

April 2013

journeyonline.com.au

Journey



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

CALL OF DUTY

GLOBAL VILLAGE

Christians mobilise
against poverty

DISCIPLES FOR A HURTING WORLD

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

Director of Studies In Systematic Theology (re-advertised)

Trinity College invites applications from suitably qualified people, lay and ordained, for the above position. The Uniting Church is committed to being thoroughly inclusive and so encourages applications from both women and men and from those within the culturally and linguistically diverse communities that are an integral part of the contemporary church.

The Queensland Synod wishes to make an appointment to the above position from 1 July 2013. However, a later starting date can be negotiated if necessary. The Synod reserves to itself the right to make all decisions with regard to the appointment. Trinity College is the Uniting Church in Australia's theological college in Queensland, with responsibilities for training for ordained and lay ministries.

The College's formation program contains academic, field and integrative components. Its core academic program is taught within the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy of the Australian Catholic University (ACU) within the parameters of an Affiliation between ACU and the UCA (Qld Synod).

The person appointed would be expected to participate in the preparation of students for a variety of ordained and lay ministries, and in the preparation of students for Degrees and Diplomas at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Appropriate qualifications and teaching experience in systematic theology are essential. A demonstrated capacity to actively participate in the personal, pastoral and spiritual formation of candidates for ministry is vital. An interdisciplinary approach to teaching is encouraged.

Enquiries should be made to the General Secretary of the Queensland Synod, GPO Box 674, Brisbane Qld 4001, or by email to genssec@ucaqld.com.au and applications should be lodged by 4 pm on Friday 26 April 2013.



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD



Be amongst the first to engage in deepening your faith through online learning at Pilgrim!

Wherever it doesn't matter where you live as long as you have a computer and internet

Whatever choose from a range of study options to deepen your faith and your understanding of the Bible, theology, and leadership in the UCA

Whoever young or old, new to study or an 'old hand'; you set the pace and Pilgrim provides the guidance

Pilgrim Learning Community offers accessible, affordable courses designed to give lay people a broader and deeper understanding of the basis of the Christian faith from a Uniting Church perspective.

Sign up now to participate in our online learning program, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Enrolling from 1 May 2013.



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD



P: 07 3377 9724 | E: pilgrim@ucaqld.com.au | pilgrim.com.au

The SCOTS PGC College

Boarding@SCOTS



Boarding@PGC



Separate boarding campuses for girls and boys

Junior P-4, Middle 5-8, and Senior 9-12 Schools

Warwick Q. T. 07 4666 9811 | www.scotspgc.qld.edu.au

space to learn

Don't let the banks bury you

While the multi-national corporates and their big bank shareholders try to take over Australia's funeral industry, our members are proud to stand their ground and continue to be family-owned, so that we only ever answer to our local community.

Discover the benefits that only
family-ownership can deliver.

familyowned.com.au



FAMILY-OWNED
FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOC
Putting you first

Minister of the Word

Brisbane Taiwanese Uniting Church



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

The Brisbane Taiwanese Congregation is a diverse congregation filled with people of all ages ranging from kindergarten through to active seniors, located in the south side of Brisbane.

We are committed to reaching into the local community, and proclaiming the word of God in Taiwanese, Mandarin and English.

We are seeking to appoint a Minister of the Word for a 5-year term, to:

- Lead and pastor our congregation;
- Train, resource and develop new leaders;
- Lead outreach into the community; and
- Resource the young adult ministry.

Applicants must be prepared to work within the polity and ethos of the Uniting Church in Australia as described in the Basis of Union. The successful applicant will be required to

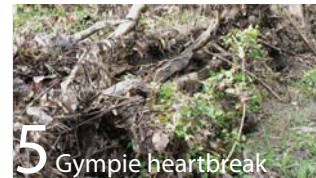
apply for a suitability to work with children check. A person who is prohibited from working with children will not be considered for this role.

