

Resumé: Richard James



1. Personal Details

Full Name Richard Francis James
Date of Birth 12th September 1958
Marital Status Married to Judy
Children Sarah 32 (Tristan, Rowan 4, Leon 6 months)
Matthew 30 (Rosalind) Peter 30 (Josie)
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Website www.GreatChurchWedding.com

2. Education

Newington College Stanmore - H.S.C. 1971 - 1976
Sydney College of Chiropractic - D.C. (Diploma of Chiropractic) 1977 - 1980
Moore Theological College Sydney - B.Th. (Honour's 2nd Class) 1984 - 1986
Moore Theological College Sydney - Dip.A.Theol. 1987

3. Employment

Wedding Evangelist - St. Thomas' North Sydney 2009 - 2020
Rector - St. David's Forestville 1997 - 2009
Evangelistically Focussed Priest - St. John's Shaughnessy, Vancouver, Canada 1993 - 1997
Associate Minister - St. George's Engadine 1990 - 1993
Assistant Minister - St. John's Parramatta 1988 - 1989
Chiropractor - Wollongong 1981 - 1983
Student Worker - Wollongong University 1983
Spinal Unit "Patient Care" - North Shore Hospital 1981
Taxi Driver 'Evangelist' (PT) - Sydney Deluxe Cabs 1978 - 1980
Milkman home delivery (PT) - Balgowlah 1977 - 1979
Retail - Gentlemen's Clothing (PT) - Fletcher Jones Warringah Mall 1975 - 1977

4. My Conversion

During years 7-12 at Newington College I excelled in all I put my hand to. I was driven to succeed and reached every goal I set – this was the school's 'secular' philosophy. However, with all my achievements I was acutely impacted by its emptiness to satisfy my deepest longings for meaning and significance. Two friends in my year evangelised me during my 2 final years of school. I was struck by their courage, genuine sincerity and care for me. I eventually began to attend the youth group of All Saints **BALGOWLAH**. I also attended every Sunday night service and a mid-week bible study. Having left school, on the 22nd July 1977 I was profoundly converted by the preaching of The Revd. Terry Dein. The Rev. Simon Manchester was All Saints student minister, and took me to the Manly Corso where we did walk up evangelism. From that day I was ignited with a passion to preach the gospel in every circumstance. I became active in the church youth group sharing the gospel.

5. Relevant Experience

- a. **Taxi Driver** - A 12 hour shift each Saturday night for 3 years. With my bible on the front seat I sought to share the gospel with every customer. A wonderful adventure and definitely a growth experience dealing with such a large variety of people.
- b. **Junior High Youth Group** - 3 years St. Michaels **WOLLONGONG** - Judy and I led the group.
- c. **Chiropractor** - I sought to share the gospel with every patient over my 3 years of practice.
- d. **Student Worker** - first Anglican Student worker at Wollongong University (PT) Primarily training students in one to one walk up evangelism.
- e. **Baptism Ministry** - **ENGADINE** Parish - developing B.E.V. Team (Baptism Evangelistic Visitation) and training others in dealing with the many non-Christian baptism enquiries.
- f. **Baptism Evangelism Liturgy** - over time, faithful to the prayer book, adapted the whole Anglican AAPB 1st Order Baptism Service to communicate the gospel to the non-churched
- g. **D Day** - Organised a parish wide major 'Future Vision' event attended by our Bishop - outlining the parishes 'Directions for the Decade' - with 95% attendance of Parishioners.
- h. **Pastor and Preacher** - of St. John's Shaughnessy's Evening Service, **VANCOUVER** (Canada's largest Anglican church) In my 4 years, the attendance doubled to 500)
- i. **Guest Lecturer** on Evangelism - Regent College, Vancouver
- j. **Rector** - **FORESTVILLE** Anglican church. By God's grace during our 12 years, the church grew threefold, and from 1 to 4 full time staff. (2 Clergy, Youth Minister and Rector's PA/Office Manager)
- k. **Staff** - Over the years employing a full time PA, a Full time Youth Minister, and eventually 2 separate ordained assistant ministers. Invited and trained a number of student ministers (catechists). Each were given clear job descriptions, assistance in setting mutually agreed to goals, and had regular performance reviews.
- l. **Police Chaplain** - Northern Beaches - for 10 years. Opportunities included
 - Having my finger on the pulse of the many issues of the local community invisible to most which enhanced my ministry to the non-Christians in my parish.
 - Providing confidential counsel for police officers, for 'tragedy' and 'critical incidents' debriefing. Being 'in confidence' they could talk about, and confess things they could not, or feared to raise with their fellow or senior officers.
 - Liaising with the LAC (Local Area Commander) providing insights and feedback on the state of his command. Further, eventually gaining his confidence and providing him advice and counsel.
 - Attended the Annual Police Chaplains conference at the Goulburn Police academy learning skills and networking with over 60 chaplains of every denomination.
- m. **School Scripture** - for 12 years taught primary scripture grades 4 & 5 in 2 schools. Also, on High School Scripture Seminars Team once a term, for each individual year, at 2 Schools.
- n. **Preaching Fellowship** – ran for years a fellowship of potential preachers. By invitation the men had turns of preaching at 8am the same text I preached at 10am. I would help each prepare their sermon as I did mine so they could learn not from my preaching but preparation. After the 10am service we met as a fellowship and critiqued both sermons.

