

February 2004

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva
English Speaking Congregation

www.genevalutheran.ch

Terry MacArthur Leading God's people in song and praise.



How do you know Terry MacArthur is present? Quite often it's when you hear his distinct laugh. When Terry is at his best, God laughs too – in delight – when God's people are lifting their voices in song and praise, led by Terry, our congregation's music director and one of our key worship leaders.

Terry's passion has been music, his *raison d'être*, for as long as he can remember – playing instruments, writing songs and translating words to songs even in languages he does not speak. And music has been part of his life from the time before his memory starts. He tells the story that has become part of his memory because his grandfather shared a recollection with him – of how his grandmother used to sing hymns to him as a very young boy.

After having church music hard-wired into his brain, it's not surprising that today Terry is renowned in churches around the world for helping people sing new and different melodies from all the world's cultures. In our congregation, he leads us in a uniquely uplifting experience that we have come to take for granted, yet brings us back happily week after week to our outstanding worship.

In his career as a worship and music leader, Terry relates how getting people in worship to internalise new sounds and words in 30 to 60 seconds is a challenge he has come to master. To enable worshippers to take ownership, to feel the power and to be touched by new sounds, is Terry's forte. Bringing joy and thanksgiving through music and song is what he's worked on for most of his life.

Although he never received formal training in ethnomusicology, Terry

learned a lot on the job during his 12 years as worship consultant for the World Council of Churches (WCC). With the help of talented colleagues within the WCC, Terry organized worship for a number of major events during his tenure. The one he speaks of with greatest fondness and as one of the high points of his career is the 1991 WCC assembly in Canberra, Australia. The public, so enthusiastic, crowded out the final event, leaving hardly enough space for the delegates.

The oldest of four brothers, Terry was born in the rural woodlands of Michigan and grew up on the farm that's been in his family for four generations. His father directed the local church choir, and essentially all socialising revolved around the church and could be summarized by this family rule: "If you're able to stay up Saturday night, you're able to get up on Sunday for church."

At school, Terry played the clarinet, and later formed a band, performing publicly to raise money to attend university with the aim of becoming a teacher. He received a degree from Central Michigan University in mathematics and physics.

Having always been active in the Presbyterian Church and thanks to committed and enlightened pastoral guidance, in the late 60s, he started playing radical "soft rock" on the piano in church. In his sen-

In this issue



CENTRE SOCIAL PROTESTANT-GENÈVE

- Interview with our music director 1
- Reflection 2
- Bible reading schedule 3
- Birthdays and anniversaries 3
- Announcements 4
- Interview with Patty Solomon, the "Guardian of God's House" 5
- WorldLutheran 6 + 8
- Little Luther 7

ior year, he ran the “Dialogue Coffee House” (not the Dutch sort), a sort of youth ministry where people could go to chat and listen to fine music. But he realised he had another calling.

He set off for the Chicago Theological Seminary, an experience for a country boy thrown into a wild city environment. During this defining year of his life, Terry decided his ministry would be oriented toward music and worship rather than overcoming gang warfare. He transferred to the Methodist Theological School in Ionia, Ohio, where he graduated with a Masters of Divinity.

Rapidly ascending to the position of Chairman of the Conference for West Michigan where he was pastor, Terry began organising and leading worship at large meetings, often times with more than 1,000 people. This work eventually sent him to New York City. He immediately came to love its sights and sounds, museums and opera.

Attending Union Seminary in NYC, and needing money for his cultural interests rather than for food, he landed a job as an organist at a Lutheran church. The only problem was that he didn't know how to play the organ! He ended up taking lessons at well-known Riverside Church.

Refusing to return to rural America, Terry moved to Geneva in 1987 to take the position with the WCC. Originally a three-year contract, the position lasted 12 years. During this period, he developed a strong presence here, joining our staff and that of the Latin-American church, and assisting with the worship in several churches around town and at several major events at the Cathedral.

Terry has seen God's hand guiding him in his life, but has been surprised sometimes, such as when *continued on page 6*

Reflection by our pastor

Sharing impressions and possibilities

It is snowing today. Outside of my window everything became white. White is not a common colour for me related to nature. Not this type of bright dazzling white. So I took some photos fitting the corner of my window when a timid sunshine laid over the snow exposing its nuances. I appreciate the view. I am overwhelmed with the novelty. Novelty? Then I suddenly feel confronted to myself finding it unusual to perceive anything as “new” when I am here for so long time. Long time? We arrived four months ago but it feels as if we have been here for many years already.

