



MORE DEPTH, MORE STORIES AT [journeyonline.com.au](http://journeyonline.com.au)

## RECONCILIATION STEPS PAGE 11

"Stepping Stone events of this kind are really important to raise awareness about why the Uniting Church runs AboutFACE." **Lauren Ash**

## STOCK UP FOR HOPE

"We recognise the incredible challenges the next generation is facing, especially out in the bush." **Duncan Brown** **PAGE 14**



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# FAITH HOPE LOVE

By Mardi Lumsden

THIS DECEMBER, nearly 250 000 post cards from Uniting Churches will be making their way to communities throughout Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. The theme of the cards (*Faith, Hope, Love*) comes directly from the Uniting Church in Queensland's Call: Uniting in Christ, acting with love, living with hope, witnessing in faith, working for justice.

In the Synod office we are calling 2012 "the year of belonging" and will be exploring aspects of belonging throughout the year in *Journey*. The Synod calendar features 13 artworks by young people expressing what it means to them to belong to the Uniting Church.

It seems belonging is something many Australians are searching for but, according to NCLS research and Census data, the number of people finding it in church is declining.

The results of a new research survey by Olive Tree Media into the reasons why Australians don't accept Christian faith were released in October. The research revealed the top ten barriers to Christian faith as being: Church abuse, hypocrisy, judging others, religious wars, suffering, issues around money, church being out-dated, hell and condemnation, homosexuality and exclusivity.

In launching the report, Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Peter Jensen, said he was encouraged by the survey's findings on the influence of families on a person's Christian values. "The transmission of faith through families is tremendously significant," he said. Archbishop Jensen added that the survey showed that the influence of friends was also very important. "Sixty per cent of Australians don't know a Christian," he said.

Christmas post cards and Uniting Church events are a visual and tangible way to share the faith, hope and love that Christians find in the Christmas story. This Christmas how will you and your community act with love, live with hope, and witness in faith?

Keep an eye out for a series of seven short videos, produced by the *Journey* office, exploring what faith, hope, and love mean for a range of people across the life of the Queensland Synod. The videos, directed by Phillip Johnson, will be uploaded throughout December to the *Journey Television* YouTube channel and will be available for people to download for free use in their services, events and small groups.

Please use these resources as examples of confidently shared faith and share them with as many people as possible.

Perhaps by embodying faith, hope and love in our communities, we can break down some of those barriers to faith and help people feel that the Christmas narrative belongs in their lives as well.

To order the Synod calendar visit [www.ucaqlld.com.au](http://www.ucaqlld.com.au)

MONDAY  
MIDDAY  
PRAYER

Living God,  
may our faith, hope and love  
enrich our community  
at Christmas and throughout 2012  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

December 2011

# Love is all around

IN 2005 I spent Christmas morning in hospital in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands.

I wasn't sick or injured; I was singing.

At that time I was the Army Chaplain deployed to support about 400 Australian Federal Police personnel and 100 Aussie soldiers who were part of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

The local Rotary Club had invited us to join them on the visit to the local hospital to sing Christmas carols and distribute gifts.

It was one of those slightly chaotic mornings when one wonders if there ever was a plan.

We rose early, put on our uniforms, had a cup of tea, went to pick up boxes of groceries and gifts from the home of a Rotarian and then made our way to the hospital.

We seemed to spend a lot of time waiting for everyone to arrive.

During the waiting we swapped our slouch hats for Santa caps.

Some of the young soldiers came along spreading goodwill, especially one called Luke who

wore a clown suit and a big smile.

He had learned some pidgin and managed to get a good laugh out of some of the patients.

Honiara Hospital was missing lots of things that you would expect to find in Australian Hospitals.

There were no sheets on most of the beds, no air conditioning and the louvre windows let in plenty of insects as well as a breeze.

Privacy was a scarce commodity in the multi-bed wards and family groups sat beside the beds by day and slept on the floor at night.

This Christmas season I hope that you will have an experience in which faith, hope and love find expression even if it is not well orchestrated, carefully controlled and all neatly organised.

Many of them had come down from remote villages to be with their loved ones and welcomed the bag of groceries given to them by the Rotarians. It would feed them while they waited for

healing to occur.

One little boy sporting a cast on his arm unwrapped his gift to find a football.

I nearly fainted when I saw him rip the drip from his arm and run outside to kick the football around with the young soldiers.

The choir walked into every ward and sang a couple of verses of each song from the tattered song sheet. Many of the family members would chime in with the words of the much loved carols.

That day fragments of the Gospel story were mixed with the legend of the little drummer boy as we sang about a God who took on flesh and dwelled with us.

All the faithful were invited to come and worship along with the angels who announced the birth of the newborn King.

In the maternity ward Madonna and child were perched on a mattress covered with what looked like old curtains.

The new mum was breastfeeding and smiling up with big brown eyes.

I wondered how many more babies she would have in her lifetime.

## Message from the Moderator

Rev Kaye Ronalds



I introduced myself to a grey-haired lady who had joined the choir. She said her name was Hannah.

"That's a good biblical name," I replied.

"Yes," she said, "I am Jewish but I always come here on Christmas morning because I used to be a nurse here and I remember how much it brightened up the patients when visitors came on Christmas Day."

All in all it was a delightful experience.

There were people of deep faith and people of no faith at all.

There were people sitting with loved family members and people who were thinking of their own loved ones far away.

Hope was stirred as we sang

about a God who rules the world with truth and grace.

I came away from that event smiling broadly at how it had all turned out.

The Solomon Islands have long been known as The Happy Isles so perhaps some of that had rubbed off on me.

This Christmas season I hope that you will have an experience in which faith, hope and love find expression even if it is not well orchestrated, carefully controlled and all neatly organised. Just maybe, God will break through the chaos and be revealed.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

## Sign of the times

## Faith, hope, love and pokies?

AS WE EDGE closer to Christmas, we begin to focus on the hope embedded in God incarnate in a helpless being; a newborn baby.

I recently heard World Vision CEO, Rev Tim Costello, speak about the Federal Government's proposed mandatory pre-commitment on pokie machines.

According to Mr Costello, when the Crown Casino was opened in Melbourne, then Victorian Premier, Jeff Kennett, said the casino was "the new spirit of Victoria" and "a beacon of hope for the community".

Launching a new advocacy website, [www.unitingforchange.org.au](http://www.unitingforchange.org.au), UnitingCare Australia National Director, Lin Hatfield Dodds, said that Australians spent \$19 billion on gambling in 2009 and 62 per cent of that money was fed into poker machines.

"There are 200 000 pokies Australia-wide and they account for more than 80 per cent of all problem gamblers," she said.

"In some venues it is possible to load \$10 000 into a poker

machine at a time.

"Average losses on these high-intensity machines are \$1200 an hour. The average weekly wage in Australia is \$1300."

What kind of society do we live in if a casino is the basis of community?

How far removed from society is the story of hope in Christ if hope is found in a place that makes 40 per cent of its profits from people who are addicted to gambling?

To me, this all reeks of the story of Jesus throwing over the tables of the money changers outside the temple; but maybe that is just me?

With the Clubs Australia campaign saying the pre-commitment will destroy clubs and consequently the community, it makes me ask: why do the clubs exist and why did they begin?

Don't they exist to support local sport, not to take advantage of people who are unable to stop putting coins in their machines?

Gambling isn't like other addictions. You often can't see

the signs until it is too late. But, as with all addictions, there is enormous embarrassment and stigma attached to admitting you have a problem.

This Christmas we are exploring the theme *Faith, Hope, Love (but the greatest of these is love)*.

During floods, drought and fire we see the church becoming the centre of community once more.

It is the faith Uniting Church members have that shows others the hope found in Christ by loving people for who they are, where they are.

Let's share the faith, hope and love with everyone in our communities once again this Christmas.

On behalf of the *Journey* team we thank you for your support and encouragement this year and wish you a Christmas full of faith, an abundance of hope and all the love in the world.

Mardi Lumsden  
Editor



IT'S NOT just *Journey* that features the Glasshouse Country Uniting Church sign. The local newspaper, *Glasshouse Country News*, often includes pictures they have taken of the Sunshine Coast church's signs. Congregation member, Chris Bell, said the congregation understand the importance of the messages they share with the community.

"Our sign is a witness to the local community and Glasshouse Country Uniting Church is often identified as 'the church with the sign'," she said. "People stop and talk to Rev George Woodward as he changes the wording on the sign each Monday morning."



*Sign of the Times* is sponsored by Blackstar Coffee. The chosen entry will be contacted by Blackstar to receive their prize of freshly roasted organic fairtrade coffee. [www.blackstarcoffee.com.au](http://www.blackstarcoffee.com.au).



# Christmas Bowl renews hope in Zimbabwe

By Emma Halgren

LAST YEAR, the Christmas Bowl raised \$2.3 million to help people from conflict and disaster-affected countries, including Burma, where violence and persecution have forced tens of thousands to flee to camps on the Thai-Burmese border.

The Christmas Bowl is the annual appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Funds raised support Act for Peace's work with project partners in conflict and disaster-affected countries including Pakistan, Ethiopia and the new nation of South Sudan.

Act for Peace's project partner provides food, shelter and medicine to people in the camps on the Thai-Burmese border.

This year, the Christmas Bowl highlights the work of Act for Peace's partners in Zimbabwe, where agriculture has been crippled by the combined effects of drought, HIV/AIDS and controversial government land reforms, and more than

39 per cent of the population is undernourished.

Act for Peace's partners have introduced a low-cost and low-technology farming strategy, called conservation farming, which can increase a farmer's yields by up to 200 per cent.

Act for Peace's Executive Director, Alistair Gee, said the flow-on effects are enormous.

"With better yields, farmers can buy clothes and school supplies for their children, and reliance on food aid is reduced."

Shanangurai Pedzisai, a farmer from the Mwenzi district of Zimbabwe, is just one person the Christmas Bowl has helped.

