



# ACC Prayer Diary

## February 2014

Greetings all and happy new year! Prayer points for this month:

- Please pray for the National Council and National Convenors face to face meeting on the 4-5<sup>th</sup> March in Newtown, Sydney. We pray for wisdom and direction.
- Other meetings: Feb 16<sup>th</sup> AC Hunter Cluster Hymns and History at Borragul UC 12: 30 p.m.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Feb NSW ACC Executive Meeting, Sydney.
- Please pray for Rev. Shane Kammermann and his family as they settle into a new placement in Cairns.
- We pray also for Shane in his role as National Chair and for Peter Bentley as National Director.
- We pray for the Marriage task group and for the Assembly consultation on marriage as it continues this year. We pray for our UCA leaders who are heading up these consultations.
- We pray for members of congregations, presbyteries, Synods and members of Assembly to have courage and boldness to stand up for what is right and to speak against those things that are wrong.
- We pray for our ACC congregations throughout Australia as they activate their missional ministries for this year.
- Presbytery of Tasmania has set a “personal discipleship” focus for 2014, to be followed by congregational and wider discipleship themes in following years. We pray that this new focus will bring fruit for local congregations and the wider church as a whole.
- ACC Tas is also encouraging local study groups to form and is suggesting the use of N T Wright’s Living Faith DVDs to be used in small groups across the Presbytery. These DVDs starts from the outside of faith, and allows for fringe members to participate. We thank God for this project and pray for open doors.
- We thank God for the work He has done last year through the ACC as we continue to commit our work into God’s hands.

**Micah 6: 8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**

In the midst of injustices during the time of the prophet Micah (750-686 BC), where people were coveting and seizing fields and houses and taking them from people, God raises the prophet Micah to speak into this situation, calling his people to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.

Injustice, as we know, continues in our world today. Of particular importance to us in Australia is the issue of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

It is pleasing to know that on the 18th March 2014 at 4: 00 p.m. on the laws of Australian Parliament House in Canberra, Uniting Church in Australia members are being invited to attend a public prayer vigil. “The vigil will express the Church’s continued grief at the racism and marginalisation experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our hope for justice, recognition and reconciliation” (UCA website).

To begin addressing the issue of reconciliation fairly and on a level playing field, I believe, “Indigenous sovereignty” needs to be recognized so that there can be dialogue between two equal people’s (nation to nation), not only of equal dignity and worth, but of equal political sovereignty, and not simply one nation telling a minority within that nation what is best for them. This is called paternalism and a barrier to true reconciliation in Australia.

May God give us wisdom and courage as we speak out against injustices to his people.

Grace and peace

Hedley Fihaki