Where does this sense of connection come from? On an individual level and in a pastoral perspective, I feel a deep openness from people and myself to be involved in each other's lives. There is a trusting permission that allows me to come inside people's lives and vice-versa. I have been meeting many different people during these last four months. I have been listening to a variety of opinions, perspectives and stories. I have been moved by many of them. Although, in spite of not stopping working from morning until late in the night, I could not meet everyone. So, I would like to encourage all of you to call me. Whenever you feel you need your pastor, please, do not hesitate to call.

Our Congregation has a proper dynamism and relies on a respectable volume of volunteer work and on an admirable wide potential in a variety of fields, considering the expertise of individuals. How to integrate those capacities not only aiming our internal community but a larger participation in the life of the city? Wouldn't that be a way of reaching out?

There are some areas that are requesting special attention from us, like youth, for example. We are re-starting the Senior High age group with a combined leadership. What is fundamental to me is to find out what is relevant for young people's lives. What makes sense for them and what are the important questions they are asking themselves and to others? To whom are they asking these questions? What is going on in young people's lives here in Geneva? As Church we are responsible for trying to understand and to come closer to their lives in order to develop a consistent and continuous program. It takes a full ministry and considerable investment to do this.

Another area requiring special attention is outreach. At this very moment, it has become a priority. The Outreach Concern Group is already taking actions in terms of publicity. Besides announcing our worship calendar in local newspapers we need to advertise on a radio station. We need also to produce a small brochure and a business card with concise information that all of us can easily give to people in our working places. Other ways of outreaching could be:

Children – to have an open monthly program for children, and through that invite their parents. If we are known as a child-friendly Church, new families will probably come.

Arts – to develop ELCG as a cultural resource for our city and taking advantage of its excellent location, our Church could be more accessible to the general public. Cultural outreach is a powerful way of doing this, which builds on the Church's current strength in the area of music. We already offer our space for concerts, but we could include exhibitions, drama etc., and do it on a more regular basis. We would have either external or Church's performers, professionals or amateurs.

Another idea is to establish ELCG as a center for innovative development of liturgy and music, including movement, mime, dance and drama, building on the talents of many members of the Congregation.

Well, the snowing has stopped and I have exceeded the space for this Geneva Lutheran. These are some impressions and possibilities that need further discussions and development.

May God guide us as we search to be God's people in this city.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Towards Lent

Week 6 – February 1-7
Ireland, United Kingdom

Week 7 – February 8-14
Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Week 8 – February 15-21
Portugal, Spain, Italy, Malta

Week 9 – February 22-28
Germany, France

Week 10 – February 29-March 6
Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino

Regular church activities

Every Sunday morning

Christian education programme
8-14 yr. old, 10.00 *at the Church*
The Adult forum, 10.00 *at the Spaghetti Factory, Rue de la Fontaine 13 (close to the Church)*
Sunday Worship at 11.00

Every Tuesday morning

Biblestudy, 9.30-11.00 *in the Open House, Ecumenical Centre*

Every Wednesday

Confirmation class, 18.30-19.30 *at the Church*

Every Thursday

Junior Choir, 18.30 *at the Church*
Adult Choir, 20.00 *at the Church*

Colofon

The **GENEVALUTHERAN** is published monthly by the

English-speaking congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

20, Rue Verdaine + Place Bourg-de-Four (Geneva Old Town)
CH-1204 Geneva, Switzerland
Phone (+41) 022 310 50 89 or 022 348 75 95
Fax (+41) 022 310 50 89
office@genevalutheran.ch
www.genevalutheran.ch
Swiss postal account: 12-9677-6

Credit Suisse account: 0251-226749-71, Place Bel-Air branche, CH-1211 Geneva 70
(For international transfers: IBAN CH96 0425 1022 6749 7100 0)

This newsletter may also be downloaded as a pdf file from our internet site.

