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Siasi Fakamatakali 'Oku te'eki ketau iai

By Mardi Lumsden

Ko kitautolu koe Siasi Fakamatakali. 'Oku tau tu'u fakataha koe faka'ilonga 'oe fakatu'amelie 'ihe loto-lotonga 'oe Komuniiti 'Aositelelia. 'Oku ui kitautolu ke tau tu'u 'o fakamo'oni 'ihe loto Tui Taha moe Mo'ui ia Kālaisi aia 'oku ma'olunga taha 'iha toe Matakali, 'Ekonōmika, Pūle'anga, pē ko ha fa'ahinga ā vahevahe kehekehe. Ke tau fetā'aki nima fakataha 'ihe fepoupou'aki 'ihe vilitaki ketau ma'u 'e Fai-Totonu, pea ketau fepoupou'aki fakamatakali mo matu'aki 'Ofa kiate kinautolu 'oku nau tofanga 'ihe Lau Lanu, Manavahē, pea pēhe foki ki he ngaahi faingata'ia Faka-'ekonōmika.

Ko kitautolu koe Siasi Fakamatakali – Ka koe hā hono 'uhinga?



Park Church Tongan Congregation youth welcome their new minister Rev Lu Senituli at his induction service in June.

Twenty years after officially declaring itself a multicultural church, the Uniting Church in Australia is still to realise the full potential of the statement.

Sunday, 17 July marks 'One Great Sunday of Sharing', a celebration of the statement made in 1985. It challenges congregations to learn about collective difference and to be enriched by it.

On any given Sunday in the Uniting Church in Australia, 150 migrant-ethnic congregations or fellowship groups worship in more than 26 different community languages.

Rev Lu Senituli, minister at Park Church Tongan Congregation and member of the Multicultural Ministry Network, is concerned that the Uniting Church is not yet truly multicultural.

"This awesome vision is still yet to be realized," said Mr Senituli.

"The engagement is yet to drop deeper from the 'ethnics entertaining us' with their exotic foods, song and dances to deeper connections with their biblical, theological, cultural frameworks and understandings.

"It must shift from the superficial and 'interesting' observations to partners in the missions of Christ."

Mr Senituli said that the rhetoric of multiculturalism in the church is not matched by sufficient inclusion of non-Anglo church members.

"Until this happens, the UCA will continue to articulate a non-reality."

UCA president Rev Dr Dean Drayton claimed that research has shown people from other cultures are rarely invited into the home of Anglo-Australians.

"How much do we miss because we do not invite into our homes those who bring the Gospel to us in new and different ways?" said Dr Drayton.

A threat looms

One real threat to the multi-cultural nature of the Uniting Church is the issue of sexuality and leadership in the church and finding places for cross cultural dialogue.

Mission consultant Rev Dr Graham Beattie has recognised the complex nature of this conversation.

"One of the difficulties regarding such dialogue opportunities is that for many of our multicultural communities, issues of sexuality carry heightened emotional and cultural significance that are perhaps not as evident in many European cultural contexts," he said.

Mr Senituli is concerned multicultural congregations are not being heard when it comes to this divisive issue within the church.

"I am absolutely convinced that the UCA is on the brink of more serious division and disintegration if we don't hear the overwhelming concerns of our multicultural congregations," he said.

"Our multicultural congregations have two fundamental and essential pillars they will not move away from: Jesus Christ and his Gospel, and the place of the UCA in the one holy, catholic and apostolic tradition.

"It is paramount for non-Anglo congregations (and Anglo congregations) to receive this affirmation; without it they are forced into a position where they cannot and will not belong.

"The voices of our migrant-ethnic congregations must be heard within the life of our church."

Did you know?

Of Uniting Church members 5-7 per cent worship in languages other than English.

There are 25 different language groupings used plus various Aboriginal tribal languages.

Nationally the Uniting Church has around 148 migrant-ethnic groups from 26 cultural backgrounds who worship in their own language.

About 50 % of these are from countries of the Pacific Islands. Over 40% are from Asian backgrounds.

Some congregations were established before Union or joined the UCA at the time of Union. Many of them joined the UCA after Union.

READ IT IN OTHER LANGUAGES

For more on the multicultural church see pages 6 and 7.

Moderator's view

The Uniting Church is set apart from other Christian churches by interconiliar rather than hierarchical government; we seek to hear what God is saying to us by listening to him together and to each other.

The Basis of Union in paragraph 15 states: "The Uniting Church recognises that responsibility for government in the Church belongs to the people of God by virtue of the gifts and tasks which God has laid upon them."

"The Uniting Church therefore organises her life that locally, regionally, and nationally govern-

ment will be entrusted to representatives, men and women, bearing the gifts and graces with which God has endowed them for the building up of his Church.

"The Uniting Church is governed by a series of inter-related councils, each of which has its tasks and responsibilities in relation both to the Church and the world."

That same paragraph goes on to spell out that "Each council will recognise the limits of its own authority and give heed to other councils of the Church, so that the whole body of believers may be united by mutual submission in service of the Gospel".

Diversity & ecumenism

Another feature of our uniqueness is our diversity which can be seen in theological conversations, worship experiences, embracing of people from differing cultural backgrounds, and yet we have one goal in mind.

Journey asked the moderator, Rev Alan Kuchler: What unique things set the Uniting Church apart from other Christian churches?

The Uniting Church has a special role in keeping the ecumenical nature of being church on the agenda for the Christian community in Australia. In all our Church councils we are challenged to keep the "ecumenical question" before us.

In discovering new possibilities of worship, witness and service each council is asked to address the following issues: What aim or goal does our congregation have for this activity or facility? Are there any neighbouring congregations that have the same aims or goals? Are any neighbouring congregations planning similar activities or facilities? Have neighbouring congregations been invited to participate in preliminary conversations or in a joint planning group? If not, can invitations be issued?

I acknowledge that even asking and answering these questions does not necessarily mean that we can go into combined or ecumenical activities; there are complicating issues such as insurance, property,

and work place health and safety that also have to be addressed. But not to ask the questions, and not to explore the possibilities, is to fail in our commitment to who we are as a church.

Service and justice

The Uniting Church is often recognised by the commitment shown to community service work and people outside the church readily identify us with BlueCare, Lifeline Community Care, our hospitals, and our speaking out on issues relating to social justice and chaplaincy. Our involvement in such areas together with congregational life is the fullest expression of who we are as Uniting Church.

Our commitment to a covenantal relationship with our brothers and sisters in indigenous communities is an important part of our commitment to being God's church and discussions are currently taking place at a national level for further developments in this area.

Still on the way

In remembering these things I believe are unique to the Uniting Church, I want to remind us that the final paragraph in the Basis of Union (Paragraph 18).

"The Uniting Church affirms that she belongs to the people of God on the way to the promised end. She prays God, that through the gift of the Spirit, he will constantly correct that which is erroneous in her life, will bring her into deeper unity with other Churches, and will use her worship, witness and service to his eternal glory through Jesus Christ the Lord".

From the Editor

The mono-cultural world in which I grew up is long gone; all the members of the church at which I attended Sunday School were Anglo in ancestry, mostly Scottish Presbyterians.

Both our community and the church have changed forever and few congregations now have a purely Anglo cultural membership.

Among our multicultural congregations, some have one cultural majority, others have bicultural congregations, and some are significantly influenced by other cultures.

Our twenty-year-old commitment to be a multicultural church is still in formation.

True multiculturalism will go well beyond simply sharing property and token cultural forays at Synod and Assembly gatherings.

As one minister put it, "we want to do more than sing and dance".

Being a truly inclusive church goes to the heart of the gospel and Jesus' suggestion that, in the end, the effectiveness of our Christian witness would come down to how effectively we love each other and demonstrate our unity.

