



Lawyers' Christian Fellowship Newsletter

www.lawyerschristianfellowship.org

MAY 2008

Helping the Lost find the Way

Steve Frost was a young, energetic and talented litigation lawyer with a CBD firm and good prospects of one day becoming a partner or perhaps a successful barrister. In his spare time he was studying at Morling Theological College and he was in demand as a speaker to various youth groups. But in 2005 he felt called to use his legal skills in a way that would assist the disadvantaged and those on the fringe of our society. So he left his comfortable position to fulfil a vision he had for a community legal centre which would engage the local community and seek to be a means of bringing Christ's grace to those who wouldn't connect with a conventional church. At the LCF Christmas function we heard from Steve as he shared how the Horizons Community Legal Centre ("the Centre") was born and how he had experienced



LAW AND GOSPEL IN WESTERN CULTURE

PROFESSOR JUDGE sorts out our mixed heritage, classical and biblical

Upon receiving his honorary doctor of letters from Sydney University in 2006, Professor Edwin Judge was described as one of the leading academic figures in modern Australia. He has founded numerous academic journals and research centres and has the Ciceronian ability to arouse, excite, alarm and electrify his listeners and readers.

CLE/CPD: If these talks are relevant to your immediate or long-term needs in relation to your professional development and practice of law, then you may claim the appropriate CLE units or CPD points.

CBF LEGAL. All rise.

- May 1st Cross-examining creation: *How did natural law block empirical science?*
- May 8th Who says how I ought to live? *Why did Nietzsche advocate Greek virtue against the morality of the Jews?*
- May 15th "Male and female created he them." *How did Aristotle justify systematic distinctions between the genders?*
- May 22nd The Stoics argued for apathy, the detachment from passion. *Why then do we have a duty of care?*
- May 29th Who says the common law must fall at the bar of truth? *How can we condemn those who only act according to the law?*

Price: Free talks, breakfast at own cost.

Venue: Silks Coffee Lounge, Ground Floor, 170 Phillip Street

Time: Breakfast from 7:30am, talk and question time 7:40 - 8:20am

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God's grace in his almost three years at the Centre. If it were not for the Centre most of its clients could not afford legal representation. The Centre operates on a not-for-profit basis and has so far helped more than 700 people. Waybridge Ministries, which runs the Centre, is a faith-funded organisation serving & growing because of the generosity of churches, individuals, trusts & local government. It is through this ministry that Steve has also been speaking to local churches and youth groups. Recently Steve has been joined by Diana Boots (pictured with Steve on the front page) who is providing much needed administrative assistance.

Steve shared a number of stories of those who've connected with the legal centre so far and talked about the fruit God has grown through those relationships.

Reflecting on the reasons why he is involved in this work, Steve said, "*Paul, in Colossians 1, tells us God has reconciled **all things** to himself – whether in heaven or on earth - through the Cross. But we live in that bit of history that lies between the 'It is finished' of the Cross & the 'It is done' of Revelation 21..By grace, we're each playing our small role in the great, saving work of God being made plain in our world. For me, and for many of you, the bit of the world in which we do that includes the vocation of law. We join with God in making plain the truth that our profession, as well as all the people it touches & affects, have been reconciled to Him through the work of Jesus. By grace, the practice of law can have redemptive effect in the hands of God's people as we implement the work of the Cross and wait for the new heavens & new earth we're promised will come.*"

The Centre's work is exemplified by this story Steve tells in the Centre's newsletter:

"On Tuesday last week, I spent more than 5 hours with 3 clients we're serving:

- Dan*, who has mental health issues & is dealing with a significant debt problem;
- Gavin*, who has a brain injury from an assault he suffered some years ago & was in court on a driving charge; and
- Miriam*, who lived through 11 years of abuse from her husband & is trying to move herself & her children forward from that season. (As I type this, Diana has been in with her for another 2 hours today.)

Gavin couldn't get legal aid because they don't cover the particular offence he was charged with. He lives on a pension, so he couldn't afford a private lawyer either. The main effect of his brain injury is that he gets

very agitated, very easily. When that happens he speaks in a way that comes across as quite aggressive. On top of this, he's been battling alcoholism for more than 30 years (since his early teens). Running his own sentencing hearing really wasn't a good option for him or the court.

This is now the 3rd time we've helped Gavin with different things. But as we worked to prepare this case, he shared a lot about his life that I'd not heard before. I was impressed by how, despite the many problems he's had, he's never given up. He kept stable work for 19 years before he was assaulted. Since then, he's done unpaid jobs for a number of community service organisations. He's found a financial counsellor to help him cope with life on a pension. He's tried to tackle his alcohol problem a number of times in the past 12 years, but never had success before now. In the past couple of months he's finally found an AA group that works for him and has made good progress.

Not only has Gavin not given up on himself. It seems God refuses to give up on him either. The financial counselling organisation that helps him is a Christian organisation. His sponsor at Alcoholics Anonymous is a Christian, & Gavin has started going to church with him. He's connected with us to work through this problem...

On Wednesday this week, we were in court for Gavin's sentencing. The outcome was perfect. He won't be driving for a while, but the Magistrate spoke well of the efforts he's making to get well & stay well. He's been locked into living wisely for the next two years & he left feeling confirmed in the path he's on. Please pray that he'll see it through and let God's grace have effect in every part of his life.

Anyone who would like to support the work of Waybridge Ministries in some way can contact Steve on 9809 0819 or hclc_waybridge@unwired.com.au. Financial support can be given by mail to The Treasurer, Waybridge Ministries Inc, 1/44 Princes Street, RYDE NSW 2112.

*names changed to protect client confidentiality.

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