Bible readings

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1

Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13), Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

6th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 15

Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Transfiguration Sunday

February 22

Last Sunday after the Epiphany
Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Lent starts

Ash Wednesday

February 25

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent

February 29

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

February birthdays

- 2 Ursula Bulti
Ingo Wulfhorst
- 4 Dorothea Elfriede Wulfhorst
Bob Granke
- 5 Solomon Tesfay
- 7 Wolfgang Heim
- 8 Susanne Mühlhaus-Ebersole
- 9 Stephen Padre
- 11 Wariri Muhungi
Lila-Rose Mshana
Markus Reuhkala
- 13 Stella Dvorak
Daniel Lopez
Saburo Tanaka
- 15 Joel McClellan
- 17 Karina Gjerpe
Diane de Loës
Carl-Gustav Bjertnes
- 18 Dean Mock
- 21 Bill Strehlow
- 23 Nkatha Kobia
Isabelle Graessle
Mako Hayafuji
- 26 Kate Peterson
Elly Mlaki
Jacqueline Mlaki
Berliana Siahaan
- 29 Bill Fackler Hug

February Wedding anniversaries

- 1 Ingo and Dorothea Wulfhorst
- 7 Maarten and Cynthia Wilbers
- 8 Hans and Bernice Dörig
- 13 Melkamu and Ursula Bulti
- 22 Saburo and
Toyoko Tanaka Tanaka
- 26 Ginda Harahap and
Berliana Siahaan

Copy for March issue

March issue Geneva Lutheran will appear **Sunday 29 February**

Please send in articles *before Thursday 19 February* to the Church office; the best would be to get your submissions in by email: office@genevalutheran.ch. The editorial team will keep the freedom to select and edit articles that will be placed in the newsletter. **Thank you very much.**

Church activities

Refreshment duties after Worship

Every week a neighbourhood group will take up the responsibilities prepare refreshments after worship. If you are not sure which neighbourhood group you belong to, please feel free to contact the church!

February 1

Neighbourhood Group A (*Nyon, Coppet, Crans, Gex, Ferney etc.*)

February 8

Neighbourhood Group B (*Versoix, Bellevue, Chambesy, etc.*)

February 15

Neighbourhood Group C (*Meyrin, Vernier, Chatelaine, Lignon, etc.*)

February 22

Neighbourhood Group D (*Grand-Saconnex and Petit-Saconnex*)

February 29

Neighbourhood Group E (*Servette, Paquis, Vermont, Delices, etc.*)

Other Church activities

February 7

French speaking worship, 18.00 in the faulted cellar at the Church.

Georges Nivat will be preaching and Pasteur Marc Chambron will be presiding.

Mr. Georges Nivat teaches at the University of Geneva.

February 10

Meeting contact persons neighbourhood groups, 19.30 at the church.

February 11

Congregational Committee meeting, 20.00 at the church.

February 17

Japanese Biblestudy, 20.30 at Taylor's home in Bernex.

February 24

World day of Prayer bible study, 9.30 at the Open House, Ecumenical Center Theme: *In Faith women shape the future*. Theme and worship are prepared by women of Panama.

February 25

Ash Wednesday

February 26

Ecumenical Women's Group monthly meeting. Topic: *Panama*. Taking place at 14.00 in the Open House, Ecumenical Centre.

March 5

World Day of Prayer worship, 12.30 in the Chapel at the Ecumenical Centre.

March 6

French Speaking worship, 18.00 in the faulted cellar at the Church.

Opportunities for study and action

Japanese bible study

The Japanese Bible study group meets on the evening of the 3rd Tuesday every month until July. In February we meet on the 17th. We begin each meeting at 20:30. The study itself will last until 22:00 or 15 minutes after. Then afterwards we have tea time with lots of food – a very nice time to have conversation of any kind.

The language will be Japanese and at the moment we are studying The Acts of the Apostles. So far we have finished the first 11 chapters. Pastor Satoru Kishii teaches the bible each month. For the normal monthly meetings we meet at the Taylor's. Everybody is invited. We make no distinction regarding the sects or doctrines, Catholics and protestants. We meet as Christians. Actually there are quite a few people who are attending some churches other than ours.

The Taylor's home is easily reachable if one comes on the bus Nr. 2 or 19. After the meeting you can get a ride home as we have many enough who drive.

Noriko Kishii (022 346 19 38) is ready to supply more information at any time.

Occasional gathering of women

This fall we chose to gather once a month to hear what was "on the heart and mind" of one of the participants. We heard from Roswitha Ebner-Golder about her work with the *Comunidad Cristiana Latinoamericana* and the justice issues of domestic workers, while Isabel Best offered wisdom on community values and the challenges we live with such as the environment and consumerism, considering justice from both the macro and micro perspective. In January, Sarah Stephens spoke of her move to Albania and the plight and hope for victims of trafficking of human beings.