Thanks to all those who have been sharing their responses to the changes in Journey.

We have a fantastic team with Mardi and Osker and are learning as we go, so your comments, suggestions and feedback are always welcome and will be taken seriously.

Bruce Mullan

Write to Journey at
GPO Box 674 Brisbane 4001
journey@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au
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Alan Kuchler:
A people of God on the way.

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The above schools are under the auspices of the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association. Further information from the Principals or: PMSA, PO BOX 298, Toowong 4066.

Call and passion mark 25th Synod

Affirming our call: Renewing our passion is the theme set for Synod 2005 by Moderator Elect Rev Dr David Pitman who will preach on the theme at the opening worship at the Emmanuel College Auditorium in Carrara, on the Gold Coast, on Friday, 9 September.

Dr Pitman sees Synod as an opportunity for members to sense the moving of the Spirit in the church and be renewed in faith and hope.

"We will diligently fulfil our responsibilities as a Synod but we will also take time to remember and celebrate who we are as the people of God," he said.

General Secretary of the Queensland Synod Rev Jenny Tymms says that this year there will be noticeable changes in the way the Synod meets.

"We will be meeting together in table groups in the plenary sessions and this will enable the Synod to adopt a greater range of ways of dealing with the matters before it," said Ms Tymms.

"This will allow for 'table responses' and spontaneous conversation as well as prayer and small group discussion."

Reports, departmental proposals, nomination forms and other print materials for the Synod business will be provided in loose leaf form, enabling Synod members to quickly update and supplement their documentation.

Synod members will be respon-



Jenny Tymms: Spontaneous conversations and prayer

sible for appointing people to the Synod Leadership Team, Council of Synod, Ministerial Education Board, 11th Assembly, and Finance and Property Board.

In an attempt to generate widespread conversation around the issues before September, the Synod Design Team has developed an e-mail discussion group and has made all the reports and associated paperwork available on the Synod web site.

The August issue of *Journey* will carry a more detailed description of the reports and highlight significant issues to be dealt with by the 25th Synod.

What does Synod do?

The Synod is an important Council of the Church that exercises significant responsibilities outlined in the Uniting Church Basis of Union. The Synod has responsibilities for the general oversight, and direction of the Church's worship, witness and service in Queensland.

Membership of the Synod is appointed by presbyteries and the regulations require that there be at least as many lay people as ordained ministers.

Flag and funeral furore not warranted

The misreporting of a Victorian Uniting Church discussion paper on the conduct of funerals and the Australian flag has caused unnecessary confusion and distress to church members and members of the public.



Melbourne's *Herald Sun* newspaper on Wednesday, 8 June said, "Statements, included in a summary of different views of the flag, have inflamed rather than soothed the church's tensions with the RSL and its members."

Tensions were inflamed by the reporting of selected phrases without reference to the rest of the discussion paper and related documents.

Subsequent media reports claimed the Uniting Church was trying to ban the Australian flag from being hung inside its institutions.

The discussion paper says no such thing. Nor does Uniting Church policy.

The church's Synod of Victoria and Tasmania released the discussion paper on Establishing the Relationship between Christian Funeral Services and Civic Funeral Rites.

This followed an incident earlier in the year in which a Uniting Church minister, the Rev Dr Wes Campbell, would not drape an Australian flag across Digger Dick

Vipond's coffin during a funeral service.

The discussion paper is the result of work since undertaken by a task group appointed by the Rev Sue Gormann, Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, to clarify the relationship between the Christian funeral and civic funeral rites.

Ms Gormann responded to the initial incident saying, "There has been some significant media on this matter, much of it inflammatory and inaccurate."

Ms Gormann said, "It is clear that the usual practice followed by ministers and church councils at a funeral service, in the case of a Returned Service person and other service personal, is to have the national flag placed across the coffin for the entirety of the service, with the RSL civic service taking place in the church at the end of the Christian service."

"This option, practised by the greater majority of Uniting Church ministers, can and will continue."

by Stephen Webb
<http://insights.uca.org.au>

Growing healthy churches

You are not defined by what you separate yourself from but rather what you give yourself to," says senior pastor Tim Hanna from Gateway Baptist Church in Brisbane. Tim is the guest speaker at the Growing a Healthy Church DNA Conference sponsored by the Uniting Church Regional Churches Network.

Tim, who came to faith from a completely unchurched background, claims that the future health and vitality of the church will be determined by men and women who are prepared to give themselves to the exciting adventure of partnering together with God in building the church.

One of the conference organizers and Synod Mission Consultants, Rev Dr Graham Beattie, says that the purpose of the gathering is to provide motivation, encouragement and knowledge drawn from personal leadership practice on growing, healthy and thriving congregations.

"This conference is designed for ministers and leadership teams who want to grow a life-giving culture for their faith communities," said Graham.

The Growing a Healthy Church DNA Conference will be held on 29-30 July 2005 at Logan Uniting, Springwood.
w07 3290 1277
loganuc@tpg.com.au



Tim Hanna: Healthy DNA

Short course to learning

Multiculturalism 8-11 July

This course will be conducted by the Multicultural Network of the Queensland Synod at the Tongan Congregation, West End. For all those who want to increase their understanding of multiculturalism and ministry in a multicultural context.

Media & Communication 11-14 July

This course will provide an excellent opportunity to engage in issues around the use of media, especially new media (Internet, the Web, Email), and new technology in the service of the Gospel.

Leadership 11-14 July

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New team working on communication

As foreshadowed in the May issue of *Journey* an all new staff team has been appointed for the Synod Communications Services Unit.

Mardi Lumsden Journalist and Researcher serves as Associate Editor of *Journey*.

A talented musician and former international gymnast, Mardi has a Masters Degree in journalism and is a long-time Uniting Church member.

Previously Mardi worked as a journalist in the music industry and now looks forward to assisting the Uniting Church seek a vibrant and living presence in contemporary Australia.

Osker Lau is Web Manager and Graphic Designer for the Unit, and responsible for Synod website development.

A skilful photographer and computer genius, Osker has a Masters Degree in Information Technology and is a member of the International City Church.

Osker, who has worked in web development, graphic design, photography and project management, is excited about the opportunity to make a significant contribution to



The new team gets to work on Synod communication.

web communications in the Uniting Church.

Bruce Mullan, former Mission Consultant with the Queensland Synod, is Team Leader and Manager of the Communications Services Unit.

With Masters Degrees in both Arts and Education, Bruce has been a lay worker in the Uniting Church in Australia for over twenty-five years, serving in NSW, Queensland and Tasmania.

Bruce, who has a love of stories and news, and is well known for his daily email newsletter, will bring a missional and educational focus to the task of the Communications Service Unit.

"The opportunity to work with such a talented and dynamic team is almost unbelievable, and the privilege of serving the church in the important task of communication is profound," said Bruce.



Rev Craig Mischewski: on his knees but not in prayer.

North Queensland ministers hit out...

Reflecting on the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness and the writings of Henry Nouwen, Rev David Fanning, led the North Queensland ministers and lay pastors in four days of reflection on Christian leadership and a chance to refresh their spiritual journey for the year ahead.

Along with the reflection times the group celebrated the 20th anniversary of ordination for Presbytery Minister Rev Bruce Cornish but best of all was a cricket match with stunning bowling, stylish batting, and lots of sweating and puffing.

Other eyes are watching the UCA



Local leaders meet with United Reformed Church visitors

A team of seven ministers from the United Reformed Church visited Brisbane recently as part of a study tour of both its successes and disappointments in the Uniting Church's approach to multicultural ministry.

United Reformed Church Consultant on Multicultural Ministry Katalina Tahaafe Williams said that the study tour was very important as the URC understanding and vision of a multicultural church is still very much in the early stages.

