

# ACC E-News February 2011

1. Further to the email sent in January, the ACC would like to express my deep appreciation for the comments and expressions of concern and support from ACC members and churches for people in Queensland and Victoria during the **flood crisis and continuing difficulties**. Updates, extensive news and comments can be found at the UCA Queensland newspaper website, including reports of damage to UCA churches:

<http://www.journeyonline.com.au/showArticle.php?categoryId=2>

Information about the Queensland Uniting Church flood appeal can be found at:

<http://ucfloodappeal.gofundraise.com.au/>

**If you have any local news or prayer requests following the floods in Queensland and Victoria please forward them to the ACC prayer team:**  
[prayernet@confessingcongregations.com](mailto:prayernet@confessingcongregations.com)

Prayer from ACC member Nola Stewart

*Dear Heavenly Father, we grieve also for the loss of animal life in the current floods, in Australia and in Brazil. For family pets, for farm animals and for wildlife, the suffering of all sentient beings and for the destruction of natural areas. Thank you for providing for both animals and people through the ecosystem services we enjoy; clean air, fresh water, healthy soil and unpolluted waterways. Please give us guidance as to how we may look after the Earth, its natural ecosystems and the plants and animals dependent on them and the courage to pursue the right path. Please help us to make the right choices to maintain land, water and air in good condition for the sake of the things of nature and ourselves and to preserve the great variety of plant and animal life you have created on this most blessed planet, Earth.*

2. **ACC Deputy Chair Hedley Fihaki interviewed on the ABC programme Pacific Beat** about homosexuality and Pacific churches. Listen to this excellent interview at: <http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacbeat/stories/201101/s3121569.htm>

“Several Pacific island congregations in the Uniting Church of Australia have formed a potential breakaway movement, over the issue of homosexuality. They've been joined by other congregations from the Chinese, Korean and Aboriginal communities, who accuse the Uniting Church of straying from biblical teaching by moving to ordain homosexuals as ministers. The group is called the Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the Uniting Church. One of its leaders, Reverend Dr Hedley Fihaki, a Tongan minister in Cairns, says Pacific island Christians in particular have found it impossible to go along with the Uniting Church's views.”

3. **Induction of Rev. Ian Weeks – Belrose Uniting Church, Sydney.**

Several ACC members attended this warm occasion to support the NSW ACC Chair. Bruce and Heather Fairhall represented the NSW ACC Movement, and former Council member Rev. Grahame Abrahams attended with Fran Abrahams and Heather Graham from Shellharbour. May God bless Ian and Anne Weeks in this significant and vital new ministry.

#### 4. **The Bible Unpacked – new Resource**

Paul Mallison's bible resource is now available. He has been working on this resource for the past 16 years. The work is composed of a number of booklets and books, which may be used independently of each other. It is intended to make the Bible's teachings readily accessible and to be useful for people at various levels of theological understanding. It includes material for: evangelical outreach, individual or group Bible study, discipling, scripture classes, devotional reading and preparing sermons or shorter talks. **The material may be freely reproduced** for use for non-profit Christian ministry purposes, and can be downloaded at no cost. In return, users are asked to increase their support of persecuted Christians. To find out more, go to [www.thebibleunpacked.net](http://www.thebibleunpacked.net), or contact Paul at [paulmall@pacific.net.au](mailto:paulmall@pacific.net.au). So please look at the material. If you did decide to use any of it yourself and promote it, it would be helpful to Paul if you let him know how you use it. Paul is the son of well-known UCA minister Rev. John Mallison.

**ENDORSEMENTS:** An **Australian Christian Resources** website listed a **very positive** article and review on Paul's material (at [www.christianfaith.com.au/resources/the-bible-unpacked-how-good-is-this](http://www.christianfaith.com.au/resources/the-bible-unpacked-how-good-is-this)). Additionally, **there are several endorsements listed on the internal web page including two from well-known ACC members:**

*"This is a book\* that will be of great assistance to those who seek to identify the major themes of the biblical story. It faithfully reflects the "big picture" which emerges from the biblical narrative, providing a helpful guide to interpretation and a solid foundation for thinking and living Christianly."* **Brian V.Hill (Emeritus Professor of Education, Murdoch University, Western Australia)**

