

ACC E-News March 2011

1. Defending the Christian Understanding of Marriage

It has been excellent to hear of the number of people who have written to or contacted their local MP about the status of marriage in Australia. Please continue to keep these matters in prayer in this time of heightened debate and discussion. **See the MAKE A STAND website for more ways you can help:**
<http://www.makeastand.org.au/home/index.php>

Ron Brookman's new series MARRIAGE MATTERS on the UNITINGVIEWS website provide substantial information and an overall pastoral perspective on these matters. <http://www.unitingviews.com/issues/marriage/>

Another helpful list on the Sydney Anglican Social Issues site provides several helpful pointers <http://www.sie.org.au/tag/marriage/>

And see the following article by Michael Jensen for a challenging article and substantial number of responses.

http://www.sydneyanglicans.net/life/culture/is_there_any_way_to_defend_traditional_marriage/

2. 2011 ACC AGM and Conference: Thursday 8th September (after lunch), concluding with lunch on Saturday 10th September.

Conference Venue – BAC (Brimbank Anglican Church), The website link and address are below for your reference.

Corner Ely Court and Cemetery Road, Keilor East, Vic 3033; Melway Ref: 15 B9,
<http://www.getbac.org.au/index.html>

3. Gospel Coalition - check out this website for information and resources about "a fellowship of evangelical churches deeply committed to renewing our faith in the gospel of Christ and to reforming our ministry practices to conform fully to the Scriptures." (many of the large evangelical churches are part of this movement. <http://thegospelcoalition.org/>

4. Faith in times of disaster

Simon Smart has received some good coverage for his article on the very contemporary area of disasters and faith, which was initially published in the Sydney Morning Herald and is now on the Centre for Public Christianity website:
http://publicchristianity.org/faith_still_comforts_in_times_of_turmoil

5. Council Report – Combined Council and Board and Commission meeting March 7-8, 2011.

The annual face to face meeting was held at The Healing Centre in Newtown, a Christian Retreat and conference centre. Council Members and a representative (usually the convenor) of each of the Commissions and Boards grappled with the many developing issues that are confronting Australia as a whole and parts of the church, including same-sex blessings and the status of marriage, euthanasia, and the future of the church. The ACC is developing more resources on marriage, including a statement on marriage and the Doctrine and Theology Commission will prepare a commentary on the UCA Marriage Service, providing a theological and pastoral resource for the whole church. A paper on euthanasia has been prepared by the Social Responsibility Commission and will be available later in the year.

Plans for the 2011 conference (8-10 September) are developing well. Confirmed speakers include Dr Benjamin Myers, Lecturer in Theology at United Theological College, who will speak on The Basis of Union – a Manifesto for Renewal? Dr Mark Durie, an acknowledged expert on Islam will address the conference on Friday morning.

The Dates for the 2012 Conference (13-15 September) were set and the SA ACC Movement has been invited to organise the venue and local arrangements.

Reports were presented from the Commissions and Boards outlining their present work and plans for the future.

6. NSW ACC AGM

The AGM for the NSW Movement will be held at Sutherland Uniting Church on Saturday 2 April, commencing with prayer times at 10.45 am.

The guest speaker is Pastor Andrew Chin, who will report on the Lausanne Congress. He was sponsored to attend by ACC and is a pastor within Wesley International Congregation.

7. History of Australian Methodism Workshops

Note: Reprinted from the WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY (AN AFFILIATE OF THE WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL) HISTORICAL BULLETIN, VOLUME 38, NUMBER 1 2011 EDITION

On December 3, 2010, the first of a series of Workshops was held at Wesley College, University of Sydney, on the History of Australian Methodism. The project was funded in part by an Australian Research Council grant and is co-convened by Professor Hilary Carey, Dr. Troy Duncan (both of the University of Newcastle) and Dr. Glen O'Brien, Booth College, Sydney College of Divinity.) Three Conferences will be held in all—in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide—and it is hoped that a new published history of Australian Methodism will result.

Here are the titles of the papers delivered (in the order they were given):

Glen O'Brien (Sydney College of Divinity): "Not Radically a Dissenter": The Rev. Samuel Leigh in the Colony of New South Wales"

Hilary M. Carey (Newcastle): "An Agency for Expanding Christianity": Methodism and the British World"

Daryl Lightfoot (Vice-President, World Methodist Historical Society): "Rev. Thomas Collins of Sandhurst: A Vicarious Wesleyan Ministry in New South Wales"

David Roberts/William Emilsen (Discussants) Forum: "Methodists, Aborigines and Missions"

Renate Howe (Deakin): "Victorian Goldfields Methodism, 1850-1900"

Troy Duncan (Newcastle): "Methodism as the Living Cement of the British Empire": Imperial Sentiment among Australian Methodists before WWI"

Brian Howe (Melbourne): "Colin Williams: A Theology of Engagement"

Plenary Forum (Chair: Ian Breward): The National History of Methodism in Australia Project

Garry W. Trompf (Sydney): "Of Methodist Scholarship"

Marion Maddox (Macquarie): "The Wowser and the Activist"

Jennifer Clark (New England): "The new age needs a new spiritual dynamic": Methodism and the Challenge of the Sixties"

ACC Member and UCA Historian, Professor Ian Breward attended the workshops.

ACC NATIONAL PRAYER DIARY –MARCH 2011

- ❖ We give thanks to God for a very successful Emerging Leaders Award camp in SA. Don Purdey says *"I just want to give thanks to God and to each one of you for the amazing contributions that were made for the camp to succeed in what in my view was an extraordinary way. It fulfilled my every dream for it (and I had lots!) and blessed the socks off those 18 young leaders. I cannot recall any event in my life where the God-given gifts of individuals were used so powerfully and where the sum of those contributions became so wonderfully beyond what we could hope for"*.
- ❖ We give thanks to God for the life of Rev. Dr Charles Noller, ACC Qld member, and his faithful witness to Christ throughout his life. Our prayers continue to be with Pat (Convenor of our Board of Communication) and the family as a whole.
- ❖ Our hearts go out to all the people in Christchurch, NZ. We pray for comfort and peace to all who have lost loved one. We pray also for patience and strength as the people of NZ work to rebuild Christchurch.
- ❖ We give thanks to God for his protection during Cyclone YASI. In NQ, we truly felt people's prayers from around the world. We continue to uphold those who are still homeless and recovering from the cyclone as well as from the floods in Brisbane.
- ❖ We pray for those Arab countries encountering continued unrest: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen etc.
- ❖ We pray for Ian Clarkson who is going to Uganda. He will be ministering in that country from March 10th to 27th. All strength and peace to you Ian.

- ❖ We pray for Mandy Scott and ACC SA as they plan and prepare for 'Connection' retreat in May. Prayers for PrayerNet as well, as they plan to meet after the retreat in SA.
- ❖ We pray for our Government as they face pressure to change our traditional God-given understanding of Marriage as being between a man and a woman. We pray for the UCA that it may stand firm on the biblical understanding of marriage.
- ❖ We pray for the follow-up to the decisions of the National Council and Commissions Meeting in Sydney 7-8 March. We pray for guidance and direction as well as for boldness and courage as we continue to be salt and light to the Church and the World as a whole. We also continue to uphold Max Champion in our prayers that God may continue to give him and the officer's strength and wisdom in their public role for the ACC.
- ❖ Thank-you Lord for all that you have done and for all that you continue to do for us. We pray that we might totally surrender our lives to you, individually and corporately as the ACC, so that your will alone might be done in and through us as your body, the Church. May your name be honoured and glorified in all that we do. We ask this in JESUS name. Amen.

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

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