Local leaders from Brisbane Taiwanese, Fijian and Tongan congregations met with the group to share first-hand how things have developed in Uniting Church multicultural ministry.



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Advertising deadline for August Journey Wednesday, 13 July.

Worship resources needed for Synod!

The worship of the Queensland Synod, 9-14 September, will feature prayers, photos, video greetings, litanies and music from around the Uniting Church and its communities.

The synod's theme will be: "Affirming our call - Renewing our passion".

Members of the church are invited to email their resources to Rev Yvonne McRostie at: mcrostie@ucaql.com.au or send them to Rev David MacGregor at: 16 Bareena St, Jindalee 4074, by 31 July 2005.

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Yalga-binbi

Training indigenous youth for community development

"Welfare makes us sick and we are sick of welfare," said National Administrator of the United Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Rev. Shayne Blackman, at the opening of the new Yalga-binbi Training Unit in Townsville.

"Although welfare has its place when it comes to basic provision we have to move away from the dependency that has resulted from welfare, and education is a key to this."

Fifty-four students are already enrolled nationally in the Yalga-binbi Diploma of Community

Development, a course accredited through the Australian National Training Authority.

The course will be delivered over 4 years and a special 'in-community' mode of study allows students to continue to live and work in their communities undertaking practical local projects.

Director of Yalga-binbi Institute, Mrs Lurleen Blackman, believes community development is about empowering people to improve the life of their own group and community.

"We hope this course will help people tackle the causes

of inequality, disadvantage and poverty and go beyond and challenge traditional welfare responses towards Indigenous issues," said Mrs Blackman.

Yalga-binbi's Training Unit was opened by the Federal Member for Herbert, The Hon. Peter Lindsay.

"It is an inspiration what you have achieved here," said Mr Lindsay.

"I remember this site when it was covered by China Apple bushes, and a few Elders had a vision for projects that included adult education. Now here you are."



A Mornington Island student brings the rich heritage of Indigenous culture to the Yalga-binbi opening.

Family help to come over breakfast

A series of community breakfasts to address family concerns, and monthly prayer meetings in various churches, will be the next ecumenical initiatives among churches in the Capalaba area of Brisbane.

The moves follow a series of prayer services held during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in May, organised by Capalaba Uniting and St Luke's Catholic churches.

People from the local Uniting, Catholic, Anglican, Salvation Army and Baptist churches met in each other's churches on successive weeknights for special prayer services focusing on Christian unity and community outreach.

A combined churches service on Pentecost Sunday evening wrapped up the week of prayers. At the shared tea and group conversation which followed, participants affirmed the desire to keep praying together, and to plan specific steps towards making new connections with the wider community.

Wells and Jenny O'Neill from the Christian ministry group Fusion stimulated thinking with input about community festivals as an effective, low-cost strategy, and people were keen to pick this up in 2006.

The proposal to hold community breakfasts is being implemented to start this year. The idea is to hold them quarterly, each addressing an issue of concern to families such as teenage depression and suicide, budgeting, school and study issues, sexuality and positive parenting.

Local or national experts would be the keynote speakers, and some breakfasts would be followed by workshops for those wanting to go deeper into the issues. The func-



Athol Huth of Capalaba Uniting Church lights a candle for unity at the ecumenical service on Pentecost Sunday at St Luke's Catholic church.

tions would be promoted through schools, existing groups and local media, linked with community support services and probably held in a neutral venue, but sponsored and managed by the local churches.

Grant money may be sought to help offset start-up costs.

Combined prayer services will

continue with a monthly service held at each participating church in turn, and the Church of Christ has also come on board.

Capalaba churches already engage in a combined community outreach in a major local shopping plaza, singing seasonal songs to shoppers at Easter and Christmas.

Signs of the times



Journey has noticed that the humble church noticeboard has been undergoing a revolution in recent years with more congregations purchasing advertising boards and some Australian companies marketing solid vinyl posters each month complete with biblical notes for the congregation.

Have you seen any good signs lately? Send the text or better still a good picture to *Journey* for the Signs of the times competition. We'll feature a new sign every month and a nice prize at the end of the year for the best entry. Tallebudgera UC is first with this creative effort.

Wesley Mission Brisbane (Re-Advertised) Superintendent Minister and Visionary Leader

Applications are invited for the position of Superintendent Minister for Wesley Mission Brisbane.

The Superintendent Minister is a specified minister in the Uniting Church responsible for leadership of a large and dynamic congregation, six full-time ordained staff, significant community service activities and is spokesperson on social justice issues.

Wesley Mission Brisbane has a staff of 1300 providing a wide range of aged care and community services, and the Albert Street Uniting Church is the central Brisbane city church with a diverse range of mission and ministry activities.

The Superintendent Minister of Wesley Mission Brisbane exercises pivotal leadership for Queensland's largest Uniting Church congregation/mission and for the city of Brisbane. The Mission seeks an energetic, visionary and dynamic leader who will guide the congregation and mission into the future.

For information refer to: www.wmb.org.au (go to Human Resources - Jobs page). Applications should be submitted by Monday, 1 August 2005.



For more information contact the Rev. Ray Herrmann. Phone 07 3839 8178, email: standrews@powerup.com.au; post to PO Box 10020, Brisbane Adelaide St, Qld. 4000.

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Chúng ta là giáo hội đa văn hóa, nhưng điều đó có nghĩa gì?



20 years a multicultural church: reflections from a founding father

As General Secretary of the Commission for World Mission of the National Assembly, Reverend Dr John Brown played a significant role in drafting the Assembly's Multicultural statement. Here are some of his reflections 20 years down the track.

"We wanted to make people aware of some of the difficulties that migrant groups of people with cultural backgrounds different from the mainstream were facing in settling in Australia, and relating to the Christian Church here; we wanted congregations which had control of the use of properties to make them available to groups who were seeking worship or meeting places; we wanted to communicate to recently arrived immigrant migrant groups that they were welcome in the Uniting Church.

"We were seeking a way of affirming diversity; we wanted to be claiming it as a strength, rather than a problem. The issues to be addressed are not insurmountable. They are issues of justice; of hospitality; of stretching our understanding of the Gospel, by hearing it from others; of questioning our own, sometimes cosy, adaptations of the Gospel to our culture."



Rev Dr John Brown: the issues are not insurmountable.

One More Great Sunday of Sharing

Two decades on, One Great Sunday of Sharing will celebrate the exciting cross-cultural adventure that has been part of the Uniting Church's journey and mission.

Assembly National Director for Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry Rev Helen Richmond said One Great Sunday of Sharing on 17 July will encourage congregations from different cultural backgrounds to meet and worship together.

"This simple act allows us to celebrate our diversity, share our common faith and learn what it means to live together in one church as people from different cultures," said Ms Richmond.

Uniting Church President Rev Dr Dean Drayton said he hoped the theme, Looking Back, Moving Forward, would be used by congregations as a starting point toward practical commitments that develop local ministries based on integrity and understanding rather than uniformity.

"How rich it has been to find the gifts we bring from each of our cultures, the way we enjoy being together, and sometimes having to confront and work our way through to new perspectives and new structures," said Dr Drayton.

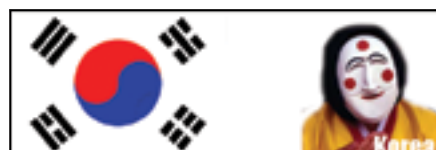
"As we journey in the footsteps of Christ in the 21st century we must continue to come together as God's multicultural people and minister together for the witness of God's glory in this great nation of ours."



Multicultural church: we're not there yet

We are a multicultural church. We seek to be a sign of hope within the Australian community. We are called to bear witness to a unity of faith and life in Christ which transcends cultural, economic, national, and racial boundaries. We commit ourselves in one fellowship to achieve justice, affirm one another's cultures, and care for any who are the victims of racial discrimination, fear and economic exploitation.

