



Assembly of **Confessing Congregations** within the Uniting Church in Australia

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ACC-SA Movement Newsletter

March 2012

Greetings to you all!

The immediate purpose of this edition is to flag two important events this month:

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The first is the visit to SA of Ugandan **Bishop, Joel Kakembo** and his wife Lydia.



Bishop Joel is witness to the rapidly growing Christian church that has suffered fierce persecution and yet has survived.

Bishop Joel oversees several hundred congregations in a fellowship of churches that has become the largest expanding denomination in Uganda.

Bishop Joel's responsibilities include: presenting the Christian message to a daily radio audience of over three million listeners, preparing to build an orphanage

and school, as well as evangelizing across other East African nations as well as America and the UK.

It is evident that Bishop Joel has gained the respect of the government of Uganda, as he has been invited to participate as a committee chairman for an anti-corruption review of judicial processes in Uganda.

Rev Ian Clarkson (Hope Network) the instigator of Bishop Joel's visit, traveled to Uganda at Bishop Joel's invitation last year. He says "**the vitality and courage of the Ugandan church is a challenge and a reproach to Australian churches who have much to learn from our African friends.**"

Bishop Joel is a compelling speaker and he will be speaking at some schools, meetings with community leaders and gatherings from Pt Pirie, Wandearah, Kadina, Minlaton, Glenunga, Wynn Vale, and in the Southern Hills at Kangarilla with the involvement of churches from Meadows, Macclesfield, Kangarilla, Prospect Hill, Coromandel Valley, Echunga, McLaren Vale, Flaxley, Clarendon, Mylor and Mt Compass, partnering with Branches Community Church.

For venues where you can hear Bishop Joel speak, see over.

All meetings will be open and free of charge.

Saturday 17 March	Kangarilla	8:00am Men's Breakfast 6:00pm Sausage Sizzle 7:30pm Youth Event
Sunday 18 March	Kangarilla	10:00am Celebration of the Gospel 6:00pm Celebration of the Gospel
<i>Enquiries for Southern Hills gatherings:</i>		www.facebook.com/SouthernCelebration
<i>or phone:</i>		0437 006 456
Wednesday 21 March	Golden Grove UC	7:00pm (enquiries David Hoffman: 0401 138 259)
Saturday 24 March	Wandearah Shed	7:00pm (Sausage Sizzle 6pm) (Venue: Lynton & Sonia Joyce's shed at 163 Mallee Rd, Wandearah East)
Sunday 25 March	Minlaton UC	10:00am (enquiries 08 8853 2291)

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**OPEN MEETING, NEWLAND UC:
"SHOULD WE CHANGE OUR
MARRIAGE ACT IN AUSTRALIA?"**

The next ACC-SA regional meeting will be a special occasion under the auspices of the ACC-SA Fleurieu Fellowship to address a matter of both personal and national importance, **the security and stability of our Family Life.**

Special guest speaker **David d'Lima** of **FamilyVoice Australia** will address us on the contentious issue currently under heated discussion across the nation—the proposal that the legal definition of marriage as the lifelong union of a man and a woman be changed to include recognition of same-sex unions.



Should we change our Marriage Act . . . ?

There will be opportunity for Question and Answer following the address. Please bring your concerns and comments—getting this right is vital for the wellbeing of our community—and of our country.

Details as follows:

**Where? NEWLAND UC, Victoria Street
Victor Harbor**

When? FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2012 5–9PM

Programme:

- 5:00-5:45 Prayer Meeting
- 6:00-6:45 Tea—Hot Malaysian/Chinese and/or Aussie Tucker . . . plus please bring desert to share *
- 7:00 Opening Worship
- 7:15 DAVID D'LIMA:
"SHOULD WE CHANGE OUR MARRIAGE ACT IN AUSTRALIA?"
—including Q&A and comments.
- 9:00 Supper + Fellowship

* Those wishing to join us for tea please advise Ben or Lily on 8555 2411 by 10am Tues 13 March for catering purposes. (If no answer, please leave a message.)

The Future of Marriage in the Uniting Church

The Waverley Cluster held a seminar on "The Future of Marriage in the Uniting Church" on November 5 at St John's Mt Waverley Uniting Church, Melbourne. As ACC National Director and Chair Rev Dr Max Champion outlined, "Controversy over attempts to redefine marriage has intensified.

"Same-sex 'marriage' is a key policy of the Greens. The Labor Party will debate the issue at its conference in December. In 2003 and 2006 the National Assembly of the UCA resolved to make it possible for people in same-sex relationships to exercise leadership in the church. On 12 June 2010 a 'sacred union ceremony' was held in Brunswick UC at which same-sex relationships were blessed and earlier this year a liturgy for such unions was posted at www.unitingnetworkaustralia.org.au. It is highly likely that various proposals on this matter will be brought to the 13th UCA National Assembly in July 2012."

Speakers were:

- Peter Bentley who considered the topic of “Marriage: More than a Right” (the increasing tendency to individual rights and changes within Christian denominations.
- Rev Ron Brookman spoke about his own journey within his address on “Marriage at the Crossroads: Same-sex Seeker to Hetero-wholeness.” Ron is a UCA minister who has come out of homosexuality and also works for Living Waters and ministers to Christians who struggle in different areas of sexually and relationships.
- Max Champion outlined the difficulties in the promotion of same-sex blessing liturgies with a substantial critique “Sacred Union Ceremonies: How Gnostics mimic marriage.”

Quoted from ACCatalyst December 2011

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EMERGING LEADERS AWARD REUNION

Following Don Purdey’s highly successful Emerging Leaders Award Camp last year, ACC-SA invited back participants and leaders for a reunion dinner last Saturday.

The reunion was held at Coromandel Valley UC, a time of nourishment for both body (a splendid meal was provided by the Coro catering team lead by Jay Madsen) and soul.

The camp last year was designed to encourage growth in faith and in leadership skills, and to engender lifelong, life-changing relationships with Christ. This time participants were invited to share what the camp had meant to them and how their lives in Christ had blossomed in the intervening 12 months.

We were inspired and encouraged by participants’ successive reports of quiet and faithful leadership in their churches and places of work and study, and we were left in no doubt that the “Emerging Leaders Award” was a gift from God that should be fostered and multiplied by all means possible into the future.

The young leaders testimonies were followed by an address by the evening’s

keynote speaker, Rev Simon Dent. Simon’s key premise was that “Ministry belongs to Jesus Christ”, and that only when you relinquish “my” ministry and defer all to Him will that ministry be blessed and become a blessing.

Ministry thus exercised sets the minister free from a burden that was never his—free from the idol of ministry—in order to be at ease with the infinitely lighter and less onerous burden of his proper calling—his calling under Christ.

Thanks to all involved for a focused and inspirational evening.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

By the time you receive this newsletter the **ACC National Council and Commissions** meeting which takes place in Sydney this coming Monday and Tuesday (March 5-6) will have come and gone.

However, I take this opportunity to remind you all that this is an Assembly meeting year and that the **13th National Uniting Church Assembly** will be held in Adelaide 15 – 23 July.

The **ACC National Conference & AGM** is also in Adelaide this year and is to be held at the Nunyara Conference Centre from 13 – 15 September.

I encourage all ACC member congregations to have at least one lay representative attend National Conference in addition to your minister/pastor. ACC needs informed lay membership and the National Conference is by far the best event at which to become involved in the live of the ACC.

Remember, **you are the ACC . . .**

Grace and peace.

Les

Les Knowling, Convenor

Andrew

Andrew MacTier, Secretary

ACC-SA Leadership Group