The occasional gathering is for all women who are open to a feminist perspective on theology and social issues (LIFE!). All groups experience fluctuations in their life and at this time, the occasional gathering of women is discerning its future.

Should we study a book together? Would we like to hear of each other's work? What is of concern and importance to you? We will gather on Saturday, March 13 from 9:30-12 noon to consider our options for the future. Please join us and make your needs and ideas known.

For further information please contact one of the convenors: Susan Holck at 022 364 46 32 or Lynn Granke at 022 731 87 30 or granke@bluewin.ch

Tuesday morning bible study

The group meets at 9.30-11 am in the Open House at the Ecumenical Centre. Originally initiated by the EWG, now women and men gather to offer support, encouragement and hope to one another in the context of biblical study.

Contact Bill Strehlow for further info (022 700 82 19).

Our new auditor for 2003

We are very happy to announce that Yoshiko Ando has accepted to be the Auditor for the 2003 church financial books. As per our constitution, the Congregational Committee has voted – unanimous – for her assignment.

Church garden

Although it is snowing, and winter is still there, we wait to see the little bulbs pop up in our courtyard in front of the church... Where do they come from? Joan Wegener has a green thumb. She faithfully tends our little garden, and we are very grateful for her passion to do this, as we enjoy so much the first flowers to pierce above the cold wintery earth! Thank you very much Joan.

Good byes and see you soon...

We would like to say again good bye to **Sarah Stephens** who left for Albania on a new assignment, and **Tita Valeriano**, who finished her work with the LWF and left for the

USA. Thank you very much for your abundant ministries to our church community we will miss you! May God bless you and may we see you soon again!

From survival to revival

Invitation to a dynamic breakfast conference

How can we, as faith based community, involve ourselves in a sustainable economic development project, focused on generating income, jobs and skills building, thus, being a catalyst for personal empowerment and hope?

From survival to revival
Breakfast meeting
Tuesday February 10th at 08.15am
at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva, Rue Verdaine 20

Kindly reply (Carl Bjertnes, 079 691 50 84) as soon as possible if you can participate. If you cannot make it, I would be grateful to arrange another convenient meeting time. God bless.

Geneva in Fall of 2000, she regularly sings in the choir, teaches Sunday School helps in mini-church and volunteered with the youth program (ages 15-18). She, together with Tita, reactivated the young adults group. Her creativity and gift of writing stories and scripts have on Christmas and Easter been presented in original mini-plays in church. Being good with children and wanting them to participate more actively in worship services, Patty and Terry MacArthur started the Junior Choir and there has been no stopping since then, all to the glory and honor of God.

Patty has been serving as a member of the Congregational Committee since 2002, and was the Secretary for that year. Now on her second term, she serves as a member of both the Worship and Nurture and Concern groups. This year she facilitates the “Jesus Rockers” (ages

Contact numbers

ELCG Church office

Julia Schmitz-Leuffen
022 310 50 89 (t + f)
office@genevalutheran.ch

Pastor

Rev. Lusmarina Campos-Garcia
022 348 75 95 / 079 544 70 12
pastor@genevalutheran.ch

Music and choir director

Rev. Terry McArthur
022 798 32 31 / 079 652 32 96
tmacarthur@bluewin.ch

President

Dorine van Teeseling
022 754 25 38
dorine.jaap@freesurf.ch

Treasurer

George Petty
022 791 63 10
gmp@eclof.org

Church concierge

Patty Solomon
022 312 18 06
(only in case of real need please)

11-14) group with Andrew as well as continuing to do the many other activities mentioned.

And now, “she’s watching over God’s house...” was the description of Jared of why Patty has moved into the church. Being the concierge for the next two (2) years, her responsibilities include the general upkeep of the building, making sure that the worship area is prepared every Sunday, replenishing supplies and ensuring the facilities are in order.

Patty enjoys her new role at the same time continues her studies and active involvement with the church. She has grown accustomed to the music of the Cathedral bells, and is now growing “strong legs” to take her everyday through the 81 steps climb. Ever thankful for the many blessings
continue on page 6

About...

“...she’s watching over God’s house.”

Patty Solomon visited Geneva in the Summer of 2000 at the invitation of Tita Valeriano. Finding Geneva an irresistible place considering its culture, the environment and the people, she immediately ventured into enrolling in French language class. A very disciplined, determined and intelligent woman, she now is pursuing a dual degree in Theology and French Language and Civilization at the University of Geneva.