We are a multicultural church, but what does that mean?



다문화 교회: 우리는 아직 그곳에 다다르지 않았다.

우리는 다문화 교회이다. 우리는 호주 공동체 안에서 희망의 신호가 되고자 한다. 우리는 문화, 경제, 국가, 인종의 한계를 초월하여 그리스도 안에서 믿음과 삶이 하나로 열매 맺는 공동체로 부름을 받았다. 우리는 한 공동체로 화의를 이루고 다른 문화를 긍정하고 인정하며, 두려움, 경계착에서 최성된 자들을 돌보도록 위임받았다.

우리는 다문화 교회이다. 그러나 그것의 의미는 과연 무엇인가?



Proud to be part of a multicultural church



A cheerful participant at the celebration dinner for Pacific church leaders hosted by the Logan Central Multicultural Congregation.

Thank you

Thanks for the help with translation in this issue of *Journey* goes to: Ana Mila, Viliami Mila, Tagisa Lale, Faalafi Tipa Lale, Pastor Van Lanh Ho, Robin and Shin Duck Yang, Elizabeth Mullan.

RAL CHURCH THERE YET

Getting into the **swing** of things

By Mardi Lumsden

The Brisbane Taiwanese Congregation has come a long way since its inception 15 years ago.

Worshipping in the Brisbane suburb of Moorooka, it is the only official Taiwanese speaking congregation of the Uniting Church in Queensland.

In 2000, Rev Ben Lo ended his ministry at one of the largest congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan, one of the partner churches of the UCA, to come to Brisbane. He has had extensive experience in his presbytery and the National Assembly in Taiwan.

A member of the Queensland Synod Multicultural Ministry Network, Mr Lo and his congregation hosted the URC group in June and have been involved with the Trinity Cross-cultural Intensive course, in assisting students to have cross-cultural exposures.

Queensland Synod mission consultant Rev Dr Graham Beattie said this vibrant congregation is finding new ways to reach out to their community, to the extent that they have almost outgrown their building.

"Exciting things are happening at the Taiwanese Congregation. They are experiencing significant numerical growth that is stretching the capacity of their church facility to provide for their needs. Also their innovative 'golfing evangelism' is proving to be a creative and fruitful way to connect with people from the wider Taiwanese community and share faith with them," said Dr Beattie.

Around four years ago, the congregation and Mr Lo began a golf club as an outreach.

Complete with uniforms and Lo's 'Golfing for Jesus' clubs bag, the group get together at least once a month at golf courses all over Brisbane.

"We have been running the golf club for four years and usually have about thirty people attend," said a jovial Mr Lo.

"We encourage our couples to come together. Most people are from our congregation but we encourage them to invite their friends to join in."

With their welcoming spirit and fun atmosphere, the golf club has proved to be a wonderful success.

"We hope this is a special outreach with non Christians.

"We already have at least six people who have become Christians through the golf club."

UCA National Director of Multicultural Ministry Rev Helen Richmond said, "I see Ben Lo as someone so enthusiastic about mission who has great gifts to share with the Synod and is keen to build links between his congregation and other English speaking congregations."

The congregation is busily planning their 15th anniversary celebrations for the end of the year. No doubt golf will be a part of the program.



Church Council Chairperson John Lee and Rev Ben Lo show off Lo's golf bag.



Ekalesia tuufaatasi: E le'i mautu

O tatou o le Ekalesia tuufaatasi. O loo tatou taumafai e avea o se faailoga o le faamoemoe mo tagata lautele o Ausetalia. Ua valaauina i tatou e avea ma molimau i le tuufaatasi o le faatuatuga ma le ola ia Keriso e ala i tu ma aganuu, faiga malo, faapea tagata lautele, ma soo se lanu ma gagana. Ua matou taumafai e avea ma tino e tasi ina ia maua le faamoemoe tonu, e talia ai isi tu ma aganuu, e puipuia ai soo se tasi ua afaina ona o le faailoga lanu, ma le fefe e faaali atu ana tu ma ana aganuu.

O i tatou o le Ekalesia tuufaatasi, a'o lea ea lona uiga?



What is a multicultural congregation?

A multicultural congregation is a church that has more than one language/cultural group; seeks to welcome all; is a church that is intentional in incorporating others in worship and leadership, and this often includes the use of other languages and the sharing of each other's cultures; is a church that allows a minority group to express itself (eg through their own fellowship & cultural celebrations) in order that they could continue to enjoy and maintain their own traditions; is one that has many nationalities worshipping together.

A multicultural congregation is a church that respects others and is open to cross-cultural interactions in order that they also may be enriched through the sharing; is a church that is hospitable and willing to share their property with another Uniting Church group or group seeking a place of worship; is multi-ethnic in composition and its leadership encourages participation of all its members.

From 'Is the Uniting Church in Australia A Multicultural Church? - A Case study with special attention to Victoria' by Sophia Nancy Ng-Vaitkus.

Sharing property is still an issue to grapple with

Property sharing was one of the fundamental priorities identified when the statement "We are a Multicultural Church" was adopted by the Assembly in 1985.

Assembly Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry, National Director Rev Helen Richmond says even after 20 years as a multicultural church, property sharing remains one of the most challenging issues.

"Sharing property can be a source of problems and headaches, misunderstanding and hurt as well as a tremendous opportunity to grow, learn and be enriched by each another," said Ms Richmond.

"In some places the relationship could still be defined as 'landlord and tenants' but in many places, this relationship now reflects real partnership.

"This comes about through greater sharing, through a sense of commitment to God and one another, and a belief that we are to express a sense of shared mission, shared responsibility and equity in our relationships."

"Being the People in this Place" is a one-day workshop resource developed by the National Assembly to assist congregations to deal with the potential tensions and challenges that arise from property sharing.

Inspired by a vision of God's hospitality, the workshop reminds congregations that we are only stewards of the resources God gives to us; we do not 'own' them but are called by God to care for and use these resources to further God's mission.

"The 'house' belongs to God and in that house we are all guests invited by Christ. This means we all need to be willing to change, and adapt, and not just expect others to fit in and adjust to 'our' way of doing things," said Ms Richmond.

She suggests that congregations can begin by saying, "We welcome you, we will make space for you" before moving to develop agreed patterns, strategies and intentional ways of working together.

Rev Richmond said plans are underway to host workshops in a number of Queensland presbyteries. "Through developing some intentional patterns we become partners together in God's work," she said.



Pastor Van Lanh Ho's Vietnamese congregations share property with Oxley Uniting



Brisbane Taiwanese Congregation members head off to the game.

Schoolies in paradise

While most Grade 12 students are dreaming of schoolies week at the beach, they probably aren't thinking of a beach on a remote Fijian island.

Students finishing Grade 12 this year can experience a slice of village life on Taveuni island, in the northeast of Fiji's 330 islands.

Youth Worker, Louise Edwards, is once again preparing to lead the alternative schoolies week trip to Fiji. Since the first trip in 2001, Ms Edwards has seen the growth in the young people participating and in the village they visit every year.

"My life was so impacted by my first visit that I want to keep sharing the experience with others," she said.

2004 participant Rhiannon Stanbury said she was impressed by the welcoming and contented spirit of the people of Qeleni Village.

"One of the best things was meeting the kids in the village. They are just amazing! They have a lot less than kids here and they just make the most of it," said Ms Stanbury.

"I'm more appreciative of what I've got now. My problems might seem big, but then I remember other people who have bigger problems and they just get on with things."

Rhiannon, who is now studying a Diploma of Youth Work, said the trip confirmed her career choice.

