

ACC E-News April 2011

Dear ACC Members and Contacts

May God bless your Easter events and worship times. If you have any news to share of outreach events or special services please let the ACC office know. ACC would love to include news on the website or possibly in the ACC magazine.

1. ACC Devotional Resources - See our expanding collection on the ACC website

Rev. Perry Smith has now more material, including poems and short pieces suitable for church newsletters or to give out: *Living for Jesus*

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/resources/devotional/living-for-jesus/>

Rev. Bob Imms has a growing devotional collection at *Seeds for Harvesting*.

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/resources/devotional/seeds-for-harvest/>

Rev. Ted Curnow (Victorian ACC member) has made available a wide range of articles and reflections: *Growing as a Christian*.

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/resources/devotional/growing-as-a-christian/>

2. ACCatalyst Magazine

The April edition is being finalised and will continue to look at the discussion about the Gospel, and also evangelism. Material includes a reflection from Ted Curnow on the 'culture wars', and an article from Rob Brennan about communicating the gospel and providing hope and meaning in our society today. Reports include an encouraging reflection on the SA ACC Movement Emerging Leaders Camp – well-done Rev. Don Purdey and the SA ACC members.

Among three short film reviews, Peter Bentley reviews Clint Eastwood's latest film – *Hereafter* (available now on the website)

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/resources/culture-connections/film-media/>

3. Wesley Institute Annual Seminar – Saturday April 16

The **Annual Seminar** will this year feature Dr Craig Keener, Duke University.

'Encountering the Historical Jesus of the Gospels' (This is also part of a course Dr Keener is teaching 14-16 April 2011). Venue: Drummoyne, Sydney. NSW Members have received registration information and usually a good group (25-30 ACC members) attend. Please continue to publicise this in your local church.

4. Oxygen 11 Conference - <http://www.oxygen.kcc.org.au/>

NSW ACC is working on having a group attend this new conference which is particularly directed to pastors and leaders in churches. The first one, *Oxygen 11*, will be held August 29-31 at the Australian Technology Park in Redfern. The NSW ACC Movement has agreed to use part of their yearly budget to offer a subsidy of \$100 for NSW members (per person) to attend the Oxygen 11 conference (maximum of 11 people). Each state movement has finance available from the National Budget for local projects and administration.

5. NSW ACC AGM and Meeting

NSW ACC Members were inspired by a passionate and encouraging message from Pastor Andrew Chin of the Wesley International Congregation. Andrew had been sponsored by ACC to attend the Third Lausanne World Congress on Evangelisation in Cape Town in October 2010. Andrew has brought his own reflection to the main areas of ministry and service which were highlighted at Lausanne. An article will appear in a future edition of *ACCatalyst*.

Our prayers and blessings are with the former NSW ACC Convenor, Rev. Dr Alan Russell and his wife Diane, on the occasion of his retirement from the ministry. A wonderful celebration was held at Double Bay Uniting Church on Friday 25th March.

6. Queensland ACC Minister on Church Magazine cover

Rev. Lu Senituli (ACC Cross Cultural Convenor), and Minister at Bayside Uniting Church in Brisbane was on the cover of the March edition of the NSW Synod Magazine *Insights* - a very good photo of him leading the prayer service at the recent NCYC on New Year's Eve.

7. Seminar – Faith in a Visual Age

Peter Bentley recently led a seminar for the ACC Hunter cluster looking at the presentation of the Christian faith in a visual age, including a historical survey of the church's use of images and illustrations, and also reflections on research with young people in our increasingly visual world. This seminar is a developing work and considers particularly the use of Christian film to encourage families and groups, especially those who have limited contact with the church. If you would like more information please contact Peter at the ACC office.

8. Church Renewal Movements and the United Church of Canada (UCC)

The experiences of the UCA and the UCC have often been compared. For a detailed historical examination of church renewal movements within the United Church of Canada download these two excellent and thought-provoking articles, which are available as part of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada's **Church and Faith Trends** series in December 2010, Volume 3, Issue 3. Assistant Professor of History Kevin Flatt (Redeemer University College, Ancaster, ON) provides a wealth of historical information and statistical detail to argue his case.

Both are available online at <http://www.churchandfaithtrends.ca> .

A Mainline Minority: assessing the present state of the United Church Renewal Movement: and **The Loyal Opposition: a brief history of the renewal movement in the united church of Canada, 1966-2010:**

For the full papers see the link on the website:

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/news-views/item/church-renewal-and-the-ucc/>

Extract from: A Mainline minority

"Although the United Church of Canada is for the most part a theologically and morally liberal church, it is also home to an organized movement of evangelical and other conservative Christians. This "renewal movement," which at the time of writing consists of four distinct organizations, sees itself as a voice for key elements of traditional Christianity within the United Church. A brief history of the movement is contained in the companion article to this one, also in this issue of Church & Faith Trends, while the current article seeks to answer a number of questions about the present state of the renewal movement. After explaining the main goals of the renewal movement and briefly evaluating the movement's success in achieving them, the article determines the current size of the renewal movement and identifies the main factors supporting and limiting the growth of the movement in recent years and at present. The article concludes with some observations about the significance of these factors for the immediate future of the movement."

9. Visiting Newtown or Sydney?

Peter Bentley welcomes visitors to the ACC office. You can pick up ACC resources to give out, or copies of past magazines.

You can also have a look at the Revelation Ceiling at Newtown Mission:

<http://www.newtownmission.org.au/revelation-ceiling>

Contact Peter to arrange a time (details below)

10. ACC Prayer Diary April 2011

Grace and peace to you all in the name of Jesus Christ. May I begin with this prayer by Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie based on Isaiah 6: 8.

Rev. Dr Hedley Fihaki

I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6: 8).

"Sovereign Lord, may I hear Your passionate, persistent call sounding in my soul as I begin this day: "Whom shall I send?" Everything within me responds with a renewed commitment: "Here am I! Send me?"

Help me, Father, to see my work as my divine calling, my mission. Whatever I am called to do, I want to do my very best for Your glory. My desire is not just to do different things, but to do the same old things differently: with freedom, joy, and excellence.

Give me new delight for matters of drudgery, new patience for people who are difficult, new zeal for unfinished details. Be my lifeline in the pressures of deadlines, my rejuvenation in routines, and my endurance whenever I feel exhausted.

May I spend more time talking to You about my life's concerns than I do talking with others about these concerns. And may my communion with You give me deep convictions... and the courage to defend them.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me, so that I may serve with fresh dedication today".

Activities happening in April 2011

16: Wesley Institute Annual Seminar Day - Speaker Dr Craig Keener: Drummoyne

29: SA ACC Movement Meeting: 5 pm

Please continue to uphold the work and mission of ACC through our Chair (Rev. Dr. Max Champion), National Council, Commissions, Boards, Congregations and individual members.

May you also please pray for our congregation (Cairns Emmanuel Uniting Church), the Queensland Synod Moderator, the Rev. Bruce Johnson, chair of Nth Queensland presbytery, the Rev. Bruce Cornish, as we seek to address issues relating to the Good Samaritan Ministry Centre and homelessness as a whole in Cairns.

Please remember Friday is the ACC National Day of Prayer and Fasting.

Assembly of Confessing Congregations Inc. ABN 73 794 518 715 ARBN 128 001 785
Incorporated in NSW INC9887628 Liability of Members is Limited
Registered Office: 2 Erskineville Road, Newtown NSW
www.confessingcongregations.com