Also, the successful applicant will need to obtain a religious workers visa to offer ministry in Australia. The Uniting Church will assist in this process. Please email us if you need the template for your resume.

For further information and to make an application, please contact:

Chairperson JNC Brisbane Taiwanese Congregation
C/- Secretary of Synod Placements Committee
Uniting Church in Australia (Qld Synod)
GPO Box 674 BRISBANE QLD 4001
Ph: + 61 7 33779822
E: john.cox@ucaqld.com.au
Applications close: 15 May 2013

What's inside >>



5 Gympie heartbreak



6 It's a global village



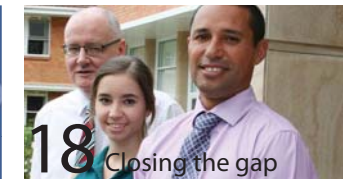
10 Christians and Muslims



13 Gold Coast outreach



14 50 years of Lifeline



18 Closing the gap

4 Brokers of peace
Moderator's message

7 Election 2013
Christians mobilise against poverty

8 The right to work
Uniting Church speaks out for asylum seekers

9 Fashioning disciples
We are all works in progress

11 Call of duty
The chaplaincy journey

12 Proserpine project
Ticking all the boxes for mission

Journey

Cover photo: Rev John Dansie
by Christine Coupland

journeyonline.com.au

facebook.com/JourneyOnline

twitter.com/Journeyonlineuc

youtube.com/JourneyTelevision

Subscribe to receive *Journey* in your inbox

Synchronise stories to your blog reader

Editor-in-chief: Mardi Lumsden
Acting Editor: Dianne Jensen
Design: Holly Jewell
Advertising: Tara Burton
Publisher: The Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod
Printing: Horton Media Limited, Narangba

Contact: Uniting Communications
The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod,
60 Bayliss Street, Auchenflower QLD,
GPO Box 674, Brisbane QLD 4001,
Ph: (07) 3377 9910 | E: journey@ucaqld.com.au
F: (07) 3377 9717 | journey.ucaqld.com.au

ISSN: 0817-4466. Circulation: 14 500. *Journey* is published 11 times a year for the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia. Opinions expressed in *Journey* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the policies of the Uniting Church. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement; inclusion of advertising material is at the discretion of the publisher. *Journey* cannot guarantee the publication and/or return of submissions but makes every effort to do so if requested.

Closing date for editorial and advertising for April *Journey* is Monday 15 April. The next issue of *Journey* will be available on Sunday 5 May.



Living in the service of others

One of the things I love about the Uniting Church is the long-standing commitment of its members to support the marginalised and to work for peace and justice. These values are woven into the fabric of the Uniting Church in Australia.

We see this in the formation of services like Lifeline, which celebrated 50 years in March (page 14). After a phone conversation between Rev Dr Sir Alan Walker and a distressed man (who later took his own life), Dr Walker was determined not to let isolation and lack of support be the cause of more deaths. The 24-hour crisis support line he started now answers around 1250 calls each day.

The commitment to others leads Uniting Church people to all kinds of places and experiences. From our chaplains serving in the Defence Force (pages 10 and 11), to the Church speaking out for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers (page 8), to educating young people on global issues (page 6), we serve others.

Shae Godfrey's April artwork in the Synod calendar is a wonderful reflection of the joy and vibrancy that happens when people live their life to the fullest in the service of others. Every colour and texture explodes off the page.

This month we remember two people whose fully lived lives have recently ended. Rev Ellis Bramley, a retired Uniting Church minister, passed away in March at the age of 101. Ordained for over 70 years, he certainly lived for others.

And in the *Journey* office we mourn the loss of one of our incredible volunteers. Sue Black has been assisting in the mailing of *Journey*, among other things, for many years. If you receive *Journey* in an envelope, chances are that Sue put it there while chatting and enjoying a cup of tea with us.