"Teaching the kids some English words and singing with them really



Rhiannon Stanbury enjoys schoolies week with a difference in Fiji.

showed me that this is what I love doing and this is what I want to do."

Louise Edwards at edwardslj@hotmail.com or call 3265 3610.

Grade 12 students looking for a different and distinctive Schoolies Week experience should contact

Mardi Lumsden



Recognise any of these people?

If so, catch up with old friends and celebrate 50 years of the Methodist Young People's Department, Secondary School Camps on Saturday, 20 August, in Southport. Bring old photographs and wear your old school blazer (if it still fits). The program includes a Service of Celebration, a picnic afternoon tea on the Esplanade and Dinner. For more information phone Rev Noel Preston 07 3700 0566, Rev John and Mrs Rae Mavor 07 5578 8112, or Rev Graeme Adsett 07 33779822.

August Festivals

August 6, 12noon – 8pm, West Fest, Musgrave Park, South Brisbane. Hosted by Speak Art Inc raisin community awareness of the historical and cultural diversity in South Brisbane through the arts.

August 14, 2pm, 14th Annual Hymnfest. Redcliffe UC. Singing, fellowship and afternoon tea. Offering will assist School Chaplaincy. Contact Keith Lawson on (07) 3203 1788.

August 28, 2pm, St Andrew's Hymn Festival, part of the year long Centenary celebration of the St Andrew's UC building, Creek st Brisbane. Choirs from MBC and BBC and brass players from the Queensland Conservatorium.



History in the making

Queensland Governor Quentin Bryce meets and greets at the Redland Bay UC 125th anniversary, April 23 - 24, along with Redland Bay UC Chairman Edward Bunker, Moderator Rev Allan Kuchler, Redland Bay UC Minister Rev Arthur Tutin, and Presbytery South Moreton Presbytery minister Rev Ray Reddicliffe.

Photo by Sally Walker-Brown, courtesy of the Redland Times.

What's on July '05

Tuesdays 9:30am-12:30pm, Deception Bay UC Seniors Fellowship Group. Enjoy a cuppa, passive games and conversation. Gold coin donation. Contact Wilf Coombes.

8-10 July, Youth Leadership Training, Cairns. A chance for those new to youth ministry, or those who would like a refresher. Edmon-ton Uniting Church. Contact Steve Kernovske on (07) 4036 4440 or stevek@yacmu.com.au

July 9-10, North Queensland PFA Reunion. Tinaroo Presbyterian Camp. Join in the fun and reminisce, for all or part of the weekend. A catered dinner will be held on the Saturday night. Stay overnight at Camp Tinaroo. For more information, contact Edith Clark (Farquharson) 07 40536907, Heather Blackband (McInnes) 07 33512727, RSVP to Edith Clark asap.

July 10 – 13, Gathering of Vietnamese leaders to be held in Brisbane.

July 11, Purpose Driven Youth Ministry. A one day conference with Doug Fields held at the Gateway Centre. You can find out more about the conference at www.youthvisionqld.com.

July 15 – 16, Caloundra UC Christmas in July Expo. See decorated Christmas trees and stalls doing craft demonstrations, selling gifts and decorations. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be available. Money raised goes to Forceten.

July 16, 9am to 12pm, Child Safe Church Training events. Glebe Rd Uniting Church, Call YACMU on 07 3377 9782 or email Paul. Yarrow@yacmu.ucaqld.com.au

July 17, One Great Sunday of Sharing 2005. Celebrate being a multicultural church. This year's theme is "looking forward, looking back", acknowledging the significant step the UC made at the 1985 Assembly when it stated: "We are a multicultural church".

July 22-24, Youth Leadership Training, Townsville. A chance for those new to youth ministry, or those who would like a refresher. Mount Louisa House of Praise. Contact Steve Kernovske on 07 4036 4440 or stevek@yacmu.com.au

July 28, 7pm to 9pm, Stories of Love and Faith. With international guest speaker Angela Knowles from Scotland. Indooroopilly UC. Call 07 3377 9782 or email Tom.Kerr@yacmu.ucaqld.com.au.

July 29, 10:30am. Australian Church Women Fellowship Day Service in honour of the Winnifred Keill Scholarship. Ann St Church of Christ. Guest speaker, Jean Milligan, President of the Churches of Christ Queensland.

August '05

The Heart of Christianity. Join one of two groups of people using the study program reviewed in this edition of Journey. Study programs will commence in August and one weekday morning and one evening at the West End Uniting Church. Contact Rev Bob Griffiths on 3844 3557 or at westend@ucaqld.com.au.

Religion on the ABC



Compass – The Religion Report Encounter – John Cleary The Spirit of Things – and more!

For a full round-up of what's coming up in religion and ethics on ABC Radio and TV, subscribe to the free weekly ABC Religious Programs email newsletter.

Each issue contains program details and web links to online audio, transcripts, news and features. Just visit

<http://www.abc.net.au/religion> and click on 'Mailing List'



Feed my sheep with good discipleship

Regional Youth and Children's Ministry Worker Steve Kersnovske said, "I believe we are very good and effective at attracting and entertaining young people but not so effective at helping them grow as disciples in the long term."

Reflecting on the Gospel of John where Jesus instructs Peter to feed his sheep, Steve thinks that for young people to become mature disciples of Christ, the church needs to feed them.

This highlights the need for the "Preparing for the Journey" project introduced in the June issue of *Journey*.

The project aims to help the church form faith in young people and to assist leaders to focus on where they want their young people to be in their faith journey one or two years from now.

"A shepherd would ensure that his sheep have access to good pasture so they could grow," said Steve, who suggests that this can be as simple as having a meal, Bible study and prayer together.

Steve includes Youth Alpha, The Belonging Kit, Top Gear, Synago, DevoZine and Revolve/Refuel

among the resources that will help this to happen.

"We don't need to embark on new programs, we just need to ensure that we are being intentional about feeding Jesus' sheep and providing them the spiritual food they need to grow and develop," said Steve.

For more information about resources contact YACMU
Phone: 07 3377 9782
Email: info@yacmu.com.au



Steve Kersnovske in sheep mode.

It's all downhill for ski addicts

Escaping the balmy Queensland winters for the Snowy Mountains ski fields is an annual journey for one dedicated group of Uniting Church young people.

YASKI coordinator and Youth Worker with Redland Uniting Churches Beth Nichols said the journey down, five days of skiing and magnificent views over weather-split granite from the decks of the lodge was an experience hard to match.

"It's always such a fun time of encouragement, laughter and sharing with people who enjoy being in the snow," said Mrs Nichols who has led the YASKI program for the last 13 years.

"The best thing about YASKI is that you don't need to think about anything else, except your next ski downhill; it's a real holiday."

YASKI works with a cooperative approach and shared responsibility, and the leadership team believes they have developed a program that allows young adults to access real value-for-money in their skiing holiday.

"This is an unmatched experience in the company of friends,

and experiencing God's creation and presence in a powerful way," said Claire, a YASKI veteran.

"It's by far the best week of the year!"

There are still vacancies for YASKI 2005 call Beth Nicholls at bethn@ucaqld.com.au or phone 07 3286 7005



Estelle Cox hits the slopes at YASKI



Young people from Mooloolabah Uniting Church at the Youth Leadership Training weekend

YACMU staff grow skilled youth leaders

The South East Queensland Youth Leader Training Weekend has scratched an itch for practical hands on training in youth ministry for forty youth leaders gathered from around the south east corner.

Youth and Children's Ministry Unit Director Michael Jeffrey was really encouraged by the level of the commitment of the leaders to their training.

"There was a real buzz around the place and people were very positive about their church and us-

ing their gifts in discipling young people," he said.

"I can't wait to do this again in Central Queensland and North Queensland."

