

## Say 'No' to abuse

About 200 people gathered at the bottom of Albany Road on Saturday 29 November to make a stand against gender-based violence and abuse.

Starting time was delayed by an hour due to a traffic department hiccup which meant that Bishop Bethlehem, who unfortunately had to leave for an appointment, read out his statement before the march got under way.

Led by the Bethesda Congregational Church Band, the marchers moved along Govan Mbeki Avenue to the City Hall where Ethel Pittaway, the canon for the gender desk portfolio, read the petition which was signed by Howard Lancaster, on behalf of Bishop Bethlehem, Director Greyling (SAPS) and Lindsay Ziehl (from Mother of Hope) on behalf of the people of the Metro - as no one appeared from the Mayor's office. They all said a few words of encouragement to the marchers at the City Hall.

Ethel has e-mailed the petition to Dumisani Mbebe, Director: Constituency Services Metro, and Mabhuti Duno, as well as expressing our disappointment that the Traffic Dept as well as representation from the Mayor's office never arrived.

Ethel told iindaba, "We have had great feedback from all who participated, so even though we had some disappointments we had more success. We handed out over 1 000 leaflets on abuse along the way." Also handed out were anti-rape T-shirts which many of the marchers proudly wore.



**Into 2009**  
Lord God, we live in disturbing days: across the world, prices rise, debts increase, banks collapse, jobs are taken away, and fragile security is under threat. Loving God, meet us in our fear and hear our prayer: be a tower of strength amidst the shifting sands, and a light in the darkness; help us receive your gift of peace, and fix our hearts where true joys are to be found, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Left: The band followed by the placard-carrying marchers. Below left: A group from St Nicholas, Charlo, proved that one doesn't have to be able to walk to take part in a march. Below: Bishop Bethlehem addressing the crowd before the march began.



## A trinity of new priests

The diocese has a trinity of new priests ordained on Sunday afternoon 14 December at the Cathedral.

There was standing room only as friends, family and parishioners filled the Cathedral to see the three men priested. They are Joshua Koenig (stipendiary) and Jacob Plaatjies (self-supporting) who will minister at St Mary Magdalene, West End, and Vincent Mdidimba (stipendiary) ministering at St John-the-Baptist, Walmer. Joshua will be moving to St Simon of Cyrene in April to join Sipambo Ludidi ministering in Uitenhage.

The guest preacher, Dr George Malek, spoke on Matt 16:13ff, where Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say I am." He said that a Christian's witness to the world is not simply service, saying, "Your witness is your love and not your philosophy. You are Christ in the church and if you are not that you are not good." People must see Christ in you, he said, as the Roman centurion saw Christ on the cross and was able to say, "Surely, this

man is the Son of God."

He reminded his listeners that Paul was able to say that he had Christ living in him and told his readers to be 'a living sacrifice' - "Unless you give your life as a living sacrifice your words will not be sufficient," he said..

Dr Malek went on to speak of God forgiving humankind who had killed his son. He said that as a father of a son he could not see how he would be able to forgive someone who killed his son - but God's love enabled him to forgive us.

Speaking to the new ordinands and the clergy, he said, "No matter how cruel the church may be, she is still your mother."

After the service Bishop Bethlehem left through the vestry and came in at the gate where he blessed the people and the city.

At the end of the ordination service Bishop Bethlehem and guest preacher, Dr George Malek, an Egyptian-born Congregational minister, look on as Jacob Plaatjies, Vincent Mdidimba and Joshua Koenig hold their licences up for the people to see.



## Our Advent hope

In preparation for World AIDS Day, the House of Resurrection Haven held their annual service on Sunday 30 November.

Bp Bethlehem spoke on our Advent hope - we need to be alert, to watch and pray so that we are ready when the King comes. He said, "We're called to restore human dignity by having a good relationship with God, with myself and with others." He said the Lord needs 'you and me' to touch others.

During the service Bishop Bethlehem baptised some of the



**A wee Haven patient waiting to be baptised.**

Haven children and lit the AIDS Memorial Candle - this was followed by a minute's silence in memory of all those who had died from AIDS-related illnesses during the year.

## Have you prayed for you priest today?

**David Gwilliam tssf**

The ladies of the MU Christian Family Life at St Matthew's, KwanonQaba, in the Parish of Alexandria, take the injunction to pray for their priest seriously.

To emphasise this, each year they organise a special service of thanksgiving at which prayers and blessings are offered for all the clergy of the parish, full-time and retired, and their families.