May the examples of the lives of these two faithful people continue to inspire us all.

Mardi Lumsden
Editor-in-chief



How welcome are those who bring peace

I visited Alex a few times after I had conducted his wife's funeral. He recalled being in school one hot afternoon in Rockhampton when a man came running through the grounds announcing, "The war is over! The war is over!" The man continued on his way, jumping over fences and running through back yards to let everyone know that the long dark night was over.

That was the Second World War, the one that followed the "war to end all wars".

From time to time I have sat in churches and read through the names on the honour rolls and looked at the stained-glass windows dedicated to the memory of the fallen.

Across Queensland there are all kinds of memorials — cenotaphs, community halls, churches, swimming pools and on the road between Brooweena and Woolooga, a bridge. These constructions were small compensation to the communities that had farewelled their men yet they did serve as a reminder of the shocking loss and futility of war.

By the time the Uniting Church was formed in 1977 Australia had grown weary of military solutions to conflict. In our *Statement to the Nation* we announced:

"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 1983 the Third Assembly passed a resolution on militarism and disarmament which began by acknowledging the crucified and risen Christ's call to Christians to be peacemakers; to save life, to heal and to love their neighbours. The testing of nuclear weapons at that time plus the threat of nuclear war contributed to a deep concern about the potential for catastrophe.

Uniting Church members were urged to become educated about these issues and to participate in study groups to discuss alternative means for settling disputes.

Each time the Church made such resolutions it expressed support for the work of Defence Force chaplains and the men and women in the Defence Force. As an Army Reserve chaplain I am proud to have been part of the history of the Royal Australian Army Chaplains Department but I suspect that at times military chaplains have walked a lonely path to do their duty. Perhaps this is even more acute for those active Christians who have chosen a military career.

Whenever I sing the chorus based on Isaiah 52:7, about how welcome are the feet of those who bring good news and announce peace, I think of Alex, and I remember the relief of his community when the war was over.

I wonder how, as disciples of Jesus, we might equip ourselves to become brokers of peace in our families, our nation and even to the ends of the earth.

Rev Kaye Ronalds
Queensland Synod Moderator



Monday Midday Prayer

Crucified and risen Christ, teach us to be bearers of hope and brokers of reconciliation, so that love and peace may come together and justice and peace join hands.

Amen

Moderator's diary

April 10
Heads of Churches meeting

April 12
Preaching at UCC Prison Ministry Annual Conference Church Service

April 13 – 14
Queensland Churches Together AGM

April 20 – 21
Partners in Ministry Retreat

April 23 – 26
Trans-Tasman Moderators' Gathering



Property damage at Gympie after the devastating floods earlier this year.
Photos: Linda Watt and David Gibson

Heartbreak continues for Gympie residents after record floods

Uniting Church minister **Dave Thomas** reports from the Gympie region, which is still counting the cost of five floods in two years.

I remember last year saying somewhat jokingly about coming to Gympie that I should seek a boat as part of the placement. Since arriving I have seen, heard, and smelt first-hand the absolute nightmare of three floods within a space of five weeks earlier this year.

The church building itself is fine, as is all other church property (unlike others north of here), but the real stress is in the people's livelihood.

In sharing with some of the resilient locals, I learnt that we experienced two and almost three 100-year-floods in a matter of weeks.

The recovery process is still underway for a number of businesses in the main street. For many of our farmers, the huge task of mending fences and carting away debris, in some cases losing livestock and produce, has been heartbreaking. One of our church family members in the Mary Valley commented that it is "the worst fence damage we've had, with debris higher and more fences gone, since I've been here."

Cr Ron Dyne, Mayor of Gympie Regional Council, says that the two floods have impacted on council infrastructure to the tune of \$50 million for the 26 January flood and \$25 million for the 26 February flood.

"Five floods in two years, four in one year and two in one month have stretched the resourcefulness, patience, resilience and morale of all residents," says Cr Dyne.