One young leader didn't know what to expect but found the weekend 'mind blowing'.

"As a young person myself, I have so many ideas. This weekend has really helped form these million ideas in my head into firm goals that I hope to pass on to the leaders of youth ministry in our church."

Another youth leader said: "The weekend was a valuable learning experience for me because it taught me how to build on my leadership skills."

The weekend was organized by Paul Yarrow and Tom Kerr as part of their regional work in Bremer Brisbane, Moreton Rivers and South Moreton Presbyteries. YACMU offers a special thank you to Louise Edwards and Duncan Macleod for their leadership on the weekend.

YACMU's mission hothouse

Using the gardening term, Greenhouse, the Youth and Children's Ministry Unit is setting up an environment for the cultivation of mission projects in local congregations.

The Greenhouse project aims to grow teams of young people who are engaged by a mission activity connected to their local congregation.

Coordinator of the Greenhouse Project Mark Cornford said the purpose of the Greenhouse is to take a group of young adults through a process which will channel their ideas and passion into an effective project.

"If we are serious about wanting to see young adults involved in the adventure of God's mission then we must be serious as a church about investing into their lives, skills and spiritual formation," said Mr Cornford.

"This is not just a 'how to' tool kit. This will help passionate disciples develop the skills to work together in a healthy way and connect them with the community".

For more information visit the YACMU website, www.yacmu.com.au or call Mark Cornford at the YACMU office on 07 3377 9782.

Outreach Youth Worker

- Full-time accredited position
- Astronomy capital of Australia

Coonabarabran UC in Northwest NSW (gateway to the Warrumbungles) is seeking someone with a long-term commitment for building relationships with young people and the community.

The job will be based at the local youth club. It will involve working with other community groups and churches, assisting with programs directed at the marginalised youth of the community.

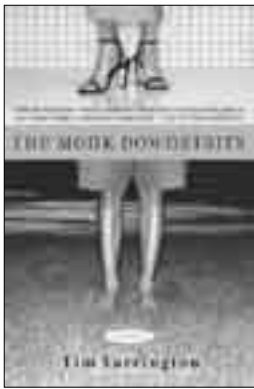
For a full job description or more information, contact David Baker, PO Box 313, Coonabarabran 2357. Ph: 02 6842 1922

COONABARABRAN, NSW



UNITING CHURCH

Under the Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998 it is illegal for prohibited persons to apply and a "Working with Children Check" will be required.



The Monk Downstairs
by Tim Farrington.
HarperCollins (2002).
RRP \$22.95.

The Monk Downstairs is Tim Farrington's measured blending of romance novel and spiritual diary. Set in San Francisco, the 'monk' is Michael Christopher, an angelic figure who has left the monastery after a protracted dispute with his Abbot about the relative merits of faith and works.

Rebecca is a graphic artist and single mother of a six year old daughter who has the symbolically unifying name of Mary Martha. Michael moves in to Rebecca's downstairs flat, trying to find his way in the world he has avoided for two decades. Love grows like the fragile pumpkin patch which Michael has planted in the backyard

Reviews

for Mary Martha, and at times in unexpected and comical ways.

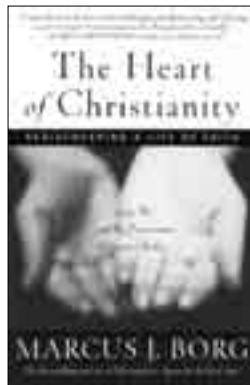
Farrington's story coasts along Rebecca's struggle to resolve work, motherhood, love and her tumultuous relationships with her surfing rascal ex-husband, Rory, and her West Coast widowed mother, Phoebe.

Are you intrigued yet? The story also features some beautiful letters from Michael Christopher to a former fellow monk, Brother James, describing the ripening of Michael's faith and desire.

The Monk Downstairs is a cleverly structured novel which uses the romance genre to make some profound observations about the purpose of contemplation.

— Mark Young

Journey book reviews coordinator



The Heart of Christianity:
Rediscovering a life of faith
by Marcus Borg. Harper
Collins (2004). RRP \$26.95.

Of particular worth to the current reviewer was not so much the accessible style and content Marus Borg has become well known for, rather it is his conciliatory tones.

To his great credit, Borg is seeking to speak across a growing theological (cultural) divide; between what he describes as a traditional reading of the Christian faith and what is now an "emerging paradigm." And whilst each might be like chalk and cheese at various points, Borg does not posit them as being mutually exclusive so far as the Christian faith is concerned.

This in itself is refreshing, given the recent hammer-like critiques of John Spong. Yet fully in accord with Spong, Borg remains unapologetic that a new theology and praxis is in urgent need of

expression. Examples given are conscious movements beyond a literalistic reading of the Bible and a persuasive reworking of sin and salvation. He also revisits the pivotal Kingdom of God metaphor of Jesus, which he contends is as much a political and social hope as it is a spiritual reality.

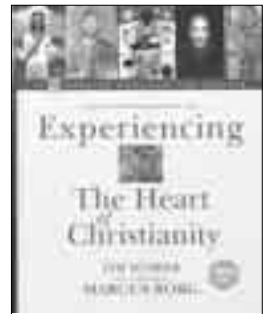
For those who have known Borg's writings since the ground-breaking, *Jesus: A New Vision*, much will be recognizable. For those who do not know his work and are looking for a clear synopsis of progressive Christian thought, this book is to be warmly recommended. And in the recommendation lies a full expectation that some important "ah, hah" moments will most probably occur.

— Rev Sean Gilbert
Founding member of Progressive

Experiencing the Heart of Christianity by Tim Scorer.
Wood Lake Books (2005),
paperback with DVD,
RRP \$45.45.

Experiencing the Heart of Christianity, a 12 session study guide by Tim Scorer, skillfully breaks open Borg's themes about – God, Jesus, the Bible, and Sin and Salvation, among others. This work book is packed full of ideas for leaders on group formation, and how to facilitate experiential learning.

Topics include different ways of viewing Christianity in the present day; the importance of



taking a metaphorical approach to the Bible; viewing Jesus in a pre-Easter and a post-Easter light; salvation as wholeness and well-being; being intentional about a personal relationship with God; and what the emerging Christian witness might look like in our modern, multi-faith world.

Tim suggests innovative group processes and video clips in his introduction to each session. Included is a DVD with six excellent, short clips of Marcus Borg sharing in an engaging conversational style. Participant resource sheets are included on both the DVD and in the work book.

In less than 150 pages, *Experiencing the Heart of Christianity* points session participants to the "how to" of living the Christian faith in the pluralist environment that is the 21st Century.

— Graeme Adsett
Synod chaplaincy coordinator

2 July: Bald Hills / Bracken Ridge

Bald Hills and Bracken Ridge are linked congregations on Brisbane's northern outskirts. Predominantly in the older age group, the congregations are working to minister to families and younger people. Both congregations are enriched by the presence of people from a number of different cultural backgrounds.

The congregations share a regional youth worker with Sandgate and Aspley.

Community organizations make use of both facilities and the Bald Hills building is used for worship by three other Christian groups, including two Samoan congregations.

- Our prayer points are:
- Thanks for the outreach to children at the Regional Day Camp in June.
 - Our Regional Youth Worker, Louise Edwards and the continuing financial support needed for her position.
 - Our Minister, Rev Col Howard
 - Healing and a fresh vision for the future following a period of conflict and hurt.
 - The outreach of Bald Hills congregation to P.M. Village residents.
 - The ministry of Bracken Ridge congregation to people with respiratory difficulties through the S.W.I.F.T. group.
 - Ongoing support for chaplaincies at Bracken Ridge and Sandgate High Schools.
 - Our Day of Rest and Gladness at Caboolture UC, Saturday, 9 July.
 - Spiritual growth and outreach through 40 Days of Purpose, 7 August to 18 September.

