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**Frontier Services**  
Celebrating 100 years of  
care

PAGE 3

**Church milestone**  
Uniting Church ordains  
its first South Sudanese  
woman

PAGE 4

**KONY 2012**  
Fresh insight into the  
world's most watched  
video

PAGE 7

**Easter 2012**  
Easter is love Call to  
Worship video launched

PAGE 8-9

**Synod Finance update**  
Getting organised for  
mission

PAGE 11



## Statement to the Nation: Inaugural Assembly, June 1977 (extract)

... We, who are members of the first Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia address the people of Australia in this historic moment. The path to unity has been long and at times difficult, but we believe this unity is a sign of the reconciliation we seek for the whole human race.

... We affirm our eagerness to uphold basic Christian values and principles, such as the importance of every human being, the need for integrity in public life, the proclamation of truth and justice, the rights for each citizen to participate in decision-making in the community, religious liberty and personal dignity, and a concern for the welfare of the whole human race.

We pledge ourselves to seek the correction of injustices wherever they occur. We will work for the eradication of poverty and racism within our society and beyond.

... We pledge ourselves to hope and work for a nation whose goals are not guided by self-interest alone, but by concern for the welfare of all persons everywhere — the family of the One God — the God made known in Jesus of Nazareth the One who gave His life for others.

In the spirit of His self-giving love we seek to go forward.

### MONTHLY PRAYER

Living God,  
We pray for the church as it gathers  
to remember a crucified Jesus and a risen Lord.  
Make us conduits of your extravagant love.  
Help us to discern the things that must die in us  
and that which will spring to new life.  
Amen



## Loving and letting go

Mardi Lumsden, Editor

AS you may have heard, I have been appointed the new Director of Uniting Communications.

Uniting Communications is the communications team for the Synod and is responsible for this and many other publications. This appointment is a strategic role and I am very much looking forward to steering our talented team on our own journey to provide effective communications for the Church in Queensland.

It is a big job and I do not take this responsibility lightly. Consequently, I will be stepping back from this fine publication. I will still be involved, but we are looking for a new editor to take the reins and make their own mark on *Journey*.

When I first arrived at the Synod office in August 2004 to help Andrew Demack (the then editor) with some casual writing, I didn't imagine that one day I would be editing *Journey*. It has been an honour to meet the people I have met in this role. It has been a privilege to be entrusted to tell their stories to the wider church. I plan on continuing to do that but, in the words of Sting, if you love something sometimes there comes a time when you have to let it go, even just a little.

This is an exciting time in our Church's history. We are at a crossroad and decisions need to be made about our future. In Uniting Communications we are focused on this and how we can best help the church on this journey.

Our *Together on the way, enriching community* journey has provided us some clear goals about who and what we want the Uniting Church to be by the year 2020.

One of the things I love about the Uniting Church is its diversity. Our "Easter is love" postcard theme symbolises the unity the church can find in diversity.

For the next two editions we will be celebrating that diversity by having guest editors. The May edition will be guest edited by Wesley Mission Brisbane. I look forward to the diverse stories they will share and hope that it gives us insight into just how diverse the Uniting Church is.

Visit together.ucaql.com.au to see and download the Church's Vision 2020

# Easter people learning to love

WE have watched a lot of episodes of *The Simpsons* over the years in our house. Mr Burns, the mean spirited owner of the Nuclear Power Plant, has a brush with illness and becomes intoxicated with the drug treatment. In the forest a glowing light appears and people of Springfield gather outside the town to see the spectacle.

Emerging from the forest comes Mr Burns uncharacteristically saying, "I bring you love". Lenny responds by saying, "It's bringing love, don't let it get away," and Carl blurts out, "Break its legs!"

Easter reminds us that love is often met with violence. The meaning that people make of the Easter story varies. Across the span of history Christian believers have used images and metaphors to describe what happened at the cross.

Christians teach that the execution of Jesus of Nazareth on a cross outside Jerusalem is part of a divine plan to save humanity from sin. The problem with sin is that it separates us from God.

Apparently, 500 years ago when William Tyndale was working on his English Bible he coined the word "atonement" to translate the Latin word reconciliatio. Theories of

atonement give expression to how people believe that reconciliation between God and people has been achieved.

The favourite atonement idea in the New Testament seems to be sacrifice – an unblemished lamb – which in a ritual way mends the broken relationship with God. In the ancient world sacrifices were commonly used to satisfy ritual obligations.

In the eleventh century, Anselm promoted the notion that the death of Jesus pays the penalty for sin satisfying the debt to God. Others cast God as the just judge who must punish sin and Jesus takes the punishment for us, the prisoners of sin. As Cecil Francis Alexander puts it, "There was no other good enough to pay the price of Sin".

Another claims that Jesus rescues us by becoming the ransom which is offered to set the slaves free.

Good Friday hymns express this theology in rhythm.

From Frederick William Faber: "Seven times he spoke, seven words of love, and for three hours his silence cried for mercy on the souls of men; Jesus, our Lord, is crucified."

Each theory tries to connect with the thinking of the people in that era. Apart from the mental

gymnastics to get your head around the ideas, some of these notions seem to be less than helpful in trying to communicate the Easter story with people in our world today.

What, for you, are the ideas and images that communicate in a fresh way the reconciling work of Jesus on the cross?

For me the proposal of the twelfth century theologian called the "moral example" still seems to connect. Abelard contends that Jesus willingly accepted suffering and an undeserved death and humans become so moved by such a powerful demonstration of love that they repent, and in this way become reconciled to God.

Isaac Watts captures this beautifully in his Easter hymn: "See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down; Did e'er such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small: love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

In John's Gospel when Jesus is hinting at his death to come he talks of a seed that must fall to the ground and then germinates to produce abundant, new life. The cycle of death



and resurrection nourished by love is repeated in the church today. I see it when people go out of their way to help resettle refugees and asylum seekers. I see it when a foster carer from Uniting Care Community helps a distressed child to deal with their anger. I see it when a widow finds support in her local congregation. I see it when Easter people gather to worship to celebrate new life together.

## Where's the Moderator?

This month Rev Kaye Ronalds will be at many events including:

**3 April** UnitingCare Board meeting

**13-15 April** North Queensland Presbytery meeting, Cairns

**18 April** Queensland Heads of Churches meeting

**22 April** Preaching at Aspley Uniting Church

**25 April** Anzac Day Parade, King George Square, Brisbane City

**1-4 May** Trans-Tasman Moderators Gathering, Melbourne



Different parts of the Church in Queensland came together for a cuppa and a chat at The Downs Presbytery meeting in late February. Photo by Kaye Ronalds

## Snap that!

SEND us a photo that captures the *Journey* theme.

This month: Easter is love.

Aspley Uniting Church in Brisbane is embracing the Easter 2012 theme. This was their signboard in the first week of Lent. How many different languages are spoken in your local community? Thanks to Amy Johnson for sending it in.

May theme: *Side by Side* – One body, many parts. Guest editors will be Wesley Mission Brisbane.



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# Celebrating 100 years at the heart of remote Australia

Rebecca Beisler

FRONTIER Services will turn 100 this year and the celebrations will reach some of the most isolated communities in the country.

On 26 September 1912, Rev John Flynn encouraged the Church to support the work approved by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church – the Australian Inland Mission (AIM).

"Difficulties of a serious nature will arise in the shoals of every fertile mind. To each one, a reply can only be made in words already made familiar; do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for powers equal to your tasks," he said.

The Church responded by establishing the Australian Inland Mission (AIM), appointing Mr Flynn as its Superintendent.

Mr Flynn's dream was to create a "mantle of safety" so people could build sustainable communities despite the

challenges of distance and isolation.

The first AIM patrol padres went out in 1913 by camel and horse from Pine Creek, Oodnadatta, Broome and Port Hedland to provide pastoral care and counselling services to people on isolated properties, mine sites and road gangs. Nursing posts and hospitals were established in locations across the outback.

As the work of the AIM grew, Mr Flynn envisioned using aircraft to conquer vast distances across the nation and in 1928 he formed the Aerial Medical Service, which later became a separate organisation called the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Following church union in 1977, the outback work of the AIM, the Methodist Inland Mission and the Congregation Union came together using the name Mr Flynn himself had used – Frontier Services.

Frontier Services is still serving rural and remote

Australia through the provision of ministry and community services, striving to break down the disadvantage created by distance and isolation.

In its centenary year, Frontier Services will celebrate Mr Flynn's vision for the people of outback Australia and the remarkable contribution made by so many in remote Australia.

It will also be an opportunity to celebrate the hope, spirit and resilience of the people who live in remote Australia.

Cunnamulla Patrol Minister, Pastor Dennis Cousens, feels privileged to be called to do a job he loves.

"I love the job because it is taking the church to the people and not expecting anything in return. It allows Christ to meet people where they work, play and live – all without bricks and mortar and a stained glass window. And I love it because God called me to it."

South-West Queensland Project Officer for the Remote Area Families Service, Felicity Voigt, said her work provides unique programs and services to rural and remote people who do not have access to mainstream services.

"I want to be part of something that goes where no one else will go. I want to make a difference, no matter how small or large to people's lives who live in all types of isolation; this is what Frontier Services does."

"I am able to interact, engage and support children and their families who do not have access to mainstream early childhood services."



South West Queensland Project Officer for the Remote Area Families Service, Felicity Voigt. Photo courtesy of Frontier Services

"I feel very proud to work for Frontier Services."

Anna Burley is a Primary Health Care Nurse at Savannah Regional Health Service, Far North Queensland. She loves the way Frontier Services addresses people's needs with a focus on the practical nature of the services offered to those who live and work in remote areas.

"I have to address needs in a flexible and creative way to empower people to live and work in the area they want to be in," she said.

Centenary celebrations will take place across Australia. More than 2000 people are expected to attend the official Centenary celebration, open to all, on 26 September 2012 in Melbourne.

People could also host their own Centenary event, e.g. a Centenary Great Outback BBQ,

a Frontier Services Sunday, or an activity in the community.

More than ever, as a nation, a church and a community, we must find the courage and innovation needed to ensure equity extends beyond the urban boundaries to those who live in rural and remote Australia.

As we reflect on Flynn's words a century ago, it is our hope that all across Australia people will honour this amazing story of continued commitment and work together to ensure we can support remote Australia for another 100 years.

For more information contact Centenary Events Coordinator, Kate Higginbotham, on (02) 8270 1361 or email [kate.h@frontierservices.org](mailto:kate.h@frontierservices.org) or visit [www.frontierservices.org/centenary](http://www.frontierservices.org/centenary)



Dr and Mrs Spalding arriving at Birdsville, a scene from the AIM Gulf Patrol. Photo courtesy of Frontier Services

## Church disappointed by Senate Report into Stronger Futures

Amy Goodhew

THE Uniting Church in Australia has expressed its disappointment in the Senate Report into the Stronger Futures Legislation.

General Secretary of the Northern Synod, Mr Peter Jones, who appeared at the Darwin hearings for the Senate Inquiry, expressed his concern over the harsh and disempowering legislation that the Senate Report supports.