"Conservation farming has changed many lives of the people living in our community," she said.

"I am getting enough food to feed my family and help other people. Now I am a better woman, because I can make some money to put my children through school."

With her 50 square metre plot of land, Ms Pedzisai has renewed hope for her future – and her children's future.

"When they grow up I want

to train them to do conservation farming and to live better lives, so they can manage to support themselves and other people," she said.

According to Elleck Mabhena, a project assistant on the conservation farming program, it also has important social benefits.

"Psychologically, if you don't have to think about food because it's already there, there is less strain on members of the family, and it creates security," he said.

"It also builds self-esteem for the farmers, knowing that they can provide for their families."

Funds from this year's Christmas Bowl will also be helping provide quality doctors and health workers in Kohistan, Pakistan, to promote greater awareness of the importance of health care and hygiene and help women access the pre- and post-natal care they need.

Mr Gee said that for more than 60 years the Christmas Bowl has shown how churches can work together to make a lasting difference in the lives of people around the world.

"Uniting Church congregations



A conservation farmer and her young son in Zimbabwe. Photo by Janet Cousens/Act for Peace

around Australia have been extraordinarily generous in their support for the Christmas Bowl over many years. Thank you."

A range of resources are available to help congregations incorporate the Christmas Bowl into worship, including activities

and worship resources prepared by the United Theological College in Sydney.

For more information visit [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au) or phone 1800 025 101

# Finding joy and solidarity in Tonga

By Cathryn Taylor

IN SEPTEMBER, eleven Queenslanders returned from a UnitingWorld InSolidarity trip to Tonga with a renewed appreciation of Pacific hospitality.

Team Leader, Judy Morrison, of Caloundra, said the group was overwhelmed by the Pacific Islander hospitality.

"The way they share absolutely everything is a real challenge to our lifestyle here at home," she said.

The trip allowed the group to meet key leaders from the Tongan Free Wesleyan Church, as well as visit projects like the Lifeline Ministry, schools and theological college.

Ms Morrison, together with husband Alan, took on the task of guiding their colleagues (aged 69 to 81) on the 10 day expedition.

"The encounter made a big impression," she said.

"The team saw that our church

partners in Tonga are very active and greatly value our support."

Team member Eric Lawson, a retired minister, agreed.

"We have often thought of ourselves as being missionaries to these countries, but the reality is that they have a strong tradition of taking the gospel message in appropriate ways to the other islands," he said.

"They are a very competent people and open in their avowal of faith. They have a particularly strong emphasis upon education and we're pleased to be partnering with them through UnitingWorld."

In the capital, Nuku'alofa, Rev Fili Lilo runs Lifeline Crisis Ministry, making contact with single mothers, prostitutes and young men who have committed crimes in other countries and been deported back to Tonga.

In a culture where family honour is everything, these are the forgotten members of society,



Judy Morrison, far right, with new and renewed Tongan friends. Photo by Alan Morrison

adrift and ashamed.

Ms Morrison said the group's interest, particularly in a ministry like Lifeline, which is new to the Tongan culture, adds credibility.

"We're delighted to see that in this year's Christmas Gift Catalogue, *Everything In Common*, the Lifeline Ministry is one of the featured gifts."

For more information on UnitingWorld and projects supported by their Christmas gift catalogue visit [www.everythingincommon.com](http://www.everythingincommon.com)



## SCHOOL FOR DISCERNING PARENTS

### Sunshine Coast Grammar School

Co-educational day school Prep to Year 12  
(07) 5445 4444 [www.scgs.qld.edu.au](http://www.scgs.qld.edu.au)

### Clayfield College

Girls: Prep to Year 12 Boarding: Girls from Year 5  
Boys: Prep to Year 5  
(07) 3262 0262 [www.clayfield.qld.edu.au](http://www.clayfield.qld.edu.au)

### Brisbane Boys' College

Boys: Prep to Year 12  
Boarding: Years 5 to 12  
(07) 3309 3500 [www.bbc.qld.edu.au](http://www.bbc.qld.edu.au)

### Somerville House

Day and boarding school for girls Prep to Year 12  
Boarding: Years 7 to 12  
(07) 3248 9200 [www.somerville.qld.edu.au](http://www.somerville.qld.edu.au)

# Milestone for Queensland's first female minister

THE FORTIETH anniversary of Rev Dr Norma Spear's ordination was cause to celebrate at Forest Lake Uniting Church, in Brisbane's west, in October.

Dr Spear was the first woman to be ordained in the Methodist Church in Queensland prior to church union in 1977.

The Forest Lake Uniting Church congregation hosted a morning of celebration for Dr Spear on Sunday 16 October commencing with a thanksgiving service conducted by Rev Russell Reynoldson and at which Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds, preached and Bremer Brisbane Presbytery Minister, Rev David Baker, led in the service of Holy Communion.

Ms Ronalds paid tribute to a close association with Dr Spear since her early teenage years and, together with Mr Baker, acknowledged the mentoring role she has played in their lives.

Over 50 people from past congregations joined with the local congregation at the service which was then followed by a special morning tea. Many of those present spoke of Dr Spear's ministry and of some humorous events as well as the life-changing moments that had been shared.

A framed certificate and a beautiful orchid were presented to Dr Spear who then shared some of her life story.

Being the first and only woman ordained in the Methodist

Church in Queensland, joining together as the Uniting Church gave her opportunities of being chosen as a guest speaker both locally and overseas, attending the United Nations for six weeks and most of the Assemblies of the Uniting Church.

Being the trailblazer for women in ministry meant some difficult times for Dr Spear including overcoming the non-acceptance of women in the field.

For those present it was a time of rejoicing, blessing and for individuals to say thank you to God for the Ministry of Rev Dr Norma Spear, not only in her 40 years of ordination, but also in the earlier 10 years of ministry in the Diaconess Order.



Rev Dr Norma Spear does a Bible reading at the induction of Rev Kaye Ronalds as Moderator in October. Photo by Osker Lau

## The big questions

This year *Journey* explored questions from the pews, namely from a (fictitious) person exploring faith and the Uniting Church. This month Nova B Lever asks:

### Where does the Bible stop and where do Christmas carols begin?

MY TEAM didn't win the school Christmas trivia night.

We seemed to miss some of the minor details in the coming of God to dwell amongst us! (I'd use the term Emmanuel except some of us spell it Immanuel and now I'm not sure which is correct.)

I thought my table was doing OK with, "Name the animal Mary rode to Bethlehem". We were in with a chance on the three kings having brought Frank incense, gold and myrrh.

For sure the little drummer boy (named Noel) turned up

with the shepherds and of course Jesus was born in a stable.

A table of folk from my church won the competition and gave us an earful about "Christmas myths". The gospels don't mention a donkey, a drummer boy or a stable. However many strange men brought weird gifts, they weren't kings.

Then these amateur biblical scholars got started on what date Jesus was born, the Roman feast of Saturnalia, Mary's virginity, Joseph's fertility and Jesus' divinity!

It was time to go home

via the shopping mall for some last minute Christmas shopping. I walked through the sliding doors still pondering what I really understood of Christmas.

Having been poooh-pooohed by church people I was ho-hoed by Santa, harassed by elves, and completely stunned by tinsel, announcements and signage.

Purged of my urge to splurge, I headed home. All I wanted was a few things that couldn't be debunked or have price tags attached. What happened to faith, hope and love, not to mention peace and joy?

I was driving when James Taylor came to my rescue with a song, 'Home by another way'. "Steer clear of royal welcomes, avoid a big to-do. The king who would slaughter the innocents will not cut a deal for you. You're best to go home by another way, home by another way."

Perhaps my search for God, who wants to live with me,

had taken me to Herod instead of Jesus. A couple of wrong turns had taken me to the ancient myths and modern cynicism that distract us from what is eternally true about Christ's Mass.

God chose to come to earth in the form of a vulnerable, impoverished baby. His mother wasn't married when she became pregnant, and an angel had to give her fiancé a gee-up so he wouldn't dump her.

The Son of God was born poor, amidst suggestions of impropriety and spent his first night in a feed trough in a shed.

He could have done it another way: shock and awe, social networking, or slick marketing. Or he could have left us alone to worship a distant God who has no idea what our lives are like.

God knows who did what, when. Our arguments about donkeys and wise men distract us from the truth

of Christmas. It doesn't matter if Jesus was born on 25 December.

God knows the pain of poverty and the terrible effects of stress. Peace and joy are not found in credit card debt.

It's time to go home by another way, his way of humility and grace.

Have you enjoyed these columns? Email [journey@ucaqlld.com.au](mailto:journey@ucaqlld.com.au) if you would like to see Nova return next year and any questions you would like her tackle.



**Uniting Church**

Synod of New South Wales and the ACT



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Uniting Resources

Uniting Resources is the Synod division responsible for finance, human resource and OH&S policy, insurance, investment, property matters and information technology. The Executive Director leads the managers of these functions and is a member of the "Executive Directors' Group".

Working with the Board, the Executive Director assists in the development of strategy and policy and for its implementation and execution. Ideally, applicants will have held senior positions responsible for a number of the key segments of accounting and taxation, investment, insurance and property.

Applicants should be highly regarded for their integrity, be accustomed to working collaboratively, building relationships and have demonstrated interpersonal and communication skills with an ability to constructively influence consensus formulation.

The Executive Director is expected to uphold the mission and ethos of the Church and should have an active Christian church affiliation.

Enquiries and expressions of interest should be directed to Malcolm Duncan of The Insight Group (02) 9233 3711 or [search9@insgroup.com.au](mailto:search9@insgroup.com.au)

Closing date for applications: January 13, 2012.



Trinity Theological College, Brisbane  
The Uniting Church in Australia  
Queensland Synod



## DIRECTOR OF STUDIES IN MINISTRY, MISSION AND LEADERSHIP

Applications are invited from suitably qualified people, lay and ordained, women and men, for this position.

