

Assembly of Confessing Congregations
REPORT ON TOUR OF QUEENSLAND

by **Rev. Rod James**

13-8-07 to 7-9-07

Overview:

Over 26 days I travelled by road from Adelaide through inland NSW and Queensland to Cairns, down the coast to Brisbane, inland and around the Downs Presbytery and then home to SA through Northern and Central NSW. The trip covered a total of 8,646 kilometres.

Generally the numbers attending meetings were small, but the significance of those meetings was enhanced by the fact that in most cases those attending were ministers and congregational leaders. In addition to preaching on Sundays, speaking at meetings, and calling on ministers I distributed three kinds of materials—ACC information (ACC), Rod James leaflets (RJ), and New Creation Teaching Ministries¹ resources, i.e. books, mp3s, DVDs, etc (NC)

The contacts made:

Date	Place	Contacted	Nature of contact	Materials
SA				
Mon 13 th	Burra	UC Minister	Visit	ACC, RJ, NC
NSW				
	Broken Hill	5 UC folk	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
Queensland				
Wed 15 th	Charleville	UC Minister	Visit	ACC, RJ, NC
	Springsure	UC and other folk	Visit to MMM team	ACC, RJ,
	Emerald	UC Minister	Stayed with Minister	ACC, RJ, NC
Thurs 16 th	Capella	Congregation	Left material at church	ACC, RJ,
	Clermont	Minister	Left materials a manse	ACC, RJ, NC
	Charters Towers	7 UC folk, incl. Pastor	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
Fri 17 th	Townsville	Mt. Louisa UC leaders (2)	Conversation	ACC, RJ, NC
Sat 18 th	Cairns	Emmanuel UC min.rs & ldrs	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
		(7, including Korean and Cook Island congregations' pastors)		
Sun 19 th	Cairns	Immanuel UC	Preached at service	ACC, RJ, NC
	Atherton	17 UC folk incl. pastor	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
Mon 20 th	Mareeba	UC Minister's wife	Visit	ACC, RJ, NC
	Mossman	UC Pastor	Visit	ACC, RJ, NC
Tues 21 st	Cairns	Nthn Beaches UC	Left materials at church	ACC, RJ,
		Edmonton UC	Left materials at church	ACC, RJ,
	Innisfail	8 UC folk, 8 incl. Minister	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
Wed 22 nd	Tully	UC congregation	Left materials at church	ACC, RJ,
	Ingham	7 UC folk, incl. Minister	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
Thurs 23 rd	Townsville	Mt Louisa 10 UC folk	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
		(including Minister and a leader from Wulguru UC)		
		Presbytery Minister	Visit	ACC, RJ,
Fri 24 th	Home Hill	5 UC folk, incl. Minister	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
	Bowen	5 UC folk, incl. Minister	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
Sat 25 th	Proserpine	UC Minister	Visit	ACC, RJ, NC

¹ New Creation Teaching Ministries is a South Australian based Reformed/Evangelical Bible-teaching ministry. (www.newcreation.org.au) Not to be confused in any way with Creation Science.

Sun 26 th	MacKay	Iona West UC	Preached at service	ACC, RJ, NC
	Mirani	Mirani UC	Preached at service	ACC, RJ, NC
Mon 27 th	Sarina	Lay Pastor	Visit	ACC, RJ, NC
	Nth Rockhampton	Minister/Congregation	Left materials at church	ACC, RJ,
	Sth Rockhampton	Minister and wife	Visit	ACC, RJ, NC
Tues 28 th	Yeppoon	Congregaton	Left materials	ACC, RJ, NC
	Gladstone	Congregation	Left materials at church	ACC, RJ,
	Tannum Sands	Minister	Visit	ACC, RJ, NC
	Childers	Minister	Left materials at manse	ACC, RJ, NC
	Maryborough	Congregation	Left materials at church	ACC, RJ, NC
	Marroochydore	14 UC folk, incl. minister	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
Wed 29 th	Samford Valley	14 folk from 4 congregations	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
Thurs 30 th	Paradise Point	22 folk, incl 3 Ministers. from 4 congregations	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
	Coopers Plains	20 folk, incl. 2 Ministers from 8 congregations	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
Fri 31 st	Rosewood	Congregation	Left materials at church	ACC, RJ,
	Laidley	Minister	Left materials at manse	ACC, RJ,
	Gatton	Congregation	Left materials at church	ACC, RJ,
Sat 1 st	Toowoomba	Russell St UC 5 folk from 3 congregations	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
Sun 2 nd	St George	St George UC	Preached at service	ACC, RJ, NC
			Spoke at meeting	
Mon 3 rd		Dirranbandi	Preached at service	ACC, RJ, NC
	Roma	Minister and one leader	Conversation	ACC, RJ, NC
	Wurrumbilla	Minister and 3 leaders	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, CC
Tues 4 th	Chinchilla	Pastor and 2 leaders	Conversation	ACC, RJ, NC
	Dalby	Minister	Visit	ACC, RJ,
	Goondiwindi	3 leaders	Conversation	ACC, RJ,
NSW				
Wed 5 th	Narrabri	8 UC folk	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC
Thurs 6 th	Coonabarabran	6 leaders	Spoke at meeting	ACC, RJ, NC