The February flood wreaked havoc on emergency repairs which were in place following the 2012 flood. The community was effectively divided during the floods, with residents of the south side isolated from the town.

The local football club is struggling after having spent \$50 000 on repairs after the first flood, only to have it all demolished by the second flood. This story is repeated time and time again.

The people are resilient, and certainly those in town have their recovery processes well-rehearsed.

Nevertheless, the pain is there. The journey continues.

Rev Dave Thomas
Gympie Uniting Church

“For many of our farmers, the huge task of mending fences and carting away debris, in some cases losing livestock and produce, has been heartbreaking”

Dave Thomas



SCHOOL FOR DISCERNING PARENTS

Sunshine Coast Grammar School
Co-educational day school Prep to Year 12
(07) 5445 4444 www.scgsg.qld.edu.au

Clayfield College
Girls: Prep to Year 12 Boarding: Girls from Year 5
Boys: Prep to Year 5
(07) 3262 0262 www.clayfield.qld.edu.au

Brisbane Boys' College
Boys: Prep to Year 12 Boarding: Years 5 to 12
(07) 3309 3500 www.bbc.qld.edu.au

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

Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association www.pmsa-schools.edu.au
A ministry of the Uniting and Presbyterian Churches, providing excellence in education in a Christian and caring environment.

Welcome to the global village

Advocating for global justice starts with one person, one family and one community, as secondary students discovered at the *One World, WonTok* Poverty and Development Youth Conference. **Dianne Jensen** reports.



Allich (St Margaret's School, Brisbane) Emile (St John's Anglican College, Forest Lake) and Kyle (Unity College, Caloundra) work together on an interactive activity at the *One World, WonTok* Youth Conference on Poverty and Development in Brisbane. **Photo:** Holly Jewell

**"On no, my crops died!"
"We'll have to sell something!"**

Students gathered around the laptop at the *One World, WonTok* Poverty and Development Youth Conference had just realised that pests, lack of rain and random disasters had wiped out their online crops.

The computer simulation is an interactive learning activity about subsistence farming based on Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1: *Eradicate extreme poverty*.

The conference was held at St Margaret's School, Brisbane on 7 March by UnitingWorld, in partnership with the Anglican Board of Mission, for Uniting Church and Anglican secondary school students. *WonTok* is a Melanesian word which intimates a shared family, community, language, history and future.

Similar conferences were held in Sydney, Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne.

Now in its second year, the event is designed to help students identify and think through global poverty and development challenges using the MDGs as a guiding framework. They include hands-on activities such as simulation games, discussions and a panel with experts in the field.

At another activity station (MDG 7: *Ensure Environmental Sustainability*), students were putting their heads together to recycle empty plastic milk containers into useful household items. One enterprising group created a cot mobile, while another constructed a water filtration unit.

Students found their eyes opened to the significance of education, particularly for girls, and were challenged by the high rates of deaths among children and mothers.

UnitingWorld facilitator Stephanie Dalton says understanding that people in need have the dignity and the capability to overcome their challenges is one of the key aims of the conference.

"Today we have seen students think, 'Hang on, that person's not so different to me'. We wanted to teach them to come alongside people, and that's something that UnitingWorld really values. We come alongside our partners; we don't impose our values over them."

And sometimes, she adds, simple solutions can make a world of difference.

"For example, at our maternal health activity we want students to think of the really easy interventions that families and local governments can do to make sure that women don't die during pregnancy, childbirth and afterwards. Something as simple as a birthing kit, with things like gloves and soap."

Raising awareness about global poverty and disadvantage, and how we can overcome these issues together, starts with the individual, followed by the family and the community, says Ms Dalton.

"Awareness means that people are actually empowered to get out there and change things, because you have to know before you go."

UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



Election 2013: Christians mobilise against poverty

As the 2015 target date for the Millennium Development Goals approaches, *Journey* reports on a pre-election campaign by Christians to highlight the issue of Australian development aid.

