, friends and former members of the Churches of Christ Life & Advent.

Programme—Sunday 22nd July

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| 10:30 am | Morning Celebration Service
Guest Speaker: Ernie Schache (Missionary to India) |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch at the Church* |
| 5:00 pm | Light-Tea at the Church* |
| 7:00 pm | Evening Celebration Service
Guest Speaker: David Burge (ACCONZ President) |



*RSVP July 15th—refer Registration Form

Thames Church of Christ Life & Advent—Then and Now

The Thames Church of Christ Life & Advent held its first meeting in the Oldfellows Lodge Hall, in Richmond Street on Sunday 23rd July, 1882 and later worshipped in the former Munster Hotel on the corner of Pollen and Richmond Streets—diagonally opposite the Brian Boru Hotel. In 1922 it moved to Sealey Street and in 1978 moved again to its present home in Parawai Road, opposite Reservoir Road.

The Church continues to maintain a strong witness to the Divine Inspiration of the Scriptures, to personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour as an essential to Christian faith, to the Unconscious state of the Dead and the Return of the Lord Jesus as the Hope of the Church, when the saints will be translated to Eternal Life.

In 1994, the national organization for the Churches of Christ Life & Advent ceased and several of the churches opted to join the Baptist Union. The Thames and Takanini Churches affiliated with the Advent Christian Conference of New Zealand in 1997.

While the congregation of the Sunday morning service is small this has not prevented us from being actively involved in the international mission work of the Advent Christian Churches, both prayerfully and financially.

Our Sunday services are taken by Honorary Pastor Doug Campbell and Brothers Terry Burchell & Ron Laing—along with visiting speakers from Takanini and Hamilton Churches, and other former Church of Christ members. We also share services at two retirement homes with other local churches. A regular fortnightly Bible Study is held in the Burchell's home led by Pastor David Burge of Takanini.

After years of faithful service Brother Doug Campbell thinks it is time to retire from the honorary pastorate. We are looking to the Lord God to guide us in our plans and to provide for the future. Jehovah Jireh.



Above: 75th Anniversary Celebrations at the Sealey Street building—1957
Below: 100th Anniversary Celebrations at the Parawai Road building—1982



Below: 120th Anniversary Celebrations—July 2002



Leadership Profile—Doug Campbell



Doug dressed in period costume (complete with 'handlebar moustache') for the 120th anniversary in July 2002

• Born in Thames December 1923 • His mother was Sunday School teacher & church organist and many family were early members or adherents of Thames Church of Christ • Doug attended Sunday School and Junior Bible Class & was baptised by immersion in 1941 • He served in World War II in the New Zealand Army and Air Force 4+ years—returning to a career in hospital administration May 1946 • Doug retired as Chief Executive of Thames Hospital Board in 1982, then reorganised ambulance services in the Board's district and administered the service until 1995 • He is a Justice of the Peace, since 1975, serving part of that time in judicial work in the District Court • Over many years Doug has been Sunday School Superintendant, Bible Class leader and lay preacher at various

times • He became Honorary Pastor and Officiating Minister in 1951, retaining the latter through to present day and filling pastoral positions between paid pastoral ministries • Doug's much loved wife Jean developed Alzheimer's in 1991, which limited Doug's activities. Jean died in 2003 • Doug has 1 daughter, 2 sons, 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren • His favourite bible verse is Isaiah 40:31



Thames Church of Christ Life & Advent Executive Committee—1886
Seated at the centre is Pastor E. H. Taylor, the churches first pastor

Leadership Profile—Ron Laing



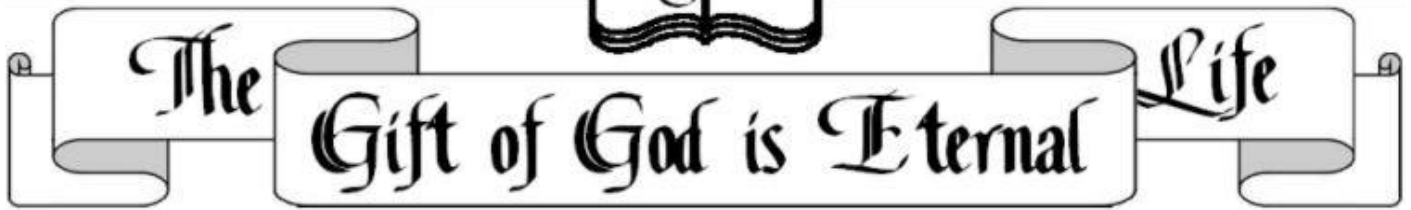
• The Laing family has been associated with Thames Church of Christ for about 80 years and came from an Associated Churches of Christ background • Albert and Jessie Laing were members of Thames Church and Ron and his siblings were all baptised at Thames as their father was very adamant about baptism by immersion • For many years Ron had a passing interest in Christianity but was soundly converted through a very keen Christian living on the Hauraki Plains • While retaining his membership he actively attended the Presbyterian Church in Ngatea and he and his wife Audrey formed a very active Boys Brigade group and led it for several years • Modernistic preaching caused Ron to transfer his fellowship to the Thames Church of Christ where he has been very active as a lay preacher, deacon, executive member and Elder • After many years of faithful service to the church as treasurer Audrey died in 2004 • Although Ron is 93 years old he still regularly leads morning services • The family farm at Waitakaruru, where Ron has spent almost all his life, was recently sold and Ron has moved into Thames township • The church recently held a house-warming for Ron with some of his family and friends and his new home was blessed in Jesus Name.

Leadership Profile—Terry & Bridget Burchell



• Born in England 1940 • After leaving school at the age of 15 Terry studied for television repairs at Leicester Technical College • In 1972 he became self-employed and operated a television business until emigrating to New Zealand in 1989 • With running his own appliance repair business and a rural postal run, Terry is now a well-known Thames figure • Upon arriving in New Zealand he and Bridget began attending the Church of Christ and soon fitted in well with the congregation • Terry played the organ on occasions until the death of Mrs Gwen Baker, the church organist • He accepted an invitation to play the organ, expecting it would be a temporary arrangement. Eight years later Terry

still plays for Sunday services • Over his time at Thames Terry has been involved in the Sunday School ministry, and he and Bridget enjoy sharing the love of Jesus in local retirement homes through worship and song • Bridget is a great asset to the church as secretary, and gives Terry encouragement on the occasions he leads the worship • Together they enjoy the fellowship with the small but devoted congregation at the Church • Jesus said, Where two or three are gathered in My Name there I am also.



Registration—RSVP July 15th

Registrar: Doug Campbell Postal: Doug Campbell
Phone: 0-7-868 7302 306 The Terrace
e-mail: duggie@maxnet.co.nz Thames 3500

Details Required:

Yes!—I will be attending the 125th Celebrations on 22nd July, 2007:

Surname: _____

First Name(s): _____

Era of association:

19____ to _____

19____ to _____

19____ to _____

19____ to _____

19____ to _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

e-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: (0 _____) _____

These are my attendance plans:

- I will be staying in Thames—Saturday 21st July
- I will be attending the Morning Service—Sunday 22nd July, 10:30 am
- I will attend the Lunch at the Church—12:00 pm*
- I will attend the Light-Tea at the Church—5:00 pm*
- I will be attending the Evening Service—Sunday 22nd July, 7:00 pm

*For catering purposes registrations must be received no later than 15th July
Accommodation: a list of local motels is available on request.