Observations and Comments:

1. The Synod and Presbytery leaders in Queensland seem to have put out the message: ‘We do not need the ACC in Queensland because we are an orthodox Synod and can handle current issues without the ACC, the existence of which can only have a divisive effect.
2. Many supporting the ACC seem to view it as like insurance—a strategy we need to have to deal with a negative. But like insurance one doesn’t get excited about it. It is just good to know it is there when you need it. Consequently the prospect of attending an extra-curricular meeting to hear more about the ACC did not move many to come along.
3. Despite the low attendances and minimal expectation the tour gave opportunity to convey the exciting and positive reality of the historical confessing movements that God had raised up to serve His people and His purpose over the last 4,000 years. Seeing the present occasion in terms of the historic dynamics of apostasy, confessing and reformation kindled a greater and better vision of what the ACC was about, and helped people focus more clearly what it meant for their congregation to be a confessing congregation in today’s post-modern setting.
4. Negative responses to me promoting the ACC were minimal, in most cases were tempered by the fact that, where they occurred, those negative responses were based on misapprehensions as to the nature and purpose of the ACC and confessing movements in general. The expression of those negative views simply gave occasion for a more accurate account of the ACC to be given.

5. Some of the misapprehensions encountered were:
 - a. The view that the ACC was schismatic in the sense that it was preparatory to leading a body of congregations out of the UCA. Many seemed assured to hear that the purpose of the ACC began with a sense of call to remain within the Church, and to call it back to its own confession(s) of faith.
 - b. The view that the ACC was a one issue group that was obsessed with sex. It was rewarding to share about the national commissions and the breadth of work they were enabling the ACC to do across the full spectrum of our Christian confession. There was a general realisation that over a period of time the ACC would serve the Church over a multiplicity of important areas and with respect to a number of disturbing issues.
 - c. The view that the ACC was, in essence, a political pressure group designed to coerce the Assembly to changing its position on sexuality. People were encouraged to discern the difference between three alternative responses to apostasy in the Church:
 - i. **Activism**, which seeks to create pressure for change within the arena of Church politics.
 - ii. **Quietism**, which makes a congregational statement and then gets on with its local mission while disregarding the denomination as a whole.
 - iii. **Confessing**, which labours to confess Christ for the sake of the church and the world, particularly by wielding the sharp, two-edged sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Outcomes

1. In total, I made some form of contact with about 62 congregations, 58 in Queensland, 3 in NSW, and one in SA.
2. The main ACC documents distributed were:

An Introduction to the ACC (which includes the FAQs, the Founding Documents, the Organisational Structure, and the State Movements document.)	290 copies
‘Confessing Christ’ by Rod James	580
ACCatalyst	c200
Individual membership forms	201
Congregational membership forms	12
Phil Marshall’s article on the authority of the Bible	171
The Church’s Social Responsibility	63
Galatian study order form	97
July Newsletter	67
August Prayer Diary	90
3. In addition to the ACC documents I also distributed 3,820 of my own leaflets on 18 themes.
4. I also sold 166 books, DVDs, and MP3s (including 10 copies of *Turning around the Mainline by T.Oden*). Most of these sales were of New Creation Teaching Ministries resources that related to confessing Christ with accuracy.
5. Of the congregations I contacted
 - Eleven were already members of ACC.
 - One (Samford Valley) had decided to join a week or two beforehand.
 - One (Wurrumbilla) had decided to join but had not sent a form in yet (I gave them a form).
 - Four could be considered prospects to join in the foreseeable future.

Financials

Costs—Travel, Accommodation, Meals, Printing

LPG \$616 (My car is ‘gas-dedicated’ and only uses LPG)

Accommodation	\$290.50	(4 nights Cunnamulla, Gladstone, Goondiwindi, Hay)
Meals	\$56.50	(4 nights Cunnamulla, Gladstone, Goondiwindi, Hay)
Printing costs	\$127	(i.e. printing of ACC materials, not RJ materials)
Total	<u>\$1,090</u>	(Receipts available)

Money received –

A. National ACC

Gift	\$450	
Memberships	\$200	
Total	<u>\$650</u>	forwarded to Nat ACC

B. Q'land ACC

Travel donations	\$318	
Gifts	\$678	
Total	<u>\$996</u>	

Cost 200(?) ACC Magazines sent by Ivan Kirk ?

C. Rod James

(Monies received for Books, magazines, DVD's,MP3's sold)

(\$772.15)