Trinity Theological College (TTC) is the ministerial and theological training college of the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA). The Synod seeks faculty who are committed to forming leaders of worship, witness and service with a strong sense of Christian identity, a theologically-formed commitment to discipleship formation, and a well-grounded missional orientation. Position description will be available on [www.ucaqlld.com.au](http://www.ucaqlld.com.au).

Enquiries relating to selection criteria and conditions of employment including remuneration should be made to:

Rev Dr Geoff Thompson  
Tel: 07 3377 9950  
Email: [geoff.thompson@ucaqlld.com.au](mailto:geoff.thompson@ucaqlld.com.au)

Applications should be lodged by 4 pm, Friday 27 January 2012, with the General Secretary, Queensland Synod, GPO Box 674, Brisbane Qld 4001 or by email at [gensec@ucaqlld.com.au](mailto:gensec@ucaqlld.com.au).



# Townsville Central lifts lid on fundraising

By Sally Hall

TOWNSVILLE CENTRAL City Mission is putting the fun back into fundraising and helping brighten the life of a very special young woman by taking part in Pauls recently re-launched Collect-A-Cap program.

The Townsville church was recently alerted to the story of a young amputee from Papua New Guinea (PNG) named Jenny.

Jenny, who lives in a remote mountainous area of PNG, struggles to get by on her crutches, as they cause pain in her

arms from daily use.

After hearing Jenny's story, the community of Townsville Central City Mission decided to help raise money to buy Jenny a below-the-knee prosthesis – a life changing donation for this young woman.

For every milk bottle cap returned through Collect-A-Cap, Pauls will donate 10 cents to Townsville Central City Mission, with all funds raised going towards the purchase of the leg prosthesis for Jenny and her travel and accommodation to a town where there is a prosthetic clinic.

Congregation members are



Townsville Central City Mission Sunday School children with some of the caps already collected. Photo by Sally Hall

getting involved in a fun, unique fundraising program to raise money for a great cause.

Townsville locals have also been called on to get involved with this project by collecting specially marked bottle caps from

2L and 3L varieties of Pauls milk.

Collect-A-Cap was originally launched in 1999 and helped raise almost \$12 million for over 7500 non-profit organisations and schools.

For more information on the Collect-A-Cap program or to register a church or school group visit [www.pauls.com.au](http://www.pauls.com.au)

## Bonds of faith in Cleveland

HISTORY WAS made in the Star of the Sea Catholic Church in October when parish priest, Father Frank O'Dea invited Cleveland Uniting Church minister, Rev Peter Elliot, to assist in the Saturday evening Mass.

Father O'Dea has worked in ecumenical harmony with Mr Elliot for over 10 years and sought an opportunity to say farewell to Mr Elliot as he finished his

placement in Cleveland.

A number of Cleveland Uniting Church members also attended the service and took part in communion with their Catholic friends.

The theme for the lectionary was easily seen, with the text of "Love God and your neighbour" preached on during the service by both Father O'Dea and Mr Elliot.

Cleveland Uniting Church

member, Frank Butters, a lay preacher and retired elder, said the significance of the event was not lost on the congregation.

"O that Christians in all the community and/or world could begin to practise attitudes like this," he said.

Mr Elliot will move to Broadwater Road Uniting Church in Mansfield, Brisbane, in the new year.



Rev Peter Elliot and Father Frank O'Dea. Photo by Beth Nicholls

## 96five live on air in The Gap

ON THURSDAY 3 November the 96five fm (Family Radio) Family Show went on a school excursion to The Gap State School in Brisbane's west.

The team broadcast live from a free breakfast for the school community with members of The Gap Uniting Church feeding

the hungry students, staff and parents.

96five Community Partnership Manager, Billy Diehm, said the excursions are a great opportunity to raise awareness of the station in the school community.

"96five broadcast their whole breakfast show from 6am to

9am live from a school oval most Thursday mornings during school terms," he said.

"We invite a church near the school to provide some youth leaders to blow up balloons and hand out a free breakfast like the team from The Gap did.

"This gives the church another opportunity to meet the school community while 96five is broadcasting."



The Gap Uniting Church members with 96five's Billy Diehm (right). Photo courtesy of 96five

### 100 Years of Methodist Show & Tell – Burdekin

Past Ministers and members are invited to return to **Home Hill** and **Ayr** to celebrate the centenary of the first Home Mission Station.

**May 4th–6th 2012**

Family celebrations, worship, memorabilia, dinner.

Details phone 4783 2251 or [www.burdekin.ucaweb.com.au](http://www.burdekin.ucaweb.com.au)



Uniting Church in Australia  
COOROY CONGREGATION



Invitation

### Cooroy 1912 - 2012 Centenary Celebrations

All past worshippers and friends are invited to join us as we celebrate 100 years of service to the Cooroy community by the Uniting Church (formerly Methodist).

Celebrations will feature a special Centenary Service held at the church on

Sunday January 29, 2012, 9.30am with guest speaker Rev Bob Harriman, Presbytery Minister - Mary Burnett Presbytery.

This will be followed by a light lunch together with a nostalgic display of memorabilia.

For more information or to indicate your intention to attend (to help with catering) please contact:

Betty Lindenmayer Ph: (07) 5447 6071  
Mail: 979 Cooroy- Noosa Road, Cooroy 4563  
or Email David Cramb: [crambs5@bigpond.com](mailto:crambs5@bigpond.com)



### NEW OPPORTUNITIES SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

SU Qld, a Christian interchurch youth and children's agency, invites applications for full-time and part-time State School Chaplaincy positions across Qld. Due to the announcement of Federal Govt NSCSWP funding, a range of new positions will become available in both primary and secondary schools.

Applicants need to demonstrate their suitability to provide support & care to young people.

There is significant need for Chaplains in rural and remote communities of Qld.

More information and apply online at: [apply.su-chaplain.com](http://apply.su-chaplain.com)

# Churches unite in Injune

ON FRIDAY 4 November, the Heads of Churches from The Downs region gathered with the church community in Injune, north of Roma, to celebrate the culmination of almost 10 years of ecumenical vision.

The Anglican Bishop Rob Nolan shared the journey of three churches that wanted to worship and serve God together.

The decision was made to worship in one building and two, the Uniting Church and Catholic buildings were sold.

The vestments from the three churches were combined into a banner for the Anglican building that on Friday became the home of the church called, "Injune Churches Together – Anglican, Catholic, Uniting".

Over the years, three

documents were developed and signed by each participating church- a covenant, operational framework and lease agreement.

These will guide the life of this Christian Community.

Bishop Nolan assured the community that while the building was Anglican, beneficial use was fully in the hands of the community.

The old sign advising the community of the presence of the Anglican community was removed and Bishop Nolan blessed the new sign and the community that would worship together under its banner.

Catholic priest, Fr Brian Sparksman, told the community of the significance of the choice of the colour purple for the new sign.

Uniting Church Downs' Presbytery Minister, Sharon Kirk, led the community in worship and song.

Worship is held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month with the Anglican priest, Fr Peter Moore, Catholic Jamie Collins, and Uniting Church minister, Rev Linda Hamill, taking turns leading the services.

Ms Hamill said all those involved celebrate the churches coming together as one community.

"We recognise the strength they now have as one, the diversity they share in tradition and the depth of encouragement that they bring to each other," she said.



Clergy and heads of churches celebrate the opening of the combined Injune church now known as Injune Churches Together. Photo by Mal Hamill

# Blue Care honours loyal staff

By Samantha Marsh

BLUE UNIFORMS were replaced with glamorous attire on 3 November at this year's Blue Care Staff Recognition Night where 63 employees were honoured for reaching a career milestone of 20 years continuous service with the organisation.

The awards also recognised 35 services where staff showed amazing courage, resilience and innovation during the Queensland natural disasters earlier this year.

Staff travelled to Brisbane from all over Queensland and northern New South Wales to attend the special evening at Rydges South Bank Hotel where Blue Care Executive Director, Robyn Batten, paid tribute to all staff and made special mention of services where staff demonstrated outstanding commitment to clients and residents under extraordinary

circumstances.

"Ninety-nine per cent of Queensland was declared a disaster zone this year when first the floods and then cyclone Yasi devastated rural and coastal communities," Ms Batten said.

"This was a devastating time for so many and yet throughout it there were acts of courage and selflessness as Blue Care staff in communities across the state did what they could for people in their care and for friends, families and even strangers.

"These staff truly went above and beyond the call of duty during very testing times and it's important we acknowledge their tremendous efforts.

"Equally important is the acknowledgment of our staff who have been with us for 20 years, supporting vital care services in their local communities day in and day out.

"Together these staff have dedicated more than two million

hours delivering care or support to Australians in need."

Blue Care Brisbane Community Care Manager, Cathy Thomas, said she was honoured to receive an award for 20 years of service.

"During a placement with Blue Care, before I started working for the organisation, I witnessed the resilience, kindness and ability of the Blue Nurses to adapt to many and varied situations, which really struck a chord with me," Ms Thomas said.

"Blue Care undoubtedly changes the lives of the people receiving services."

Blue Care originated in 1953 from the determination and passion of a few church people, namely founder, Rev Arthur Preston, and the first Blue Nurse, Olive Smith OAM.

It now offers assistance to 12 500 people each day across community, residential and retirement living settings.



Blue Care Brisbane Community Care Manager Cathy Thomas was honoured to receive an award for 20 years service. Photo courtesy of Blue Care

St. David's Parkdale Uniting Church

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**Expressions of Interest for Minister of the Word**

Expressions of interest are sought for a single full time ministry placement at St. David's Parkdale Uniting Church.

A visionary and energetic person or shared team is sought to provide leadership to the existing lay teams in the areas of preaching, worship, pastoral care, youth and children's ministries, and mission to the community around us. The people from the three worship services seek to be disciplined in faith through solid Biblical instruction so they can confidently live out and share their faith in Christ every day.