Prayer Diary

9 July: Tannum Sands

Tannum Sands is situated about 20km south of Gladstone on the central coast and is a popular holiday destination for southern tourists at this time of year. The congregations serve the communities of Miriam Vale, Bororen, Turkey Beach and areas in between.

Since 2004, worship has been conducted by Lay Preachers with support from the local Baptist Church, other visiting preachers, and the minister from Gladstone, Lorna Martin.

In September a full-time minister will join the congregation. Dr Gedeon Gakindi and his wife Ancilla will be moving from New Farm to take up the vacant ministerial position.

We ask for prayers for:

- Gedeon and Ancilla as they move;
- The congregation as they begin their ministerial partnership with the New Farm Congregation;
- The elderly people in this congregation and those who are suffering health problems. We ask for prayers for those of our number who are infirm;
- The congregation does not have many young people in our midst, so prayers are asked for guidance and leadership on how as a congregation we may minister to the young people in our community.

Please pray with us that we may be a voice for the Lord in the Tannum Sands Community.

16 July: Toowong

Please give thanks for the ongoing commitment, courage and faithfulness of the members of the congregations of Toowong and Bardon as they respond to God's faithfulness to them.

Please pray for the following:

- a longing to grow in faith, in understanding and in relationship with God;
- discernment as we seek to hear and respond to God's call, working alongside God in God's mission in our local communities and in the wider church;
- the Toowong Early Adult Project (TEA Party) as it seeks ways to connect with the young adults of Toowong;
- jahjumben Occasional Care and Toowong Child Care Centre – for the children, caregivers, staff and their families and for the congregation as it seeks to minister through these childcare centres;
- the exploration of ministry opportunities in the suburbs of Rainworth and Bardon;
- wise decision-making as the congregation finds ways to resource our participation in God's mission;
- the enrichment of worship and mission through the wise use of our music resources;
- the work of Stillpoint – a centre for spiritual and personal growth which is located in Toowong;
- our Wandoan-Taroom congregations as they develop lay ministry teams.

23 July: Central Burnett

The congregations of Central Burnett consist of rural and remote congregations in Gayndah, Mundubbera, Eidsvold and Monogorilby and Kapaldo. Geographically our parish spans some 12,000 square kms.

This is our inaugural year of 50/50 shared ministry with Barambah parish. Lay people are being trained, resourced and challenged to be "church" in our community. Twice a month, services are lead by lay people at Gayndah and Mundubbera, resourced by our minister, Rev Bron Elvery. Pray for Bron and all who God has called in lay ministry.

Please pray for the following:

- Monthly family worship at Gayndah.
- We praise God for the growth of our monthly production "The Sower". This outreach newsletter is delivered to about 170 connected people. The local IT centre prints "The Sower". It is important to involve local community in all we do.
- Development of our web site.
- Mundubbera Christian Bookshop, a new outreach. Hot soup for the soul month. Pray this outreach will grow and that we can open the bookshop more often.
- The needs of our rural community. The declining conditions of rural Queensland, the drift of teenagers, downgrading of public transport, reduction of health services, instability of the citrus industry, and ongoing drought.
- Our monthly program for the elderly at Coonambula Lodge. Pray for the many aged people in our congregations and for those who care for them.

Letters

Shake up or ship out

I welcome the Strategic Vision Statement drafted by the Synod Leadership Team because it gives us a chance to have another look at the way we are doing things.

It is my belief that, with respect to its inter-related councils of Presbytery, Synod and Assembly, the Uniting Church is painfully out of date and needs a shake up structurally.

Electronic communication, more efficient transport and access to a plethora of seminars and resources have changed the ecclesiastical and social landscape.

We should be bold enough to ask if we need presbyteries in their present form.

Could we make Synod a highly inspirational and teaching event with a high profile speaker such as Tony Campolo?

Could we allow the Council of Synod to deal with the more administrative business and only have open sessions in matters that are vital to our life and witness?

With respect to Assembly, the whole representation issue needs to be examined.

States with small multiple presbyteries are over-represented, and there seems to be a high proportion of Assembly representatives who are in administrative positions.

One can only hope that the Strategic Vision document will spark the courage for us to act radically and quickly.

— Donald McKay

The godparent tangle

Traditional godparenting was "a good idea at the time". Too many women died at childbirth; infant mortality was high; a father killed at thirty from a farm accident, tuberculosis, or fighting at war. It was a fearful, uncertain age. Responsible parents recognized their need of religious back-up. They searched for a person who loved children – and knew God. Parents, in those days, had no assurance – as we have – of seeing their children safely through to maturity. That is how godparents began.

It lost favour, not by religious change, but public health paradigms! Nurses dispensed antiseptics. Teachers taught the virtue of washing hands. Plumbers installed flush toilets. Everyone began living longer! No need for godparents – parents became confident of steering their children to maturity. Seeing them develop as persons of depth, insight.

Parents about to present their baby for baptism can plan with confidence.

They can book their ticket for fifteen years hence, because they will be attending a Confirmation service. And there they will hear a mature voice say: "Thank you Mum and Dad, for the promises you made for me those years ago. I confirm them. As surely as I have inherited your genes, your character traits, just so I have inherited your faith."

— Phillip Ramsay

Science vs mythology

Duncan Macleod's statement, "but I am not keen to pass on a sterile scientific form of spirituality...", betrays a totally unwarranted suspicion of scientific endeavours.

It can only harm the reputation of the church among intellectuals and non-intellectuals alike, for it shows the basic forms of education are ignored by the church which should spell out clearly that scientific truth is every bit as much God's truth as spiritual truth, only more so and, contrary to other sentiments expressed on this page, inspiring to the nth degree.

Scientific discoveries and truth are, with due respect to Joseph Campbell, far more inspiring and valuable than myths. Why does the church still pit spiritual hunger against intellectual hunger as though one is more important than the other?

Who has undergone more brainwashing, the scholar of science or the scholar of religion?

Secondly I would like to ask Rob Ros what is so "rich" about our own Jewish-Christian tradition? Both traditions have known periods of unspeakable cruelty and intolerance as well as total reluctance to move with the times and to recognize God's presence in men's scientific minds.

Both traditions have limited and are still limiting his power to their own incomplete understanding.

If we keep harping back to saints and myths what hope have we got?

The secular world as well as the political world now understands better than the sacred world, that trust is the basis of all understanding.

— Len Notenboom



Have your say!

Letters to the editor may be edited due to space limitations. **Post to Journey**, GPO Box 674, Brisbane Qld 4001. **Email:** journey@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au

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Classifieds

Accommodation

Beachfront Cottage. Currumbin Beach Queensland. Sleeps 4 to 6 people. Phone 3376 4247.

Bribie Island Holiday Unit. Welsby Court No. 4, overlooking Bribie passage, 2 b'rm, LUG, reasonable rates. Frank & Elva Dixon Ph 07 3264 8080.

Brisbane Bayside. Low-set 3 bed/2 bath family home. DLUG. Full laundry and kitchen, comfortable furnishings. Serviced twice-weekly. Close to shops, trains & buses, Bay islands, golf/fishing, Gold & Sunshine Coasts, major theme parks. Pets welcome. Sleeps 8. Strictly non-smoking. Ph Abuzz Homestay 07 4633 3108 or mob 0431 220 556.

Coolumb Beach Holiday. 3 bd f/s/c brick house, walk to patrolled beach & shops. Newly renovated. Website for details & photos: <http://users.tpg.com.au/coolumb> or call 0418 889657. 10% disc church members.

Announcements

EMU stands for a UCA where biblical authority counts. Ph 3408 0347.