*"Many people find the Bible daunting, for it reflects a very different world. This book\* provides a helpful overview which introduces people to a number of important biblical themes and then directs them to relevant passages. People should find the book's connection between belief and behaviour a stimulating challenge to assess their life in the light of the passages from which the book quotes. The book's structure also makes it clear that life in Christ is not just an individual matter, but involves deep relationships with God and other people."* **Professor Ian Breward, (Professor of Church History [retired] and Archivist)**

*\* The reference is to the Intermediate Edition.*

#### 5. **New Book – ABUNDANCE IN THE BUSH**

Check your vital signs... Is that country blood pumping through your veins? Is that heartbeat for the Lord Jesus Christ? *"Abundance in the Bush"* by Linda Watt, a member of our ACC congregation at Mary Valley (Imbil), is a helpful volume of 31 devotions based on life in the Australian bush which will stir, encourage and refresh anyone who is 'country at heart'. Books are available from the author for \$7 each. (Please add \$1.40 postage for one book, \$2.80 for two, p.o.a for more copies.) Contact: Linda Watt, PO Box 1, Imbil 4570, Phone: 54886752; Mobile 0407590924 Email: [dusterduck@hotmail.com](mailto:dusterduck@hotmail.com)

6. **Marriage in Australia – support for marriage being between one man and one woman.** Last year ACC encouraged members to write, email or answer the survey about marriage in Australia in your local electorate? (note - not all MPs may be conducting a survey). Thank you to the many members who let the ACC office know they contacted their local federal politician. If you have not yet done so, please send a comment, and you can also let the Prime Minister know of your opinions as well.

Post – The Hon Julia Gillard, Prime Minister, Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600 Or via the WEB <http://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

#### 7. February ACCatalyst magazine

The first issue for 2011 will be very stimulating as it looks at the continuing questions raised by the article contributed by Brian Medway about the great commission and the Gospel, and includes responses to a recent mention of ACCatalyst in the December edition of NSW UCA magazine Insights by the NSW and ACT Moderator, Rev Niall Reid (including an interview).

#### 8. News from new Northern Territory Members

Mandy Jones and Wayne Oldfield have now started at **Nunaglinya College** (24 January 2011). They write “Wayne’s role as an Administrator will involve managing and controlling College Office Administration activities. He will also provide financial advice and assistance to Anglican parishes on a part-time basis. Mandy’s role as a Theology Teacher will involve teaching basic English literacy using the Bible and it is likely that she will be involved in the new Certificate courses that the college plans to start this year.” If you are visiting Darwin it would be wonderful if you could make contact.

#### 9. Prayer News and Diary

##### **ACC NATIONAL PRAYER DIARY – February 2011**

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Happy New Year from the Prayer Network for 2011. PRAYER POINTS:

##### Emerging Leaders Camp in South Australia (SA ACC Movement)

- ☩ For each participant, who has accepted an invitation and committed themselves to God's higher purpose for them. Pray for an quickening of hearts to hear God's heart and call. With excitement and anticipation, as to what God has in store.
- ☩ Pray for each of the speakers and elective topics:-
- ☩ Rev Max Champion – Theology and doctrine for living
- ☩ Mr. Craig Bailey – Managing Volunteers; Rev Tim Hein –Love, dating and marriage
- ☩ Rev Rod James – Preaching the Gospel; and Rev Don Purdey – Preparing and leading worship
- ☩ Pray for organization of the camp, and pray for all the helpers, unity and oneness of heart and purpose.
- ☩ Protection and discernment for each person present, and peace in God's will.
- ☩ Pray for Leaders with passion for the cause of the Kingdom, who lead communities and be a part of ministry that touches communities for Christ and for leaders to be raised up who will empower churches in their endeavours to build lives, bring restoration and transform communities.
- ☩ Pray for Qld – Those still recovering from the floods in Brisbane.
- ☩ Pray for Far North Qld about to face a ‘monster tropical Cyclone Yasi Wednesday night 2 Feb 2011.

**Please remember Friday's as our National Day of Prayer and Fasting.**

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