St. David's is situated in Parkdale, a bayside suburb of Melbourne.

Inquiries can be made to the Secretary of the Placements Committee of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania: [peter.blackwood@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:peter.blackwood@victas.uca.org.au)

Commencement date is subject to candidate's availability. Closing date for expressions of interest: 13 January 2012.

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**Easter postcards**

It may not even be Christmas yet but Easter will be here in no time!

Keep an eye out for the Easter postcard campaign. The theme is "Easter is ... love".

Orders will open in late January and close on Monday 13 February.

Visit [www.ucaqld.com.au](http://www.ucaqld.com.au) in the New Year for more information.



# 1 Corinthians 13 Christmas style

By Sharon Jaynes

IF I DECORATE my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family – I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family – I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family – it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating

to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of your way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be lost; golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.

Let's pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your son, Jesus, that starry night in Bethlehem. Like the shepherds, I am still amazed at your great love. May I not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, but celebrate Jesus' birthday with joy! In Jesus' name, Amen.



A family decorates together. Stock image

Now it's your turn.

What are some ways that you can make sure to love your family well this holiday season?

Are there any activities that you need to eliminate from your busy schedule to alleviate over-commitment?

Is your family being neglected because of a hectic Christmas schedule?

If that question wasn't painful enough, here's another one. Is Jesus being neglected as you prepare for his birthday? Ouch! I just stomped on my own toe!

Taken from *Celebrating a Christ Centered Christmas* by Sharon Jaynes.

[www.sharonjaynes.com](http://www.sharonjaynes.com).

Used by permission.

Sharon Jaynes is an author based in North Carolina, USA, who has been in ministry for more than 25 years. She is a co-founder of Girlfriends in God, Inc., a non-denominational ministry that provides daily online devotions read by approximately 300 000 subscribers

## Christmas gifts assist remote Australians

By Rebecca Beisler

ONCE AGAIN Frontier Services Christmas Gift Cards will provide an opportunity to buy a Christmas gift for someone that will keep giving long after the tinsel comes down and the sales are over.

Frontier Services National Development Manager, Gabriel Lacoba, said the cards provide a way to directly impact the lives of people in remote Australia throughout the year to come.

"In the past year, record-breaking floods, cyclones and bushfires have impacted on the lives of many people living in remote Australia," she said.

"Many were left not only to rebuild homes and fences, but also their livelihoods.

"Many of the families with whom Frontier Services works are a long way from mainstream services. It can be very hard, or at times impossible, for them to access support."

Ms Lacoba said the cards are also a way of ensuring that people don't feel alone, no matter where they live.

The Christmas Gift Cards offer



The White family children from remote Southwest Queensland are just some of the children who enjoy visits from Frontier Services. Photo courtesy of Frontier Services

a range of gifts including helping educate a young person from a remote area, helping support a volunteer through the Outback

Links program that connects volunteers with families needing an extra hand, or even filling the fuel tank for a Patrol Minister

who covers over 500kms just to visit a remote family.

For more information visit [www.frontierservices.org](http://www.frontierservices.org)



WATCH

The 2012 Synod Christmas videos  
[www.youtube.com/journeytelevision](http://www.youtube.com/journeytelevision)



WEB

Order your Synod calendar  
[www.ucaql.com.au](http://www.ucaql.com.au)



WEB

Faith, Hope, Love Christmas resources  
[www.ucaql.com.au/christmas2011](http://www.ucaql.com.au/christmas2011)



LISTEN

James Taylor's  
'Home by another way'

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# Life's greatest gift

By Heather den Houting

I'M READING one of those books that is an oldie, but a goodie – *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman.

Aimed primarily at those in long term relationships, it takes the reader through the different ways that love can be expressed by people.

What struck me particularly was the no-nonsense way the author dismissed the concept of idealised, romantic love, and asked his readers to hone and practise that love that requires effort and discipline; through words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service and physical touch.

This, he argues, is the way to ensure love has staying power.

Now, I reckon I spend a lot of time trying to preach and teach on the love as expressed in the New Testament, which I believe has staying power, and I also

think Mr Chapman's theories could be converted to a corporate expression of love that the church might have for the world in which it lives (maybe they already have and I just haven't read that book!).

But even as I do this I am haunted by a text that I read during my theological studies, *The Moral Vision of the New Testament* by Richard B. Hays.

I was confronted by his premise that the key images to be found within the New Testament, which are pertinent to making ethical decisions as a Christian, are Community, Cross and New Creation.

These, he argues, are the sufficient ethical themes to guide a church.

But shockingly he argues that the concepts of love and liberation are not sufficient.

He writes, "It is widely supposed that love is the basic message of the New Testament ... however for a number of New

Testament writers, love is not a central thematic emphasis."

For example, he argues that in Mark's gospel the central directive to disciples is to take up the cross and follow Jesus, in Hebrews discipleship is characterised by patient perseverance and Revelation focuses on the testimony and endurance of the Saints.

Strikingly, in Acts, nowhere does the word *love* appear! His final argument is that what the New Testament means generally when it talks about love is embodied in the cross.

What Mr Hays is doing is moving away from the "vapid, self-indulgent" concept of love and associating it with the love with staying power that is found in 1 John 3:16, "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay our lives down for each other."

This is where Mr Hays leaves the text, but I will continue with



Photo by Margaret Young

v.17. "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?"

For the pragmatist in me it is v.17 that holds the practical staying power sense of love that Mr Hays is trying to capture in his ethical images for the church.

It's hard work, and it needs to be honed and practised in a multitude of ways.

But in doing this the church might actually begin to reflect the love that God has for God's creation.

The love that has expressed itself in so many more than five ways, the love that has real staying power, the love for us to be found in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, Emmanuel.

## What does *faith* mean to you?

**Rev Richard Cassady**

The Gap Uniting Church

FAITH IS pretty hard to define, really. When I think about faith certainly, for me, it is easier to think about the results of faith.

I think of a child who has faith in its parents to give that child unconditional love and acceptance.

When I think about faith I also think about the congregational members I serve within the life of the church and their faith in terms of connecting with the community and living out their faith is really something that I aspire to.

For me I learn about faith by seeing faith in action.

In that sense I am reminded of a story of a Palm Island elder I have come to know. This man would engage with his community and serve and do some wonderful things in terms of wanting the best for his community.

One day I said to him, "Why is it that you want to serve our people like this?"



Rev Richard Cassady. Photo by Phillip Johnson

He said, "Part of it is that I want people to come home; to find a place to belong."

I had a sense also of God, who extends his love and grace to us. He also yearns for us to find our place and for us to come home.

## What does *hope* mean to you?

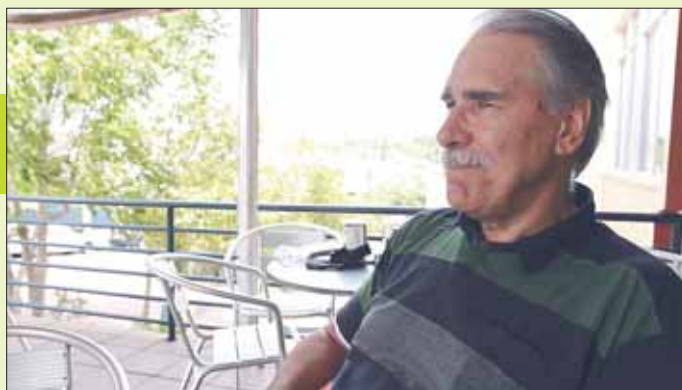
**Rev Alan Robinson**

Beenleigh Region Uniting Church

IF FAITH sustains me in the present, then hope directs my gaze to God's future.

In the letter to the Hebrews the image of hope is that of the anchor in uncertain times.

So during Advent I need to remind myself to put my anchor, my hope, in the Lord who is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the completion of everything.



Rev Alan Robinson. Photo by Phillip Johnson





Rochelle Nolan. Photo by Phillip Johnson

## What does *love* mean to you?

### Rochelle Nolan

Uniting Foundation, manager

ONE OF my favourite quotes is from the Russian author Tolstoy.

"He did not know where he began and she ended."

That is what love is to me. It is that intrinsic part of ourselves that connects us so deeply to each other; that part in you that is the same in me.

We can never outgrow it and we never stop needing to give it or receive it. It can never be done.

## What does *love* mean to you?

### Jasmin and Isaak Cox

**Jasmin:** LOVE MEANS God and love means if you care about someone, say your neighbours, you care about how you love them. If you love someone, like your mum and dad or grandparents or carer, you always say, "I love you".

When you love someone you always take care of them. God loves me and we need to take care of God every single day.

Love means we care about how confident we are to serve God.

**Isaak:** SEEING MY friends and family because we don't get to see our cousins very much because they are in Adelaide, Longreach and Ipswich.

Christmas means celebrating Jesus' birthday. Sometimes we go to friends' houses and have cake to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Jesus' birthday reminds us that God loves us and cares for us.



Isaak and Jasmin Cox. Photo by Phillip Johnson

## Exploring the holy night

By Caryn Rogers

OF ALL the Christmas carols, 'Cantique de Noël' or 'O Holy Night' is perhaps one of the most loved.

For me, it's the only one I really enjoy.

It has a soaring melody, a mood of hopeful anticipation and an unforgettable finish.

There are, however, two things that are impossible about this song.

The first is the impossibility of everyone hitting the super high note – try, though, as they might.

The second impossibility is that of missing a very clear, and wonderful, extrapolation

of the gospel message.

Through the course of three verses we sing first of the birth of "the dear Saviour", with all its hopefulness and bright joy.

At the sight of the "new and glorious morn", we are commanded to fall on our knees – that is the gravity of this event.

In the second verse, the Saviour is introduced as the King of kings.