Her hectic academic (and social) life has not deterred her active involvement with the church and its ministries. Having been accepted as a member of the English speaking Evangelical Lutheran Church in

World Day of Prayer

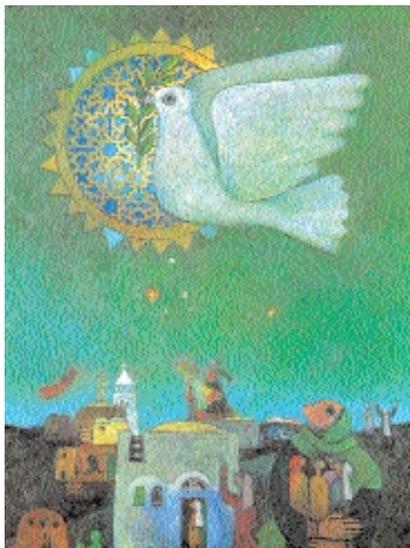
On March 5th, 2004, millions of women and men from 180 countries and islands will pause to pray, commemorating the annual World Day of Prayer.

The World Day of Prayer theme for 2004 is: *"In faith, women shape the future"*, and is prepared by women from Panama.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions, cultures and races, who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in more than 170 countries and regions, have a continuing relationship in fellowship, prayer and service throughout the year...

The movement is initiated and carried out by women since the beginning of the 19th century. It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March – to which all people are welcome.

Through World Day of Prayer, women and men affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.



Artwork by women from Haiti (top: *"God calls us to respond"*, '96) and Palestine (*"Go, see and act"*, '94).



World Day of Prayer Worship

The annual World Day of Prayer worship service has a theme, chosen and prepared by women of a certain region. This year women from Panama have prepared the order of worship on the theme: *"In faith, women shape the future."*

Through preparation and participation, we can come to know how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them. In this way it is possible to experience the richness of faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

The order of Worship is translated into over 1000 languages.

In Geneva a group of enthusiastic English speaking women and men from a variety of churches and organisations prepare together the bible study and the worship, followed by a bakesale for a project in Panama. You are invited to join the following events in Geneva:

Tuesday, February 24 World Day of Prayer Biblestudy; Open House, at 9.30 hrs.

Friday, March 5 World Day of Prayer Worship, Chapel of the Ecumenical Centre, at 12.30 hrs.

continued from page 2 – Terry
the call to Geneva "just dropped out of the sky." He says he could not have imagined that from rural farmland he would come to work at the WCC. "It opened up the world to me, and I am so grateful to have learned and appreciated it so much," he says.

What gives Terry the most satisfaction in his current ministry? He says it's the moments when the congregation doesn't need to be led in the singing of a song or hymn so strongly – when people take over and get wrapped up in the singing.

When his career and life on Earth is over, with his gifts and talent, Terry will probably still be leading the saints in heaven in worship. What does he believe worship there will be like? "Possibly bringing the fine harmonies from China and Ghana together," he says. "The languages from around the world mixing will spell utter joy." And in heaven, Terry says, God will lead the singing and won't have to pull us along any longer.

In the meantime, we have Terry MacArthur to lead us in the singing here in Geneva.

Carl Bjertnes (photo by Mark Miller)

continued from page 5 – Patty
received, she is looking brightly ahead into combining her teaching work with Pastoral ministry (in French-speaking countries).

Nowadays, one notices the frequent thumping (of the children and youth) up the stairs as they nestle comfortably in Patty's "upper room". And you too are invited to drop by and have a chat with who's "watching over God's house."

Note: Should anyone have or be willing to donate a small washing machine, Patty extends her heartfelt gratitude.

Johnny M. Camaddo

Little Luther

Read, play, tell, and just for fun...
Lire, jouer, raconter et pour le plaisir...

A page for our young members - in english and french

The Little Apple

by Mike (www.kidssundayschool.com)

The little apple clung tightly to the branch as a gentle breeze blew by. An older apple noticing the younger apple's despair, chuckled and said, "Looks like your holding on to that branch for dear life little buddy."

The little apple glanced up at the older apple and said, "I am! I don't want to fall to the ground. Don't you know it's hard and dusty down there? The ground is filled with worms and creepy crawling bugs. Why just take a look for yourself, can't you see all the rotten apples down there?"

