



# ACC Prayer Diary

## March 2013

### **The Ministry of Reconciliation**

*2 Corinthians 5: 17-19 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.*

Reconciliation is at the heart, and not simply on the periphery, of the Church's identity and mission. Andrew Dutney in his book "Introducing the Uniting Church in Australia", stresses that the Uniting Church is "All about mission," God's mission, the *missio Dei*, the mission of our Father, Jesus' Father, who sends the Son and gives Himself to us in the Spirit. This is because "The core business of the Christian movement has always been" and continues to be to "share that message of reconciliation in words and actions."<sup>1</sup>

According to the key findings of the Australian Reconciliation Barometer, in 2012 - 98% of Aboriginal people and 87% of non-Aboriginal people agree that the relationship or reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people is important. However, only 50% from both sides agree the relationship is improving. In fact, around 70% from both groups believe that they are 'prejudiced against each other', and worse, only 15% of Aboriginal and 13% of non-Aboriginal people 'agree we trust each other'.<sup>2</sup> Simply to say, that though reconciliation is important to a significant number of people, we still have a long way to go in improving the situation in the Australian context.

In the light of the fact that we have been entrusted and given the message and ministry of reconciliation, we pray for wisdom and guidance regarding how the church can continue to contribute to reconciliation, not only within the church, but in our society and nation as a whole.

- Please pray for Rev. Rod James who will be preaching at Belfield UC in Sydney on 10th March.
- We pray also for Rod James who will be having an operation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April for prostate cancer.
- We pray for the face to face meeting of the National Council and Commission Convenors 12-13 March.
- We pray for the ACC Social Responsibility Commission meeting 10 a.m. Melbourne 7 March, and for the ACC Hunter Cluster combined gathering on the 10<sup>th</sup> March.
- We pray for our younger leaders to be raised up
- We continue to uphold our National Chair, Max Champion, and Peter Bentley in our prayers.
- We pray for wisdom on multicultural issues.
- We continue to pray for the ACC Qld Movement as they prepare for the 2013 conference on the Gold Coast.
- Thank-you for your prayer support for the work and mission of the ACC within the UCA.

**Grace and peace. Hedley Fihaki**

<sup>1</sup> Dutney, A. (2008) *Introducing the Uniting Church in Australia*. Uniting Church Press, Sydney Australia. p.15

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.reconciliation.org.au/getfile?id=1917&file=RA\\_Barometer\\_Report\\_2012\\_Overview\\_V17\\_low\\_res.pdf](http://www.reconciliation.org.au/getfile?id=1917&file=RA_Barometer_Report_2012_Overview_V17_low_res.pdf)