



*Joshua Prayer Groups
And Ministries*

CCR BRISBANE

JOSHUA PRAYER GROUPS AND MINISTRIES

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008/2009

Mission Statement

- (a) To help God's Kingdom by fostering the growth of Catholic Charismatic Prayer Groups and Ministries in the Archdiocese of Brisbane subject to – the authority of the Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane and the spiritual direction of the priest appointed by the Archbishop as liaison priest.*
- (b) To provide a system of communication for the prayer groups and ministries of the Archdiocese;*
- (c) To provide opportunities for liaison with the Archbishop and with other bodies;*
- (d) To encourage fuller participation in Church;*
- (e) To foster evangelisation by proclaiming the Word of God in response to the call of Jesus; [Mt. 28:18].*
- (d) To support reconciliation when necessary;*
- (e) To provide the service of leadership, encouragement and direction for the prayer groups and ministries;*
- (h) To encourage and support prayer groups and ministries.*



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Dear Affiliated Members,

As members of Joshua Prayer Groups and Ministries, we can look back in thanksgiving to 1980. At this time, Archbishop Rush appointed Prayer Group Fellowship as the organisation responsible for Charismatic Prayer Groups, which were operating within the Brisbane Archdiocese. In 1995, the name was changed to Joshua Prayer Communities and Ministries, and later to Joshua Prayer Groups and Ministries. Joshua's work continues under our present Archbishop, John Bathersby DD. Under his spiritual direction, we are currently responsible for 30 affiliated Prayer Groups and 4 Ministries. This twenty-ninth year has been another fruitful one and it gives me great pleasure to present the Presidential Report.

At our Annual General Meeting in August 08, we had an amazing opportunity to experience the wonder of World Youth Day, by combining our presentation of reports with WYD Sharing. Young people from 3 different prayer groups were present to share their struggles along with many 'grace filled moments,' which had taken them to a deeper awareness and understanding of their faith. Their joy was a powerful witness to an experience that had changed their lives, giving hope and direction for the future.

In September, our members accepted our invitation to review the 'Joshua Vision for Mission' which we, as a committee, had been working on over the previous 9 years. Members gathered to discuss how this vision had been working for them, to share their vision for mission, and to deliver what the Lord was saying through themes of prophetic word at their meetings. Our liaison priest, Fr Francis Onwunali was present to celebrate Mass with us. He delivered a powerful homily, based on the importance of working together in unity.

The outcome of this day was very encouraging for our Service Committee. We needed to hear from our members to discern what the Lord was saying to CCR Brisbane. Joshua's future role was discussed and discerned and our strategies for response are-

- to promote Regional Prayer Gatherings using affiliated Ministry Worship Teams
- to provide Regional Evangelisation Gatherings using affiliated Ministry Members
- to develop Teaching Teams for Visitation from our Committee Members and Leaders
- to increase advertising including our CCR Brisbane Retreat Centre at Northgate
- to launch our Joshua web site www.ccrbrisbane.org.au which now provides for wider and more effective communication

Our End of Year Celebration was a gathering to be remembered. It was our largest gathering for the year, with many members traveling from North and South Coast Pastoral Regions, as well as South, East, West and Inner Brisbane Pastoral Areas. This Joshua Event has become traditionally multi-cultural with members sharing their culture, traditions, gifts, talents and abilities. We had stalls of home baked goodies, crafts, plants, books and novelties for sale, along with a shared multi-cultural pot luck lunch. Members of Prayer Groups entertained us with cultural dance and song, which was fun as well as wonderful. Fr Vince Hobbs celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass, to thank God for His many blessings throughout the year.



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Fr Francis was present to celebrate our opening Eucharist and Gathering Day for 2009. He delivered a homily reflecting on the Lenten Season, which was enlightening and encouraging. Len Airey joined by Nik Seow from Darra-Jindalee, led us into deep praise and worship ministry. After a delicious shared lunch, Messengers presented their ministry to us, some through Christian Clowning and Christian Dance, others through witnessing to their experiences. This ministry covers a wide range of ways to reach out to a hurting world and ministered personally to those present on the day.

Our Joshua Annual Retreat held in May at Mercy Place Bardon, was again outstanding. Our retreat director was Fr Dan Benedetti MGL and the theme was 'stepping out with Jesus'. Fr Dan related through teaching and sharing, to the many times he had witnessed God bringing hope out of hopelessness. We shared in his passion of helping people to open their lives to the action of the Holy Spirit. His gentle ministry allowing us many precious moments to re-connect and to go deeper, and we came home enriched by this encounter, encouraged and commissioned to be more aware of God present in our midst.

We are grateful to Fr Francis, who joined us for a generous part of our retreat, and Fr Vince Hobbs who assisted in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our musicians Diana Allen and Graham Sergeant who provided wonderful music ministry, our youth musicians from Darra-Jindalee Prayer Group for their ministry during our open rally on Saturday night, and to all our members and visitors, who helped us to enter into the joy of being part of family as the Body of Christ.

As part of Joshua's Outreach Ministry, Messenger's of the Word have presented a 'Catholic's Come Alive' Program in the Western Region earlier this year. Members of 3 prayer groups represented their region by planning, organising, and coordinating this event. They gathered to praise, learn, share, and to offer prayer ministry.

Len Airey and Vicky Harvey have ministered through Praise and Worship Workshops in the North Coast Pastoral Region, along with Inner Brisbane Region. Both were awesome events, planned and coordinated by Joshua Regional Representatives and members. This outreach has been met with enthusiasm and we are confident that Regional Evangelisation and Prayer Gatherings will be regular events for the renewal of groups and parishes. We are grateful to our affiliated members and ministries, who are making this possible.

Joshua Service Committee Team continues to meet regularly to pray, discern, plan for upcoming functions, to provide for the needs of our members, as well as to oversee the running of our centre. Many of our team have stepped out this year into their different Pastoral Regions. We have been involved in Regional Meetings with leaders of prayer groups and ministries, where we have discussed the needs of the groups, discovered the giftedness of the members, and planned and co-coordinated events for 5/6 Pastoral Regional Areas. We have worked exceptionally well as a team. I'd like to take this time to personally congratulate our Joshua Service Committee Members for another outstanding term.



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The Executive Committee Team of Audrey and LP Seow deserve a special mention. These people have played a significant role as Joshua Secretary and Treasurer; they have an amazing dedication to CCR Brisbane and work extremely hard in their service to God and towards His people. Trish Latimer, Qld Representative on the State Service Committee, Editor of our Joshua magazine 'Face to Face', and member of our Service Committee for the last 29 years, does marvelous work through CCR. Graham Joyner continues to audit our books and finances in an honoree capacity. These people are tremendous; please join with me in appreciation.

When I reflect on the work our members are doing towards the renewal of this Archdiocese, along with the youth who are very much part of church and ministry, it is with tremendous joy that I look to the future and am overwhelmed by God's plan. Membership has grown. Some groups have closed over the years, but new ones have been formed. Members have stepped into leadership positions within the wider church, youth have been raised up, ministries have formed, and parish outreach is developing. Our workload continues to expand and the fruit of Catholic Charismatic Renewal continues on. We as Joshua Service Committee give thanks to our God. Let us continue to pray with our Archbishop that God would unleash the Power of the Holy Spirit on this Archdiocese of Brisbane. May the Peace of Christ be with you and your families always,

Your President,

Jenny McCormack

(On behalf of the Joshua Service Committee)