UnitingWorld has joined Make Poverty History and Micah Challenge in a national campaign to mobilise the Australian community in the run up to the federal election on 14 September.

The *Movement to End Poverty* is a sector-wide petition urging political leaders to fulfil their bipartisan promise to give 50 cents in every \$100 of national income to tackle global poverty by 2016, rising to 70 cents by 2020. The joint project allows members of the public to sign on at any participating organisation's website.

The initiative was launched on 14 March when up to 1000 young Australians and their politicians gathered in a giant map of the nation on the front lawns of Parliament House in Canberra, displaying electorate banners made to look like giant drop pins.

Micah Challenge Australia is a coalition endorsed by over 30 Christian agencies and mission groups including UnitingWorld.

Micah Challenge National Coordinator John Beckett says that the *Movement to End Poverty* petition will be a key tool used by Christian individuals,

churches and agencies in Micah Challenge's new *Finish the Race* campaign.

Finish the Race will mobilise supporters to appeal to Australian politicians to prioritise Australia's commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight international targets intended to halve poverty by 2015.

"Our vision is to give every Christian in this country the opportunity to add their voice to our collective call for justice," says Mr Beckett.

"We hope to see hundreds of churches and individuals taking local action in every electorate across the country between April and July 2013."

The Federal Government's recent decision to divert \$375 million away from life-saving overseas programs in order to meet the domestic costs of processing asylum seekers highlights the precarious nature of the government's promises to the world's poor, says Mr Beckett.

Resources:
unitingworld.org.au
micahchallenge.org.au
finish2015.com.au
un.org/millenniumgoals
ausaid.gov.au
unitingworld.org.au

Anti-poverty advocates gather on the front lawns of Parliament House in Canberra in March to launch the *Movement to End Poverty* petition. **Photo:** Micah Challenge Australia

Fast facts:

The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight international targets formulated in 2000 by world leaders to halve poverty by 2015.

Progress since 1990:

- 280 million fewer people living in extreme poverty
- 40 million more children in school
- four million more children survive each year
- four million people now receive HIV/AIDS treatment in developing countries.

Challenges ahead:

- one billion people in extreme poverty
- 72 million children not in school
- 9 million children die each year
- 360 000 women die from complications of pregnancy and birth
- over 33 million people infected with HIV/AIDS; two million die each year
- half of the developing world lacks sanitation.

Case study:

Hassan arrived by boat on Christmas Island in November 2012 and was released from detention recently.

Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme* (89 per cent of Newstart Allowance)

\$221
Income per week

\$145
Rent per week

What's left:

\$51

\$25

Mobile phone per week (including overseas calls to his wife and children)

Hassan does not speak much English but cannot afford the \$9.12 (return) public transport cost to attend English classes. The alternative is to walk a round trip of 25.8 km.

He sends money home to his family every month, as he knows they have no other income. He frequently goes without food.

Hassan does not have the right to work. He cannot supplement his benefit legally.

*ASAS is provided to eligible asylum seekers in the community on Bridging visas.

Church gets behind right-to-work campaign

Uniting Church justice and research staff have added their voices to the call for work rights for asylum seekers living in the community. Mardi Lumsden reports.

Uniting Church staff have joined organisations across Australia in support of the Right to Work campaign launched by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in March. The campaign seeks to address the lack of work rights for asylum seekers, including those who arrived by boat post-13 August 2012 and are subject to the no-advantage rule, and those who arrived prior who have not been granted work rights.

National Director of UnitingJustice, Rev Elenie Poulos, says the right to work is a fundamental human right for all – especially the most vulnerable.

"The Uniting Church is committed to a society where everyone is supported to contribute to their own wellbeing and to their community, through meaningful employment," she says. "The withholding of work rights for asylum seekers living in the community is just another form of punishment imposed on those who arrived after the no-advantage principle was introduced."

