



ACC E-News July 2010

Dear Members

1. Prayer Diary for July 2010

The July Prayer diary is now available. For your convenience the information is provided on our website in downloadable pdf or a web page for easy reference.

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/prayer/monthly-prayer-diary/>

Please provide these notes to the prayer team in your ACC congregation or group and join in prayer together during July.

2. Web Chat

The next in our occasional web chats will be held on Monday 5th July at 7.30 pm (AEST). (SA - 7 pm, WA, 5.30pm). It will be approximately 1 hour.

The topic will be same-sex blessing services and Christian marriage. As ACC members would be aware, this matter was raised again during June because of actions at the UNA conference, and the ACC has since been in communication with the UCA President.

There was a story in The Age – see link:

www.theage.com.au/victoria/gay-sacred-unions-test-uniting-church-resolve-20100627-zc0v.html

3. ACC on Facebook

Are you a facebook member? ACC is now on facebook and you can become a fan of ACC. Search for Confessing Congregations and join up and contribute to the discussions.

4. Queensland ACC Movement

Queensland ACC have recently sent a mailing to evangelical ministers (who are not members) explaining the ministry of the ACC. Each **package** contained a letter from Ivan Kirk, the State Convenor, a copy of the June 2010 ACCatalyst and a copy of the theological statement and commentary. This is an excellent initiative. Thank you.

5. ACC Seminar at Greensborough Church – July 24

Victorian members will have received separate notice about this day continuing the regional seminars provided by ACC in Victoria.

6. Are you interested in the study of Christian movements?

Steve Addison, a church planter and researcher on has kindly provided notice of a new on-line publication about the development of movements that have shaped the Christian church. <http://www.movements.net/2010/05/06/movements-study-guide-2.html>

www.movements.net

7. Beyond Egypt conference

Many of our members are involved in groups helping people who struggle deeply with unwanted same-sex sexuality issues. A conference is being held on August 14th August sponsored by St Paul's Group of Churches. A brochure is available from the ACC office if you are interested.

8. News provided by Rev. Ted Curnow - Especially for Victorians:

The History of Evangelism in Australia is littered with the names of many forgotten spiritual giants. Matthew Burnett, one many to Christ and over 175,000 signed an abstinence pledge. Robert Evans will present his story and deliver the '**Charles Perry Lecture**' at Ridley College Monday 19th July at 1 pm. The Topic "Evangelicalism in Australia 1910."

Sunday 18th July 2pm - 4.30 pm Uniting Church Historical Society Uniting Church, 200 Glen Iris Road, Glen Iris. Dr Darrel Paproth (3.15pm) will launch Robert Evans book. "Matthew Burnett," Australia's Greatest Evangelist and Social reformer.

The Church & Nation Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is organizing an inaugural three day colloquium, "Religion in the Public Square". Saturday July 22-24 2010 in the Assembly hall, 156 Collins St, Melbourne. A noted ethicist, Dr Scott Rae, whose texts are on the reading lists for quite a few theological colleges will be the key speaker. The link to the registration flyer, giving details of the programme and speakers as well as costs is <http://www.candn.pcvic.org.au/>

Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM UNDER THREAT IN THE WEST

The principal religious liberty trend of the multicultural West is that religious liberty is disappearing as the culture's biblical foundations are eroded. Unfortunately, most churches and Christians are not going to realise it until the new social order has been consolidated and persecution starts to strike them directly. Christians in the West are losing the right to criticise Islam and witness to Muslims. They are also losing the right to conscientiously object to new social norms being imposed on them essentially at the behest of Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender (GLBT) lobby groups. Just as in non-free states, Western law-makers and law-enforcers are justifying their interventions as necessary to maintain 'peace' and/or defend 'equality' against 'extremist fundamentalism' (i.e. any ideas contrary to the democratic consensus). Rattled by the chaos and confusion of cultural collapse -- the result of a culture losing its foundations -- Western governments are increasingly resorting to external restraint and authoritarian repression. They are opting for 'peace' through appeasement, rather than justice and defence of their Constitutions through education and rule of law. To remove contradictions, laws are being amended and re-interpreted and fundamental concepts are being redefined. Driven by fear of unrest, Western governments are increasingly proving themselves willing to secure 'peace' at any price -- even the loss of liberty. As soon as it appears that intolerant forces might protest, riot or divert their collective vote elsewhere, weak Western democracies yield and appease, repressing 'divisive' or 'provocative' elements at the behest of the most belligerent. And in a 'post-Christian' (as distinct from Judeo-Christian) culture, there is nothing as divisive and provocative as the gospel message and righteousness of Christianity.

The religious liberty threat article was researched and written by Elizabeth Kendal, who was a keynote speaker at the ACC Conference 2009 and spoke at the February 2010 Ashburton Seminar. The full article, which gives some concerning examples of the above in the USA, may be viewed at: <http://www.ea.org.au/ea-family/Religious-Liberty/Prayer-Postings.aspx>

These concise Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletins are emailed weekly and include a summary suitable for congregational newssheets. To sign up just send a blank email to <join-rlpb@hub.xc.org>.

CARE is a Christian organization in the U.K. very similar to our Family Voice organization here. They are offering a free download of Graham Kendrick's song "Who can sound the depths of Sorrow". This is a hymn/lament on the theme of abortion. The words are quite powerful. With the U.C. all but ignoring the magnitude of easy abortion ACC could well be more vocal on the issue perhaps by arranging a similar offer with Kendrick. Ref www.care.org.uk and www.grahamkendrick.co.uk

9. Special Appeal from Rod James Ministry

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Greetings to you in the name of Jesus!

A week ago Shirley and I returned to the Victorian fire recovery areas and spent four days visiting the folk in Strathewen and Kinglake. It was very encouraging to see the amount of redevelopment that had taken place since we were there in February for the anniversary of Black Saturday. A brand new school is under construction in Strathewen and will be finished in time for 4th Term this year. Dirt roads in the valley have been sealed, and about 8 homes were under construction with another couple completed and inhabited. The people were moving on, and seemed much more encouraged with the progress that had been achieved. On the Saturday we went to Kinglake ('on the mountain') to visit a number of households, and were gobsmacked to turn the corner and find one family's temporary home gutted by fire!! Andrew and Rachel Watson, and their three young daughters, had a new home ready to occupy at the time of the Black Saturday fire. It was completely destroyed, and was not insured. Over the following year they established their temporary home with a transportable unit, caravan and covered deck area. The Naracoorte UC gave them funds to put clear vinyl zip up awnings on the deck area to let the sun in and keep the winds out.

In the April school holidays the family went away for a few days, and an electrical fault caused all they had to be incinerated. This time they had some insurance, although the company has not been helpful. Andrew is a building industry tradesman and works for a company which has been very supportive. The plan is, when insurance is paid and funds allow, to by-pass the temporary dwelling stage and built a permanent house. The company will assist him to do this.

We wish to persist in assisting this family, and I have been led to try and raise between \$10,000 and \$20,000 towards their new house.

If you would like to join us in this project you can send a contribution, small or large, to my Rod James Ministry fund (details below). 100% of this money will be forwarded to the Watsons, and will go towards constructing the permanent house.

There is much appreciation in this part of the fire area for all that has been done by us, both prayerfully, financially and through the work parties. My heart is moved to help this young family who have lost so much. I pray that you may be able to help too. Surely the joy of the Lord is our strength, and He is faithful in calling us, in that He will also do it. With love to you all, in the name of Christ, Rod

23rd June 2010

'Rod James Ministry' account.

For **electronic transfers**, the account is BSB 805001, Account No. 1168299.

For **cheques-mail** to my home address, 4 Rajah St, Morphett Vale, SA, 5162

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