

## **AGEING POPULATION AND AGED CARE FACILITY NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE**

### **HOW IS THIS AN OPPORTUNITY?**

At the moment we follow our Ageing church members from in community to housebound to Aged Care and this will continue with Services, pastoral Care and communion.

Existing church members plus new comers to our congregation will be continually cared for as they age. The challenge will be the encouragement of younger people to our church family and the willingness of younger members to become part of the team.

### **SUPPORT TO EXISTING AGED MEMBERS?**

Looking at the physical and spiritual needs of those of our congregation as they age.

Challenges:

- Easy asses to toilets, building and seating
- Obstacles of glass doors into church and access to toilets, safety of access to toilets near kitchen.
- Hand rails along hall and stairs.
- Toilet on Activity Hall level
- Access to space with seating in church with walkers accessible to owner - ease of mobility.
- Easy accessibility of disabled people in the pews for distribution of communion.
- Comfortable supportive chairs with arms so the Aged can sit down and stand up with safety.
- Availability and help with transport to church services and functions.
- Encouragement to be included in Bible Study - transport help where needed.
- introd. To With Love to the World- distributed In church or delivered
- Seating accessible for reading the overheads of the Church Service- placement, colour and size of font.

Supplied : hearing loop, headphones

### **SUPPORT TO EXISTING AND FUTURE HOUSEBOUND MEMBERS**

- Continued Pastoral Care.
- Distribution of copies of the weekly sermon, newsletter and church activities to be available, continued Communion Services.
- Inclusion in church activities- invitation and transport to attend.
- Introduction of Prayer Partners between the Housebound to compliment Pastoral Care Teams so they can be actively engaged with each other through the phone and prayer.
- What facilities do we have in place for these people to give to the work of the church?

## **AGED CARE FACILITIES**

- Provision of Communion (Ilumba and Cheriton) and church services once month.
- Provision of pastoral Care with individual members on a when needed basis.
- Memorial services as required at Ilumba and Cheriton.
- In formal Happy hour and conversation at Cheriton - Tuesday
- Personal visits - prayer and communion.
  
- Challenges:
- Increase in size and number of Aged Care Facilities- increase in demand - building of a new Opal Aged Care Facility in Stanley St.
- Ageing of the team concerned with this service
- Do we introduce a gift offering at these services?
- Cheriton Aged Care- memorial services for unchurched as a way of recognition of their time there (people missing from their table). Approx 12 in the last twelve months.\

## **SERVICES TO THE UNCHURCHED**

Personal visits and support of elderly neighbours and an offer to church if they would like.

## **NEEDS THAT ARE NOT BEING MET BY OTHER AGENCIES?**

- Survey would be needed to find any gaps.
- Do we have the personpower?

## **HOW DO WE BRING CARE, JUSTICE, HOPE TO THE AGED?**

With limited resources, we think at the moment we are supplying most needs.

We will have to encourage and train more people to spread the load now and in the future.

How can the church support the services to the aged?

Prayer and continue what services we already do with a committed team.

## **HOW DOES THIS CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOALS FOR MISSION, MINISTRY AND GROWTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE?**

This does contribute to the goals , mission and ministry of the church. As these needs increase with the ever growing aged population there will be a need for increased participation of our church community so that the existing team will not be overloaded and burdened. There is a need for encouragement by the rest of the church congregation to the team by support in prayer and involvement as part of the team.

## **TO BE REALISTIC, THE BIG QUESTIONS ARE:**

1. How do we keep these services to the Aged going with an ageing team now and into the future as our services to the Aged are constantly growing and as is the age of our team members increase.
2. How do we continue to do all we want to do as a congregation when a significant number of our current congregation will become too aged to attend in the next 10 - 15 years?