"Since day one of the Intervention, we have seen

the dismal failure of top-down approaches to addressing the real problems of Indigenous disadvantage. The pain and shame in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities has been exacerbated by the Government's unwillingness to enter into true partnership with our Indigenous brothers and sisters," said Mr Jones.

Mr Jones supports action in the Northern Territory, but warned against extending the current approach.

"Government decisions and

actions taken without the active participation of Indigenous peoples must stop. This Senate Inquiry offered us a chance to reset the relationship between the Government and the First Peoples and it appears that it is now a wasted opportunity.

"Indigenous peoples in the Territory attended the consultation meetings in good faith – believing that their calls for real change would be answered."

"If the Government fails to act now it will be clear that their

interest lies only in extending the current Intervention.

"This will not create 'stronger futures' for Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. We will only get more of the same – just ineffective short-term fixes," said Mr Jones.

Rev Elenie Poulos, National Director of UnitingJustice, urged the Government to reject the Senate Committee recommendations for only minor change and instead redesign the legislative package to reflect the wishes of those most affected by

the legislation.

"It is unacceptable that the Bills proceed without taking account of the concerns of so many Indigenous people who gave evidence to the Committee."

"The consultation processes have been and continue to be paternalistic and tokenistic."

"It is not too late for the Government to begin to right the wrongs caused by the Intervention, and commit to building positive partnerships with Indigenous peoples," said Ms Poulos.



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### Clayfield College

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



# First Sudanese woman ordained

Belinda Taylor

IT'S a number of firsts for Adelaide's Amel Manyon.

She is the first South Sudanese woman to be ordained into the Uniting Church in Australia.

Ms Manyon will also become minister of the newest Uniting Church community in South Australia, the Uniting Church Northern Suburbs Dinka Speaking Faith Community, located at St. Stephen's Uniting Church, Elizabeth North.

She was ordained on 18 March and the service was accompanied by a Sudanese youth choir. The day marked a significant milestone in Australian church history.

The Moderator for the Uniting Church in South Australia, Rev Rob Williams, said, "Amel is a remarkable woman and we are thrilled to have her leading such

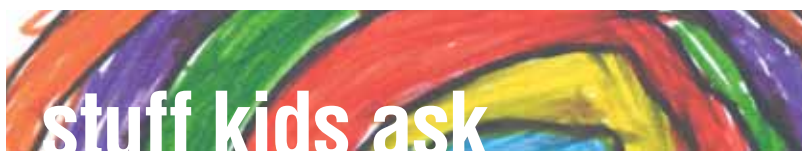
a significant faith community which joins together the people of Sudan in worship utilising their native language."

Ms Manyon is lovingly supported by her husband James, four children and five nieces and nephews who migrated to Australia in 2002.

Shortly after her arrival, Ms Manyon enrolled in the Lutheran College for theological studies and then continued at the Uniting College for Leadership and Theology.

Rev Dave Williamson, Multicultural and Cross-cultural Minister at the Uniting Church in South Australia will compete in Ironman Australia on 6 May, to raise funds to support Ms Manyon and the Dinka Faith Community.

For more information visit [www.sa.uca.org.au/dinka](http://www.sa.uca.org.au/dinka)



## Why did God put scary stories in the Bible?

Answer by Rev Kaye Ronalds, mum and Moderator of the Queensland Synod.

WHEN you go to the movies or to the shop to hire a DVD you and your parents can read the code to tell you what is suitable to watch. G means everyone can watch it and PG means that you might need to ask your parents about watching that one.

The Bible stories were written

long before there were codes to help us decide if we should watch something or not. "Bible" means book, but it is really lots of books joined together.

Many people wrote down their prayers and songs, precious memories about Jesus, stories about their life and even their dreams and big ideas.

Some people have had some sad or frightening things happen to them and it may have helped them to write about it and to

think about how God helped them in that difficult time.

You don't have to read all the pages in the Bible when you are small but if you do read a part that upsets you, you could do what I used to do when I had a scary dream: talk to a grown up and maybe have a cuddle or a warm drink to help you settle down.

And if there is something you don't understand you could ask your minister to explain it.

This year *Journey* will feature this column of fabulous questions from the mouths of babes. If you have heard a great question from a young person, please send it to [journey@ucaql.com.au](mailto:journey@ucaql.com.au)



## Directing mission for UnitingCare

THIS year UnitingCare Queensland welcomed a new Director of Mission to its ranks, former Blue Care Director of Mission, Colleen Geyer.

Ms Geyer said the role is both new and old.

"We've had a UnitingCare Queensland Director of Mission previously (Rev Robyn Kidd), but it was only half time, whereas now it's full time," she said.

Focus areas for this new role include cultural identity of the organisation and its connections with the greater Uniting Church in Queensland, chaplaincy, leadership and sustainable mission.

"It's all about who we are – the Uniting Church in Queensland living out its mission through the provision of community services – and how we hold our identity while we are also responsible in the provision of the services and remaining viable for the future," she said.

"It's about what defines us and how this influences how we do what we do. Our values are key to this and how we live them out in our everyday work, how we care for the people we serve and how we relate to others who work in UnitingCare

Queensland.

"It's about leadership – working with others to develop a leadership model and framework for UnitingCare Queensland, and our executive orientation, making the connections with other parts of the church – presbyteries, synods, congregations – and chaplaincy and pastoral care services across UnitingCare Queensland."

Ms Geyer will continue her work in the area of environmental sustainability and will chair a UnitingCare Queensland Sustainability Coordination Team to look at how the organisation can continue to make a difference to the planet as responsible members of the community.

She is also Chair of the UnitingCare Queensland Human Research Ethics Committee

Ms Geyer also has high hopes for the connections between the organisation and congregations.

"My hopes for the role are that it will, as part of the church, which includes UnitingCare Queensland, continue to understand the wonderful work we do together; make the connections between UnitingCare Queensland and

other parts of the church; and that we will be courageous enough to be where we need to be in our communities, witnessing to God's love for all."

Rev Heather Den Houting will replace Ms Geyer as Blue Care Director of Mission in April.



Colleen Geyer.  
Photo by Osker Lau



Amel Manyon, pictured with some of her family, has become Australia's first ordained woman from South Sudan. Photo by Jade Kearns



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## RURAL CONFERENCE

The 8th quadrennial **Trans-Tasman Rural Conference** is to be held in Herberton, Atherton Tablelands (west of Cairns), July 2nd-6th, 2012

Theme: **Resilience: Building robust communities**

For more info or registration go to [www.irca.net.nz/oceania.html](http://www.irca.net.nz/oceania.html) or call **Rev Garry Hardingham** 07 4742 1441

# Study celebrates Church anniversary

Mardi Lumsden

AS part of the celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia (22 June) a series of studies based around 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (One body with many parts) is being developed.

Stemming out of *Together on the way, enriching community's* Priority Direction A ("Enabling a demonstrated commitment to the shared Call and Vision"), the study, called *Side by Side*, will be available in the *May Journey* accompanied by online resources with enhanced resources.

Pilgrim Learning Community Director, Neil Thorpe, said the studies will provide space for reflection, celebration, discovery and appreciation of where the Uniting Church has come from and where it may be heading.

"The studies provide an opportunity to reflect on Paul's metaphor of the church as an interconnected body.

"We have a tendency to focus on the here and now and be preoccupied with our own

activity. These studies are a timely reminder that we are all part of a much larger body – our congregation, Uniting Church organisation, presbytery and synod.

"This larger body can only function at its peak when each of us is not only working to our best but making sure we are effectively contributing to the whole."

Writers include former Moderator, Rev Bruce Johnson, and UnitingCare Queensland Director of Mission, Colleen Geyer.

*Together on the way, enriching community* Project Officer, Lyndelle Gunton, said the study is for all parts of the church.

"Using 1 Corinthians 12 as inspiration, the *Side by Side* series provides congregations, agencies, bible study groups, staff and individuals with a space to consider the role that relationships play across different parts of the Church in Queensland.

She said the study provides four different ways of looking



Lyndelle Gunton and Neil Thorpe. Photo by Osler Lau

at key relationships within the Uniting Church in Queensland and offers ideas for opportunities to initiate new connections and further develop existing ones and enhance sustainable mission across the church in Queensland.

"While many congregations may have an exciting idea for engaging with mission in local, national or global settings, the path to realising this vision may be hampered by a lack of skills or knowledge about how to achieve this," said Ms Gunton.

"Developing connections with other parts of the Church that do

possess knowledge or expertise in a particular missional activity promotes collaboration, encourages learning and highlights the value of raising awareness about sharing the resources we already have to a greater degree."

In true collaborative style, Uniting Communications is working with the Assembly to produce additional video resources for this study.

Resources will be available free from the Resources section of [www.together.ucaqld.com.au](http://www.together.ucaqld.com.au)

# Ensuring a safe church

Mardi Lumsden

THE Queensland Synod has responded to the new Work Health and Safety legislation (which took effect in Queensland on 1 January) by reviewing its own Work Health and Safety resources.

Queensland Synod Risk and Insurance Manager, David Munro, said new resources are in their final stages of review and take into account additional or changed requirements of the legislation and their impact on Uniting Church staff and volunteers.

These updated policies and manuals will provide guidance on appropriate risk management practices for congregations and other Uniting Church affiliated workplace environments.

"The information sheet we have provided gives a good overview of the changes. The other place to find really good information is on the Safe Work Australia website," he said.

Safe Work Australia has produced detailed fact sheets on the impact these new laws have on volunteers and volunteer organisations. The Synod has also produced an information sheet which is now online.

"Providing a duty of care to volunteers isn't new and our information sheet reflects that," said Mr Munro. "In Queensland the occupational health and safety laws already applied to volunteers. The church has also responded historically.

"The really big thing is that it refers to volunteers explicitly, rather than implicitly wrapped up in a definition of 'other persons in a workplace'.

"The fundamental reason why the Workplace Health and Safety legislation has been changed, which is what is driving all the other things we are doing, is to bring about national harmonisation."

Mr Munro said the impact of the changes on the church shouldn't be any different to what congregations should already be doing.

"It is a good reminder but also, the fact that it is explicitly outlined in the Work Health and Safety Act really draws attention to the fact that it is something we, as a church, need to do.

"It doesn't refer to work-places but 'businesses' and 'undertakings'.

"It is not just about what the law says we have to do, it is about us, as a church, looking after and protecting our people and people who come into contact with us," he said.

Mr Munro said it is important that when people look at Work Health and Safety, particularly, that it is taken in context.

"One of the big things churches need to remember is that we are churches, not plastics manufacturers or underground mines. Within the Act it does provide a reasonably practical test.

"The Uniting Church is committed to providing safe spaces where people are cared for, nurtured and sustained. This is just part of fulfilling that. In some respects it is helpful because it provides us with guidance, which isn't necessarily always common sense.

