

## [Report for 2011](#)

We Travellers, walking to the sun, can't see

Ahead, but looking back the very light

That blinded us shows us the way we came,

Along which blessings now appear, risen

As if from sightlessness to sight, and we,

By blessing brightly lit, keep going toward

That blessed light that yet to us is dark

Wendell Berry

This has been a year when many of our member associations have experienced darkness in different ways. There has been drought and then flood; bushfires, earthquakes and after-shocks ... and then more earthquakes and floods. And in the midst of all of these physical trials there has been steadfastness and faithfulness to our shared vision. Supervisors have found ways to continue conducting programs and training people in both the art and skill of pastoral ministry. Our supervisory ministry has indeed continued. People have been accredited and moved forward in their CPE journeys.

I have been particularly aware this year of those who work in relative isolation without ready access to peers and colleagues. I'm mindful of the Level II accreditation of Geoff Flynn from Wagga Wagga in NSW; of the accreditation of Eric Cave from Tasmania as a Clinical Pastoral Educator; and here at this Conference we've celebrated the recommended Level II accreditation of Bernadette Wurlod from Dixie in Victoria and John Hewitson from Perth. At the Conference last year, Eric and

Bernadette presented a paper about the issues of supervising in isolation, and here is evidence of their commitment to providing CPE in regional areas. They keep alive the vision of some of our CPE ancestors who encouraged us in this process.

Furthermore, SANTACPE has finally taken up its responsibility to conduct a CPE unit in Darwin this year. Mary McCarthy's faithful vision, supported by the willingness of many supervisors from other member associations, has resulted in Peter Williams completing a successful unit there recently with John Virgin. The future looks promising in Darwin now with the possibility of training other local supervisors. SANTACPE expresses its appreciation to those supervisors from other member associations who have faithfully sown the seeds for this to occur. The opportunities of some of us to supervise over distance, by phone, email and skype keeps us in touch with each other and offers cross-fertilisation of our skills. Education-for-Supervision programs have been enriched by the participation of people from different member associations.

I really appreciate the uniqueness of our ANZACPE association which has resisted occasional suggestions to become incorporated. At the same time, I'm also aware that the only time we formally have contact with each other is at this annual Conference. We too, could be in danger of feeling isolated from each other. It has been a delight to hear, and to share with each other through bi-monthly "news" emails this year. I hope that in the year ahead we may continue to keep in touch this way with others contributing also.

May we all "keep going toward that blessed light that yet to us in dark" in trust and hope.

Margie Virgin