Queensland Synod Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds, agrees.

"Work provides opportunities to learn language,

build relationships, absorb culture, increase self-esteem and a chance to develop some normal frameworks for living after years of trauma and dislocation," she says. "These people want to contribute to the country that has given them a new beginning: why would we want to thwart that?"

Alison Gerard, Lecturer in Justice Studies at Charles Sturt University, says international evidence shows that moving asylum seekers out of detention and into the community without adequate access to rights and entitlements fosters destitution and causes deteriorated mental and physical health.

The policy also has the potential to create a supply of illegal labourers, exposing asylum seekers to exploitation and harm in workplaces, she says.

"It outsources basic government services to already overstretched and under-resourced charities, creating a tiered system of welfare."

Over 90 per cent of boat arrivals between 2011 and 2012 have been found to be refugees and granted permanent protection visas.

For more information visit: righttowork.com.au



Fashioning disciples for a hurting world

The Year of Discipleship is part of the Uniting Church in Queensland's Vision 2020, focusing on the call to form active and accountable disciples of all ages. Mel Perkins reminds us that we are all 'works in progress' on the discipleship journey.

Life throws up many challenges that get us thinking about faith, and sometimes being a disciple is hard. How are we to tell of the Good News of Christ amongst a world so full of pain and suffering?

I remember having conversations with folk (in Brisbane) after the attacks on the World Trade Centre in America in 2001 – many spoke of how their whole world view had shifted; they no longer felt safe and they wondered how God fitted into it all.

In pastoral ministry I have come across many people expressing the same questions after the loss of a loved one, particularly if the person was young or the loss was unexpected, or during natural disasters. Where is God in all of this? Did God cause/send the illness/accident? How could God allow this to happen? Does God even care that they are suffering?

When my husband died at age 40 from cancer, I found myself asking much the same questions. Under a great burden of grief and pain, my faith in God suffered a major blow.

Thankfully for me I was surrounded by a community of believers, a number of whom had engaged in theological study. Their questioning and informed faith helped me to begin to build a new framework in which to understand God, which was strengthened further by my own theological study (which began a few years later).

I found great relief in knowing that others had

questioned and grappled before me – for over 2000 years! I was reassured to find that revelation from God could come through Scripture, tradition, experience and reason (from John Wesley's writings).

At Pilgrim Learning Community, we believe that we are all "works in progress" on a journey; staff, lecturers and students. As lecturers we aim to encourage students to love God with all their heart, soul, strength and mind (Mark 12:30) as we teach from Scripture and 2000 years of Christian scholarship.

We seek to give students opportunities to understand how church scholars have grappled with the biblical text and matters of doctrine and theology in various ways since the time of Jesus and back into the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). Some find themselves excited by what they learn and others find their faith in God deeply challenged.

Part of our role as lecturers is to walk alongside our students as they engage and grapple with what they are learning – to encourage them to allow conversation between their studies, their lives and God. We pray that the learning opportunities we offer will inform and deepen their faith and their love for this amazing Triune God – the One who invites us into God's own life, to be fashioned as disciples for a hurting world.

Rev Mel Perkins
Christian Education Lecturer for Pilgrim Learning Community, pilgrim.ucaqld.com.au

“How are we to tell of the Good News of Christ amongst a world so full of pain and suffering?”

Positions Vacant – Committees, Commissions and Boards

The Uniting Church is seeking expressions of interest from young professional people with skills in management, accounting, finance, investment, law, human resources, property and corporate governance who are interested in serving on Uniting Church committees, commissions or boards.

Vacancies currently exist in a wide range of governance bodies across the spectrum of church activities.

Enquiries or resumés outlining gifts, skills and experience can be directed to Anne Osborne, Governance & General Counsel, Synod Office.

Email: governance@ucaqld.com.au | Phone: 3377 9768

Closing date for applications 30 May 2013.