"We've always had a duty of care to look after people. All the new legislation has done is



Queensland Synod Risk and Insurance Manager, David Munro. Photo by Osler Lau

formalise this duty of care that is owed to all persons engaged in Uniting Church activities whether paid or voluntary."

Reorganising ourselves to satisfy this new legislation is part of being organised for mission, one of the Uniting Church in Queensland's Vision 2020 goals.

Call the Safe Work Australia Volunteer Assistance Line on

(02) 6240 4990 or visit [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au)

For more information on Work Health and Safety within the Queensland Synod contact the Synod Work Health and Safety Resource Advisor on 3377 9729 or [health.safety@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:health.safety@ucaqld.com.au) or visit the services section of [www.ucaqld.com.au](http://www.ucaqld.com.au)



The Uniting Church in Australia  
**Queensland Synod**

## UNITING COMMUNICATIONS, EDITOR (FULL-TIME. BASED IN AUCHENFLOWER, BRISBANE)

**Do you have a passion for writing, a keen eye for detail and experience in editing?** Uniting Communications is the communications team for the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod. The team is responsible for producing a monthly news-magazine, *Journey*, as well as creating and maintaining websites, social media, promotional campaigns, and internal documents for the Synod. The successful candidate will possess:

- a background in editing, journalism, marketing or similar
- the ability to work well in a small, flexible and energetic team
- an excellent knowledge of writing for new media
- an understanding of and the ability to work within the ethos of the Uniting Church in Australia

To obtain a position description contact [careers@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:careers@ucaqld.com.au) or visit [www.ucaqld.com.au/job.aspx](http://www.ucaqld.com.au/job.aspx)  
**Applications close Friday 20 April**

# Together on the way update

Lyndelle Gunton

AS we head towards Easter, there is an air of anticipation around the Synod Office.

The Easter postcards have been distributed and we are excited about the Easter Sunday call to worship video, featuring the Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds and many of our church family, that has been produced in a joyful expression in diverse and multilingual interpretations of our Easter theme: Easter is love.

The Web Migration Project is progressing steadily. The team of IT Services, together with Tara Burton from Uniting Communications and the Project Assistant, Anna Lagos, have made contact with most of the administrators linked to those websites marked for migration.

Additional sessions for WordPress training are being planned for those who are new to the platform to complement the online support forum and WordPress tutorials available.

We are also available to talk with any congregations or website administrators who are not involved in the migration project, but are interested in discussing options for website hosting within the Queensland Synod.

Please contact Anna Lagos on 3377 9747 or [Anna.Lagos@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:Anna.Lagos@ucaqld.com.au).

Work is continuing on the forthcoming Pentecost study resource, *Side by Side*. Intended to help people explore opportunities for collaborative partnerships within and between all parts of the church across Queensland, *Side by Side* seeks to provide a space for reflecting on the history of the church in the lead up to our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, ideally for use from Pentecost (27 May).

It will be available as a lift out in the *May Journey* and online at [www.together.ucaqld.com.au](http://www.together.ucaqld.com.au) under the Resources tab.

It has been an inspiring experience to hear about the many stories from across Queensland of congregations working together with others to realise their visions for mission.

It is also with great pleasure that the Synod office announces the appointment of Mardi Lumsden, Editor of *Journey* for the past 34 issues, to the role of Director, Uniting Communications.

While Ms Lumsden will still be involved in *Journey*, the next two editions will feature exciting guest editors.

Lyndelle Gunton is the  
*Together on the way,*  
*enriching community* Project  
Officer



# King's College celebrates its centenary

Sally Carson

UNITING Church University of Queensland residential college, King's College, is this year celebrating its centenary.

Master and Chief Executive, Greg Eddy, said the College had a strong history formed on the shoulders of Kingsmen over the past 100 years and it was still as relevant today as it was at its formation.

King's College was established by the Methodist conference on 1 March 1912. In 1901, the Methodist conference decided to send its candidates for Ministry to Queen's College in Melbourne. The system at Queen's of combining a theological and a university college became the

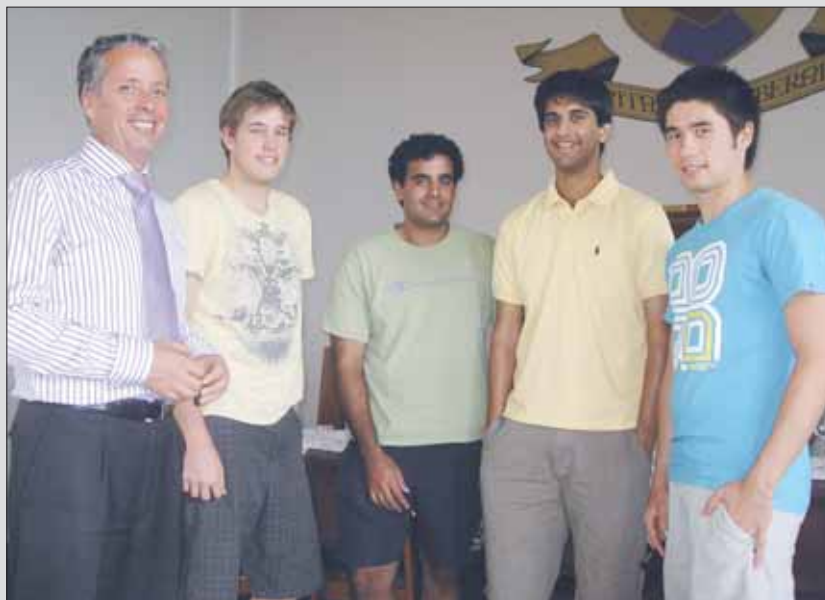
model for King's.

The first academic year was 1913 when King's College was situated at River Terrace in Kangaroo Point with 13 students. In 1955, King's relocated to the St Lucia campus of The University of Queensland.

For many years, as well as providing accommodation for university students, King's was involved in theological education. That role is now undertaken by Trinity Theological College.

This year the College is an academic residential community of 300 undergraduate and postgraduate members drawn from country and suburban areas throughout Australia and overseas.

All aspects of King's and its



King's College Master, Greg Eddy, with old collegians Jamie Stanley, Adam Pantlin, Nelson Singh and Pavneet Singh. Photo courtesy of King's College

history and achievements will be celebrated in 2012 with a program of events to suit every supporter of the College. Key events include the

Centenary Service on 29 July to be led by the Dean of Chapel, Rev Ray Herrmann, in the Quadrangle at King's College and a Centenary Brunch will be held

on Sunday 9 September.

For more information contact Sally Carson on 3871 9705 or [s.carson@kings.uq.edu.au](mailto:s.carson@kings.uq.edu.au)

# UQ and Blue Care answer call from aged-care industry

Samantha Marsh

THE University of Queensland and Blue Care have teamed up to offer an aged-care management course which will up-skill aged-care staff to help meet the growing demand for quality aged care in Australia.

The course is the first of its kind being offered in Queensland and is believed to be the second of its kind in Australia.

It was the brainchild of Blue Care's Residential Services Director, Richard Olley, who approached the University of Queensland/Blue Care Research

and Practice Development Centre and the UQ School of Nursing and Midwifery to develop and see it to fruition.

Dr Anthony Tuckett, a Senior Lecturer of the UQ School of Nursing and Midwifery, said Blue Care and the UQ School of Nursing and Midwifery were one step ahead of the Productivity Commission's recent report into aged care when, in 2010, they began to develop the tertiary course specialising in aged-care management.

"The Productivity Commission's report highlighted the need for management

courses specific to the aged-care industry, which is exactly what we are offering," Dr Tuckett said.

"With the aged-care sector in Australia expected to grow rapidly during the next 40 years, there is a crucial need to develop a skilled workforce to deliver quality aged care.

"The skills required to manage a community centre or aged care facility are very different to the skills care staff need in their day-to-day work."

Dr Tuckett said the course will bridge the gap for aspiring managers and enhance their skills so that they are equipped to

manage a facility.

"The course is also useful for current managers as it will ground them in what they are already doing and deepen their knowledge and skills in contemporary management," he said.

"The development of this course demonstrates the effectiveness of strong ties between the UQ School of Nursing and Midwifery and Blue Care, a leading provider of residential aged and community care in Australia.

"Through our link with Blue Care we have been able to ensure

the course has both theory and vocational elements giving it a strong practical focus on the day-to-day operation of an aged-care service.

"Topics covered include industry-specific financial modelling, planning and performance; service delivery theory and models, along with current and future workforce issues. This will provide graduates with the capacity to pre-empt and respond to changes as they emerge."

For more information contact the UQ School of Nursing and Midwifery on 07 3381 1165



Senior Lecturer of the UQ School of Nursing and Midwifery, Dr Anthony Tuckett. Photo courtesy of Blue Care



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# Behind Kony 2012

LAST month, the *Kony 2012* film became an internet sensation. As the film clip went viral, millions of people throughout the world were exposed for the first time to warlord and internationally wanted criminal Joseph Kony. Focussing on the plight of children kidnapped to fuel the Lord's Resistance Army, the groundswell of support for the campaign to bring Kony to justice has been matched by an equally vocal chorus of detractors. Looking past the hype and hysteria, *Crosslight* (the magazine of the Synod of Victorian and Tasmania) spoke with Professor Tim McCormack, Professor of Law at the Melbourne Law School and the Special Adviser on International Humanitarian Law to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. He appeared for the Prosecution in the presentation of closing submissions in the recent trial of Thomas Lubanga, a former rebel leader in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## Professor Tim McCormack

Like so many of my generation, I was introduced to the *KONY 2012* YouTube video by my 17-year-old son who insisted that I sit and watch all 27 minutes with him. We watched it together and again with the rest of the family.

My son knows his old man works for the Prosecutor of the ICC and we've had previous conversations about what happens on my regular visits to The Hague. But the *KONY 2012* video was a lightning rod – engendering much more earnest discussion, far more substantive questions and way more focus on what exactly it is that the old man is up to at the Court.

From a purely selfish paternal perspective, I owe the creators of the campaign a deep debt of personal gratitude for the contribution they have made to my relationship with my teenage son. All his mates watched the video and engaged in animated conversation about it in person and online. Epiphanic is how I describe the intergenerational revelation of the power of the medium to effectively communicate a message.

Irrespective of my personal experiences, the timing of the video's online release could hardly have been more propitious for the ICC. *KONY 2012* was posted just weeks before the Court finally handed down its first ever judgment – convicting the former Congolese

warlord Thomas Lubanga of multiple counts of the war crime of child soldiering.

Before the *KONY 2012* online video went viral (nearly 80 million hits when I last checked) the acronym ICC was popularly understood to be referring to the International Cricket Council. There is a new ICC on the block and it has entered popular consciousness through the efficacy of the *KONY 2012* campaign.

But are the campaign's achievements to date sufficient? The stated objective of the *KONY 2012* campaign is to pressure governments (particularly the US Congress in this Presidential election year) to ensure the warlord is arrested and transferred to The Hague by the end of this calendar year. What are the prospects?

