

6/94 New Initiatives in Ministry

(A report on Chaplaincy to the Racing Industry from a Committee of the Olympic Games Task Force.)

Background

1. Synod resolution 6/94 reads -

"To support our Archbishop's vision to promote God's influence and the teaching of Jesus outside our existing congregations and to utilise and capitalise on the emphasis being placed on sport in the media and community, Synod requests Standing Committee to -

- (a) investigate ways and means to create new initiatives particularly in the sporting community;
- (b) take note of and report on the existing efforts being made to make Christ known to the racing industry, the fourth largest employer group in Australia;
- (c) examine and recommend a form of chaplaincy or other ministry especially focussed on the thousands of employees and participants who are involved but have no contact with any Christian denomination;
- (d) prepare a report for the next session of Synod."

2. Standing Committee referred the resolution to the Archbishop's Olympic Games Task Force.

3. A Committee was formed separate from the Task Force consisting of the Rev Paul Bayliss (mover), Mr John Gormley (seconder), Mr Wayne Olling, and the Rev David Tyndall (Secretary).

Explanatory Comments

4. Thoroughbred horse-racing was one of the first sports introduced to Australia by Europeans. The first official race in Australia was organised at Hyde Park on 15 October 1810 by Army Officers of the 73rd Regiment.

5. In 1842, the Australian Jockey Club was formed. Since its establishment as an organised sport, the racing industry has grown immensely. In 1988, the then NSW Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing (the Hon Mr. R. Rowland-Smith) declared it employed 250,000 people (part and full-time). It has been described as the fourth largest employer in Australia.

6. Because it is strongly associated with gambling, the Sydney Anglican Church has distanced itself from the industry and its people. Another difficulty in sharing Jesus with many of the racing fraternity is their work hours, from 4 am to 10.30 am and 2 pm to 5 pm, limiting their availability for evening meetings or on Sundays.

7. The Committee is concerned to reach with the Gospel such people with no normal attachment to a church. The Rev Paul Bayliss, while Rector at Harris Park, undertook a non-commissioned chaplaincy role to the racing industry, especially at the nearby Rosehill Racecourse. He was unable to continue, however, when he moved to Willoughby.

Recommendations

8. That a full-time Chaplain be appointed as soon as possible, for an initial 3 year period, and that a search and funding be investigated immediately.

9. Though recognising that parish clergy near racecourses are largely unable to exercise a ministry to the racing industry due to busyness and lack of skills, that they still be encouraged to have a vision for sharing the gospel with the racing fraternity.

10. That this Committee through the Archbishop's Olympic Games Task Force be asked to consider ways to fulfil these recommendations in order to exercise a ministry to the racing industry.

For and on behalf of the Committee

THE REV D. TYNDALL

Secretary

15 July 1994