



The ACC Newsletter

Confessing the Lord Jesus Christ, Proclaiming the truth, Renewing the church

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IMPORTANT NOTE: This is the last edition of the newsletter as a stand alone publication. It is envisaged that material from the newsletter will be incorporated into the ACCatalyst magazine from 2010, which will increase from four to six editions per annum. Material will continue to be circulated in the regular ACC E-News by email.

ACC Prayer News: For the months of November and December 2009.

ACC National Council - for the Officers:

Chair - Max Champion

Deputy Chair - Hedley Fihaki

Secretary - Walter Abetz

Treasurer - Colin Adam

Members: Grahame Abrahams, Peter Davis, Derek Schiller, Rod James, Robyn McKay, Ian Breward, Anne Hibbard.

Pray all on council will have wisdom, clarity of thought and unity as they converse in meetings and by e-mail. We give thanks to the Lord for those who have stepped up into a new position; give them courage and strength. For those re-elected; a newness of strength as they continue into 2010.

- ACC staff-person - Peter Bentley in his regular role of co-ordination for the Council, provision of information and administration. **Pray for strength and a clear mind.**
- For the new editor John Sandeman and Max Champion as Executive Editor. **Pray for guidance in the planning for the development of the ACCatalyst magazine.**
- For the prayer network team and **for new arrangements for 2010.**
- Website contact and work - for people who visit the site and use resources. **Pray they be encouraged and blessed through the sharing of the proclamation of the truth of the Gospel through this contact.**
- Planning for the 2010 AGM and Conference. **Pray for guidance in planning and provision of all that is needed.**
- State Movements - planning and visitation for 2010. **Pray that the state movements will be bold & courageous in their witness. Pray for wisdom, strength and protection for the leaders within each state movement.**
- Congregations and members. **Pray for encouragement that they can be salt in their communities, and for those isolated that they find fellowship with like-minded people.**

2. ACC National

2.1 2009 AGM Minutes and Reports

The Council has now approved the minutes from the September 2009 meeting, and as soon as possible a combined report will be produced. Due to cost of publishing and mailing, a decision has been made to send reports by email and then mail to those members who request them. The ACC is conscious that it does not want to send this large amount of material to members who may not desire to receive or read the minutes and reports, so from 2009 it will be an opt-in arrangement. If you do not have email, and would like a printed copy please let the ACC office know.

2.2 ACC Youth

The development of a Youth Network is going ahead, and will be a key part of the 2010 conference. What are needed at this stage are contact details and help to build up a network of people. If your congregation has a youth group, or contact can you please email the details to the office to pass onto people at Liverpool UC who are co-ordinating this initial work. For your information, there is now an ACC Youth site on the website, though material is yet to be published. A Facebook arrangement is also being developed.

3. SA ACC Movement - Report on 'Dig Here' Seminar at Cleve: 24-10-09

A 'Dig Here' seminar was held at Cleve on Eyre Peninsula, invitations having been sent to the congregations of that region. There were 5 in our team: Don Purdey, Rod James, Mandy Scott, Jill Walker and Karen Chapman.

Local attendance was about 25 from at least 8 different congregations: Cleve c7, Cowell c5, Arno Bay 1, Driver River 3, Whyalla 6, Pt Neill 1, Port Lincoln 1, and Cummins 1. All of these congregations except Arno Bay are members of the ACC.

This total attendance of about 30 gave a strong sense of gathering, resulted in robust, up-lifting worship (led by Don), and produced an encouraging environment for those who attended.

Don introduced our 'Dig Here' theme. Then Rod spoke on *Confessing Christ in our Hearts*, and Don followed with *Confessing Christ in the Congregation*. We broke for lunch which was generously hosted by the Cleve folk. Conversations over lunch were vigorous and contributed greatly to the value of the day. After lunch Mandy spoke on *Standing with our Leaders in Prayer*, and *Working Together more Effectively for the Kingdom as the Body of Christ*. She then led the meeting to gather in congregational groups and pray for their churches, leaders and the strong proclamation of the gospel in their regions. Finally Rod gave a talk about *Confessing Christ in the World*, and then spoke about ACC developments and answered questions.

The availability of ACC resources and some of Rod's leaflets also contributed to the overall effect of renewing people's vision of the Confessing Movement within the UCA.

There was an indication that this event would lead to congregations bringing their membership fees up to date, some individuals becoming supporting members, and congregational decisions to join the ACC being reaffirmed.

From our first two 'Dig Here' seminars it is clear that there is so much more value in our visits when we have a team of folk rather than just one or two speakers. The conversations, relationship-building and encouragement that result from a team visit are a very valuable expression of what ACC is about.