- o. Drive Thru Church** - pioneered Australia's 1st Drive Thru Church on the main arterial road to the city from the Northern Beaches for 8 years. 3,000 cars passed the church in the 3 hours of the morning outreach for 3 days at a time. Cars would drive into our circular driveway, receive a tape, and continue to work. The tapes were my evangelistic talks. This significantly raised our visibility to 1000's of non-church goers. I raised a team of 30 parishioners to hold street signs along 1 km before the church, produce and package tapes (later CDs), a prayer team and a refreshments team for the volunteers.
- p. Church Fete Evangelism** - Our fete drew over 2000 people. I appointed a 10-member Evangelism team with the task of engaging and sharing the gospel during the fete. We used a number of creative ways to provide opportunities for gospel conversations.
- q. Ministers Fraternal** - revived, hosted and chaired the Forestville's Minister's Fraternal for 11 years.
- r. Anglican Media** board member for 20 years - supporting and advising the CEO. We pursued the best methods of communication with Parishes, representing our Diocese, navigating the secular Media, and managing diocesan communications regarding relevant current news, societal issues and serious crisis/controversy events.
- s. Marriage Evangelism** - St. Thomas Anglican Church **NORTH SYDNEY**. I pioneered a full-time evangelism ministry to non-Christian couples wanting to be married in a church. This became self-funding exclusively from the couple's wedding fees. Effectively they paid me to evangelise them, and then invited a combined total of an estimated 65,000 guests to hear the gospel.
- t. Wedding Evangelism Liturgy** - over time, faithful to the prayer book, adapted the whole Anglican AAPB 2nd Order Wedding Service to communicate the gospel to the non-churched.
- u. Marriage Course** to 600+ couples in our home (5 weeks)
- v. Closer to God Course** to 500+ couples in our home (6 weeks)
 - I have developed my Closer to God Course over 30 years. It involves interaction with the Gospel of Mark and allows for any and every question a person wants to ask.
 - It operates on the acceptance that everyone comes from a different faith position. (Those I have married included Roman Catholic, various Orthodox and Protestant affiliations, atheists, agnostics, theists, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jewish etc.)
 - I use visual aids, tell many stories, and include a good dose of humour.
 - Virtually every participant expressed genuine appreciation, gratitude and respect for what they learnt about the gospel. By God's grace a number have been saved.
- w. Hospitality** Both courses were held in our home. Couples greatly appreciated the 'home' rather than 'church hall' context. We provided warm hospitality. (and my wife's great home cooking)
- x. Discipling New Believers** - primarily young men to establish them in their faith
- y. Mentor** - I have befriended and mentored a number of younger clergy as they navigate the complexities and discouragements of full-time ministry.
- z. Database & Web Master** - I created an extensive and comprehensive Wedding Couple's database. I also created and maintained the specialised Wedding Ministry website to appeal to the 'non-churched'. www.GreatChurchWedding.com

6. Some life Highlights

A Senior School Prefect	1976
RSM (Regimental Sargent Major) of a 800 boys Cadet Corps.	1976
Winner in the GPS Regatta 1st Eight.....	1976
Winner in the National Rowing Championship Eight.....	1976
Invited as 2 nd Lieutenant for Newington Cadet Annual Camp (Dirty Dozen)	1977
Youth Team Leader Woolgoolga CSSM Beach Mission	1979-81
Evangelist for 4 years in Canada's largest Anglican Church	1993-1997
New Inventor Award - British Columbia Inventors' Conference	1996
Pioneering Australia's first Drive-Thru Church.....	1997-2006
Channel 7 News and Front-Page Sydney Morning Herald	1997
Pioneering Australia's first Fulltime Wedding Evangelism Ministry.....	2009-2020
Developing a self-funded Christian 'Business Model' for Evangelism.....	2009-2020

7. Desirable Character Attributes

Work

I value a work ethic which aims for professional and user-friendly practices
I am a reliable, hardworking, self-starter, who completes all tasks on time
I approach my work with initiative, enthusiasm and a passion for what I do
I am a natural lateral thinker and enjoy creative problem solving
Being punctual is important to me and always a priority
I am good with administration, finding tasks easy and enjoyable
I can Initiate, Execute, Develop and Administrate complex ministry endeavours
I respond to all appropriate communication the same day or within 24 hours.

Relationships

I have a warm, friendly, and positive personality
I am able to disarm, earn trust, and befriend most people
I have a lighthearted and engaging sense of humour
I work well within teams having been on staff of 3 large multi-staff churches
I enjoy sharing the gospel with anyone, of any faith, and at any stage of understanding
I love teaching the bible with clarity, relevance and realistic applications to everyday life
Having dealt with so many couples, my emotional intelligence and insights have matured significantly

8. Interests

My marriage to my darling Judy
Being with my precious children and their spouses, and my 2 grandsons
My small group of very close friends
'Fixing things' / inventions / engineering / machines
Power of Advertising, television, movies, social media and their societal influence
Study of cultural change globally and within Australia
Current world news/events and Modern History
Modern Technology and Computers – I am highly proficient with most Apple Products.

9. Referees

The Revd. Canon Simon Manchester - Rector St. Thomas North Sydney (recently retired)
simon@simonmanchester.com Home: 9420 3661

Mr Peter Ryan - Former Nominator Forestville. Now Director Cornhill - Moore College
peter.ryan@cornhillsydney.com.au Mobile: 0451 151 877

Canon David Kenneth Short - Rector St. John's Vancouver
david@sjvan.org 0011 1 5584400

The Revd. Dr. John Woodhouse – Locum North Sydney – Former Principal Moore College
jww@moore.edu.au 0400 476 343 The Revd.