This King is both the greatest of kings and the one who shows a close knowledge of, and friendship to, us as "our weakness is no stranger" and "in all our trials born to be our friends".

This King is also the one to whom we must "before him lowly bend".

Finally, from this one who is born our King and Saviour we are taught how to love one another, from a law of love and a gospel of peace. And what can be said once we know what it is to love one another?

"Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we, His power and glory ever more proclaim!"

With numerous re-recordings, favoured placement at carols nights and frequent Christmas-time radio play, 'O Holy Night' brings us face to face with the God who came to us, the



Graphic by Ilker

God who brings hope and life, the God who teaches us how to love.

Whenever we fear that the spirit of Christmas has been lost, we encounter it here, very obviously, amongst us in the Christmas season.

As Paul reminds us in Philippians 1:15-18, it doesn't matter the manner in which the good news is spoken. What matters is that this good news is shared.

Joyeux Noël.

First printed in *New Times*

# Volunteers awarded

By Mardi Lumsden

THE WORK of 11 remarkable individuals was celebrated in October with UnitingCare Queensland's Moderator's Community Service Medals.

The awards were presented at the 29th Synod at Alexandra Headland on Sunday 9 October by Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds.

Beryl Roylance, Carole Lyall, Dulcie Turner, Iuma Apelu, Lyn Paynedoc, Margaret Sear, Pat

McMurtrie, Wendy Kent, Clyde Nicholl, Joyce Rieck, and Jeannine Moye were all recognised for their unpaid efforts to support their communities.

Beryl Roylance, of Gordon Park, was recognised for the more than 25 years of commitment and care she has shown in her volunteer work at St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital, Brisbane, and her work with Meals on Wheels.

Dulcie Turner, of Wavell

Heights, has been a passionate supporter of Blue Care for more than 50 years. Her devoted service to Blue Care, UnitingCare Community, the Red Cross, The Heart Foundation and the Leukaemia Foundation was why she received a Moderator's Community Service Medal.

Mulipola (Chief) Iuma Apelu was recognised for his service to the Woodridge and Logan City community as a dedicated advocate for new migrants of all cultures and religions and in particular, for his work for Samoan people.

Jeannine Moye, of Hervey Bay, was praised for her compassion and dedication as a Lifeline telephone counsellor and her commitment to the community as a volunteer with Lifeline, the SES in Maryborough and with the Yoorana Women's shelter.

Lyn Payne is described as having a caring attitude and willingness to help others that is legendary. She received her award for the commitment she has shown in her volunteer work at Blue Care's Pioneer South Lodge and Gardens.

Margaret Sear was recognised for her commitment to an

innovative program recently introduced at The Wesley Hospital, Brisbane, which involves supporting young children and their families through the anxiety-provoking process of undergoing surgery.

Pat McMurtrie, of Mitchelton, received her award for the commitment she has shown in her volunteer work since the inception of Tiny Town 38 years ago, as well as her extensive other volunteer commitments in her local church.

Wendy Kent was awarded for her 30 years of service to the Balmoral Uniting Community Centre, run by Wesley Mission Brisbane.

Her compassion, understanding and empathy to socially isolated people is what led Kaye Bradnock, Personal care worker, Wesley Mission Brisbane Rocklea, to nominate her.

Clyde Nicholl and Joyce Rieck were recognised for their joint efforts in serving their community of Rosewood.

Mr Nicholl and Ms Rieck have been involved with the community-owned and operated aged care facility, Cabanda Care, for many years as well as many other worthy causes.

UnitingCare Queensland CEO, Anne Cross, said, "The Moderator's Medal is an excellent way of recognising the huge contribution that our volunteers make to the Queensland community."

## Iron Lady giveaway

THANKS TO Icon Film Distribution *Journey* has 10 double passes to see the film *The Iron Lady* to give away.

The film tells the compelling story of Margaret Thatcher, a woman who smashed through the barriers of gender and class to be heard in a male-dominated world, and stars Academy Award-winners Meryl Streep as Lady Thatcher and Jim Broadbent as Denis Thatcher.

For your chance to win one of the double passes email [journey@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:journey@ucaqld.com.au) and tell us the name of the actress who plays the young Margaret Thatcher.



Meryl Streep as Lady Thatcher



Nine of the 11 recipients of the Moderator's Community Service Medals with UnitingCare Qld CEO, Anne Cross, back left, and Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds, front centre. Photo by Osker Lau

- Advertisement -

## Blue Care's Popular Carina Community

Azure Blue Lifestyle Communities continue to be a popular choice among Brisbane retirees, with more than 70 per cent of the Carina apartments reserved well ahead of their construction.

Blue Care Executive Director, Robyn Batten, said the new \$80 million community, within a four-hectare site on Richmond Road, has struck a chord with buyers in Carina, neighbouring suburbs, and others wishing to relocate close to amenities.

Upon its completion, Azure Blue Carina will consist of 98 independent retirement living apartments, including six single level villas and a separate component offering care.

Well-elevated the majority of the apartments will have panoramic views over the suburbs and surrounding districts.

Amenities will include a swimming pool, children's play area, café, barbecue area,

library, gym, hair salon, function room and cinema.

Co-located services will include allied health services and a 128-bed residential aged-care facility where care staff will have access to the latest equipment and residents will enjoy modern facilities.

Ms Batten said careful planning and consideration has been given to preserving as much of the site's natural environment as possible. "More than half the site will be retained as natural bushland reserve or landscaping with buildings on the site connected via pathways".

Our information centre located at 455 Richmond Road, Carina welcomes visitors by appointment between 9.30am - 3.30pm Mon - Sat. **Call now to nominate your preferred time 1800 007 218.** We look forward to meeting you.



Artist Impression - Azure Blue Carina

## Azure Blue Redcliffe Well Under Way



Artist Impression - Azure Blue Redcliffe - Completion Anticipated Mid 2012

This is the first of the Blue Care's Azure Blue Lifestyle Communities to launch, located on Anzac Avenue at Redcliffe, opposite the Redcliffe Hospital.

With its completion anticipated in 2012 the apartment buildings are well under construction on this site. This integrated retirement community will feature 122 independent living apartments consisting of three multi-storey building as well as a 128-bed residential aged-care facility.

Amenities will include a swimming pool, barbecue area, community centre, and café, dining area, library and media room.

Village Manager Vikki Mitchell said the development was creating a buzz in the local community, with many people stopping by the sales office. "The people who have reserved their apartments here are looking forward to enjoying the resort-style living with the assurance that Blue Care's full range of services is available should they require it in the future."

An information centre at 99 Anzac Avenue, Redcliffe is open Monday to Saturday from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

Visit the web site [www.azureblue.com.au](http://www.azureblue.com.au) or telephone 1800 007 218



# Stepping stones to reconciliation

By Tara Burton

TEAR AND Scripture Union have joined forces to create the Disciples Without Borders camp to be held from 12 to 16 December on Stradbroke Island.

Social justice advocates and camp directors, Lauren Ash and Christel Palmer, said the camp is about meeting Indigenous people, hearing their stories and learning about issues in the community that relate to them.

This is achieved through discipleship, music and games alongside a team of dedicated and experienced leaders.

Ms Palmer said events such as Disciples Without Borders give pathways for young people to become advocates and have a voice within our country.

"The importance of this event is that it targets young people who are starting to think about their world and what is happening around us," said Ms Palmer.

"It gives an opportunity to explore that, particularly as an Australian young person."

Ms Palmer emphasises the importance of looking at Australian history in relation to

Indigenous people and exploring ways Australians can move towards reconciliation.

"It's definitely a stepping stone to people going out to Aboriginal communities and spending more time there.

"We're looking at what our faith says about justice and looking at issues in our community."

The week-long camp is also offered as a Stepping Stone event which is an extension of the Uniting Church's AboutFACE (Faith and Culture Exchange) program.

Ms Ash, who is associated with Bayside Uniting Church, said that Stepping Stone events such as this play an important bridging role in breaking down cultural barriers.

"I think Stepping Stone events of this kind are really important to raise awareness about why the Uniting Church runs AboutFACE and, on a broader level, why it is so important that we, as a church, engage and journey with our Indigenous brothers and sisters through programs like AboutFACE."

AboutFACE and national Assembly faith development consultant, Rev Tom Kerr, said

Stepping Stone events build relationships and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

"AboutFACE in the future will take on new forms and will look for more and more ways to promote Stepping Stone events," he said.

"The fact that this particular Stepping Stone event has Uniting Church people working together with TEAR and SU is exciting for me as it lives up to our 'Uniting' ethos and honourable values about working in unity with the rest of Christendom and with any people of good will from the general community."

Rev Mark Cornford, a university chaplain who is involved in AboutFACE, said the way Australians relate with the First People of this country is one of the most important issues facing our nation today.

"To engage with the First People is to recognise that this is not Europe; that this country was not empty when we came; and we did not have a right to take the land and dispossess the Aboriginal people," he said.



Christel Palmer and Auntie Jean Phillips. Photo by Tom Kerr

"It is to recognise that Australia has never been and never will be a white Christian nation.

"Then hopefully Aboriginal people may know peace and hope in their own land and we will find ourselves better for it."

Mr Cornford says the goal of Stepping Stone events is to bring non-Aboriginal people face to face with Aboriginal people to hear stories, share conversations and start to build relationships.

"As this happens, people discover a whole new story of Australia which is not just history but is affecting Aboriginal people today.

"This is only the beginning of the journey"

For more information email [dwb@sucamps.org.au](mailto:dwb@sucamps.org.au) or to register go to [suqld.org.au/camps/dwb](http://suqld.org.au/camps/dwb)

## Next Generations Consultant (Re-advertised position)



Uniting Mission and Education,  
Synod of New South Wales and the ACT.

