

# Wise counsellors

They have been together for the past 50 years and now Norwood parishioners Beryl and Bernie Challen will volunteer their time together to help operate a 24-hour national pregnancy support service based in Adelaide.

Beryl, 71, has been a volunteer at Birthline Pregnancy Support Incorporated for the past 25 years.

Her husband Bernie, 76, recently underwent telephone counselling training to help out the volunteer group which has occupied so much of his wife's spare time. The couple will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on April 8.

Beryl says the secret to their success has been commitment and allowing each partner to pursue their own interests.

After the last of her three children left school, Beryl began to consider volunteering and came across a notice for Birthline in the parish newsletter. "I thought: that is something I can do."

She says: "There is satisfaction from volunteering. It is worthwhile. You are helping people and while you can't solve their problems, at least you can point them in the right direction."

A keen collector of all things, Bernie decided to become a volunteer counsellor after "many years in the background" of the service.



Birthline Pregnancy Support Incorporated is a not-for-profit volunteer group established 30 years ago in South Australia to provide counselling, information and material assistance to all women, their partners and families needing advice on pregnancy related issues. The service offers face-to-face counseling, pregnancy tests and baby clothes and nursery equipment.

Based at Kensington Gardens, Beryl is part of a team of about 35 volunteer telephone counsellors who operate the

phones 24 hours-a-day, every day of the year. However, maintaining roster numbers has meant new recruits are always welcomed.

Birthline will be training new recruits in May and is hopeful more people will be willing to volunteer their time to help others.

**For more information on Birthline's free training course call 8431 8196 weekdays between 9.30am and 4.30pm. Birthline: 8331 1223 or 1300 655 156 (for country callers).**

## IN BRIEF

### Ordination date

Adelaide's Peter Zwaans will be ordained a priest on Saturday, July 16, in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral.

Zwaans, 29, was ordained a deacon with 29 other men in October at St Peter's Basilica. He is currently completing his studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He will return to Adelaide in June with a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (specialising in marriage and family).

### Historic exhibition

The King James Version of the Bible has turned 400, marking an important anniversary for English-speakers the world over.

To celebrate the anniversary, Bible Society Australia is holding a national exhibition titled *The Book that Changed the World* to highlight the enormous impact the King James Version has had on both Western and Australian society and culture.

Dr. Greg Clarke, CEO of Bible Society Australia, said: "The King James Bible may not be universally admired (it was a cause of division in its time, and still separates some religious communities today), but its impact on Western culture and language can hardly be overstated."

The exhibition, which includes a 1607 Geneva Bible with William Shakespeare's notes in the margin, is being launched in Adelaide where it will be held at the Barr-Smith Library, University of Adelaide, from April 1 to 30. Admission is free.

### Bishops thanked

The Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions has expressed his thanks to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for its condolences and strong stand taken after the bombing tragedy in Alexandria, Egypt on January 1 this year. Speaking on behalf of Bishop Daniel, Vicar General Fr Tadros Simon said the support of Archbishop Wilson and the Conference was felt through all of the Diocese of Sydney and its affiliated regions and was spoken of highly throughout all of the Coptic Orthodox Churches in Sydney and Egypt.

### Volunteer sessions

Palms Australia will hold information sessions on international development volunteering in Adelaide next month. Palms Australia, a non-profit, registered charity is celebrating 50 years of some 1400 volunteers in 39 countries since 1961. They are people like SA volunteers Esther Sim and Paul Tan, currently in Papua New Guinea, working in Financial Administration and Human Resource Management and Lorraine Kirk currently in Uganda working as a HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator. Returned volunteers will explain what's involved and answer questions at the information sessions being held on April 16 from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Hutt St Library and April 17 from 10.30am to 12.30pm at St Joseph's School hall, Tranmere. Or go on line at <http://www.palms.org.au/apply/why-volunteer/>



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