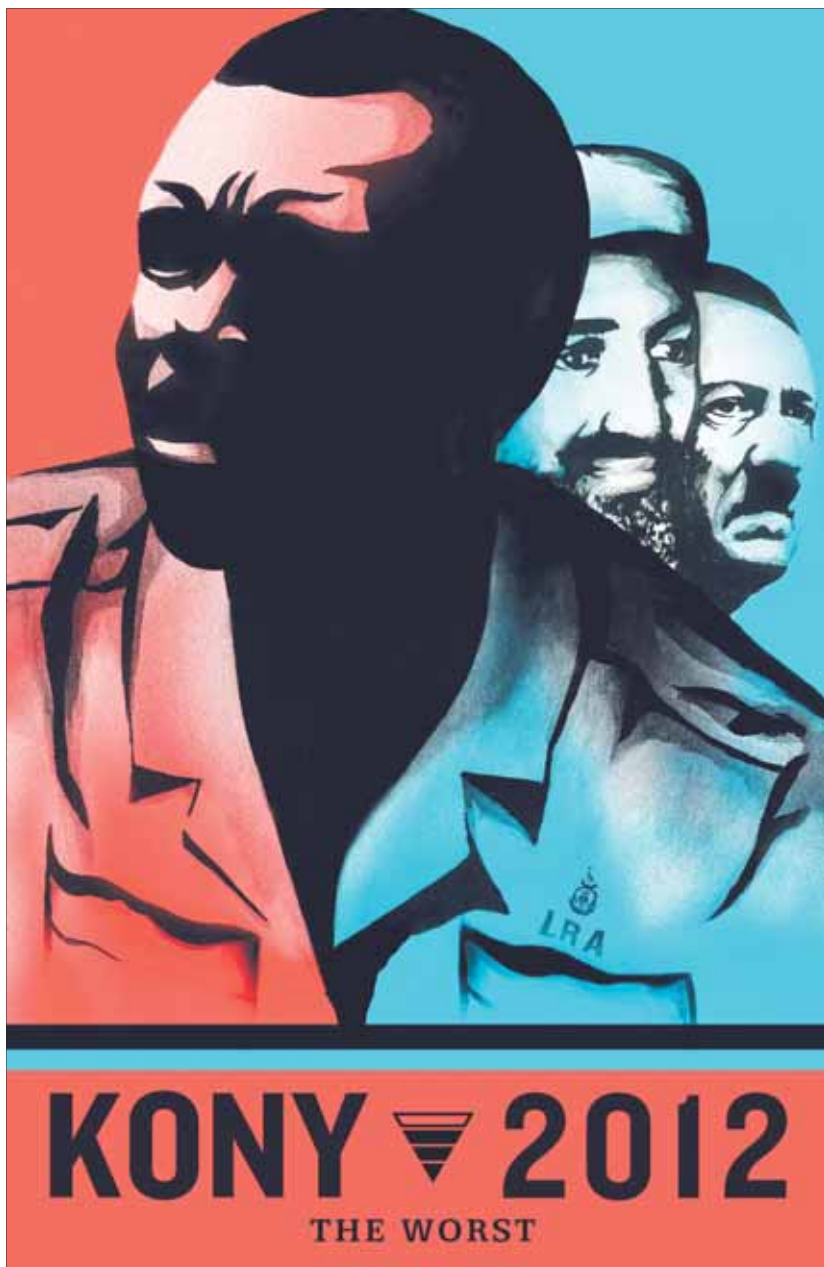
The ICC has no police force and no powers of arrest. It is entirely dependent upon the co-operation of governments, peace-keeping forces and multilateral organisations (UN, EU, AU, NATO for example), to act on court-issued arrest warrants and to transfer accused to The Hague for trial.

Despite recurrent pleadings from the Prosecutor for assistance, Kony and three others LRA deputies have been at large for seven years since the arrest warrants were issued against them in 2005. Authorities have manifestly failed to take seriously their obligations to assist the Court and I readily join the Prosecutor in hoping that the *KONY 2012* campaign has the effect of galvanising public opinion to pressure governments to take more seriously the importance of ensuring that Kony and his cronies face trial.

There are many criticisms of the *KONY 2012* video.

Many who watch only it may well assume that Kony is the only warlord wanted for trial by the ICC. That is, of course, fallacious and a great deal of supplementary popular education has followed in the campaign's broad wake – assisted in large part by the timing of the ICC's judgment against Lubanga and focus on other ICC cases.

Some have asked why the focus on Kony rather than on, for example, President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan? He is also the subject of an ICC arrest warrant for his alleged genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Darfur Region of his country.



This poster is part of the KONY 2012 action kit. Image courtesy of [www.invisiblechildren.com](http://www.invisiblechildren.com)

I am untroubled by the selection of Kony as the focus of the campaign. Invisible Children had to make a choice about which individual and which conflict to highlight and they have been engaged in Northern Uganda for many years. Why not Kony, particularly given that the campaign has provided a catalyst for much broader coverage of other ICC cases?

There are also facile critiques. One example is the suggestion that the superfluity of the campaign's information about the conflict in Northern Uganda will result in millions mistakenly believing they now understand the Northern Ugandan Conflict.

That sort of reaction to the campaign entirely misses the point. The overwhelming majority of the 80 million viewers (to date) of the video would simply not engage with a documentary on the history of the Northern Ugandan conflict. But, those 80 million viewers now know that there is a permanent international criminal court functioning in The Hague, capable of conducting fair and transparent trial proceedings against those who, in the past, would not have faced trial.

Those 80 million now also know that the Court is frustrated in its work by a lack

of determination on the part of authorities around the world to arrest wanted accused. If just a tiny percentage of those 80 million take the opportunity to launch into a process of self-discovery about the peoples of Northern Uganda – their culture, language, religion and values – the victims of Kony's atrocities, the campaign will have made an additional significant contribution.

Other criticisms of the campaign deserve much greater attention and a considered response.

Who are Invisible Children and how do they operate? What is their commitment to Northern Uganda and what projects do they operate there? How are those projects received by the local population and what contributions have the projects made? What percentage of the funds received by the organisation are spent on administrative costs and what percentage of funds raised through the *KONY 2012* campaign will be spent on projects in Northern Uganda?

Before I donate money to the campaign I would want to check out the answers to some of these questions.

But the most telling criticisms for me are the ones emanating

from the region itself. The video does not explain that the situation in Northern Uganda is no longer as it was and that the Lord's Resistance Army has had to move on into other neighbouring countries. People in Northern Uganda are reportedly trying to rebuild their lives and to move on from Kony's reign of terror and the assertion is that many of them are upset that the video does not tell their story or reflect their perspectives.

There is much talk of justice – for Kony, for the victims, for Uganda, for the international community. How do we ensure that those who have suffered most are front and centre in any campaign and in any subsequent trial proceedings? This is a genuinely serious critique and not an easy one to answer.

At the time of printing the *KONY 2012* video had had 83,734,012 views on YouTube.

Watch it at <http://youtu.be/Y4MnpzG5Sqc> or visit Invisible Children's YouTube channel.

This article is courtesy of *Crosslight* and appears in this month's edition.

To read the full article visit [www.crosslight.org.au](http://www.crosslight.org.au)



Professor Tim McCormack, Special Adviser on International Humanitarian Law to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Photo courtesy of *Crosslight*



# Journey asks: What does

## Easter is love

Mardi Lumsden

THE Uniting Church's *Statement to the Nation* in 1977 is a remarkable declaration.

If we look at it in today's context (see extract on page 1), it is still current and the public commitment to Church made 35 years ago still needs to be upheld and strived for.

The Easter is love theme is an attempt to capture the

diversity of the Uniting Church in Queensland as well as look back on the public commitments the Church has made in terms of speaking out against injustices, embracing diversity and our covenant with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

It represents the diverse nature of the Uniting Church and the formal commitment to being a Multicultural Church made at the Fourth Assembly in 1985.

Easter is a time of community and of people all over the world, from different cultures and who speak different languages, coming together as the body of Christ to celebrate the resurrection.

Uniting Communications, with the help of Paradigm Studios' Phil Johnson, has made an Easter Sunday Call to Worship video.

The video features the

Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds, as well as the people featured in this edition of Journey, and others.

It is a celebration of Easter being the culmination of God's love to the world.

Easter is community; Easter is forgiveness; Easter is love. Share it.

Download the Easter Call to Worship video at [www.ucaqld.com.au](http://www.ucaqld.com.au)

### REV DAVID WON KIM

Crossway Uniting Church,  
Holland Park



Easter means a resurrection and, according to Leviticus, it is a jubilee; the brand new and the new creation.

That is the assurance from God and the meaning of Easter for me and, I believe, the wider Korean community.

In the Korean Christian community Easter is like another New Year's Day, it is like a family reunion.

For Korean Christians it is a celebration of the life of Jesus Christ and the life that God has given unto us.

Korean folks get together and there is a huge meal! It is a celebration, that is why people bring food and that is how we celebrate and enjoy friendship and fellowship together.

Romans 5:8 says that God demonstrates his love for us through the life, passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

That is the Apostle Paul's confession and it is my confession as well. That is how we can experience the love of God; it is manufactured through Jesus Christ.

Easter is very meaningful for me because it visualises the love of God for me.

In the Easter celebration time we can invite people to come to relationships with us and eventually come to a relationship with God. Easter is an invitation.

For the last nine years all the Korean churches in the Brisbane area (about 22), regardless of denomination and commitment to their mother church, get together on Easter Sunday morning at about 5.30am. About 300-400 people get together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

That is very meaningful for me as a minister because it is ecumenical.



### GEORGIA COROWA

Churches Together Indigenous  
People's Partnership,  
Queensland Churches Together



Easter to me means remembering what Jesus did for us in our Christian faith.

It is a good time for celebration and another reason to get together with family and friends and celebrate being in love with God and everything to do with that.

I think living in this society Easter has become really commercialised and it is easy to overlook Easter and think of it as just another weekend off.

In saying that, the real meaning of Easter is very special and it should be celebrated. It is the ultimate sacrifice that Christ did for humankind.

In that way Easter is love, but to put it in today's context we really have to personalise it to what we do in our everyday lives and make it our work in our everyday lives.

It is not just about Easter, it is about your personal choice in how you choose to live your life.

And don't eat too much chocolate!

### SCOTT NEALE

Celebrating his  
first Easter as a  
Christian



Lu: It means great hope and this Christ. It's a time of reckoning as the mystery of God's unwavering love. I'll be celebrating Easter by going to church, followed by lunch with friends.

Scotty: A great time for the family to sit around the BBQ and catch up. Having a BBQ with families and friends.

Does the phrase "Easter is love" mean anything to you?

Lu: Yeah, absolutely. It's God's love for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Scotty: Sweet, yeah, it's about love. It's more about the celebration of life.

What is the benefit for the Uniting Church people from different cultural backgrounds?

Lu: Great benefits beyond our commonalities. The cultures make a family united in Christ.

Scotty: Yeah, it's great in the way we live together without killing each other. It's about ideals.

Lu, how does your Tongan-Australian ministry?