*Do you have a passion for working with those of the next generations, together with a solid base of practical experience and focused knowledge in this area?*

*Are you able to provide effective, strategic and prophetic leadership and resourcing across the Church to grow capacity in others who are working with the next generations?*

*Are you an excellent communicator who can contribute positively to a small team environment, and who has a proven ability to work with diverse groupings of people?*

As part of the Relationships & Resourcing team seeking to deliver resources, consultancy, networking and advocacy, and leadership development, the Next Generations Consultant role will particularly focus on children, families, youth and young adults to:

- connect with, and nurture current next generation leaders, centres and networks
- develop appropriate processes and relationships which create or respond to new opportunities to grow fresh or new expressions of Church
- grow ministry and leadership capacity and opportunities for cross-cultural work in this area.

Suitably qualified and experienced Ministers of the Word, UCA Deacons or Pastors, or lay persons are invited to apply.

### APPLICATIONS

Applications are to be forwarded to Ms Meg Herbert, Synod Associate Secretary (Ministry), PO Box A2178, Sydney South, 1235, or [megh@nsw.uca.org.au](mailto:megh@nsw.uca.org.au). Further details including Position Description may be found at <http://www.insights.uca.org.au/jobs/>

**Applications CLOSE 27th January 2012.**



## Advertisement for Board Members

### Wesley Mission Brisbane

#### Voluntary Board members for 2012

Wesley Mission Brisbane is part of the Uniting Church and has been serving people in need within Queensland for over 100 years.

The Wesley Mission Brisbane Board is responsible (to the Wesley Mission Brisbane Council) for the development of a strategic planning framework, the governance and control of the organisation. Wesley Mission operates in a dynamic and challenging environment which is supported by a staff of more than 2200 plus 700 committed volunteers. The services which are predominantly offered within the South Eastern Queensland community include: residential aged care; community based and in home care for the elderly; support for families; support for those living with disability; child care; supporting at risk and vulnerable young people and supporting members of the deaf community (Australia Wide).

With an annual operating budget in excess of \$110 million and a continuing substantial capital development program, Wesley Mission operates within a complex regulatory, operational and quality control environment.

We seek people who are committed to the values and mission of Wesley Mission Brisbane, that have broad experience at a senior or executive level (commercial, health, property, not-for-profit or public policy backgrounds) who will contribute to the organisation in the important role as a member of the Board. The role requires approximately 6+ hours of involvement per month including diligence of thought, preparation and involvement in the Board meeting process. Meetings are held in Brisbane.

The role is voluntary with reimbursement of expenses for Board members covered by Wesley Mission Brisbane.

For further written information visit the WMB website at [www.wmb.org.au](http://www.wmb.org.au) (Employment button) – Board members. Applications can be made online.

## December 25 Christmas Day

The *Journey* team wish you a blessed Christmas day.

Thanks for reading *Journey* and sharing your thoughts with us throughout the year.



**December 2-3. The Gap Uniting Church Christmas Craft Bazaar.** Friday, 2 Dec – 2pm-8pm. Saturday, 3 Dec – 9am-2pm. Contact Vanessa Marlow on 0418 454 945 or [office@thegapuca.org.au](mailto:office@thegapuca.org.au).

**December 2-23. Journey through Advent to Christmas** art exhibition at the Brookfield Centre for Spirituality, Kenmore Hills. There are weekend times of guided reflection led by ministers and pastors from several churches including Rev Kaye Ronalds and Rev Dr Geraldine Wheeler. For more details contact the Centre on 3878 3348.

**December 3, 7.30-9.30pm. Goodna Uniting Church Community Christmas Carols.** Join us to celebrate. Contact Rev Viliami Mila on 0421 208 118 or [vmila@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vmila@optusnet.com.au).

**December 4, 6-9pm. Advent Talentless Quest** at Laidley Uniting Church. Contact Arden Alcorn on 5465 5189 or [arden.alcorn@gmail.com](mailto:arden.alcorn@gmail.com).

**December 4, 7-9pm. A Christmas Concert** presented by the Brisbane Concert Orchestra. Kairos Uniting Church, Geebung. Contact Kairos Church office on 3266 9211 or [kairosuc@bigpond.com](mailto:kairosuc@bigpond.com).

**December 4-6. Brookfield Festival of Christmas Trees** at Brookfield Uniting Church. Contact Rev George Barnes on 3300 5397 or [geobarn39@hotmail.com](mailto:geobarn39@hotmail.com).

**December 6, 5-8pm. Messy Church** at Hatton Vale Uniting Church. Contact Rhonda Heathwood on 5465 7659 or [rmheathwood@bigpond.com](mailto:rmheathwood@bigpond.com).

**December 8-24. Christmas Lights Display** at Sandgate Uniting Church (Deagon). Contact Bruce Paterson on 3265 2412 or [jeanandbrucep@gmail.com](mailto:jeanandbrucep@gmail.com).

**December 9, 6-8.30pm. Traditional Christmas Carols night** and Market Craft Stall at The Lakes College, North Lakes. Contact Keith Lewis on 3285 2127 or [keithjlewis@bigpond.com](mailto:keithjlewis@bigpond.com).

**December 9-13. The 8th Biennial Tremendous Christmas Festival** at Bayside Uniting Church, Manly West. Contact Glenys Davey on 3890 2395 or [bayuca@tpg.com.au](mailto:bayuca@tpg.com.au).

**December 11, 7-8.30pm. Sing-It-Yourself Messiah** at Albert Street Uniting Church, Brisbane City. Contact Rosemary Hiley on 3031 3030 or [R.Hiley@wmb.org.au](mailto:R.Hiley@wmb.org.au).

**December 11, 7-8am. Lessons and Carols** at St Lucia Uniting Church. Contact Joyce Cole on 3372 4478 or [nandjcole@bigpond.com](mailto:nandjcole@bigpond.com).

**December 15-23. Christmas Festival** – "Is your tinsel tangled?" at Kawana Waters Uniting Church. Contact Ann Huth on 5491 6632 or [annhuth1102@gmail.com](mailto:annhuth1102@gmail.com).

**December 16, 7.15-8.30pm. Festival of Carols** at Albert Street Uniting Church, Brisbane City. Contact Rosemary Hiley on 3031 3030 or [R.Hiley@wmb.org.au](mailto:R.Hiley@wmb.org.au).

**December 17, 5-7.30pm. Family Christmas in the Parklands.** Amphitheatre Roma Street Parklands. Contact Rosemary Hiley on 3031 3030 or [R.Hiley@wmb.org.au](mailto:R.Hiley@wmb.org.au).

**December 25, 12-4pm. Free Christmas Lunch** in Mansfield at Broadwater Road Uniting Church. Contact on Karen Stehbins or 3219 7819 or [stehbos@bigpond.com](mailto:stehbos@bigpond.com).

**December 31, 2.30-4.30pm. Book launch** at Merthyr Road Uniting Church, New Farm. Contact Ruth Delbridge on 3395 2198 or [ruth@mary-and-ellen.com](mailto:ruth@mary-and-ellen.com).

**February 13. Easter postcard orders close.** Contact [journey@ucaqlld.com.au](mailto:journey@ucaqlld.com.au) for more information.

## Cooroy church celebrates centenary

THE COOROY Uniting Church (formerly Methodist), in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, will celebrate 100 years of ministry and service to the community in January 2012.

The original church building still stands on the site where it is used today as a hall.

Over the course of 100 years this small church has provided comfort and support to thousands of rural Queenslanders as they have struggled through the uncertainties of a great depression and the difficult years of two world wars.

In more recent decades, the Cooroy Uniting Church has provided Christian grounding to hundreds of young people who have moved through Sunday school, Rays and OKs, Christian Endeavour and various junior and senior youth groups.



Cooroy Uniting Church members at work on a fund raising venture for the Coeliac Society last February. Photo and story courtesy of David Cramb

Today, the church is still the centre of worship for many.

While celebrations will centre largely on the rich history of this vibrant church community, it is not forgotten that this celebration equally marks the beginning of another century of ministry into the future.

A celebration will be held on Sunday 29 January 2012, at the church in Maple Street, Cooroy,

with a special service at 9.30am followed by lunch.

Memorabilia gathered over the years will be displayed and friends can be reunited to remember the good times and recall days past.

For more information contact Betty Lindenmayer on 5447 6071 or David Cramb on 5447 9477 or [crambs5@bigpond.com](mailto:crambs5@bigpond.com)



U.C.I.S Senior Customer Service Officer, Lynne Spratt. Photo by Holly Jewell

## U.C.I.S Customer Service Christmas closure

THIS YEAR U.C.I.S will be observing the Synod Office closure days between Christmas and New Year.

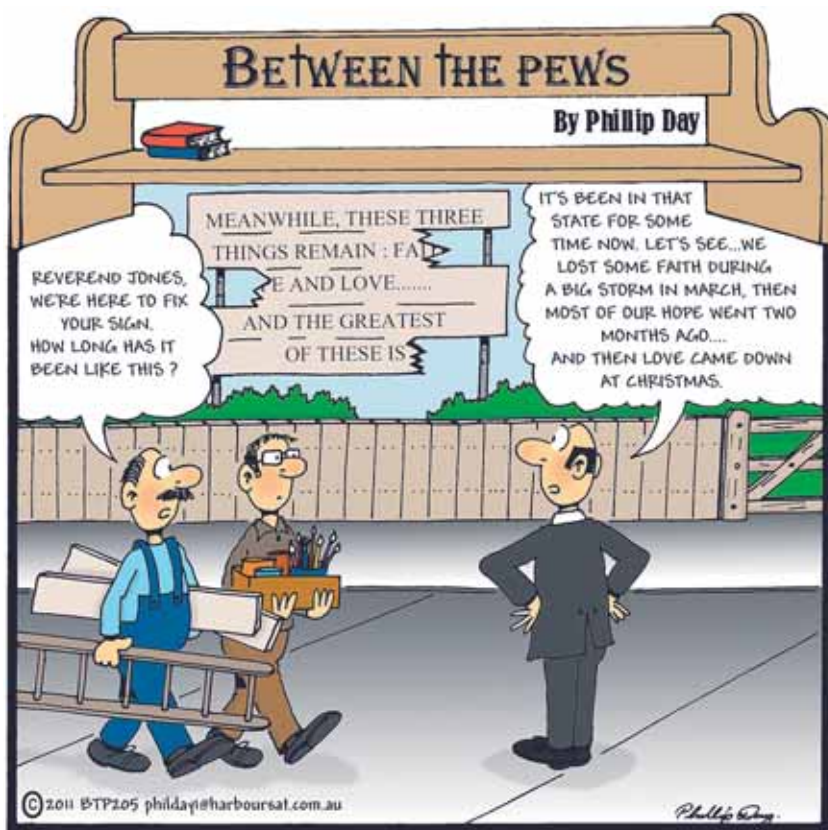
Therefore it will not be open during the Christmas New Year period – this includes any Netconnect access.