This year the service was held on Sunday 19 October and all the clergy and their wives were present. In order for him to be able to sit with his colleagues, assistant priest Mxolisi Somandi, arranged for Velile Quza, a priest from the Ethiopian Episcopal Church, to celebrate and preach - a task he performed in a manner fully in keeping with the spirit of the occasion.

The large and Spirit-filled

congregation was greeted by Nkosazana Gangqobe of MUCFL who welcomed, together with Mxolisi and Nomfundo Somandi, the rector Terry Beadon and his wife Jeanne, Peter and Val Bowen, Ewart Collett, John and Joan Davis, David and Margie Gwilliam and Pam Godwin.

After special prayer and enthusiastic singing, the clergy and wives were called forward to receive a blessing and were also presented with most generous gifts by Lungiswa Clay leader of the MUCFL.

A fellowship luncheon was enjoyed in the rectory afterwards.

Thanks to the congregation of St Matthew's and especially the members of the MUCFL from all the clergy of the parish for this wonderful idea, born of their

loving kindness and their obedience to the Gospel's call to us to love and pray for one another.

### Thank you

The editor thanks the Dean of the Province, Bishop Paddy Glover for his very encouraging telephone call.

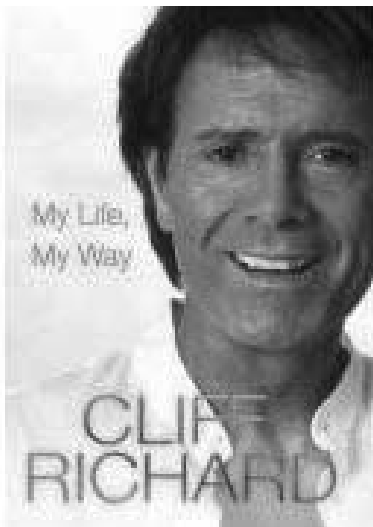
Also the many readers from our diocese who have encouraged her at various times.

It helps to know that it is all worth while!



## Book reviews

**Cliff Richard: My Life, My Way, Headline Review, London, 2008. ISBN 978 0 7553 1588 3 (hardback), 978 0 7553 1835 3 (paperback). Reviewed by Geoff Booth**



Cliff Richard needs no introduction for most. This book marks the 50th anniversary of his first record, and provides a fascinating insight into the life of one of the most successful pop idols of all time. It is not a strictly chronological history, and the chapters cover topics, rather than time periods: he speaks of his relationship with his band, the Shadows (once called the Drifters, but forced to change their name because of copyright problems), the influence of Elvis Presley (of whom he says "If there had been no Elvis, there would be no Cliff Richard"), his fans, his passion for tennis, and much more besides. In short, as the author puts it, it explains "what it has felt like being Cliff Richard".

There is a chapter on Cliff's conversion to Christianity, and his faith journey permeates much of the book. One of the key players in his conversion was Shadows bass guitarist "Licorice" Locking, who advised him against trying to contact his recently deceased father through a spirit medium. Interestingly, Locking is a Jehovah's Witness, as are several of his other acquaintances, including Shadows' guitarist Hank Marvin

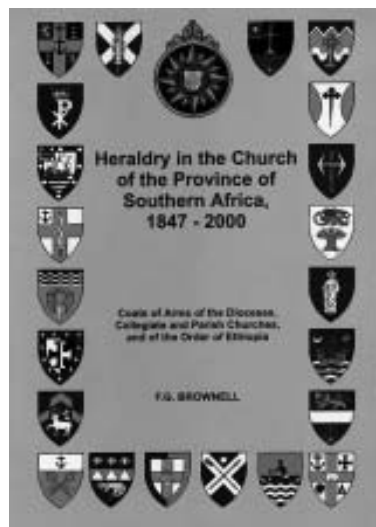
and one of his sisters. In his journey into faith, he says he considered the Witnesses, and other religions such as Buddhism and Judaism, before settling on orthodox Christianity. He discusses how his faith has developed over the years, describing himself currently as a "solid, but non-judgemental Christian". His massive contributions to charity, for which he was knighted in 1995 are also discussed, and he clearly considers these to be an extension of his faith.

Some might find his remarks on homosexuality controversial. The topic is mentioned only briefly, and he poses the question, as have many others, whether the church should accept faithful, committed same-sex relationships. Our lifelong "Bachelor Boy" is adamant that his own orientation is nobody else's business, and I agree.