Lu: I see myself as first and foremost a minister of Jesus Christ for the world, serving the community and society at large. I'm 'in Christ' and secondly I'm Tongan. My Tongan values most certainly influence my ministry and this could be clearly seen on family, community and respect.

What can people learn from your journey that is different from them?

Lu: In short, a great deal. One of the things people who are different can offer is their journeys. It is often the case that we are given a gift of critiquing our own faith journey through which we can look out the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the handed down tradition of the Church.



# What does Easter mean to you?

## REV LU SENITULI

Bayside Uniting  
Church



hope is a gift from God in Jesus  
we come face to face with the  
commitment of love to all.  
to church in the morning to  
the extended family.  
lies to get together and also time  
up. I'll be going to church and  
friends.

*How does Easter resonate with you?*

love for the world carved out in  
Jesus Christ the Son of God.  
love but for many people, like me,  
family and getting together.

*What does the Uniting Church of embracing  
diverse backgrounds mean to you?*

comprehension. It's God's gift with  
to weave up the rich tapestry of God's

by all different people can share  
together over religion and politics or

*How does your Australian heritage impact your  
faith?*

most a minister of the Gospel of  
in a congregation, the wider  
My identity first and foremost is  
an Australian.

inform the way I carry out my  
seen in the great value I place  
on it.

*What is it like getting to know someone who  
is from a different background?*

the most powerful gifts that  
for me is stories from their faith  
other cultures offer us the great  
treasure. They offer us a gracious  
look at the way in which we live  
and how it sits with theirs and the  
Christian faith.

## REV SUBRAMANIAM MANOPAVAN (AKA MANO)

Aspley Uniting Church



In our community we grew up given the understanding  
that Easter could be even more important than  
Christmas because it is the culmination of what God  
has done.

Christmas is an extended celebration but Easter is  
a huge event in our culture. In Sri Lanka I remember  
every year we go out on the road at 5 o'clock in the  
morning and go on a procession with candles. All the  
people come out of their houses and watch us going  
past singing Easter carols. It is a remarkable event.

It is quieter in Australia compared to the way we  
celebrate in Sri Lanka, but Easter is still very important  
to us. As Tamil people we have a very special service  
on Easter Sunday. In our churches, as a minister, I  
consider it as a very important part of our Christian  
faith journey. I give a lot of thought to the service I  
lead on Easter Sunday because it really has to come  
out as a special event for the people who worship with  
us.

In my mind the Easter story is the best story you can  
ever hear. In the symbolism there is no negative; it is  
all positive. Every aspect of human life takes a positive  
side in the Easter story. Jesus appears to people in  
particular situations; he goes to particular people  
to prove the point that he was addressing every  
experience they were going through. If they were  
going through a down experience he lifted them up as  
the risen Christ.

Easter is God's love at its best.

We go through life with all sorts of negative emotions  
and feelings. So often we feel let down, disappointed,  
we feel that no one cares for us, or we are filled with  
tears. We go through that tomb experience; we are  
dead. But Easter comes and the risen Christ comes  
into our lives and lifts us up out of that hole.

That is the message of Easter for me.

I have my own contribution to make to the Church  
here. At Aspley Uniting Church I think there are  
only three families from non-English speaking  
backgrounds. It is a quite Anglo congregation. They  
are always looking for something different that I might  
say because I am from another culture. Sometimes  
they enjoy it; sometimes they wonder what I am trying  
to say. But because I have been in the Uniting Church  
for nearly 27 years it seems quite normal for me to  
just be another minister. But every now and then I say  
something about my background.

## DR JASON LECUREUX

Director of Studies – Old Testament,  
Trinity Theological College



In the States and the northern hemisphere, Easter comes  
at the end of what is generally a harsh winter so it gets  
wrapped up in this concept of new beginnings.

A lot of the time I rebel against that kind of thing because  
it gets wrapped up with the Easter bunny, but that doesn't  
mean that there isn't that concept of new beginnings  
in Christ and what that offers us: new life and the  
opportunity to start over, the joy and excitement of Christ  
bursting forth from the tomb gives hope to us all, to know  
that one day we will be with him and that death doesn't  
have the final say.

I remember when I was ministering once in Illinois, we got  
up for a sunrise service and the weather was so bad that  
we had to have the service in a high school auditorium,  
which was just about as far removed from the thought of  
Easter as you can possibly get. Here, everything is still  
green.

Theologically, Easter is the culmination and the act that  
holds Christianity and our community together. It is the act  
of love, of Christ dying for all, and the act of Christ dying  
for forgiveness and bringing us together around him.

It is interesting to think about the fact that it might be a 23  
hour flight away yet, on that same day, people in my home  
country will be participating in a ritual the same as I will  
here, the same as people will in Africa and China.

No matter where you are the resurrection is uniting  
people.

That is also seen in communion. Whenever you take  
communion you are not celebrating communion just  
with yourself or with your family or even with your local  
church, but worldwide. Those things in a sense are always  
orientating for us. There is a sense in that case, no matter  
how far you are away, you are still in some sense together  
because of Christ and because of all Christ has done.

I think there is a powerfulness in that. It is not just limited  
to Easter; it is this whole idea of being the body of Christ  
worldwide, no matter the language.

His birth changes the calendar and his resurrection gives  
impetus to this movement that changed history. What  
could very well have started out as a small belief in a little  
backwater Roman province eventually brings down the  
Emperor. That act is so significant for history that it unites  
us and in that sense it unites us not just across the world  
but across time.



# Hunting for ethical Easter eggs

Tara Burton

THE majority of the chocolate used in the eggs on sale this Easter has been produced by children who have been trafficked or forced into slave like working conditions in cocoa plantations across West Africa.

According to World Vision Australia, 70% of the cocoa beans used to make the world's chocolate comes from West Africa.

Large chocolate companies such as Nestlé, Cadbury and Ferrero have admitted that there are ethical issues surrounding the chocolate industry but most haven't demonstrated a serious commitment to bringing about social change.

South East Uniting Community minister, Rev Yvonne McRostie, is very cautious when buying products and now ensures all her purchases are Fairtrade.

When buying eggs this Easter Ms McRostie recommends Chocolatier and Cadbury's Easter Magic hollow egg.

"This year I will be purchasing Cadbury dairy milk chocolate bars (which are Fairtrade) and melting them into Easter egg moulds," she said.

Ms McRostie encouraged people who want to make a difference and are passionate about social justice issues to write to chocolate companies to push for their products to be ethically and sustainably produced.

"I'm beginning to see that

following Jesus is not always about my personal comfort, it's sometimes about my discomfort at allowing others to suffer for my pleasure.

"I believe when we connect with people and really hear their stories of suffering, we hear the message of the gospel and we trust in the Holy Spirit – transformation and a change of heart will follow," said Ms McRostie.

Easterfest Chaplaincy Coordinator, Leanne Hutton, agreed.

"We get Easter eggs every year so that chaplains are able to hand them out on Easter morning to the crew," she said.

"I checked the link on JourneyOnline which had a list of chocolate companies and whether or not they were Fairtrade.

"This year we got our Easter eggs from Darrel Lea who are Fairtrade because we don't want any gift that we give to our crew, in celebrating Jesus' death, to come on the back of someone else's pain," she said.

Ms Hutton said she would rather have fewer eggs that were Fairtrade than have a larger quantity of eggs and subsequently support human trafficking within the cocoa industry.

**"Our call to faith is also a call to be a voice for the voiceless and to be the light in the dark places."**



In her element: Easterfest Chaplaincy Coordinator, Leanne Hutton, enjoys picking up FLO-CERT certified Fairtrade Easter eggs from Darrel Lea. Photo by Holly Jewel.

"We had an option of 1000 Fairtrade eggs from Darrel Lea at one price or I could have bought 2000 eggs from another company which weren't Fairtrade for \$30 less, but at what cost?" asked Ms Hutton.

Trinity Wilston Uniting Church minister, Rev Sue Pickering, began purchasing Fairtrade products in the early 1990s.

"It doesn't take long or much research to realise that the poor are being exploited and we began purchasing Fairtrade tea, coffee, chocolate and clothing where possible," she said. "It may mean forfeiting favourites or paying a little more, but it comes down to what we want to support: justice or injustice."

As a Christian Ms Pickering feels that it is even more important to consider the ethics of consumerism.

"I believe that our faith is not simply about believing in Christ but also about action. For me it is about a way of life.

"The exploitation of children and the poor on the Cote d'Ivoire plantations will continue while there is a demand for chocolate without a demand for justice.

"As consumers we can bring about change. What is more important: the luxury of having cheap chocolate or taking a stand against abuse, exploitation and injustice?" she asked.

Ms Pickering encouraged Christians to take a stand against human trafficking this Easter.

"I believe we have a responsibility to campaign against the abuse and exploitation of the poor and vulnerable, to call for fair pay or at least safe working conditions. "We have a voice and I feel

that our call to faith is also a call to be a voice for the voiceless and to be the light in the dark places."

When shopping for Easter eggs Ms Pickering recommends Oxfam chocolates, as well as Aldi which sells a Fairtrade brand. Coles stocks Cocolo and Woolworths stocks Green and Blacks among other Fairtrade brands.

She has found an app that helps her know if what she is purchasing is ethically made.

"The Ethical Shopper app is a great way to begin thinking about the ethics of what we purchase.

"The contemporary slave trade is alive and possibly even more insidious than ever before and I think we need to begin to accept that in many ways we are part of the problem."

To find Fairtrade chocolate download the Good Chocolate Guide from [www.worldvision.com.au](http://www.worldvision.com.au)

## Penguins play a part in ministers' gathering

Nigel Tapp

AT first thought, penguins and presbytery ministers do not appear to have much in common.

But, the story of one penguin – anxious to encourage change within his colony – was one of the key themes of the National Presbytery Ministers' Conference held at Beauty Point, in Tasmania's north, in February.

The story of the penguin related to the seemingly intractable obstacles which can be thrown up by those resistant to change and the positive way such roadblocks can be overcome

to give change a chance.

In the case of the penguin it was the fact the iceberg which had been the colony's home for decades was slowly melting but no one seemed to want to listen to his desire to find a new home.

Uniting Church President Rev Alistair Macrae said the church was in a time of fundamental transition but that fitted in with the *Basis of Union* which stressed that the church was "open to constant renewal and reform" under God's word.

Mr Macrae said the church punched well above its weight in terms of its advocacy on

behalf of a broad range of people particularly Australia's first people, asylum seekers and those struggling with gambling addiction.

About 40 presbytery ministers from around Australia attended the five-day event organised by the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

One of the organisers, Scott Guyatt, said the event had been a perfect opportunity for ministers to share stories, encourage and learn from each other.

