



ACC E-News MAY-JUNE 2010

Dear Members

Greetings to Members and Congregational and Group contacts

1. **A special postal mailing** will be sent to all members by early June concerning the future development of the ACC. Please consider this prayerfully during the month of June, and if you would like more copies of the brochure contact the ACC office.
2. **Office Arrangements:** Peter Bentley is on leave in June, and the office will thus not be staffed regularly. E-mail will be attended to, as well as postal mail, and messages forwarded to a mobile number and calls returned as soon as possible.
3. **June ACC Magazine** – the latest edition is shaping up well and there is some excellent local news (many good ministries happening in Christ's name), and articles relevant for the church today. Please ensure your members are aware and encourage people to take copies when it arrives in 2-3 weeks.
4. **ACC National Council** meets 31 May by teleconference at 1 pm AEST. Please remember the members in your prayers for wisdom and insight for future directions. The Council is considering a revised statement on abortion.

5. Dates for ACC June 2010

June 1- SA ACC Committee 1 pm: Glenunga UC

June 7 – 9 -Wesley Institute Ministry Workers Conference: Merroo Conference Centre

June 15: ACC Board of Communication meeting

June 18 - NSW ACC Committee 10 am: Haberfield

June 25 Queensland ACC Committee – 2 pm

June 26 - SA ACC AGM – 3 pm: Tea Tree Gully Uniting Church ('Dig Here' seminar before)

6. **Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali Australian Tour September 2010**

FAMILY VOICE Australia is organising a speaking tour. For information and bookings (there is a charge to cover the expenses of this extensive tour) please see their website:

<http://www.fava.org.au/home/>

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali knows what it is like to live under oppressed Sharia law in an Islamic country, being born in Pakistan within a Muslim family. When his father became a Christian, at age 15 Michael too professed a personal faith in Jesus Christ. Today, in Pakistan, such a father and son would be judged for "apostasy" - punishable under Sharia law by death. Michael became an Anglican minister in Pakistan, and later, bishop of the Raiwind diocese south of Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's Punjab region.

In 1986, he was forced to flee after partial Sharia law was enforced in his homeland. He found refuge in England and was later appointed Bishop of Rochester in Kent under the Anglican church. In 2002, he was one of just two respected bishops whose names were submitted to the Prime Minister for the position of Archbishop of Canterbury - the highest position within the Church of England. However, Tony Blair chose Rowan Williams. Dr Nazir-Ali remains an Anglican bishop, but has stepped down from leading the Rochester diocese to devote more time to ministry in the wider church around the world, including helping persecuted Christian minorities in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. He is among the few Christian leaders in the UK prepared to "tell it straight" on controversial issues of today, such as the rise of aggressive atheism and radical Islam, and certainly has the authority to do so. Rt Rev Dr Michael Nazir -Ali is the former Bishop of Rochester and is now President of the Oxford Centre for Training, Research, Advocacy and Dialogue

BRISBANE – 14 September 7.30 pm

Mercure Brisbane, 80-85 North Quay, Brisbane QLD 5000

<http://www.fava.org.au/content/foi-event-view/63/?cal=2010-09>

SYDNEY: Wednesday 15 September 7 pm: Wesley Theatre, 220 Pitt Street.

MELBOURNE: 17 September, at the 1330 Auditorium, Ferntree Gully Road
Scoresby: 2 pm Christian Leaders Seminar; 7 pm Public Meeting

Also planned CANBERRA; ADELAIDE; PERTH. Full details will be provided when they are available.

7. Website – ACC News, and Congregational News and Events

Mt Louisa House of Praise, an ACC Congregation in Townsville took their community outreach a further step with their first 'Easter Call' in 2010. The North Queensland Easter convention came from a dream to see the Uniting Church in North Queensland strong and vibrant. <http://www.confessingcongregations.com/news-views/item/easter-call-to-townsville/>

Thank you to all those who supported Max Champion's visit to the Hunter area in April. <http://www.confessingcongregations.com/news-views/item/acc-chair-in-the-hunter/>

Peter Bentley had an encouraging and very worthwhile visit to ACC Congregation Kyabram (14-16 May) and met all our local supporting members at different events and times (quite a few individual supporters for one parish - 16) as well as taking part in the Sunday service and running a session on Saturday afternoon at which approx 45 attended, including 15 or so from congregations 1-2 hours drive. The weekend was an excellent time and very encouraging celebration led by Revd Col and Lesley Shenfield. I have written a short report for the June edition of the magazine and website. Kyabram now have the ACC on their church sign at the front (large image see the ACC Website and photos- congregational signs). For now read an encouraging story about one part of their new mission - serving and reaching out to seasonal workers in the Merrigum Kyabram District.

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/news-views/item/merrigum-harvest-mission-2010/>

NSW ACC AGM – April 2010

The NSW AGM was an encouraging time with Rev. Michael Earl from Wesley Mission speaking on the hope of the resurrection (and continuing the Gen X themes). Rev. Ian Weeks was elected to replace retiring chair Rev Dr Alan Russell. Ian is well-known as a former EMU President and has been involved for over 20 years in reforming movements, and will be undertaking some helpful support ministry in the second half of this year in the Central West area.

NSW ACC Movement Chair's Report- Rev. Dr Alan Russell provides an overview to the 2010 AGM

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/states/news/nsw/nsw-acc-movement-general-movement-meetings-2010/>

Resurrection Religion – read the Keynote address by Rev. Michael Earl to the NSW ACC AGM, April 17 2010

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/states/news/nsw/resurrection-religion-1-m-earl-april-2010/>

ACC Advertisement in the new look New Times – see page 21 in the May edition for SA Synod members. The advert is in a good position - below a story about their Synod group ordinations.

8. UCA Preamble — Colloquium **Date: 19 June 2010** – Opportunity for WA members.

“The Covenanting Commission, the Social Justice Board and the Commission for Education for Discipleship & Leadership will host a colloquium at Perth Theological Hall to address the new preamble to the Constitution of the Uniting Church in Australia. The colloquium will be a moderated event, providing the opportunity both for papers to be presented, and for questions to be asked. “While the event organisers are already aware of a number of papers being prepared, they are also interested in hearing from any others who would like to present at the colloquium”
For more details: <http://www.wa.uca.org.au/blog/uca-preamble-%E2%80%94-colloquium/>

9. **Needing Ministry assistance?** A retired UCA minister has indicated they are available to help with short terms of ministry, half time placements in the following places, or less in terms of time. Please contact the ACC office for more information.

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