

## How To...

### Engage with Churches about Politics

This is the first in a series of *How To...* articles.

Churches are increasingly engaging with CDP and inviting us to attend and speak on what we do. During the 2016 Election I spoke at a number of church denominations including; Catholic, Uniting, Coptic, Orthodox, and C3. Recently I had the opportunity to speak at a local Pentecostal church. This church had helped CDP in volunteering in 2015. The relationship had been

maintained by a coordinator and the church subsequently invited us to come and speak about what the CDP does and what a Christian Political party is all about. Anyone who has run a home Bible study group knows how hard it is to get even ten people to attend, so church congregations are built up at significant effort by the Pastor/Minister and we as visitors need to respect that in every way and acknowledge that the Pastor presides over the church space – this church congregation included from young children up to grandparents, a very family community church – therefore consider the audience. Inform the Pastor of your content and delivery and adjust if necessary – no surprises!

I began by stating the culture I encourage in CDP is one of “not Politics but good Godly government. Of bringing a Christian influence into government policy, and the name of Jesus into Parliament House.” I pointed to biblical support for Christians in (politics) government-Romans 13:1-7 “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God ... for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing”. With this I have removed the two most common myths and objections: 1) to Christians in (politics), and 2) that (politics) government is not in the Bible. I replaced the very term politics with Godly government/Christian influence, and gave a NT reference to support involvement.



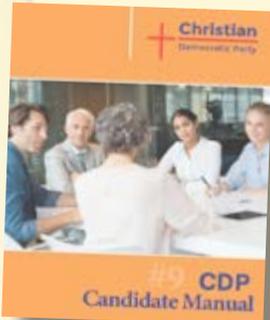
Craig recently at a church in Villawood

“Why is government so poor in character? because there are so few Christians in it!” – this is a rather obvious point but we miss the fact that without us in government we are trying to get non-believers to produce Godly government. If Christians don’t get involved the Pagans, Athiests and secular world run government – any wonder there are so few Christian ethics in legislation. “Why support or vote for the CDP? Because in an increasing secular world the CDP is the only representation the church has, the major parties no longer support church”. A visiting Pastor told me he had always “parted company with many Christian politicians” but that my “articulation of the concept had changed his mind”. This can hopefully provide you with *How To* answer when people Christian and non-Christian alike ask “what are Christians doing in politics?”

Craig Hall – NSW State Manager



Craig Hall (State Manager) and Nella Hall (Electorate Manager) meeting His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia.



## A Candidate Training

**workshop** was held on 8 July, with experienced guest speakers and Paul Green sharing their secrets of winning multiple campaigns. There were many topics covered from door knocking to facebook as well as the "ground game". Volunteers and co-ordinators also participated and everyone went home

inspired and skilled-up with a copy of the Candidate Manual. If you couldn't attend the workshop but you'd like a copy of the manual, you can request one by emailing [headoffice@cdp.org.au](mailto:headoffice@cdp.org.au). Let us know your postal address if you'd prefer a hard copy mailed out rather than an email copy."

## Bookings are now open for our Constitutional Convention, "Rise of the Minor Parties".

You won't want to miss hearing our Guest Speakers including Hon Robert Brown MLC (From Shooters, Fishers and Farmers) and Mark Makowiecki (from Australian Christian Lobby) share their insights on the incredible opportunities for minor parties in



politics right now. Plus it's important you have your say about the future of CDP as we vote on our new Constitution. Bookings fill up fast so don't miss out!



Register now at <https://www.cdp.org.au/convention>

## + YCDP Network

### YCDP is building momentum

Our two interns, Julia and Joshua, are having a great time while learning about social media strategies, research, article writing, and have even interviewed our very own Rev Fred Nile.

We had even more than a full table at the Annual Dinner! We heard about the impact CDP is having, Rev Fred Nile, Paul Green MLC and Rev Dr Ross Clifford came by our table to say hello, and we were inspired by the keynote speaker. It was a great night!

I attended a Parliamentary briefing where Abortion Rethink arranged for NSW MLCs to hear from legal experts, social workers and support workers, along with



Families who attended our Annual Dinner took the opportunity to have a photo with our speaker, Rev Dr Stuart Robinson, joined by Federal President Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC and State President Rev Dr Ross Clifford.

women and families who were empowered to make an alternate choice for themselves when offered assistance outside an abortion clinic in NSW.

University clubs – are you at uni? Let's have a chat about starting a club on your campus!

Want to hear about the latest invites and exciting opportunities? Drop me an email on the address below!

Contact Michelle Ryan and Young CDP at [youngcdp@cdp.org.au](mailto:youngcdp@cdp.org.au)

Find us on social media [www.facebook.com/YoungCDP](http://www.facebook.com/YoungCDP)

Michelle Ryan – Young CDP Convenor

**Membership Matters – We thank God for each Member and encourage each of you.**

**Pray for**

- > Laws that continue to value life with respect to **Abortion, Euthanasia and Suicide**
- > **Families and Individuals affected by these**

**Please consider**

- > **Donating** to CDP Election campaign – if receiving this as a printed publication, please contact CDP Head Office
- > **Becoming a Member** of the CDP

### Christian Democratic Party

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