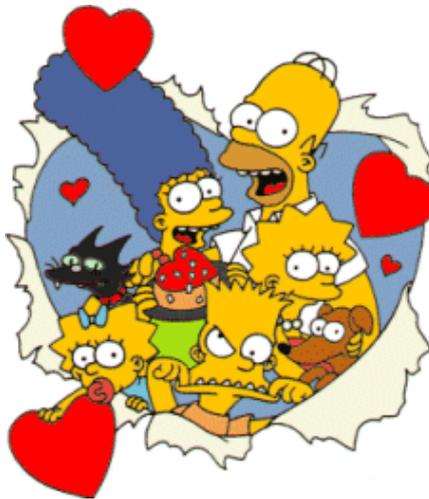
The older apple thought for a moment then replied, "I know you're concerned about falling from the tree, but some good things have come from the ground." "That's not the life for me," retorted the little apple, "I plan on being hand picked by a special family, taken to their home and placed into a beautiful fruit bowl. With my shiny red skin, I shall be the most delicious looking piece of fruit in the entire bowl!"

The older apple gently replied, "There is much more to being an apple than just having shiny

red skin." "Yes, I know!" the little apple quickly interrupted, "One of the children will probably take me to school for lunch or perhaps have me for a snack after school. They will know that I was more than just a beautiful apple with a shiny red peel, they will find out that my fruit is great tasting and healthy for them."

"Yes, yes, you could be all those things for a season," the older apple tried to reply...

To be continued in the March-issue!
Do not miss it!



The Gospel According to The Simpsons™

The Spiritual Life of the World's Most Animated Family

Homer, a 'folk religion' believer in a 'religio-magic' system, is hazy on the nature of God, Jesus and Christianity. When asked by his son what religion the family is, he answers, "You know, the one with all the well-meaning rules that don't work in real life. Uh, Christianity..."

by Mark I. Pinsky
Foreword by Tony Campolo
Westminster John Knox Press
ISBN: 0-664-22419-9
Paperback – \$12.95
Publication date: September 2001

C'est plus facile pour un chameau...

Un homme très très riche prie chaque jour, demandant à Dieu de bénir les malheureux, les pauvres, etc... «Bénis les pauvres, Seigneur, aide-les, exauce leurs prières, mon Dieu, donne-leur à manger...»

Un jour, alors qu'il était en train de prier, son plus jeune fils s'approche de lui et lui dit :

- «J'aimerais bien avoir tout ton argent, papa!»
- «Pourquoi cela?»
- «Bien, pour que tu sois heureux! Cela me permettrait d'exaucer tes prières !»

Des bonnes manières...

Un missionnaire effrayé, poursuivi par un lion affamé se précipite dans un arbre pour sauver sa vie. Avec ferveur, il prie : «Seigneur, donne des sentiments chrétiens à ce lion.»

- «Seigneur, merci pour ce repas», dit le lion.

Les voies de Dieu...

Un missionnaire s'était perdu dans le désert. Quelques temps plus tard, décrivant son épreuve à des amis, il raconta comment, pris de désespoir, il s'était mis à genoux et avait imploré Dieu de venir à son aide.

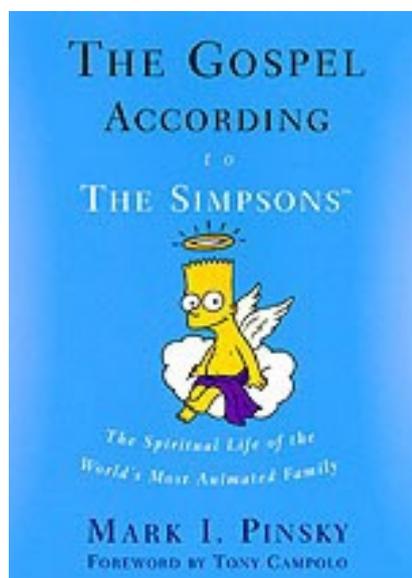
- «Et Dieu a-t-il exaucé votre prière?»
- «Non ! Avant qu'il ne pût le faire, un explorateur est passé et m'a montré le chemin !»

Le bon sermon...

Un jeune pasteur va voir un de ses confrères et lui demande : «Mon frère, comment doit être un bon sermon ?»

- «Un bon sermon», lui répondit-il, «doit avoir un bon commencement et une bonne fin. Puis tu fais en sorte que le commencement et la fin soient le plus rapproché possible !»