Cliff is clearly pleased with his achievements, but there is a tone of humility, and he is sometimes openly self-critical. For example, he once turned down an opportunity to meet his idol, Elvis Presley, who was then very overweight. He thought that the photos would be bad publicity, and that it would be better to meet the King when he had slimmed down for his next movie. This was not to be, as Elvis died shortly afterwards.

Sir Cliff has shown the world that great pop music does not have to be associated with drugs, sexual promiscuity and alcohol abuse. I have long regarded him as a great artist, a great human being and most importantly, a great Christian. This book reinforced all of that for me. It is a "must-read" for all his fans, particularly his Christian ones, amongst whom I am proud to count myself.

**Frederick Brownell - Heraldry In the Church of the Province of Southern Africa. 1847 - 2000 ISBN 0-620-28606-7 Reviewed by Mike Oettle.**



This is the first comprehensive survey of the coats of arms of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (as it was until recently, the Church of the Province of Southern Africa). Published in 2000, it was recently brought to my attention.

Brownell served as State Herald of South Africa from 1982 to 2002. His interest in church heraldry goes back to his boyhood in Bethlehem, Free State, where his family worshipped at St Augustine of Hippo parish church, and was peaked during his schooldays at St Andrew's School, Bloemfontein, and his student years at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. For a time he was chairman of the Anglican Club at Rhodes. He first joined the Bureau of Heraldry in 1977, as Assistant State Herald.

The arms of Southern African dioceses included in the book range in time from Cape Town (1847) to Niassa (1999). Geographically they extend from Niassa, in the north of Moçambique, to St Helena, in the South Atlantic Ocean.

The dioceses covered include two that are no longer part of the Province of Southern Africa, namely Mashonaland and

Matabeleland (in Zimbabwe, and since 1955 part of the Province of Central Africa).

The coverage is exhaustive, since Brownell was obliged to explore the roots of Anglicanism in South Africa, and so includes the arms of many overseas dioceses.

Also included are the arms of Angela, Baroness Burdett-Coutts, whose generosity enabled the establishment of the diocese of Cape Town, and whose own arms not only form part of the Cape Town diocesan arms, but have been the source of considerable confusion.

Aside from the current arms of 21 dioceses, Brownell provides earlier versions for several of these dioceses, including erroneous variants that can be seen in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town.

There are two entries for St Mary's Collegiate Church (now Port Elizabeth's cathedral): one in the section on parishes, which includes only one other parish church, and that in Pretoria; the other entry is under the Diocese of Port Elizabeth. Brownell mentions it there because Crockford's Clerical Directory for 1973-74 showed the parish arms as representing the diocese.

All Saints', in Kabega Park, is mentioned as being in the process of registering arms - the certificate was issued in 2002.

The arms of the Order of Ethiopia also appear.

Constraints of publication meant that the illustrations (aside from the shields of the 21 dioceses on the cover) are all in black and white. These arms can be seen in colour at

<http://uk.geocities.com/kruisstaf/indexE.html> These images will shortly be joined by articles on all the dioceses.

## Blues Wow



Anthony (Ant) Keogh, a gospel blues singer, walked onto the stage, sat down and began playing 'Unsaved Blues' and had all the blues fans at the Women of Valour tea last August enthralled and blessed by this and the other songs he sang. He is a 'Man of Valour' who has overcome abuse and dedicated his talent of writing songs and of singing to the glory of his Lord.

Ant has made a few CDs and the one I bought at the tea is 'Blood Line' which is a compilation of some songs from the 'Out of the Blue' and 'Long Road Walking' CDs, and is very powerful.

Contact Ant on: 084 511 8095 or antleakeogh@gmail.com

## Do you need chairs?

**St Mark and St John, Parkside**

**have 128 old chairs**

- steel frame with wooden backs and seats - that they are willing to give to anyone who is able to make use of them.

**Contact Anita Jacobs on 041 457 2292**

**Tuesdays to Thursdays between 08h30 - 14h30**

to arrange to collect them on a "first-come-first-served" basis.

# The Bishop writes... In pursuit of time

**My dear friends in Christ,**  
Humans live in consciousness and the awareness of time. The understanding is that time flows one way from pre-existence as the future unfolds its curtain, to the present and into the unending past. It is in this time flow that people feel, think, act as they grow into maturity. Time is conceived to be 'measurable period that lacks spatial dimensions'. The fact remains that time is the most familiar of concepts used in the organisation of thought and action; it is also the most elusive in that it cannot be given any simple illuminating definition (St Augustine, 5th C). Time is held to be non-ending, non-beginning, linear and continuous.