Nigel Tapp is a Senior Communications Officer with the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania



Enjoying the Tasmanian sunshine are (from left) Rev Gwen Fisher (South Moreton, Presbytery Minister), Rev Jen Pretty (Western Victoria, Vic-Tas) and Rev Brian Gilbert (Central Queensland Presbytery Minister). Photo by Nigel Tapp



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# Forming inclusive communities

Mardi Lumsden

WHEN Rev Bob Harriman, Mary Burnett Presbytery Minister and former Chaplain for UnitingCare Community (formerly Lifeline), looks at church communities he doesn't focus on who is there.

Mr Harriman is always on the lookout for the people who aren't there. It is about ensuring our churches are inclusive worship communities where different people feel that they belong.

He said inclusive worship communities "make us more fully human" and are what we are called to be as the body of Christ.

"One of the good things about the Luke 14 passage is the idea that we are called to God's table," he said. "If we imagine we are sitting around the communion table for example, the question that comes to me is who is missing from around that table? Are the people who are sitting here a reflection of the demographics of our local community?"

"That calls us then to ask what we are hoping for missionally here, and it means that if we have 20 per cent of people (in our community) who have a

disability of some kind, including mobility issues from ageing and so forth, are we accommodating those people in our faith communities?"

Mr Harriman said that by engaging with people who are different to ourselves we learn more about ourselves and become "enriching" to others.

"The sad fact of history is that we have organised ourselves into groups of likeness... but the gospel calls us to be in groups of diversity; to take the risk of engaging with people who are different to ourselves."

"Within that stretch we actually become genuine followers of Jesus."

"Because we believe in a relational God that should be foundational as to how we see ourselves in the world."

As a chaplain Mr Harriman has been part of many inclusive worship communities and events, but one event in particular stays with him.

"I was facilitating a worship experience called Worship with a Difference. A number of people with disabilities came along, as did a number of gay and lesbian people. It was an opportunity to be an inclusive



Rev Bob Harriman is passionate about creating inclusive worship communities where people of all walks of life and ability can belong. Photo by Osker Lau

worship community where the people themselves took part and contributed in any way they wanted.

"On one occasion there was a young man with Down Syndrome who decided to preside at communion. He pointed out to everybody that the table and the bread and wine weren't Bob's anymore, they were the body and blood of Christ and that was what we were going to share. He talked about the significance of Jesus giving himself for us and then he shared the bread and wine with everybody in the group."

"It was a really moving occasion and a great lesson to me. Just because you have an intellectual disability doesn't mean you don't understand what is actually happening."

"When we open ourselves up to those possibilities God can teach us things that we are not

going to learn any other way."

Mr Harriman said people are often afraid to make a mistake when it comes to getting to know marginalised people.

"We have to put aside our concern about getting it right the first time. The more difficult the communication is for us just means we need to take more time to get to know the person," he said.

"Even if people have difficulty with words they can still communicate whether they like you or not, whether they think you are listening to them or not."

"If you are not sure that you heard something properly you can always say, 'I'm sorry, I didn't understand that', or 'I think I heard you say this, is that right?' You can always check it out; it just takes a bit longer."

Mr Harriman said that the first step to ensuring a worship community is inclusive is to pray

and reflect.

"We need to have an attitude that is about love towards people rather than some sort of intellectual or social exercise or experiment."

He said by establishing real friendships with people and listening to where they are in their life's journey we are able to travel alongside people.

Mr Harriman is part of the Synod Advisory Group for Relating to People Experiencing Marginalisation which is working on developing resources to assist people.

"Very soon we will be offering workshops to help people work through how they might understand inclusive communities and how they might help to grow that."

For more information contact Bob Harriman on [ucamaryburnett@gmail.com](mailto:ucamaryburnett@gmail.com)

## Financial update April 2012

### The Uniting Church, Queensland Synod

As reported at the 29th Synod meeting last October, the Synod's financial situation is stable but still serious.

The Synod support staff manage a number of Funds that have been grouped for reporting into operating and specified (by Synod). The operating funds are Treasury (U.C.I.S.), Insurance, Raymont Lodge, Alexandra Park Conference Centre and the Mission and Service Fund. The specified funds are the Future Development Fund, the Mission Development Fund, the UC Foundation, the Home Acquisition Fund and the Synod Reserve Fund.

The major financial issues originate in the Treasury, but because of the interrelatedness of the funds all the others have been impacted in some way. The Treasury has large losses from impaired loans and the Global Financial Crisis. It has \$38 million more liabilities than assets and this deficiency is currently offset by other Synod Funds meaning that they are being diminished. This problem can only be fixed by either getting in more capital (as per the request for transfer of underutilised property) or by Treasury making surpluses. At the present rate of Treasury surpluses/deficits and property donations this could take eight years or more.

In 2009, the Treasury had used \$188million of debt to leverage investments in loans and property so that higher returns could reduce the burden on congregations to fund the Mission and Service Fund. This debt was repaid in July 2011 as a deliberate strategy of the Finance Investment and Property (FIP) Board to improve the Treasury position. Further debt requirements are forecast in late 2012 to help fund building developments in our agencies and schools. More debt will put more pressure on Treasury costs and surpluses.

As at 31 December 2011, \$6million of underutilised property had been transferred to the Synod with a further \$2million pledged. This is still far short of the original \$20million requested. There is still a long way to go.

The funding for the Mission and Service Fund has been effectively cut by 50% (or \$4million) as a direct result of the Treasury issues. It has had further income reductions due to falling interest rates on declining balances in other Funds (e.g. Synod Reserve Fund and Future Development Fund).

This means that the current funding model of the Mission and Service Fund is not sustainable and needs to change. Alternative funding models continue to be developed and the FIP Board is working on a proposal for the Synod Standing Committee. The focus needs to be on the best use of resources, both property and people.

While the whole Church is not in financial stress it is important to understand that the Treasury situation has an impact on the wider church, specifically: lower interest rates on deposits; higher interest rates on loans; and no direct support to the Mission and Service Fund.

The Uniting Church is built on the understanding that churches will continue to grow. Self-sufficiency is a milestone, not a goal. We all need to focus on reinvigorating the mission of the Church. The Synod's way of being is under review and Priority Direction C of the Church's Together on the way, enriching community journey is focused on "Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation for the Church in Queensland".

For more detailed information on this financial update, please contact Finance & Property Services on **1300 UCAQLD** or [finprop@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:finprop@ucaqld.com.au).

To read the FIP Board report to the 29th Synod visit [www.faps.ucaqld.com.au](http://www.faps.ucaqld.com.au)



The Uniting Church in Australia  
Queensland Synod





## 1 APRIL

75th anniversary of Fitzroy Parish, North Rockhampton Uniting Church. Service at 9am followed by brunch. Singing service at 7pm. Contact Stanley Tullovi on 4926 1315 or [sc\\_tui@hotmail.com](mailto:sc_tui@hotmail.com).

## 1 APRIL

Please pray for Easterfest for:

- health and strength for staff working long hours
- fine weather leading up to and during the festival
- safety of staff during bump-in and out
- lives to be impacted by the message of Easter shared throughout the whole weekend.

## 1 APRIL 2pm – 5pm

Omega Writers meeting at St Francis College, Milton. Join Christian authors to share support, inspiration and prayer. Contact Ruth Bonetti on 3375 1775 or visit [www.omegawriters.com](http://www.omegawriters.com).

## 6 – 8 APRIL

The Call, North Queensland Easter Convention in Townsville. Speakers: Sandra Sellmer, David Sylvester, Maria Moriconi. Contact Anne Harley on 4774 6089 or [anniehaha@dovenetq.net.au](mailto:anniehaha@dovenetq.net.au).

## 6 – 9 APRIL

Uniting Church Easter Family Venture Camp at Rocky Ck, Landsborough Qld. Chaplains, Rev John Woodley and Rev Len Forrest. Contact Ken Dart on 3804 0824 or [kendot@dartswitch.com.au](mailto:kendot@dartswitch.com.au).

## 11 APRIL 6pm – 7.30pm

Where is the Justice in our Justice System? Justice Place, 84 Park Rd, Woolloongabba. Speakers Ravina Waldren and Peter Arndt. Contact Jela Virzi on 3369 6792 or [admin@qct.org.au](mailto:admin@qct.org.au).

## 15 APRIL

Please pray for Park Church (Tongan congregation), 21 Hampstead Rd, Highgate Hill. We worship at 10am every Sunday. Sunday school starts 9am. Minister's contact: 3848 6990 or 0425 378 174.

Please pray for our:

- youth group as we try to work together with other youth groups
- Tuesday Bible study
- our choir and band (new band members as they practice Wed night)
- for all the lay leaders at Park Church.

## 15 APRIL 2pm – 5pm

The Dayboro Uniting Church Experience, at the Chapel, UC Centre, 60 Bayliss St, Auchenflower. How did Dayboro grow 600 per cent in 10 years when nearby churches are closing? Lay Forum activity. Bookings essential. RSVP to Paul Wildman on 3266 7570 or [paul@kalgrove.com](mailto:paul@kalgrove.com).

## 16 APRIL 5.15pm – 7pm

Brisbane Boys' College Boarding Insights - Information Night at Gips Restaurant, Russell Street, Toowoomba. RSVP to Bronwyn Mackay-Payne on (07) 3309 3545 or [admissions@bbc.qld.edu.au](mailto:admissions@bbc.qld.edu.au).

## 21 APRIL 6am – 11am

Garage Sale and Mini Mart at Broadwater Road Uniting Church, Mansfield. Contact Karen Stehbins on 0407 890 644 or [stehbos@bigpond.com](mailto:stehbos@bigpond.com).

## 21 APRIL 2pm – 4pm

Afternoon Extravaganza at Emmanuel Uniting Church, 249 South Pine Rd, Enoggera. Floral demonstration by Robert Manton illustrating Anzac Songs, music, afternoon tea and more. \$15. Contact Barbara Young on 3353 3615 or email [emmanueluca@bigpond.com](mailto:emmanueluca@bigpond.com).

## 23 APRIL 10am – 12pm

Moreton Rivers Presbytery Adult Fellowship Communion service at Kairos Uniting Church, 147 Rode Rd, Wavell Heights. Theme: Uniting with Frontier Services. The meeting will be titled 'Caring'. Contact Helen Dart on 3266 9211 or [kairosuc@bigpond.com](mailto:kairosuc@bigpond.com).

## 26 APRIL 9am - 1pm

"Mental Health Unwrapped": Luke 14 workshop at Southport Uniting Church, Scarborough St, Southport. Contact Rev Dona Spencer on 5532 5915 or [sportuc@internode.on.net](mailto:sportuc@internode.on.net).

## 29 APRIL

Please pray for Sunnybank Uniting Church. Mission: Connecting people to God and each other.

Please pray for:

- our growing before and after school childcare and vacation care. Please pray for the children, parents, families and staff and the congregation who intentionally engage and support this ministry
- our home groups free fortnightly BBQ at a local caravan park. Please pray for more opportunities and deeper relationships with residents
- cross cultural evangelistic ministry, networks and assistance to international uni students
- our youth group and growing Kids Alive ministry as more leadership is required.

