

ACC E-News May 2011

Dear ACC Members and Contacts

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*I hope your Easter time was a holy and excellent time of worship and reflection. It was a sobering experience around my local area of Newtown where the focus is on an extended weekend of partying. Newtown Mission had a large wooden cross outside the front of the mission this year (in busy King Street), and they invited the many passing people to interact with those hosting by asking questions and writing comments. It was a helpful way to highlight the Christian faith in this area, reputedly the most secular in Australia. If you have Easter stories or special events, you would like to share with others in the ACC magazine please contact our editor (via the office – I will pass on). Yours
In Christ*

Peter Bentley

- 1. Rev Perry Smith prepared a poem for use as a hymn for Mothers Day.** It is available on Perry's page on the ACC website:
<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/resources/item/mothers-day/>
- 2. SA ACC and ACC PrayerNet Retreat**
The deadline for registrations for the **Connect** Prayer Retreat is fast approaching. The retreat is sponsored by the Assembly of Confessing Congregations SA Movement, and will be held at **Halbury Emmaus Campsite** from **Thursday 12th May, 6pm, till Saturday 14th May, 9pm**. Come join Gaynor Bowden and Mandy and Brian Scott for a personal retreat that will allow you to take a closer look at what God is doing in your life. "Dig Deeper" into your relationship with the Lord and hear Gaynor give her personal testimony, and spend time in personal reflection. If you cannot attend please keep this event in prayer.
- 3. Lausanne 2010 – Reflections from an Australian**
The encouraging message from Pastor Andrew Chin of the Wesley International Congregation given to the NSW ACC AGM is now available on the ACC website in a downloadable PDF format. Members would be aware Andy attended the Third Lausanne World Congress on Evangelisation in Cape Town in October 2010 as an ACC sponsored representative.
<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/news-views/item/lausanne-reflections/>
- 4. Chaplaincy in Schools** – Members will be aware of the High Court Challenge to stop Federal Funding of school chaplaincy. SU Queensland (one of the defendants) has developed a support and information site: <http://saveourchaplains.com.au/>
Some further details: Ron Williams v. Commonwealth of Australia. A Writ of Summons and Statement of Claim was issued out of the High Court of Australia on Tuesday December 20, 2010. The details relevant to the matter are as follows:
Plaintiff: Ronald Williams

Defendants: Commonwealth of Australia; Minister for School Education
Childhood and Youth; Minister for Finance and Deregulation;
Scripture Union Queensland

Mr Williams is being represented by Bret Walker SC. His case is being supported by the Australian Secular Lobby and funded by members of the public who want school chaplaincy out of state schools. The High Court has set aside May 10, 11 and 12 to hear the case. The decision of the High Court may not be known until late 2011 or early 2012.

5. Resources on EUTHANASIA

With euthanasia issues appearing frequently in the news again, the following sites have some helpful resources:

- <http://www.bioethics.org.au/Resources/Resource%20Topics/Euthanasia.html>
- <http://www.no euthanasia.org.au/>
- <http://australianchristianlobby.org.au/?s=euthanasia&x=0&y=0>
- http://www.makeastand.org.au/campaign/index.php?campaign_id=37
- <http://www.fava.org.au/>
- <http://www.billmuehlenberg.com/?s=euthanasia>

6. CMA Conference 2011 - Sydney

The Christian Management Association conference will be held in Sydney this year 6-8 June. The ACC is a member organisation, and Peter Bentley attends, networking with other organisations and also maintaining contact with several ACC congregations who are also members.

As CMA states "Our churches and ministries exist for the Gospel, in all its forms. We need SPIRITUAL leadership, not just leadership. But even spiritual leadership, unless supported by diligent boards, competent people, and adequate resources, is critically hampered. But when all the pieces line up, by God's grace AMAZING things are possible. Transformation, both inside our organisations, and in our sphere of ministry, can become a reality." More information at:

<http://www.cmaconference.com.au/>

7. Wesley Institute Seminar

A large contingent of NSW ACC members attended the annual Wesley Institute Seminar in April and were treated to excellent biblical presentations on current research and questions related to the historical Jesus, as well as electives on a variety of topics. The keynote speaker was Craig Keener, a prolific writer (See below). We learnt that his new work on Acts ran initially to some 7000 pages of material (it will be about 1000 when published). He is also working on a book about miracles.



CRAIG KEENER Ph.D. (New Testament and Christian Origins): Duke University

Prior to his arrival at **Palmer Seminary of Eastern University**, Dr. **Craig Keener** taught Bible at Hood Theological Seminary, the seminary of the A.M.E. Zion church. He has preached and has taught and trained ministers in various parts of Africa, primarily Nigeria, Cameroon, and Kenya. Craig has authored 14 books, some for academic and some for general audiences. These include **The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament** (InterVarsity Press), with nearly half a million sold; his two-volume **The Gospel of John: A Commentary** (Hendrickson); commentaries on **Matthew** (Eerdmans) and **1-2 Corinthians** (Cambridge); and **Revelation** (NIV Application Commentary, Zondervan). Three of his commentaries have won Christianity Today book awards. Other areas of writing include biblical contributions regarding the Holy Spirit, Black Church Studies, and women in ministry. Craig's professional experience includes pastoral ministry, mostly as an associate pastor. He has served in charismatic and National Baptist circles, and has several years of campus ministry experience. For more extensive information on Dr. Keener, please visit his website: google.com/site/drkeener/home.

8. ACC Prayer Network

For the latest prayer news and requests please see the website:

<http://www.confessingcongregations.com/prayer/monthly-prayer-diary/>

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