The three services taken by Don and Rod the next day added to the value of the visit. Rod preached at Driver River and Don at Cleve and Cowell. The prayer team (who had stayed at Arno Bay) worshipped at Cowell and had valuable interactions with the congregation over the share-lunch which followed.

Thanks are due to the team for their time, travel, enthusiasm, individual contributions and lovely team unity.

Rod James

4. Victorian ACC Cluster Seminars

During 2010 there will be seminar meetings in the Melbourne area linked with the cluster groups which have formed. The first of these will be held by the Waverley Cluster. Seminar to be held in St John's Uniting Church, Virginia Street, Mt. Waverley **on Saturday February 27, 2010** from 9.30 am. to 3.00 pm. BYO lunch. Tea and Coffee provided. Further details 9800 4078 or 9887 6098

Speakers.

Rev Prof. Ian Breward: - *Reforming the 21st Century Church.*

Dr. Rosalie Hudson: - *A Declaration of Hope.*

Rev. Dr. Max Champion: - *Firm Ground or Crumbling Foundation, the Future of the Basis of Union.*

5. Thelma Pendlebury Prize at Wesley Institute

As members will be aware, the ACC has established The Thelma Pendlebury Award which is awarded by Wesley Institute for a 1st or 2nd year student who has demonstrated artistic excellence, academic excellence, personal maturity and Christian commitment, a significant artistic contribution, and service to the School of Music in the completed academic year. The first prize money has been made available and the inaugural winner will be selected after the end of academic year.

6. ACC Resources: Brochures and Information

Over the last two years, the ACC has produced a variety of resources to help members learn more about the ACC and the beliefs of the Confessing Movement. The ACC has also encouraged passing material onto interested church members and contacts in local congregations. Copies of these are available, including the magazine. At present no charge is made for the leaflets and information guides. The latest information is provided for the interest of members. All the material is available on our website, but if you would like copies of any of these publications please contact the ACC office.

ACC Leaflets and Information Guides

- ***Charter for the Assembly of Confessing Congregations*** – adopted at the inaugural ACC Assembly held 13-14 October 2006
- ***Statement on Sexuality*** – adopted at the inaugural ACC Assembly held 13-14 October 2006
- ***Confessing Statement from the Executives of the Reforming Alliance and Evangelical Members within the Uniting Church (EMU)*** – adopted at the inaugural ACC Assembly held 13-14 October 2006

(Note – the three founding documents are available in Chinese, Tongan and Korean and have been distributed to available UCA contacts)

- ***ACC Constitution*** – Rules for Incorporated status (May 22, 2007)
- ***ACC Cross Cultural Commission Statement***
- A Helpful statement clearly outlining the position of the cross cultural commission with regard to the position of migrant-ethnic members in the UCA. (Received by the 2008 ACC AGM – 12/9/2008)
- ***Visions and Goals 2007 – 2017*** (adopted by the National Council 11/2/2008 and sent out to all members with the March 2008 ACCatalyst magazine)
- ***The Church's Social Responsibility.*** A statement by the ACC Social Responsibility Commission. (Received by the National Council 2/7/2008)
- ***ACC Theological Declaration*** (Adopted 12/8/2008)
- ***ACC Theological Commentary*** (Approved by the National Council 27/7/2009)

MINUTES and Reports

ACC Minutes and Reports from Annual General Meetings 2007
ACC Minutes and Reports from Annual General Meetings 2008

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Bible studies

Study 1 *Galatians: the Freedom Walk* Six Bible studies.
Study 2 *Following Jesus: Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark* Five Bible studies.
Study 3 *Faith that Works: Studies in the Letter of James* Six Studies. **SEE BELOW**

ACCATALYST Magazine – from June 2007 – inaugural edition) – 11 editions.

ACC Newsletter – 14 editions of the ACC Newsletter.

Faith that Works: Studies in the Letter of James

A new Bible study which ACC hopes will be a focus for 2010.

Note: all ACC congregations and groups will receive one copy as part of their membership.

Order Form: ACC Bible Study No. 3

Written by Rev Dr Brian Edgar in conjunction with Ron Clough,
Ian Hickingbotham, Margaret Macmillan and Nell Muirden.

HARDCOPY – \$10.00 each (includes 10% GST, postage and packaging to anywhere in Australia).

Please send me copies of Study 3 - *Faith that Works: 6 Studies in the Letter of James* Bible study books.

Name.....

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.....

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Cheques payable to **Assembly of Confessing Congregations**
Direct Deposit is available on request. A tax receipt or invoice will be provided.

Orders to be sent to: ACC Office, PO Box 968, Newtown NSW 2042

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