## 29 APRIL 2pm - 4pm

Cool and Classic Concert Series at Kenmore Uniting Church, 982 Moggill Rd. Season tickets \$65/\$50. Contact Val Schuntner on 3378 5229 or [kenmore@dovenetq.net.au](mailto:kenmore@dovenetq.net.au).

## 4 MAY – 6 MAY

Celebrating 100 years of faith and witness in the Burdekin. A weekend of celebrations. For details contact Naomi Edwards on 4783 2251 or email [burdekinucadmin@bigpond.com](mailto:burdekinucadmin@bigpond.com).

## 5 MAY

Elanora Uniting Church Art Show, 17 Applecross Way, Elanora. Feature theme: Our Country of Contrasts. Various events. Contact Dianne Malimonenko on 5522 5102, Janette Cope on 5599 2348, visit [www.elanorauniting.com.au](http://www.elanorauniting.com.au) or email [church@elanorauniting.com.au](mailto:church@elanorauniting.com.au).

Upload your What's On entries at [www.journeyonline.com.au](http://www.journeyonline.com.au)  
Items may be shortened due to space limitations.



Former *Journey* staff writer, Phil Smith, was commissioned as a lay preacher in March. Mr Smith is a Campus Minister at Unity College, a Catholic/Uniting Church school on the Sunshine Coast. Photo by Barbara Peel

# Uniting Church speaks out on Close the Gap Day

Amy Goodhew

ON Close the Gap Day, 22 March, the Uniting Church in Australia acknowledged that there is significant work to be done in overcoming the disadvantage facing many Indigenous Australians.

Uniting Church President, Rev Alistair Macrae, expressed anger over the persistent disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

"With a life expectancy gap of around ten years, infant mortality rates three times higher than the national average, and grossly disproportionate incarceration rates, we have failed the First Peoples of this land," he said.

"But today must be about more than the horrific statistics. There are critical social issues that we can't keep on ignoring," said Mr Macrae.

"Poor housing, inadequate health services, failed education policies and a lack of meaningful employment represent a top-down approach by our Government that simply does not work."

Chairperson of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander

Christian Congress, Rev Ken Sumner said, "We need to be thinking about ways to close the gap on every day of the year, not just today. This means long-term commitments, adequate financing of programs and bipartisan support to address the issues."

Mr Sumner said that 2012 could be a watershed year for Australians.

"We have the opportunity to make a difference. The recent groundswell of support for the campaign against the Stronger Futures legislation shows that tens of thousands want to reset the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians."

Mr Macrae said, "The theme of this year's Close the Gap Day is Power through Partnership. Unless our Indigenous brothers and sisters are empowered to make the decisions that impact their lives and their communities, then we will never see the changes we want and need materialise."

"This is the meaning of genuine partnership and it is the only way to end the disadvantage faced by so many."



Rev Alistair Macrae with Rev Ken Sumner. Photo courtesy of Crosslight



# God's Love in Action: Pastoral care for everyone

By Jill McGilvray, Acorn Press, 2009, RRP \$21.95

Reviewed by Rev Dr Noel Park, minister-in-association with Nambour Uniting Church.

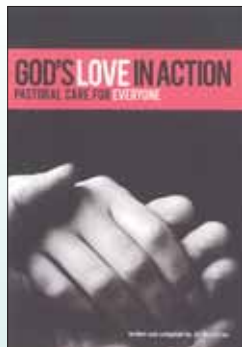
BOTH ministers and lay people come across many difficult pastoral concerns. Historically there have been varied ideas about how to respond to people in need. Some ideas have been most helpful while others have been more about the needs of the carers than those for whom they claim to care.

In the contemporary church there is often more concern with numbers than with individuals. In that sense Jill McGilvray brings a renewed emphasis on the caring role of individual

Christians for their fellow individual Christians.

*God's Love in Action* is written in a way which can be used for individual reading or for group consideration with equal validity. There is a degree of confusion regarding what the author really means by pastoral care and the introduction of the term "lay pastoring" adds room for further confusion given the ways in which that term is already being used.

At the end of this book there is a list of support agencies. However the list really needs expansion by giving some



indication of the sort of help which may be obtained and looking at a wider range of agencies and resources.

Despite any qualifications *God's Love in Action* provides a resource which many would find both encouraging and educational.

The pitfalls signalled for pastoral carers are timely and important. The principles espoused by the author could well be adopted in most congregations with valuable outcomes.

## Facing East Praying West

By Kent Ira Groff, Paulist Press, 2010, RRP \$21.95

Reviewed by Julie Price, chaplain at Raymont Lodge Residential College and member of The Gap Uniting Church, who has a particular interest in using the arts in prayer and reflection.

THIS book is full of succinct reflective poems on Ignation related to the Ignation exercises (Ignatius of Loyola, a 15th–16th century Catholic leader at the time of the counter reformation).

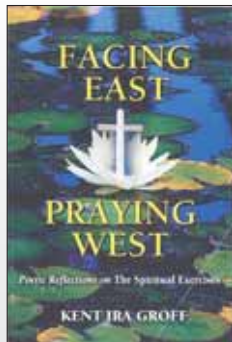
I love this book. I have been compelled to memorise some of the phrases. I found myself thinking through the phrases during the day. I love the way that he can play with words and hold such meaning, for example, the small poem on prayer.

The 87 pages cover a four-week reading schedule. About 80 short reflections grouped

in sections like Creation, Incarnation, Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

The pages are well set out and it is easy to re-find a particular poem. The poem on the Eucharist is written in the shape of a wine glass. The chant written by the author at the end of the book does not really work well. It could have been left out.

Each of the groupings and exercises involves praying with scriptures and encourages our imagination and our intellect. Even if you are not familiar with the Ignation exercises it is a valuable resource. It certainly encourages a response as you



read and re-read a poem.

Kent Groff is a retreat director and has taught the contemplative life by reflections on the Ignations spiritual exercises in all denominations for over two decades.

## The Sound of Silence: Journeys through miscarriage

Edited by Irma Gold, Mostly for Mothers, 2011, RRP \$24.95

Reviewed by Rev Jennifer Roberts, minister with South Rockhampton Uniting Church.

IN her book, *The Sound of Silence: Journeys through miscarriage*, Irma Gold shares the painful and traumatic stories of 22 women and their journey through pregnancy loss.

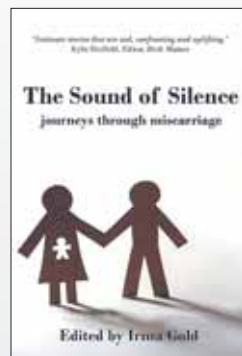
Written in their own words, each story is one woman's personal and raw account of her experience, feelings, thoughts, physical suffering, along with accounts of other people's responses to her plight – both helpful and unhelpful.

This book is by no means easy or pleasant reading – it is a no holds barred emotional and very real account of what women and their partners suffer when a pregnancy is lost.

Ms Gold's book lifts the cone of silence that surrounds miscarriage and allows the voices and stories of these women to resound a clear message that pregnancy loss and miscarriage are not taboo topics that should only ever be spoken about in hushed whispers behind closed doors.

Rather, *The Sound of Silence* highlights the need for both the pregnancy and the lost child to be recognised and for support to be offered as parents grieve not only the loss of their child but the loss of the hopes and dreams that were associated with their baby.

Having suffered multiple mid-term pregnancy losses



along with the subsequent avoidance and/or dismissal that many people convey toward the subject, I believe Ms Gold's book to be a timely presentation.

It provides a solid voice on this subject, along with food for thought for the church as it considers how it might better support and care for parents moving through the difficult, painful, and often confusing journey of pregnancy loss.

*The Sound of Silence* should live on the bookcases of ministers, churches, chaplains and other caregivers, waiting to be placed into the hands of a woman who needs to know that she is not alone, that there is indeed a sisterhood of women who offer support (even if only in spirit); that her doubts, insecurities, fear and anxiety are normal and will improve over time; and that there are support groups that offer a listening ear.

## At Heaven's Gate: Reflections on leading worship

By Richard Giles, Canterbury Press, 2010, RRP \$26.95

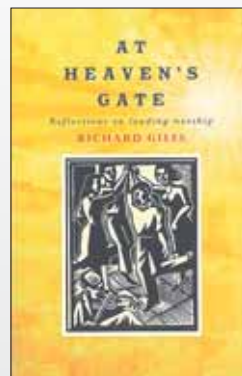
Reviewed by Barbara Bailey.

THIS volume is a timely reminder of the privilege, responsibility and transformation possible through the journey of worship for pastors, while leading the congregant in the knowledge that their expectancy and participation are what forms an authentic worshipping community.

The Very Reverend Richard Giles, former Dean of Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, USA, has written many books on worship, believing good leadership and a cohesive worshipping community reach a place where there is a blurring of the boundaries between heaven and earth.

He states those who gather are, "A holy people who have been charged with the energy of God and irradiated with God's light".

He is extremely practical and touches issues such as calendars beginning with Monday being a hindrance to our thoughts, pastors needing to be sensitive change agents, the engagement of the arts in worship and the need for worship to be able to delight



children of all ages.

He exhorts his readers to be like the sunflower, always facing the sun, being prepared for transformation.

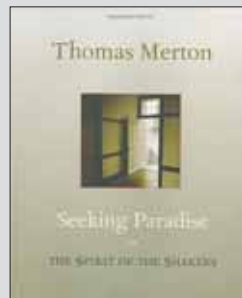
The timelessness of the Gospel message, the role of music, the use of silence, and hospitality are all included in his reflection. He makes the claim that first time visitors will be influenced mainly by the welcome they receive and the quality of the music.

*At Heaven's Gate* is easy to read, thought-provoking and informative. Highly recommended.

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

### Seeking Paradise: The Spirit of the Shakers

By Thomas Merton, Orbis, 2003, RRP \$20



### Love One Another: The Wedding Collection

Compilation CD, World Library Publications, 2010, RRP \$31.95



### Fantome Island

By Kathy Gibson  
Illustrated with artwork by Jack Bell and with historic photos from the author's private collection, Black Ink Press, 2010 RRP \$15



## 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>.



# Biloela community blooming

YOUNG clients and some staff of Blue Care Callide Valley Community Care have been busy learning the skills needed to keep young native trees alive and thriving. The majority of trees are common to the Central Queensland area.

Recently, the Callide Valley Community Nursery was relocated to the Blue Care grounds in Biloela when a band of volunteers from Rotary, assisted by Blue Care and Uniting Church volunteers, transferred approximately 3000 young trees in a few hours.

The decision to relocate the nursery follows on from a workshop late last year attended by Pastor Donna Muston, Banana Shire Council and Community Nursery representatives.

The aim of the workshop was to gauge interest and brainstorm

ideas which would allow the nursery to continue to function as a viable project in Biloela.

Callide Valley Blue Care service manager, Debra Boon, and Ms Muston realised the potential of the nursery as a means by which clients, particularly young people with disabilities, might engage with the community and develop horticultural skills.

The nursery will provide benefits to many clients, re-awakening gardening skills without the commitment of daily caring for a garden.