For John the Evangelist, time begins, flows and ends in and with God (Jn 1:1ff). In his prologue the *logos* (word) begins the movement of God's visitation in time and space for the salvation of humans. He fully partook of human nature 'full of grace and truth' (Jn 1:14). It is fitting that on New Year's Day our thoughts in the



**Bishop Bethlehem with Olivia Mtetwa, who has been living with AIDS for 11 years, and Jean Underwood who spoke on AIDS work at St Mark's in Humandorp.**

Church calendar are set towards pondering about the naming of Jesus. Jesus is a Jewish name whose equivalence 'Joshua' means **help** or **save**. In an acceptable time God breaks into human history to take over our affairs. That story of long ago as of now, still tells of human longings for freedom from evils of their lot, personal, social and political. As we

saw in Advent tide, **evil** is to be separated from **good**. We can never dream of that true freedom until our hearts are flooded by the presence of the Spirit of Christ.

We also make resolutions in the New Year of the things we intend doing to better our lives. We are a people called by the name of Christ (cf Acts 11:26). We are challenged to **live** the hope of our calling. The Church is intended to be a place of joy to the benefit of those outside her. It is imperative that we aspire to be used by God in restoring **human dignity, liberty, equality and safety**, values that human nature yearns for. We should be resolute in the pursuit of **Ubuntu** out of

a pure compassionate and generous heart in mission to the world. Time flies!

May the Lord increase your faith to move mountains.

Yours in the love of Christ,

*B. Bethlehem*

## DS/T Keith thanked for 16 years work

Keith Rae, who is retiring as diocesan secretary-treasurer, was overwhelmed by the gift of an HP laptop, with all the software installed on it, that he received as a gift from the diocese at a 'thank you' gathering on Monday 22 December.

Keith is not leaving the diocesan office. He will spend January showing our new diocesan secretary-treasurer, Ruth Brandt, a priest from Queenstown, the ropes. Then after a holiday he will return in the capacity of internal auditor.

Bishop Bethlehem thanked Keith for the devotion and dedication he has given to the work. He spoke of Keith's having left a very well paid job with Mossgas to take up the position in the diocese for a very small salary, and how he had done so well at keeping the diocesan finances sound.

Keith replied by thanking everyone who had come. He spoke of having worked with three bishops - Bruce Evans, Eric Pike and now with Bethlehem Nopece. He said he's received gifts from the former two bishops when they left, and then said, "Bishop Bethlehem bestowed the title of Honorary Canon on me at a simple but moving ceremony in the chapel at St Hugh's. His off the cuff citation was more than just a compliment to me and my work in the diocese. This was a humbling moment, which I'm not sure I deserve." He went on to say that the untold support and compliments he



**Denise and Keith Rae receive the diocesan gift 'Thank you' from Sharon Nell, Archdeacon of the Bay.**

has received over the years for doing the job he's supposed to do, is extremely humbling. He said he had always tried to do his job with honesty and integrity.

In speaking of the support, encouragement and compliments he'd received from laity and clergy he said, "These are humbling moments because without God's help nothing is possible ... I'm not only grateful for the loyal team of workers at the office but also for the Morning Devotions where simple truths

are shared with one another" He thanked the parishes that had helped, or tried to, help lessen the administrative burden, and his wife, Denise, for her support. He said he had never been 'too good', because if he had been he would not be retiring just yet.

He ended saying, "I don't know what challenges Denise and I are going to face in the years ahead but we are left with no doubt that these will be faced with God's strength and support."

Dennis Burkinshaw, who had had to come out of retirement to show Keith the ropes when he started as DS/T, shared some amusing anecdotes on life as a diocesan secretary.

The function was attended by clergy and spouses, churchwardens and the office staff - almost 100 well-wishers in all.

## The view from pulpit and pew

❖ At the time of publication of iindaba, news from Cape Town is that Nicolette Leonard is out of hospital after successfully undergoing a bone-marrow transplant which she received from her sister Mel. Nicolette was devastated by the death of her mother in December - especially that she was unable to attend the funeral. Robert Penrith was able to be with her on the day of the funeral, which brought her much comfort. She and Myron are staying with Mel, and she attends a clinic at Groote Schuur twice a week. iindaba commends her to the prayers of its readers, praying that her appetite will return, enabling her to put on some weight and giving her strength.

