

A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

I was invited by our former district president (Geoff Burger) along with one or two others to consider applying for an Army Chaplaincy position.

After a further three years (a lot of medicals and injuries to deal with) I was finally admitted into the Army as a Reserve Army Chaplain in March of 2007. Since then I have been involved with 2 major training periods - Officer training (2 weeks) and Chaplains training (4 weeks).

In the Chaplains training we undergo training that focuses our pastoral training and skills to life in the Army. It also helps to hone skills for life in the parish like; time management, small group work, larger presentations, leadership, administration. I parade regularly on Tuesday evenings as well as occasionally on other days including some weekends.

Usually on the weekends I don't go to the Sunday parade as I am involved with leading worship at Morley.

Padres have four major tasks to undertake. At the forefront is pastoral care. Mostly the opportunities happen when we just gather around the soldiers, occasionally we get called aside by a soldier to talk about issues of faith and life. Sometimes this happens formally, mostly it happens informally when the soldiers are waiting for something to happen or over a drink at the end of the night.

A recent incident happened with members who were travelling to Perth for a training weekend.

Everything changed for the 3 when they came upon, what looked like a minor accident. It turned out to be a fatality. This gave me an opportunity to spend time with them to care for them and to help them during this time of crisis. It would not have happened if a Reserve Army Chaplain hadn't been available.

The other three tasks involve leading services, (like ANZAC Day, prayers for soldiers on deployment, and funerals, baptisms and the like) character training (we train soldiers to consider ethics and morals and to give them tools to quickly think through and make right decisions about what is the best way to go forward when under pressure) and finally, ethical advice to command.

Pax
Kim Kuchel
Pastor Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Morley Padre 16RWAR

KNOWLEDGE IS GOOD
...WISDOM IS BEST!



LUTHERAN MEDIA UPDATE

What is Face To Face?

Face to Face is produced by Lutheran Media Ministry for The Lutheran Church of Australia. A variety of script writers and presenters bring messages of hope and inspiration to anyone who listens. To find out more or download the broadcast as a podcast or mp3 or get a copy of the PDF script go to: <http://www.lca.org.au/> and click on Face to Face/

This Month on Face to Face

7th Sept	Fatherhood	Interview with Mark Doecke
14th Sep	Bula Osca	With Pastor Trev Keller
21th Sep	Getting Older	With Pastor Richard Mau
28th Sep	Walking on Water Part 1	Interview with Mark & Ellen Modra

The ABC will also be broadcasting "An Australian Story" about Hannah Modra

Mark and Ellen Modra talk about the depression of their 17 year old daughter Hannah. What makes a person with everything to live for take their own life?

ON ABC

Monday 15-Sep-2008 at 8.00 pm

Saturday 20-Sep-2008 at 12.30 pm

ON ABC2 -

Tuesday 16-Sep-2008 at 8.00pm

On the internet (www.abc.net.au/austory) -

Anytime after 15-Sep-2008 with Previews appearing the week before.

For more information about Hannah go to

www.hannahmodra.info

STAYING IN WA

Pastor Adrian Kitson has declined a call to Victoria and will be staying at Ocean Forest.

Have you got any news about your parish or congregation? Share with the WA District.

I need prayer points, praise points, news and views.

Please email your items to: waneews@esbconsult.com

Current and old WA Lutheran News are available for download from:

<http://www.esbconsult.com/lcawanews/>

On the website you can also sign up to get an email informing you of when there is a new newsletter ready for download.

Karen Crouch, Editor, WA Lutheran News

