



ACC E-News December 2011 - January 2012

Dear Members

This is a combined news and prayer edition for December 2011 and January 2012. If you have any additional matters for consideration before the February 2012 edition please email the material to the ACC office.

God Bless you and may you have a holy and loving Christmas

Peter Bentley

1. December 2011 ACCatalyst

I am pleased to advise the magazine will be out earlier this year. It will be a good edition to give to another church member as a helpful way of learning more about the ACC.

2. Rod James Visit to South-Eastern Queensland.

A report of Rod's tour and presentations in Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and also at Banora Point will be in the February ACCatalyst. It is worth highlighting that Rod received coverage for one visit in a local newspaper:

<http://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/story/2011/11/24/church-says-no-to-gay-marriage-uniting-mooloolaba/>

THE Mooloolaba Uniting Church will host an event this weekend on "Why Gay Marriage is Not Good for Australia". Reverend Rod James, of South Australia, will be the speaker. Mr James said he would be explaining why "heterosexual marriage and family are vital for Australia". "It is a passionate issue for me because marriage is about family and is about the well-being of children," he said.

Rod's paper is now included on the ACC website:

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/resources/item/yes-to-male-female-marriage/>

3. Marriage

There has been considerable coverage of the 'same-sex marriage' debate at the ALP conference and related issues. Thank you to all those people who signed the Marriage Petition. This was not in vain, and sent a strong message to the ALP conference and was a wonderful support to those ALP members who opposed the change. Continue to uphold them in prayer and if you are able to write and communicate your views to local members during 2012 that would be very appreciated.

4. Proofing Help

Are you very meticulous and can pick up spelling and punctuation errors, with ease? ACC has a small team who help with proofing our Seeds for Harvest (Bob Imms devotional), ACCatalyst and our publications. It has been suggested that an extra person could be helpful, especially when some members are away or caught up with

other activities. If you are interested please email the ACC office. (All proofing is done via email and using track changes).

5. Christmas Resources

There are a number of the ACC National Director's Christmas sermons on the website – search Christmas in the sermon section.

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

Also Rev. Ted Curnow has provided a new poem: **Prepare Him Room**

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/news-views/item/prepare-him-room/>

Rev. Perry Smith has some devotional resources:

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/resources/item/the-real-christmas/>

6. Wesley Institute Seminar for 2012

The annual seminar will be held early in 2012. Please note in your diary now. A form will be sent to NSW and ACT members, but if any interstate member would like the registration form please contact the ACC office.

Paul in Conversation, Ancient and Modern: A Day Conference with Dr Michael Bird

Speaking of Dr Michael Bird's *Introducing Paul: The Man, His Mission and His Message*, Professor Craig Keener writes: 'Michael Bird is an amazingly prolific young Australian scholar ... In addition to a whole spate of published articles, he has outstanding monographs on Jesus and the Gentile Mission and saving righteousness in Paul under his belt. Now he has produced this primer on Paul, which immediately takes its place as the best, up-to-date introduction of this brevity available.'

Wesley Institute, Drummoyne

Saturday 11th February, 2012 (9.15 – 4.20 pm)

Early Bird Rate: \$40 (by 23 January 2012)

Pensioner/Student rate: \$35

For more info call (02) 9819 8811; Email: info@wi.edu.au

7. Billy Graham Archives

More than 1,600 of Billy Graham's sermons dating back to 1949 are now available in audio format online.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) --

The sermons -- available at www.BillyGraham.org -- are categorized by year, location and topic.

See <http://www.billygraham.org/audio-archives.asp>

The messages include everything from Graham's famous Los Angeles crusade in 1949 to his comments at President Lyndon Johnson's 1973 funeral to his sermons in Baltimore and New Orleans in 2006.

8. ACC Office Closure

The ACC Office will be closed for the period: 24 December 2011 – 2 January 2012.

Messages will be checked (including email) and urgent matters attended to.

ACC NATIONAL PRAYER DIARY – December 2011 – January 2012

Prayer points for this month:

- Prayers for Max Champion, the Council members for their break and rest during January 2012.
- Wisdom for planning of events and arrangements, including Max Champion and the SA Committee for the National Conference and the ACC Officers for the face-to-face National Council meeting in March 2012.
- February 11: Wesley Institute Seminar – Drummoyne. 'Paul in Conversation, Ancient and Modern'. A Conference with Dr Michael Bird.
- February 17: NSW ACC Executive Meeting - Wesley Mission.
- February 25: Reunion for those who attended the First Emerging Leaders Camp – Coromandel Valley: 4.30 pm. Speaker: Rev Simon Dent (Clare UC)
- Prayer for the Possibility of a Emerging Leaders Reunion Feb 25th 2012 4.30 pm,
- National Conference Planning 2012 Sept 13th 14th and 15th
- Prayers for the Australia Labor Party and Federal Parliament as the pressure grows to change the definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman only.
- Pray for congregations as they prepare for Christmas.
- Pray for our children as they prepare to go on school holidays.
- Research is showing that traditional churches such as the Catholic Church, UCA and Anglican churches are continuing to decline. Christian Research Association found that traditional Uniting Church's across Australia have declined by 30% in the past 10 years, while numbers in the Catholic Church have dropped by 19%. We pray for revival in our churches.
- We pray for upcoming leaders within the ACC movement.
- We pray for Lupe and the ACC Youth.
- We pray for the ACC-Tonga movement in NSW and various members around Australia.
- We pray for our ecumenical relationships with other denominations
- We continue to pray for courage as we continue to confess Christ as Lord in the various councils of the UCA.
- We pray that the new year will indeed be filled with 'new' things rather than a simple reshaping of the old.
- We continue to uphold Anne Weeks in our prayers.
- We pray for Anne Hibbard and the Uniting Prayer and Fasting. We pray also for Fatai Tapueluelu in her role on the ASC.
- We give thanks to God for all that has happened in 2011. We continue to surrender our lives into His hands that He may continue to use us for the building up of His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.



- Happy Christmas and Happy New year to you all from the prayer network. Until we meet again in February 2012, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our ABBA Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit continue to be with you all, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Hedley Fihaki on behalf of the ACC's PrayerNet

(Picture above of our choir at Cairns Emmanuel celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Methodist in Cairns and surrounding areas. If you have a photo from your congregation that you would like to share in our prayer diary, please feel free to email it to me).

Please remember Friday's as our 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

Postal Mail: PO Box 968 Newtown NSW 2042

Tel: (02) 9550 5358; 0423 637 576; accoffice@confessingcongregations.com

www.confessingcongregations.com