The Biloela Rotary Club also provided financial assistance towards the relocation, with the generous donation of a tank, pump, landscaping, and plumbing works.

Club President, Graham Barnes, said that the continuation of the tree nursery

was a great community project.

Over the years Lindsay Daniels and his wife, Hamidan, tirelessly tended the trees, propagating, watering, and selling the tree stock. He continues to have input into the nursery, teaching and passing on valuable skills and knowledge.

Not only is it an exciting new venture, in its own way, the nursery is helping to renew and recreate. Skills once thought lost or no longer required are being brought to the surface, bodies and minds are being nurtured too when working in the peaceful atmosphere.

The nursery has brought many sections of the community together, tackling challenges and working out solutions.

To donate trees or for more information contact Callide Valley Blue Care on 4992 2481



Rohan Angers, Caroline Perkins and Malcolm Nowland tend to plants. Photo by Donna Muston



## Easter TV drama tells modern story

CHRISTIAN Television Australia's Easter special *An Innocent Man?* will air on the Seven Network at 3pm on Good Friday (6 April).

The TV drama looks at the Easter story in a modern-day context.

Produced by Melbourne based production company, Australian Christian Multimedia, *An Innocent Man?* brings a sense of freshness to the age-old story.

The events of the Easter story are retold through television interviews with the story's main characters.

Melbourne producer, Phil Smith, received special permission to film inside Victoria's Parliament House for key dramatic scenes for the program.

Australian Christian Multimedia was the winner of the Christian Television Australia (CTA) Program Development Prize which was set up to encourage new producers to create compelling Christian programming.

CTA's CEO, Martin Johnson, said they had over 20 applications from producers around Australia.

"We chose *An Innocent Man?* because its dramatic structure was quite different to other programs CTA had produced.

"Re-telling the Easter story using modern-day television interview techniques really works and we are very excited at the final result," he said.

Melbourne-based actors play key roles and local production company Orsino Media shot and edited the program.

Producer, Mr Smith, said CTA have had a long connection with the 7 network.

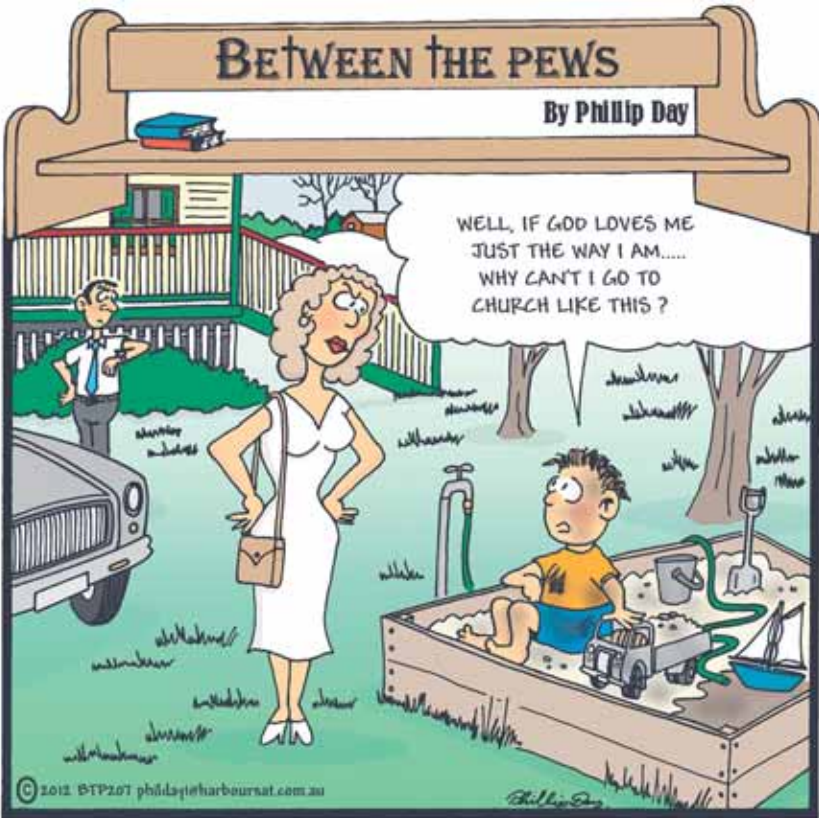
"We thank them for opening this opportunity up to other creative people," he said.

It also airs on the Australian Christian Channel at 11am and 9.30pm on Easter Sunday, 8 April.

For more information or to see a preview visit [www.christiantelevision.org.au](http://www.christiantelevision.org.au)



A scene from *An Innocent Man?* Photo courtesy of Australian Christian Multimedia



Every opportunity,  
everything he can be.

**BBC OPEN DAY**  
SUNDAY 27 MAY, 1 - 4PM

A school of the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association

**BRISBANE BOYS' COLLEGE**



# Enjoying *Journey*

I think that column [What's On / Prayer Diary] which allows congregations and others to mention/advertise coming events is a good and useful spot.


Not only does it let interested people know what is coming on, but it spreads good ideas around. Seeing the sorts of things other congregations are doing could sow useful seeds to try something similar in another place.

It must be hard to juggle the content. I would much

rather read articles about activities and projects, rather than theological discourses by church academics. But no doubt, there are others with the opposite view.

I can only say that from my perspective, I peruse the whole publication these days, and probably read better than 75% of content. That is much more than I would have read even five years ago.

Geoff Payne  
Fernvale



## Think *Journey* themes when voting

BY the time this issue reaches the pews we will be half way through our 'autumn of elections'. I am glad that there has been no 'direct' election coverage in our *Journey* – there has been more than enough on our TVs and in our newspapers!


However I am grateful that you have been giving us plenty to think about and against which we can measure the policies we are offered.

In the last two months you have addressed education,

community, belonging and reconciliation, each of which is an issue of interest and concern to people of faith.

Perhaps we will now examine policies relating to our schools and to the support of all members of our community more critically, looking past the flags of party and leader.

Bob Warrick  
Brisbane City



Send your letters to [journey@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:journey@ucaqld.com.au) or *Journey* GPO Box 674, Brisbane QLD 4001.

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

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Accommodation

**Holiday unit**, modern, pool. 100m from Kings Beach Caloundra from \$390/wk. Ph Ray 04279 90161.

**London B & B.** Lovely home, reasonable rates. Ph 0011442086946538. [rachel@brockleybandb.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:rachel@brockleybandb.fsnet.co.uk)

**Boulder Creek Holiday Centre**- 281 Hill Rd, Mothar Mountain, via Gympie- the ideal place for your next Church or Family group camp. Catered accommodation for up to 100 persons. Self cater available for small groups. Check [www.bouldercreek.com.au](http://www.bouldercreek.com.au) for more information or ph 5483 5221.

Email your classified advertisements to [journey@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:journey@ucaqld.com.au)

## National Day of Thanksgiving 2012

THE National Day of Thanksgiving will be held on Saturday 26 May this year.

The Day is an opportunity for churches and Christian organisations across Australia to connect with people in their local communities who don't normally go to church.

In 2012 the National Day of Thanksgiving will be thanking and honouring those in local government, from elected Councillors, office management and personnel, as well as outdoor staff and those contracted by councils to do things such as rubbish collection, and road



People of all ages get involved in National Day of Thanksgiving activities. Photo by The Australian Prayer Network

## Find Uniting Church Queensland on Facebook



## Facebook comments

### What did you do for World Day of Prayer?

Emerald UC is hosting it here. I have ransacked my batik fabric stash to be used to decorate our church. I am wearing the traditional Malay style dress that I bought 5 years ago.

Phillipa Core

Ashmore UC joined with local Anglicans, Catholics, Southport UC and Salvation Army to participate in a very moving "let justice prevail" service. Our guest preacher was one of the female salvo chaplains. She was challenging and entertaining at the same time. It was very informative and the women of Malaysia did a wonderful job in preparing the liturgy.

Brad Foote

### Did you help on Clean Up Australia Day?

Our Girls' and Boys' brigade company from Caboolture UC cleaned up our little part of Australia at the local lakes. We had a fantastic turnout so it only took us about an hour.

Jeanette Harris

Yep. Our amazing St Paul's congregation cleaned up and then worshipped in the park.

Colleen Geyer

A disabled client and myself spent 65 minutes picking up two shopping bags of rubbish in a grassed laneway behind where he lives. Plastic bottles, fast food wrappers, plastic bags, bits of broken glass and rusty metal.

James Hunter

### *Side by Side* study resource

A much more positive read that some of the election rubbish that's out there at the moment. I'm look forward to this series.

Graham Slaughter

### Phil Smith's induction

Not a moment too soon. Phil Smith is a wonderful blessing to our church community, so great to see his gifts being recognised.

Neil Storey

### Favourite quotes

In the battle between the rock and the stream, the stream always wins, not through strength but perseverance.

Tim Griggs

Live simply so all may simply live.

Andy King

"When Catholicism goes bad it becomes the world-old, world-wide religion of amulets and holy places and priest craft; Protestantism, in its corresponding decay, becomes a vague mist of ethical platitudes."

C.S. Lewis

Warwick Jensen

Login and have your say now!

## Somerville welcomes new Head of Boarding

THIS year Somerville House boarders have welcomed a new Head of Boarding, Pamela Hodgetts, following the retirement of Alayne McDougall.

Ms Hodgetts is not new to Somerville House, having been a Somerville House student and Boarding Mistress, and has more than 25 years of boarding experience in both girls' and boys' schools, including Head of Boarding at another Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) girls' school.

While attending Somerville House as a day student, Ms

Hodgetts appreciated the pivotal role boarders played in the life and traditions of the school.

"Students in schools are often referred to as the heartbeat, but I often feel that boarders are the pulse. They add such vibrancy," Ms Hodgetts said.

"Boarders keep the traditions. They are the ones who know every nook and cranny, and often have very different and sometimes stronger memories of their days at Somerville House as their home for such important years of their lives," she said.

"Through the years I have learnt that working in boarding and looking after young people who have been entrusted to us by their parents, is an absolute privilege and one that must not be taken lightly," she said.

Somerville House Principal,

Florence Kearney, shares Ms Hodgetts' commitment and approach to boarding.

"My approach to boarding is about providing a safe, supportive, nurturing environment for our girls, which resembles that which parents would provide in their own homes," Ms Kearney said.

This strong commitment to girls' education, academic excellence and to Christian leadership and pastoral care aligns closely with the mission of Somerville House.

Somerville House is a Prep to Year 12 PMSA girls' school in South Brisbane with boarding available from Years seven to 12.

For more information visit [www.somerville.qld.edu.au](http://www.somerville.qld.edu.au) or email [dev-office@somerville.qld.edu.au](mailto:dev-office@somerville.qld.edu.au)



Somerville House Head of Boarding, Pamela Hodgetts. Photo by Greg Gardner

# LOVE

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m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Now take a bite and what do you notice?  
Just as in the Easter story when they  
opened the tomb Jesus' body was not  
there!

**ALEX GOW**  
**FUNERALS**  
100% Australian-owned family company