Uniting in Christ
acting with love
living with hope
witnessing in faith
working for justice



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

Looking at your pension options?

Consider the NGS Pension – winner of Money magazine's Best of the Best Award for "Lowest-Cost Balanced Pension Fund" in 2013.

Compare your options by visiting www.ngssuper.com.au/compare-us/

www.ngssuper.com.au

1300 133 177

NGS Super Pty Limited ABN 46 003 491 487 AFSL 233 154



Army chaplain Rev John Saunders presents a copy of the Qur'an to a village mullah in Afghanistan. Photo: John Saunders



Face to face in Afghanistan

Building bridges between Christians and Muslims

Uniting Church Army chaplain **John Saunders** was out jogging at Al Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), en route to Afghanistan, when he heard an imam singing the call to prayer.

The sun had not yet come up over the desert horizon when I heard the call. It was then that a plan dropped into my head to open dialogue with Muslim leaders in Afghanistan.

I wanted to demonstrate that Australians respected their beliefs and were prepared to support them in their efforts at nation-building. In doing so, I hoped to save lives — Aussie and Afghan.

I decided to start by presenting local Muslim leaders with copies of the Qur'an as gifts from the Australian Muslim community. During my training as a Minister of the Word I had visited a Brisbane mosque, so it was a simple step to request copies with greetings from Australian Muslims attached.

Despite their initial reservations, my commanders agreed. I began distributing the Qur'an and started a dialogue with village mullahs and the Afghan National Army religious officers and mullahs.

To be honest, I was amazed at the response. I was welcomed with open arms and extended the hand of friendship and the kiss of greeting.

I became known as the "Australian mullah", and when I arrived at a forward operating base to visit my soldiers the Afghans would come looking for me to sit and have chai (tea) and to talk about faith and belief.

At one stage, I sat talking with about six mullahs, all asking questions, and tried to dispel myths

about the Christian faith. After a while one mullah looked at me, thought about what I had explained, and responded, "Yes, I understand. This too is in the Holy Qur'an."

They were hungry to know what we Christians actually believed, and at one stage, even asked to come into our base chapel and have me explain our prayer and worship.

I learnt a great deal as well, and was surprised at what we share in common. I am still challenged by their devotion and life of prayer.

Did it help end the bloodshed? No, I can't say I saw a great deal of immediate success; we lost four of our blokes, and the fight goes on.

Did we begin to understand each other, and did the walls of ignorance and hatred begin to come down? Yes!

Did it open doors which otherwise might have stayed closed? Yes! Being able to engage on a religious level smoothed the process of relationship-building for the taskforce.

The experience has taught me to be open to discussing faith and belief with Muslims and to understand the Abrahamic heritage we share.

Dialogue with people of other faiths is a worthwhile activity for Christians — even a Uniting Church Army chaplain in the middle of Afghanistan.



Rev John Dansie, a Lance Corporal in the Australian Regular Army, will commence work as a military chaplain in 2015. Photo: Christine Coupland

Call of duty

The journey from combat corps soldier to army chaplain

Minister at Deception Bay Uniting Church **John Dansie** began his career as a soldier and will commence work as a military chaplain in 2015, writes **Tara Burton**.

"It's not every day that you meet a chaplain with an armoured vehicle driver's licence," says Rev John Dansie, a serving member of the Australian Regular Army currently on a pastoral placement at Deception Bay Uniting Church under the Army In-Service Chaplaincy Training Scheme.

"I was a Trooper and later a Lance Corporal (LCpL) in the Cavalry, an Armoured Vehicle Crewman. I drove Armoured Personnel Carriers and Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles. I've served in Timor Leste and Afghanistan."

He has been challenged on occasions to explain his career choices, first as a combat corps soldier who was a Christian and then as a person who wanted to be a chaplain in the military.

"I like Mel Gibson's line in *We were soldiers*," says LCpL Dansie. "When asked by a junior officer how he felt about being a Christian and a soldier he replied 'I hope that by being good at the one I can be better at the other.'"