The last day of operation will be Friday 23 December and the

U.C.I.S Customer Service office will reopen as usual on Tuesday 3 January.

We hope that you have a joyous and blessed Christmas season.

If you have queries please contact the Customer Service office on 1300 655 653 before 23 December.





# Courageous

Written and directed by Alex Kendrick, Sherwood Pictures, 2011, Rated PG

Reviewed by Tara Burton.

SHERWOOD PICTURES' latest release *Courageous* is an uplifting story about family, mateship and fatherhood.

Set in Georgia, USA, the local police force are battling crime and gangs.

A group of five friends (four of whom are deputies in the local police) are all struggling with life's trials and tribulations.

When tragedy strikes Adam Mitchell's (Alex Kendrick) life the men's friendship intensifies as they each come to the realisation they all need to become better fathers.

To celebrate this pledge a "resolution" is drawn up to

illustrate their commitment to honouring God and their families.

The men slowly start to mend the broken relationships that exist within their families and, due to their dedication to the resolution, their lives and family life continue to improve.

The film concludes with a Father's Day church service as they urge fellow fathers in their congregation to step up and influence their families in the name of God.

Written from a Christian perspective *Courageous* is a remarkable film for all audiences and ages.

There is a strong emphasis on faith, church and the importance of the Bible, however I feel



that *Courageous* would also interest those who may not be religious.

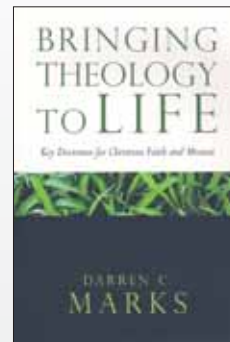
The storyline was real and relatable. It is the type of film that will make you want to go home and hug your dad.

Step up "men with courage" and take your family or church group to see *Courageous*.

# Bringing Theology to Life: Key Doctrines for Christian Faith and Mission

By Darren C. Marks, IVP Academic (Downers Grove), 2009, RRP \$33.95

Reviewed by Peter Harvey, Frontier Services, Flinders Patrol Minister



*BRINGING THEOLOGY to Life* is an attempt to "maintain the strenuous pleasures of precision, clarity, and lively confrontation that are mutually empowering and that keep us accountable to one another, to the responsible reading of Scripture, and to the God we serve."

Author, Darren Marks, recognises and understands that theological distinctions are part of a growing spiritually.

"We are impoverished when we speak and act without a substantive knowledge of what we are doing," he said.

The book is obviously not intended to be an exhaustive book of systematic theology – its scope is limited to just seven major doctrines which the author believes every Christian should be familiar with as concepts to "live and serve the gospel fully".

Mr Marks does succeed in being clear, precise and confronting with his interpretation of the truth behind these doctrines, seeking to empower and make each of us accountable to one other.

He clearly displays a conviction that academic theology is largely divorced

from the needs and concerns of members of the community of faith.

He seeks to redress that imbalance by clarifying that Christian theology should be the content of the life of the Christian community in terms of its worship and therefore its understanding of Christ.

One thing I appreciate in this work is that Mr Marks continually relates everything back to the church, rather than focusing on the individual.

He reminds us that we are called to community, something our highly individualised society finds hard to accept.

Each section ends with a bibliography that is grouped into introductory, intermediate and advanced levels, which allows me, even when I disagree with Mr Marks' outcomes, to further my thought and clarify my own position with the help of other thinkers and writers.

# the nature of love: a theology

By Thomas Jay Oord, Challis Press, 2010, RRP \$45.95

Reviewed by Karyl Davison.

THOMAS JAY Oord, minister in the Church of the Nazarene and professor at Northwest Nazarene University, has written or contributed to dozens of books on topics like post modernity, the problem of evil, and the meaning of holiness.

However, behind all his work has been a passion for the love of God.

This compact volume addresses this fundamental passion for the love of God.

Have a look at your books on Theology. Chances are that they begin with the Scriptures, or Creation, the Trinity or Faith or even Ecclesiology.

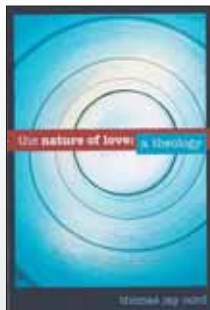
Mr Oord offers a theology which begins and ends with God's love, as revealed in Jesus Christ.

In the first two sections of *the nature of love*, Mr Oord defines love: to love is to act intentionally, in sympathetic or empathetic response to God and others, to promote overall wellbeing.

He goes on to explore several words in the Bible that are translated as love, exploring what they mean and how they might contribute to an understanding of the "love of God".

He then explores the theologies of two major theologians: Nygren a 20th century theologian whose understanding of "agape" had wide influence in the modern church, and Augustine, who was instrumental in laying the foundation for "western theology".

Finally, Mr Oord introduces his love theology as "essential kenosis" which describes God's self-giving nature. This self-giving nature of God then becomes the foundation for interpreting



everything else there is to know and say about God.

Mr Oord's writing is accessible, clear and concise.

He sticks with his main thesis throughout the book: that a robust theology of love must be at the centre of the Christian faith.

*The nature of love* is a helpful and thought provoking contribution to our understanding of Christian theology.

## Books available from ...

Many of the titles reviewed in *Journey* are available from St Paul's Bookstore in Brisbane city or Christian Supplies in Milton. Books can usually be ordered from Vision Books at Broadwater Road Uniting Church, Mansfield, or may be available from [www.mosaicresources.com.au](http://www.mosaicresources.com.au) or <http://rainbowbooks.com.au>.

More reviews online at [www.journeyonline.com.au](http://www.journeyonline.com.au) including:

### Sissy's Secret

Written by Althea McKeown, illustrated by Monique Russell Black Ink Press, Townsville, 2011, RRP \$15



### Flag of my Father (DVD)

Directed by Rodney Ray, R Squared Productions, 2011, Distributed by Heritage HM Home Entertainment



### Light Within

By Laurence Freeman, Canterbury Press, 2008, RRP \$29.95



### Darkness Yielding

By Jim Cotter, et al. Canterbury Press, 2007, RRP \$26.99



### The Gospel in the Global Village

By Katharine Jefferts Schori, Canterbury Press, 2009, RRP \$32.95



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# Cows deliver \$300 000 of hope for outback youth

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY in regional and rural Queensland received a massive boost of funds and awareness thanks to a cattle drive through central

Queensland in October.

The third biennial Stock Up for Hope Charity Drove, presented by Medibank, connected kids, chaplains, cattle producers, chefs

and city slicker corporates to raise \$300 000 for Scripture Union Queensland (SU QLD) school chaplaincy.

Drove Director, Duncan

Brown, said the event was a unique way for the community in the bush to support their young people, many of whom are battling issues of isolation, family breakdown, depression and suicide.

"We recognise the incredible challenges the next generation is facing, especially out in the bush, and Stock Up for Hope is a great way for cattle producers and others to give back into their community, through school chaplains.

"The Drove has captured the hearts of people from all walks of life and while it can be difficult to get a cheque out of a cattle producer, we've found they're often willing to donate a head or two of cattle for a cause like this.

"One or two head of cattle may not sound like much to city dwellers, but that translates to a donation upwards of \$700 per beast.

"When we get a mob of 400 together, like we have this year, then it's a great boost for school chaplains," said Mr Brown.

Former Deputy Prime Minister and SU QLD patron, John Anderson and his family joined more than 50 city slickers on the Drove, rounding up cattle on horseback, sharing bush poetry around the campfire and sleeping

in swags under the starry sky.

The city slickers got up close to the cause, seeing the challenges young people are facing in regional areas.

Many spoke of gaining a greater understanding of how school chaplains are providing a listening ear and a caring presence for kids in crisis and those who just need a friend.

"Australia has an enviable economic and employment record, but we have failed to invest in our young people," said Mr Anderson.

"This is not just a Government problem, but an issue that the community needs to step up and address.

"That's where Stock Up for Hope, through school chaplaincy, has a unique opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of thousands and help shape the next generation."

The \$300 000 raised will support individual chaplaincies as well as fund support workers throughout regional Queensland to ensure the longevity of chaplains in the bush.

SU QLD is the largest provider of state school chaplains in Australia, with more than 500 chaplains in over 600 schools.

For more information visit [stockupforhope.org.au](http://stockupforhope.org.au)



Neil Flynn on Scripture Union's Stock Up for Hope Charity Drove in Casino, NSW.  
Photo courtesy of SU QLD

## On Sunday 4 December please pray for Kangaroo Point Uniting Church

KANGAROO POINT Uniting Church is an inner-city church seeking to develop relevant and effective ministries to our local areas.

We are also seeking to develop real world activities and missions that reflect the miracle of Christ and His wonderful salvation.

We need prayerful support as we grapple with not only what multi-cultural ministries look like, but also what they mean in our local setting.

