

Issue 1, February 2010

In Focus...

Annual General Meeting



On Sunday 24th January, SICC held its Annual General Meeting. With our quorum reached, we were able to proceed with the matters at hand particularly the hearing of reports, discussion and the election of three new members: Lynne, Stan and Barbara. We farewelled Martha Sharp and Cliff Shepherd and thanked them for the great work they had done with the Council. Nancy Smith, who left for Washington DC in early January, was the third member retiring. We ask God's blessing on this new Council as they undertake the oversight of our congregation.

When the jet rose six miles high, it was clear that the earth was round and that it had more sea than land. But it was difficult to understand that the [people] on the earth found causes to hate each other, to build walls across cities and to kill. From that height, it was not clear why.

**Zulfikar Ghose, from his poem
'Geography Lesson'**

Thanks to Sojourners (www.sojo.net)

SICC CALENDER

Sunday, 11am – **Worship**, followed by
Coffee time

Wednesday, 2.30 pm – **Women's Bible Study
Group**, Strubergasse 49/5/12

Wednesday – **Students' Bible Study**, will
resume in January

Thursday, 1 pm – **Sacred Space**, hospitality
lunch at the Mozarteum Cafe

SICC COMING EVENTS

Lenten Bible Study Series: This will be a
six week series commencing Tuesday,
February 16, at 7.30 pm at Strubergasse
49/5/12

The study will be repeated Sunday -
commencing Sunday, February 21. It will
be at Strubergasse 49/5/12 commencing
1 pm (following coffee time)

Sunday, April 11 – **Vision Sunday: Being
Church in 2010 - with luncheon.**

ECUMENICAL NEWS

**'Resist Europe's secularisation' call made
at Taize youth meeting.**

Warsaw: Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomeos I, a spiritual leader who
represents Eastern Orthodox Christianity, has
urged young Christians to resist secularisation
in Europe. In a message to the gathered group
of young people at Taize in France,
Bartholomeos I, the Istanbul-based Ecumenical
Patriarch of Constantinople. further said:

"After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Europe no
longer recognises the place for Christianity
that history dedicated to it - it is as if
Christianity were being expelled from the
history of Europe".



*Jottings from the Pastor's
Desk*

This recently came to me in an email.

Perhaps at some point in time, these three friends may realize that they are not supposed to get on with each other and that will be a very sad day. But there is something in this story that speaks of a truth in the heart of all living creatures: a desire to live in harmony, in unity - at peace with one another. In the Hebrew Scriptures, this state of being is called Shalom. Jesus of Nazareth preached the coming of the Kingdom of God and he absorbed this notion of Shalom into this God lifestyle. May God's Kingdom come on earth, as it is in Heaven!



"They make an unlikely trio, but Baloo, the bear, Leo, the lion and Shere Khan, the tiger have forged an

unusually strong bond. Considering they would be mortal enemies if they were to meet in the wild, it is stunning to see their unique and genuine friendship. Rescued eight years ago, the three friends were only cubs at the time at barely two months old.

Delivered to the Noah's Ark Animal Rescue Centre in Locust Grove, Georgia, the decision was made to keep the youngsters together. 'We could have separated them, but since they came as a kind of family, the zoo decided to keep them together,' said Diane Smith, assistant director of Noah's Ark. 'To our knowledge, this is the only place where you'll find this combination of animals together.' Shere Khan, Baloo and Leo have now moved to a purpose-built habitat where the US public can now witness first hand their touching relationships.

'It is possible to see Baloo, who is a 1000lb bear, Shere Khan, a 350lb tiger and Leo, who is also 350lbs, messing around like brothers.' They are totally oblivious to the fact that in any other circumstance they would not be friends.' The three friendly giants appear to have no comprehension of their animal differences. Baloo and Shere Khan are very close,' says Diane. That is because they rise

early, and as Leo is a lion, he likes to spend most of the day sleeping. It is wonderful and magical to see a giant American Black Bear put his arm around a Bengal and then to see the tiger nuzzle up to the bear like a domestic cat.

'When Leo wakes up the three of them mess around for most of the day before they settle down to some food.'

Surprisingly for three apex predators with the power to kill with a single bite or swipe

of their paw, they are very relaxed around each other.' As they treat each other as siblings they will lie on top of each other for heat and for affection.'



God bless,

Glynthea