❖ Good news from the Nell family. Jacques has completed his degree at NMMU, after having had a very trying time. He has been taken off most of his medication, and is now, according to his mother Sharon, rector of the Zwartkops River Valley Parish, looking for a job!

❖ The McCoy family recently returned from Cape Town where they attended the graduation of their elder son, John. Dad Mike is the Dean of Studies as well as being assistant at St Hugh's, Newton Park.

❖ The Holmes family are saying farewell to their daughter and sister Katharine as she travels to Chatham-Kent in Ontario, Canada, as a Rotary Youth Exchange student for a year. In the meantime they will be welcoming Danish Youth Exchange student, Amalie Wedge, into their home for 3 months.

❖ Some clergy moves are taking place.

- The dean, Dudley Greenshields, is moving from All Saints' United Church in Somerset East as rector of St Katharine's in Uitenhage.

- Gill Bowman, assistant at St Margaret's in Summerstrand, moves to be assistant in the Zwartkops River Valley Parish. She will, however, continue as University Chaplain.

- Robin Behrens has joined the stipendiary ministry after having been self-supporting. He is appointed assistant at St Nicholas, Charlo.

- Mzie Doda, rector of St Stephen's in New Brighton, has left the diocese. He and his wife Lovely have moved to King Williamstown, where he has been appointed archdeacon. iindaba wishes them well in their new ministry there.

- Two parishes are swapping archdeacons! St Stephen in New Brighton leaves The Bay archdeaconry, and joins the Kariega archdeaconry, whilst St Peter's, Zwide, leaves the Kariega archdeaconry, and joins The Bay archdeaconry.

❖ iindaba is sad to record the death of Dorothy Holmes of St Hugh's in Newton Park - a Member of the Order of the Diocese. Dorothy exercised a loving and encouraging ministry to new Christians, and mentored many in their walk with the Lord. She was also an organist at the church. Some of the clergy of the diocese have said it was Dorothy who encouraged them and was instrumental in the growth of their faith. iindaba expresses condolences to her family and all who loved her. May she rest in God's eternal peace.

❖ Some of the clergy children have just completed their Matric, and iindaba is happy to report they all did very well, and all qualify for university:

- Joshua Daniels (Eddie and Nicky);

- Vashti Damon (Elroy and Lyn);

- Katharine Holmes (Christopher and Susan). Congratulations to all three of them, and all others from the diocese who completed their schooling last year!

### Tag lines!



**The secret of getting ahead  
is getting started.**

### A thought!

**To clasp the hands in prayer  
is the beginning of an  
uprising against the disorder  
of the world. - Karl Barth**



# Our roof's got a hole in it

At about the time Holy Spirit in KwaZakele was built the Serendipity Singers had a hit song, "Don't let the rain come down ... my roof's got a hole in it and I might drown." That was 50 years ago and since then no repairs have been done to the Holy Spirit Church roof and it is now leaking badly.

The Archdeacon of Kariega, Zweli Tom, was one of about 1 500 guests at a banquet held on Saturday 8 November to raise funds to repair the roof.

While the guests arrived at the beautifully decorated Nangoza Jebe Hall, and throughout the evening, they were entertained by the Fiks Jazz Band and their wonderful singer.

The banquet began a bit late as the organiser was waiting for the guest speaker to arrive. After a while all the preliminaries took place ... and still the guest speaker failed to arrive. By 20h30 Zweli was 'thrown in at the deep end' when he was approached, the guest speaker had phoned to say she was unable to come, would he please help? A very difficult job at short notice, but he managed to put thoughts together and spoke on a subject he is passionate about,



**Thokoza Mngomezulu looks over the shoulders of Rosy Witbooi, Zweli Tom and Zanele Mngomezulu at the Holy Spirit Parish banquet.**

"The church and state relations in the new SA". Saying it is not a new subject because it emerged with Constantine in 313AD. He spoke about a meeting held in Pietermaritzburg in 1990 to discuss what role the church should play in the new SA. He said the Archbishop of Cape Town should be a critical friend to the government. "We are called to be the salt and life of the world, so we need to bring life where life seems to be decaying. We should be empowering our confirmation classes to be responsible, to use their votes responsibly to bring meaningful change where it is needed."

## We have a vision

Having spent time workshoping and praying about their parish Vision and Mission statements, the Sundays River Valley Parish held a special service on 23 November to launch them.

