



ACC E-News APRIL 2010

Dear Members

I hope you had a holy and blessed Easter. Our Chair's Easter Sermons are now on the ACC website and provide a helpful way of continuing your devotions:

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/resources/max-champion/>

1. Chair's visit to Hunter, NSW area.

Please keep Max Champion in your prayers for this coming weekend. He will be preaching at Maitland UC, meeting with the ACC Hunter group on Sunday 18th April, and also meeting with the CEO of the UCA Hunter Presbytery and speaking at an ecumenical gathering organised by the ACC Hunter Cluster on Monday 19th April. Thanks are due to Alton Bowen (Hunter Cluster contact) and the members of the ACC Hunter cluster for their enthusiasm and work in arranging this visit.

2. UCA Church Meetings

Two Synod will meet in May - Victoria and Tasmania, and Queensland. Many matters are on the agendas of these meetings, with of course the constitutional changes being one of the key matters for consideration. There will be more information in the April edition of the ACCatalyst magazine which is due out next week. If you have reports about Presbytery meetings and Synod meetings which you can share with the ACC Council, please send them to the ACC office for collating. It is very helpful to receive feedback on what is happening.

The SA Synod and presbytery meeting held in February (they have one presbytery) approved the changes to the preamble by formal decision-making. The NSW Synod has just met (10-13 April), and also approved the changes to the preamble by formal decision-making.

3. Website updates – New Resources

Seeking a new minister? Rev. Perry Smith provides an outline of what to consider in the Ministry Vacant section of the ACC website:

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/news-views/ministry-positions/>

Making the Cross Count: In A Year of Elections what can you do in your local area to ensure consideration of Christian views? Hold an election forum. Read this guide provided by Rev. Ted Curnow about holding a public forum:

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/resources/culture-connections/contemporary-issues/>

4. ACC Advertisements in Synod publications

ACC has taken a promotional advertisement in *the NSW Synod magazine - April edition* advertising the 2010 ACC Conference to be held at Camden Uniting Church 2-4 September. The advertisement is on page 31 for those who receive this magazine and clearly sets out who the ACC is and all the necessary contact information.

An advertisement has also been arranged for the *May edition of the new magazine format of New Times* – SA Synod publication.

5. ACC Members in Synod publications

Michael Brumpton and St George Uniting Church featured in the April edition of *Journey* (Qld Synod newspaper) updating readers about the severe flooding which had been experienced: <http://www.journeyonline.com.au/home.php?inc=pastJourney>

The St George Uniting Church signboard read: *When you pass thru through the waters I will be with you. Isaiah 43.2*

“AS COMMUNITIES around Charleville and Roma were battered with strong rain and floods in March, St George Uniting Church minister Rev Michael Brumpton decided to reassure the people of his community that God was with them. This is a message that continues to remain relevant as rough seas and cyclonic winds hit coastal Queensland and our neighbours in the Pacific.”

And in a further article ‘**Church Follows its Mission**’,
by Michael Brumpton

*IN THE first week of March St George received an extraordinary 250mm of rain. The Maranoa River, Bungil Creek, Amby Creek and Muckadilla Creek all experienced record flooding causing over 300,000 megalitres of water per day to flow down the usually tranquil Balonne River... Along with most of the town, St George Uniting Church members worked tirelessly to help others get their belongings out of flood reach. They took in the homeless, fed the hungry, and offered support to the needy. It was marvellous to see how the whole town was involved. I could truly see how when God could look at all his creation and say, “It is very good”.
The Easter story can be really sad if we remain in Good Friday. Good Friday is made bearable because we look forward to Easter Sunday. In a town whose lifeblood is water and subsoil moisture, the flood has been a bit like Good Friday, but we look forward to the coming season and all of God’s provision.*

Revive, the WA Synod newspaper included a report in its March 2010 edition about lay ministry at WAGIN Parish prepared by Ann-Britt Wasley
<http://www.wa.uca.org.au/home/blog/arthurs-50-years-of-lay-ministry-celebrated/>

On Sunday 21 February the Wagin Parish recognised and celebrated the 50th anniversary of Arthur Pederick’s lay ministry.... Arthur began the public face of his ministry on 21 February 1960, his sixteenth birthday, when he preached his first sermon at the then Wagin Methodist Church.....

6. ACC Church Signs

Tasmania has certainly shown the lead in Congregations with ACC Signs on their church buildings with 3 of the 6 member congregations now showing their ACC affiliation. Nine ACC congregations throughout Australia have now provided the office with their local sign: see all the signs at

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/gallery/category/C50>

7. Lausanne 2010 – The Third World Congress on Evangelisation.

<http://www.lausanne.org/cape-town-2010>

The planning for Lausanne 2010 is going ahead very well. Please remember in prayer our nominated member, Andrew Chin, the Evangelism and Missions Pastor from Wesley International Congregation in Sydney as he begins this process of preparation. In May he will meet with the other 59 representatives attending from Australia as the first step toward the gathering in **Cape Town 16-25 October 2010**.

8. Australian Centre for Wesleyan Research – ACC members will be interested to learn of this development.

The Australasian Centre for Wesleyan Research promotes and supports research on the life, work and times of John and Charles Wesley, their historical and theological antecedents, their successors in the Wesleyan tradition, and contemporary scholarship in the Wesleyan tradition. This includes areas such as theology, biblical studies, history, education, ethics, literature, mission, cultural studies, philosophy, pastoral studies, worship, preaching, practical theology, and social theology. Currently the ACWR is a working partnership formed by a number of Wesleyan theological institutions. They are:

- Nazarene Theological College (Church of the Nazarene, based in Brisbane)
- Kingsley Australia (Wesleyan Methodist, based in Melbourne)
- Booth College (Salvation Army, based in Sydney)
- The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory Training College (Salvation Army, based in Melbourne).

Two Melbourne based Uniting Church ministers are Fellows of the Centre:

- Revd Dr Robert Gribben
- Revd Dr Norman Young

Each centre provides quality resources for students and researchers in this field. We are actively seeking to enlarge our range of partners throughout Australia and New Zealand, as well as further afield. See: <http://acwr.edu.au/>

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