Tu peux trouver encore plus de blagues sur : www.topchretien.com/topdetente/blagues.htm



WorldLutheran

The Protestant Social Centre of Geneva celebrates 50 years at the service of its population

In 2004, the CSP will celebrate its 50th anniversary. In 1954, a team of convinced Protestants created the CSP around the leadership of Reynald Martin. At first it was the social and legal counselling. Through the years, according to the needs recognised by the professionals of the organisation, several other activities were developed with the CSP (clothes distribution to the needy, activities for the elderly, 2nd hand shops, etc.) and on the periphery, (Protestant Holiday Centre, 2 elderly health care centres, Camarada centre for exiled women, etc.) Albeit very different activities, they have in common, to answer the needs of those in need in our midst. In this jubilee year they will pay tribute to their pioneers and all those that have in one way or another, enabled the CSP to fulfil its mission. They will use this exceptional year to put on a number of events to develop the bonds that link the CSP to the local population.

The Values

This jubilee is also the opportunity to reflect on the values that bring CSP members to action day in and day out; in the name of what do we carry out our daily tasks? A number of years ago they drew up by-laws that is outlined in a brief document entitled "*Les principes fondamentaux du Centre social protestant*". These principles are based on five verbs:

- **to serve**, In accordance with the Gospel, to serve mankind and promote greater social justice. CSP is open to everyone without distinction to race, colour, religion or political affiliation.
- **to witness**, CSP endeavours to prolong its work through collective

activities and action at the level of the individual. In this manner it can act on the cause of social problems, and provide solidarity for the most needy and marginalized. They bring to the forefront the deficiencies, injustice and the social needs that typically are hidden.

- **to respect**, The CSP respects the freedom of the user. The CSP staff (both salaried and benevolent) endeavour to provide quality services. They act only with the full consent of the user.

- **to create**, The CSP attempts to create an infrastructure that enables users to find original answers to their problems.

- **to manage**, The CSP calls on three financial sources: donations, revenue derived from commercial operations (2nd hand shops and recuperation) and subsidies (both public and private). The finances of the CSP are managed in a clear and rigorous manner.

CSP has asked ten leading personalities in Geneva to write about these 5 verbs. The texts have been brought together in a book entitled "*Cinq mots pour le dire*" (Five words with which to say it) that has just been edited by "Editions Labor et Fides".

Since 50 years this private institution for social assistance, is recognised of public interest providing social service to those persons in difficulty, without prejudice to either origin or faith. The institution is active in 10 sectors:

- Social services
- Refugees
- Legal counselling
- Family counselling
- *Atelier Galiffe* (Community centre for people to meet, talk and do activities)
- The elderly (two health care homes for the elderly)
- Volunteer work
- *Vestiaire* – Clothes distribution for the needy

- *Renfiles* and boutiques – 2nd second hand shops
- HQ and administration.

The CSP is also at the origine of several associations "*enfants du CSP*", activities for affordable and social housing (Association Nicolas-Bogueret), the integration of foreigners (Centre de contact Suisses-Imigrés), the framework for caring for the elderly (EMS les Bruyères et Les lauriers) and one for youth (le Centre protestant de vacances), or granting benefits to the exiled women (Camarada).

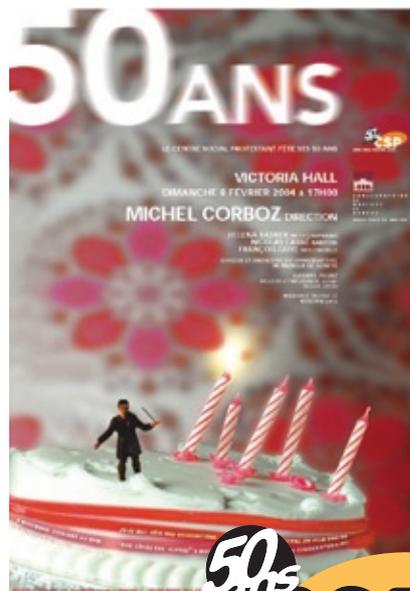
Some 60 staff occupy the 40 jobs that are complemented by some 300 volunteers thus enabling the institution to carry out its mission. For further information, please call 022 807 0700 or via www.csp.ch.

Exceptional Concert

Victoria Hall

Sunday February 8th, at 17.00

Directed by Michel Corboz,
Choir and orchestra of the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève
Gabriel Fauré: *Péllas et Mélisande* (OP.80), *Elégie* (OP.24)
Maurice Durufle: *Réquiem* (OP.9)
Reservations 0800 418 418



CENTRE SOCIAL PROTESTANT-GENÈVE