During the service a billboard was unveiled with the statement in English, isiXhosa and Afrikaans. The rector, Zweli Tom, said, "This day marks the beginning of a new era in the life of our parish. Today God is affording us an opportunity to start afresh. After this day our parish will never be the same again, because God has given us a new vision and a new mission statement."

Mazoe Nopece, who had been part of a planning workshop held in April, was the guest preacher. She spoke on how the vision reflects the Matt 25:31-46 reading. She said, "The church is called to be agents of change. It is called to be the hands, the eyes of Christ to bring peace and love to the community." She went on to say that the parish needs to commit itself to love - beginning with everyone learning to love themselves. "Loving entails acceptance, respect and not only loving the loveable. We need to let that



**Ashley Whyte and Tarryn Jones unveiled the board with the vision statement on it while the rector, Zweli Tom, looked on.**

love spill out ... we need to cross those barriers that keep us apart," she said, "And smile more to lift someone's spirit!"

## Good and faithful servant



Gill Bowman

A memorable breakfast was held at St Margaret's Church, Summerstrand, on Sunday 23 November to honour Henry Heine on his retirement from 40 years of service as a layminister. Henry has been

### Henry and Moira Heine

a lay minister at St. Margaret's for half his lifetime, with his ministry starting shortly after John Dunn came to the church priest-in-charge in 1968. It was a fitting celebration of his long service. Henry was rewarded with a gift of a holiday at the Beacon Isle Hotel.

Both Henry and his son Roy are members of the Order of the Diocese in honour of the contributions they have made to the Lord's work. We can only say with humility "well done, good and faithful servants". We wish Henry health and happiness in his 'retirement' and hope to see him in his pew for many more years.

# Eric retires as cathedral organist

After five years as organist and Master of Choristers at the Cathedral Eric Spencer left the diocese at the end of November.

Eric's skill on the organ has thrilled many people who have visited the cathedral, and his training of the choir has enhanced the joy of many services. He has encouraged budding organists and young voices and felt the pain at the present lack of interest among young people today in joining a church choir.

Eric visited Port Elizabeth in January 2003 to look at the city and discuss the position as organist he'd seen advertised in an old RSCM magazine. After accepting, he commuted between PE and the UK from April until June when he moved into his beautiful home in Walmer.

Eric's last service for the Cathedral was a very beautiful 'Vespers and Benediction on Advent Sunday'. The service began with a procession starting in the darkened cathedral, moving "from darkness to light", and included Gregorian chant and other traditional Advent settings to create a vivid and spiritual preparation for the coming of our Lord to Earth. Music by the English composers Orlando Gibbons and Edward Elgar was sung by an augmented Cathedral Choir.



**Eric Spencer plays his last notes as Organist and Master of Choristers on the 1897 JW Walker organ at the Cathedral.**

Eric will be sorely missed by the diocese - but our loss may well be Cape Town's gain as Eric is looking to perhaps settle there.

## RSCM tribute Maureen de Villiers

Royal School of Church Music SA (Eastern Cape Branch) would like to take this opportunity to extend its best wishes to Eric Spencer on his retirement as Cathedral Organist. Eric's vast experience as an organist and choirmaster in the



**Bishop Bethlehem thanked Eric Spencer for all his work in the diocese. RSCM members were there to make a presentation to Eric too.**

UK brought a new dimension to the music in the Cathedral. The popular concerts and organ recitals that he organised have reached out to many sectors of the music-loving public. He was also responsible for spearheading the refurbishment of the organ, turning it into an instrument that has been highly acclaimed by leading overseas organists.

We the RSCM committee would like to thank Eric for the invaluable help and

guidance that he has offered to us in the selection of music for workshops and, in particular, for the recent Summer School. We are also grateful to him for the workshops and services that he either conducted or accompanied.

We are indeed sad to be losing our friend and mentor, but we wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement and hope that he won't let the dust settle on his music just yet!

## Pray for our persecuted family

Christians in many parts of the world are being persecuted for their faith. An Indian has written a plea for us to pray for them, "I am an Indian, and am proud of being a Christian. Please pray for us."

Open Doors writes: In Orissa State, violence erupted in August. Several churches and prayer halls were torched ... Christian houses and shops were damaged. Christian worship places were desecrated. Women were burnt, raped and Christian priests were subjected to inhumane torture. Many villagers fled to the forests to save their lives.



**Violence in Puri District of Orissa.**

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