

ACC E-News June 2011

Dear ACC Members and Contacts

Dear Friends

A brief e-news for June. There will be a further e-mail in later June with the 2011 Conference Brochure and information about the **AGM and Annual Conference to be held in Melbourne 8-10 September, 2011.**

1. **Marriage Statement from the ACC**

As members will know, with the critical debate continuing in the wider community and within the church, the ACC has been promoting and affirming the traditional Christian understanding of marriage. The National Council has now approved a statement on marriage. This was prepared by the ACC Task Group on Christian Marriage and Family and will be produced as a pamphlet for wider distribution among members and the Australian church. The statement will be highlighted in the June ACC magazine, and is available now on the website:

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/news-views/item/marriage-an-acc-statement/>

2. ***Christ's Living Gospel, Today – Living in, and fulfilling, God's local mission – A Seminar***

On the 24th and 25th of June at Port Augusta UC, there will be a combined HopeNet and ACC seminar. This seminar will seek to further equip participants for mission in their local areas. Firstly, mission is God's own mission to the world, which *he is in fact already doing* - as Lord, and by the power of the Holy Spirit. This means, in our own communities too! Secondly, God's mission is *to us* before we can ever think of doing mission ourselves. We can only ever love *because God first loves us*. Thirdly, through God's ministry (mission) to us, *he calls us to share in His ministry (mission)* to the world. We do not create mission, make it succeed, or achieve it; God shares it with us, puts it within us, and gives it to us as a gift. That is the *Gospel* – Good News – of God's mission. That is liberating truth and power that could set us free for a vision of mission in our lives and our communities that could radically transform both! Speakers include ACC leaders Rob Tann, Rod James, Robyn Painter and Jonathan Button. SA Members (and others) are invited to make the pilgrimage to the Cross Roads of Australia at Port Augusta on 24th and 25th of June to be equipped and to find refreshment for your mission, wherever God places you.

For further details contact the SA ACC Secretary Ian Croft:

EMAIL: i_scroft@chariot.net.au; Mail: For SA-ACC, PO Box 30 St Agnes SA 5097; Home phone (08) 8289 2627

3. **Easter News from Members**

Witnessing in Newtown

In the week leading up to Easter, and over the Easter weekend, Newtown Mission placed a large wooden cross out the front of the mission during the day. Mock police tape cordoned off the area, and the words 'crime scene', were used to draw attention to the cross, along with the highlighted question *Why Did Jesus Die?*



The Cross – An Affront?

Senior Pastor Doug Clements and other volunteers spent time out the front of the church, encouraging interaction and comment from people passing by. People were able to write their thoughts on a blackboard, or post-it notes. While a good number of people stopped to have an initial look, interestingly there was often little desire to talk about faith and life today, probably reflecting the secular and alternate nature of the area, but also the focus on having a fun and extended very long weekend.

A Visual Witness in Tasmania

ACC member Miriam Imms reports that in the Channel area (south of Hobart and opposite Bruny Island), the local churches arranged to keep their lights on during the Easter week from approximately 6pm to 10.30 pm in a chain of churches - Snug, Kettering, Woodbridge Anglican and Woodbridge Uniting - as a witness of light in a holiday atmosphere. The Anglicans placed 3 rough bush crosses on the roadside in front of the Woodbridge church, and on Good Friday draped them with a black cloth, and then on Sunday placed joyous colours which fluttered lively in the breeze. They were left for some time as a further visual witness.

ACC Prayer Diary: June 2011

From Rev. Dr Hedley Fihaki

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Prayer points for June.

- Please continue to uphold Graeme Painter who is recovering from a pacemaker operation. Prayers also with ACC Council Member Robyn Painter at this time.
- Please pray for the Evangelism and Discipleship Commission as they prepare the next DVD course. Pray also for the course, "The Longest Journey", written by Greg Pearce which will soon be made public. We pray that in both of these resources God will reveal his word of truth and minister to people's needs by his Spirit".
- Pray for UC congregations and members as they express concern to the SA Moderator and Synod over the mock gay wedding held in the centre of Adelaide and conducted by UCA Minister, Rev Sue Wickham.

- Please uphold in prayer the ACC SA leadership team. They are having a planning meeting on Wednesday 8th.
- ACC SA and Hope Mission Network joint Resourcing & Encouragement event. Friday 24th (evening) and Saturday 25th in Port Augusta. The theme is **Christ's Living Gospel, Today – Living in, and fulfilling, God's local mission**
- Please pray for the Ecumenical Commission and the ACC Chair, Rev. Dr Max Champion as they seek to contact other denominations about their views on same sex marriage.
- Please pray for congregations to take up local evangelism possibilities.
- Please pray for Hedley Fihaki who will be meeting with Synod leaders regarding disciplinary matters and particularly for the Emmanuel Congregation and Good Sam Ministry to the homeless. Pray for truth, transparency and justice.
- Please uphold the NSW ACC Movement Executive meeting June 17th.

O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. (Psalm 108: 1)

Gracious God, whose dwelling place is the heart that longs for your presence and the mind that humbly seeks your truth. I eagerly ask for your guidance for the work of this day. I confess anything that would hinder the flow of Your Spirit in and through me. In my personal life, heal any broken or strained relationships that threaten to drain my creative energies. Lift my burdens, and resolve my worries. Then give me a fresh experience of your amazing grace which can set me free to live with freedom and joy.

Now, Lord I am ready to work with great confidence fortified by a steady supply of Your strength. Give me the courage to do what I already know of your will, so that I may know more of it for the specific challenges of this day.

My dominant desire today, Lord, is for Your best in the unfolding adventure of my life.¹ Amen. (Dr Lloyd John Oglivie, <http://drloydjohnogilvie.com/daily.php>)

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

¹ Dr. Lloyd John Oglivie <http://drloydjohnogilvie.com/daily.php>