Recognition that developing

ministry between cultures requires enormous transparency, honesty and integrity, we are on that journey remembering that we are not defined by our culture but by who we are in Christ.

We are all one in Him.

Our latest expression of ministry is called Macedonians (2 Cor 8:1-5). It is a free meal at Kangaroo Point Uniting Church each Thursday night that we prepare and serve to all who come.

We are blessed by many different folk who come from

different corners of His vineyard and who are walking in obedience to the Lord.

Our street party and carol service at Christmas is another opportunity to engage with our local people.

We thank God for His faithful people in this, but struggle to be challenged to make our focus have realistic and effective goals.

We need to be about growing the kingdom more.

## On Sunday 11 December, please pray for the Central West Uniting Churches

THE CENTRAL West Uniting Churches are a cluster of congregations spread over hundreds of kilometres.

Our congregations are made up of people who have lived in the west their whole life and some who have come for work or a change of pace and scenery.

We have services at Barcaldine and Blackall each Sunday morning and Jericho and Alpha every second week in the evening.

We are blessed with having a number of visitors who come

for holidays and make the church their spiritual home while they are here.

Some come for a week or two, others come for three to six months each year and these visitors consider themselves to be members of our congregations while they are here.

In the wake of unprecedented fires between Barcaldine, Jericho and Aramac, please pray for:

- comfort and healing for those dealing with the emotional and spiritual impact of fires threatening their homes, loved ones and livelihood

- God to sustain the spirit of farmers dealing with the loss of crops, stock, machinery and productivity; many have seen crops totally destroyed and valuable feed reduced to nothing.
- we would ask for your continued prayer for the many youth in the outback towns as they enter holiday time. Pray that they may find purpose and direction through our youth bible study, Sunday Night Live Services and socials.

## On Sunday 18 December please pray for Maroochydore Uniting Church

THE UNITING Church in Maroochydore is a place where many holiday makers come each year and call the congregation their home for the period of their stay on the Sunshine Coast.

For some it is a week or two; for others it can be up to three months.

As Christmas draws near we are once more expecting an influx of visitors for the holiday season.

Over recent years we have asked visitors who come how they have found out about the church.

In most cases the answer has been through the weekly advertisements of service times in the *Sunshine Coast Daily* newspaper.

To supplement this style of outreach we have given details of our services to holiday units, motels, and caravan parks so that they can be shared with people who ask for information concerning Christmas services and/or Sunday worship service times.

We have also given the information to the Information Centre.

Because we have a large

volume of visitors, we are constantly working towards not becoming complacent in our welcoming of visitors.

In addition to the increase in numbers through holiday makers, the church is situated near the Maroochydore Shopping Centre and in the next year or two will be surrounded by high rise business and housing complexes.

A challenge for us is how to reach out with God's love to these potential workers and unit dwellers.

The issues for which we would value the prayerful support are:

- that holiday makers engage within the fellowship of the church and feel welcome into the congregation
- that holiday makers enjoy a safe holiday
- that the church family will be a welcoming and supportive community for holiday makers
- that the congregation will be open to hear what God is saying in relation to outreach to the potential mission field at our door.



## Great edition, but hard to read

I HAVE just finished reading the November edition – very special in many ways.

There are a few pointers I would like to mention.

Firstly, I do so agree with you over the way our Parliaments are run and that consensus as shown at Synod should definitely be used.

To say farewell to Bruce and welcome to Kaye brings back many memories as my eldest son trained with these two worthies back in the '80s.

Sadly, Geoffrey died suddenly three years ago in South Australia.

For some time now (I am getting on in years) with our

overheads in Church I find some background colours make the print hard to read.

I found this in the November issue.

I am wondering, if this has been mentioned before, as I do not think I am the only older person finding the print so hard to read.

Thank you and continue with the task you are committed to within the church life and our society in general.

God be with you in all your undertakings.

Irene Collins  
Fitzgibbon



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Journey GPO Box 674, Brisbane QLD 4001.

Please keep letters to a maximum of 250 words.  
Letters may be edited due to space limitations.

## Yoga means union

READING GRAHAM Wright's dire predictions about yoga (October *Journey*) and the risks if Christians get involved in "this type of stuff" it is important for readers to know that the word "Yoga" literally means union.

Some forms of Yoga introduced to Westerners teach self-realisation, others God-realisation.

How can the practice of a beneficial scientific art form of body, mind and spirit be considered a form of occultism?

Yoga has been practised for

over 3000 years.

Originally the whole objective of Hatha Yoga was to prepare the body for spiritual development through prana, the subtle force in oxygen.

Yoga teaches us to understand our breathing patterns, to use our full lung capacity, and enrich the blood that flows into every cell of our God-given bodies.

If the critics of Yoga can guarantee that the historical Jesus was ignorant of this form of spiritual development how then do they explain the powerful way in which Jesus used breath in his ministry?

The disciple John records that after Mary Magdalene had found the tomb empty she told the disciples that she had seen the Lord.

That evening, Jesus came and stood in their midst and showed them his hands and his side.

He said, "Peace be unto you: as my Father has sent me even so I send you".

Then Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Ghost".

Margaret Booker  
Everton Park



## Thanking those who serve

I HAVE just been reading the November edition.

Well done again team!

There are some interesting reflections on Synod and thoughts for our future.

For me, the stand out article was the one with Army chaplain, Rev John Saunders

("Remembering those who served").

I thought his comments on what Remembrance Day and Anzac Day mean to those who are serving and have served were so spot on.

It is the same for those of us whose family members have

served. We remember the loss and the circumstances, but most of all the sacrifice made by the services and their families.

Food for thought.  
Well done.

Matt Gees  
Sunnybank



# Unification through soccer

By Tara Burton

ST PAUL'S Uniting Soccer Club in Brisbane was awarded a State Government grant in October of over \$140 000 to install lights at their home ground.

Club President, David Valentine, said it was the culmination of five years of dreaming and several years of hard work.

The club is an outreach program of Broadwater Road and St Marks Uniting Churches in Brisbane's south.

The grant will enable the club to host night games at the ground and allow other community groups to also use the field.

St Paul's Soccer Club Vice President, Tim Jones, said the aim of the club is to leave Sundays free for families to worship.

"We provide an alternative for kids and adults to play soccer other than on a Sunday," he said.

He said the club was open to anyone who wanted to play regardless of their ability, race, background or belief systems.

"It's a good way to integrate the various denominations and the community of people who may not have faith or beliefs."

St Paul's is one of the foundation clubs of the Queensland Christian Soccer Association (QCSA).

South East Uniting Community congregational minister and President of the QCSA, Rev Peter Smale, said the primary focus has always been on juniors.

"The QCSA's hope has always been to encourage local churches to engage in using football as a way of reaching children and young people," he said.

However, not all members are associated or affiliated with a church.

"We don't make that a stipulation that you have to have a church connection," he said.

"We encourage congregations who would like to use football as an outreach medium."



Alice Jones, Henry Jones, Hon Phil Reeves MP, and Nick Golinski with the cheque. Photo courtesy of St Pauls

Mr Smale emphasised that Christian soccer is a growing entity and a valuable organisation within the local community.

"Between the QCSA, Sunshine Coast Christian Soccer Association and Baptist Football Queensland there are probably

about 12 000 players.

"The QCSA is the largest of those with 8000 to 10 000 members.

"It's not insignificant in terms of what we manage. We try to continue to do that with a really strong Christian philosophy."

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# What does *faith* mean to you?

**Rev Kaye Ronalds**  
 Moderator of the Uniting Church in Queensland

WHAT IS your favourite Christmas symbol? A star? A tree? An angel? A gift? My favourite Christmas symbol is a tent.

In the first chapter of the gospel of John we read that God took on human flesh and came to live on earth. Another translation puts it this way: "God pitched a tent and came to live amongst us".

Faith, for me, is about being in a relationship with a living God who wants to share our lives. The Christian faith for me is about mystery and relationship.

This Christmas I invite you to explore your faith and share hope and love with your community.



Rev Kaye Ronalds. Photo by Phillip Johnson

# What does *hope* mean to you?

**Beatriz Skippen**  
 UnitingCare Queensland Prison Ministry

HOPE IS very important for Prison Ministry; hope in Jesus. Christ means hope to everyone who wants to reach hope.

In the prison hope is tangible. Many times when we talk with the inmates we need to share the hope of Christ.

Last Friday I was in one of the prisons and one of the inmates said to me, "I'm here and I really don't know what to do. I just received the news that I will be here for 20 years and I didn't do what they are accusing me of, but I will be here for 20 years." At that particular moment we need to say, "Well, we have hope in Christ. We need to overcome the situations we have. We must identify Christ during that journey."

When I go and see the guys in the detention unit, which is a confined place, they don't have access to anyone, the only one that they can reach is Christ and they need to have that hope.

When I was journeying with cancer, many times I thought, "Lord, I just want to see your face and I will be happy". But the guys said to me, "Beatriz, we need to have hope and we want you to stay here." They did this drawing (right) and



Beatriz Skippen. Photo by Phillip Johnson

sent it to me. All 575 inmates from that prison had the hope that one day I would go back to them and we would worship God.

We need to pass that hope that we have in Christ to the families when a mother calls us and says, "My son is in prison and I don't know how long he will be there", or when a child says, "I want to see my daddy and daddy won't be with me for Christmas".

Christ means hope to everyone who wants to reach hope.

# What does *love* mean to you?

**Rev Harlee Cooper**  
 Emmanuel Uniting Church, Enoggera

LOVE MEANS being part of something bigger than myself. It is something that reorientates the way I live my life; from the way I spend my time to my priorities. Love means getting up in the middle of the night to change dirty nappies.

But I guess it is also about being vulnerable to the point where someone else's wellbeing and happiness somehow gets tied up into your own. It is a wonderful thing but it is pretty scary as well.



Rev Harlee Cooper. Photo by Phillip Johnson

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