Letters in brief

Affirmation of June Journey

I just received a copy of the June *Journey* and I wanted to let you know that I think it's brilliant. The cover story together with Geoff's comments in the middle pages (and the other comments on different aspects of the future of Australian religion) are excellent. The back page, terrific. The book reviews really useful. And the piece on Resolution 84 the most helpful report I've read for ages.

— Rev Dr Andrew Dutney

Congratulations on producing a very readable and stimulating June issue and by the way, the Draft Strategic Vision Group should include dialogue with people of other faiths at local and state level, or there will not be much habitation on God's earth left on which Christians can proclaim their faith.

— Rev Ian Russell

On the Draft Strategic Plan

The remaining small faithful congregations are the basis of our church and are now forlorn and abandoned by their shepherds who are after great things instead of tending the sheep.

— B Czerwonka-Ledez

In response to 'Living on the Edge'

I believe in my heart that God would tremendously bless that pastor and congregation who open up their church hall to the needy or the poor or the marginalized every day of the week to come in.

— a caring Christian

On Resolution 84

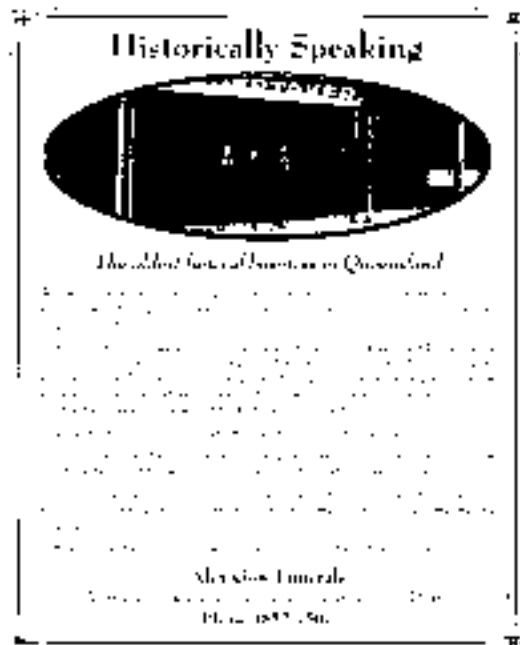
I am attaching the full text of the 10th Assembly Resolution, plus the variation by the Standing Committee of August 2003, in

the hope that you will publish these documents, in full, so that new members (and some of us older members) can read for themselves what all the fuss has been about and see for themselves that it leaves the issue of membership in the church "open to all persons" and ordination of ministers in the capable hands of each Presbytery (and therefore of each congregation as its task is to prayerfully refer Applicants to the Presbytery), as it always has been ever since the Uniting Church was formed in 1977.

— Trevor Foote

These documents are now two years old. Together with other related documents, they are available on the Assembly website www.assembly.uca.org.au/assembly2003/index.htm

— Editor



Journey asks...

*What was it like for you as a Christian young person growing up in **two** cultures?*



Helen Tualau

Growing up as a Tongan in an Australian/Western culture has not always been easy. There were often times of disagreement and stress between my parents and myself as to how I should live my life.

I was often confronted with the difficult decision of deciding between my parents' traditional Tongan expectations and the new, more liberal way of understanding and doing things in the Australian culture.

Many of my decisions often led to the 'wooden spoon' and a slap on the face for back chatting, something which my parents, back then, referred to as a '*palangi*' (Anglo) thing that will not be tolerated in the house.

Growing up as a Christian and as a T.P.K. (Tongan Pastor's Kid) meant that we had to uphold a very strict code of moral behaviour, which was very hard, particularly when all my friends seemed to live a much more independent and freer lifestyle.

Reflecting on the past and the struggles that I went through,

however, I am very proud to say that I am grateful to God for the parents that he gave me and the often difficult experiences that I went through because it has provided me with the inner social resources, skills, ability and the passion to be able to live as a Christian in the world, but not of the world, upholding the values and teachings of Jesus Christ in an obedient and humble way.

With love and best wishes to all who are struggling to live as a Christian in the world.

**is a member of Park Church
Tongan Congregation in Brisbane.**

All of you are God's children because of your faith in Christ Jesus. And when you were baptized, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on new clothes. Faith in Christ Jesus is what makes each of you equal with each other; whether you are a Jew or a Greek, a slave or a free person, a man or a woman.

(Galatians 3:26-28 CEV)



Robin Yang

I am a second generation Korean-Australian. My parents immigrated to Australia from Korea in the early 1970s and church became an important part of our life early on. For my parents and many first generation Koreans, church was not only a place to worship but it also was a place to network with other Koreans and gain acceptance in a way that could not be found in the wider Australian community.

I began attending Sunday school at church from a young age and whilst I looked Korean, I felt like a stranger. Having been born in Australia, my understanding of Korean was limited and I found it difficult to comprehend many parts of worship, particularly prayers and sermons. I remember always nudging my friend next to me to interpret what was being said. Whilst I looked the same and dressed the same as those around me, I was a stranger.

I had opportunities to worship in

Anglo congregations. This was an interesting experience, profoundly different from my Korean church experience. Here, I understood everything that was being said and I remember once explaining a joke the minister said to a friend sitting beside me. Yet in this context, I was the odd one out, the only Korean, indeed Asian person in a sea of white Australian people - I was a stranger.

These two radically different and juxtaposed experiences have shaped my identity as a Christian. I do not completely belong in either but I have my feet in both. My identity comprises both the wider Australian and Korean cultures coming together to create a distinct Korean-Australian identity. This perspective has allowed me to critique the Korean and Australian cultures both within and beyond the church and take the best of both worlds.

**Robin Yang is a former Queensland
Youth Worker now serving in South
Australia.**



Tony Nguyen

What is it like growing up Christian in two cultures? Better than one and it hasn't been boring that's for sure.

Brought up in a Christian family in Sydney, I can recall quite vividly the weekly, one-hour trip to the Vietnamese evangelistic church in the light blue, six-seater Torana. Apart from fond memories of the communal meals that often followed the Sunday school activities, what kid wouldn't look forward to the drive-thru Macca's on the way home on other occasions.

One of the most significant times in my life was our move to the Gold Coast, away from extended family and friendships established for over a decade. A new congregation welcomed us and went out of their way to assist us in to settle into the local community. This was particularly special for my family, as our broken links with the Vietnamese congregations were slowly constructed once again within an English congregation.

On a more personal note, various camping trips and island holidays

Carrying a heavy burden

Second generation young people often need to act as cultural brokers for their parents and other adult family members, frequently serving as translators between their parents and teachers, physicians and shopkeepers etc.

The young person thus becomes the transmitter of the new culture they are learning and bring this information to their parents. The fact that this happens while the young person is still in the process of being socialised into the culture of the parents as well as of the host culture can be a heavy burden.

Second generation young people often find themselves between "a rock and a hard place"; expected to maintain the culture of the parents while also receiving mixed messages about how "Australianised" they should become.

In the last financial year

- 148 884 permanent migrants were added to the Australian population,
- 13 851 visas were granted under the Humanitarian Program,
- 86 589 people received temporary residence visas,
- 3.5 million visitor visas were granted,
- 171 616 student visas were granted.

I have been fortunate enough to attend with other brothers and sisters in Christ have allowed me to explore God's amazing creation, not only in majestic landscapes and life forms, but also the relationships that we have as God's people.

I am truly grateful for the relationships that God has blessed me with, both the communities I have lived in and my travelling journeys, locally and abroad. I have found that my experiences as a Christian have not only led me to believe and have a faith, but that it is also a way of life. So much so that I am looking forward to my baptism and, more importantly, living it out in the years ahead.

Tony Nguyen is an aerospace design engineer and member of the Barga Uniting Church.

Is this where God is calling you?

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