Being in a service environment has always been an important factor in his career.

"I joined the army because I'd always wanted to be a soldier, or a fireman or an ambulance officer. I stayed in the army because of the challenges, the opportunities to advance my career, and the mateship that was offered within its ranks."

John Dansie graduated from Trinity Theological College in 2012 and will commence his placement as an army chaplain in 2015.

As a military chaplain, he will provide spiritual support to serving members and their families as well as performing many of the roles that a civilian minister would undertake such as weddings, funerals, baptisms.

"One army journal suggests that a good chaplain is like having an extra company commander. The chaplain has a unique role in that he or she can approach anyone in a unit and speak with them on equal terms," he says.

"Chaplains can provide moral and ethical advice to commanders and soldiers; they are also able to provide training in areas they are qualified in such as character development, character leadership, and suicide prevention."

If John Dansie is ever deployed on operations as a chaplain, he will no longer carry a weapon or drive an armoured vehicle.

"I think the fact that chaplains do not carry weapons serves to remind the soldiers around them that one day peace will be achieved, and we won't need weapons anymore," he says.

For more information visit: defencejobs.gov.au/army/jobs/Chaplain

100 Years of army chaplaincy

Army chaplains will participate in Anzac Day marches around the country to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Australian Army Chaplains Department, formed in December 1913.

Chaplains have served, and in some cases died, in all significant military conflicts in which Australia has been involved over the last 100 years.

Centenary activities will include the release of an uncirculated coin from the Australian Mint, a pre-stamped Australia Post envelope, a commemorative book and the dedication of a remembrance plaque at the Australian War Memorial.

Gallipoli communion

St Andrew's Uniting Church, Brisbane City, located near the Shrine of Remembrance in Anzac Square, will be open from 11 am to 2 pm on Anzac Day, 25 April. A communion service will be held at 12.30 pm using the communion vessels used at Gallipoli by former minister Rev Dr Ernest Northcote Merrington.

For more information visit: army.gov.au/saintandrews.org.au

Rev Wayne McHugh with some of the Compassion candles produced by volunteers at Proserpine Whitsunday Uniting Church. Photo: Wayne McHugh

Proserpine project ticks all the boxes for mission

Dianne Jensen reports on a central Queensland congregation that is shining a light on effective home-grown mission.

The congregation at Proserpine Whitsunday Uniting Church are firm believers that when local folk get inspired, they can undertake mission projects which will transform themselves, their local community, and the world.

This is the home of Compassion candles and Chappy sticks (lip balm), a thriving business run by volunteers out of St James, Proserpine church hall.

The hand-made product line includes glass-jar candles, Advent candles, and presentation items such as wedding and baptismal candles. The Chappy sticks are made on-site as well, to a private recipe.

Income from the candles supports sponsor children through Project Compassion, and the Mwandi Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) project through Uniting World and Christian Band Remember Seven. The Chappy sticks support school chaplaincy across Queensland.

Rev Wayne McHugh says it all started with the idea of finding a creative outlet for young people.

"Candle making was simply an idea without a purpose. The idea of selling them to support sponsor children, and later to support children's mission, was born soon afterwards."

Over four and a half years, the Proserpine Whitsunday venture has sold \$15 000 worth of stock. With no rental or labour costs, expenses are limited to materials and equipment.

The project works because it ticks all the right boxes, says Mr McHugh.

"It is win, win, win — create something that works for the team, create the high-quality product that works for the customer, and create something that has a purpose that works for someone beyond ourselves," he says. "The people involved get inspired, and the people who buy the product get inspired."

And as a congregation-based initiative, the project supports the *Together on the way, enriching community* vision for locally fuelled ventures that will help Synod doing in mission, he adds.

What is a church doing in the business world?

"We do it as an activity of the local church, not as a business," says Mr McHugh. "Our church has run an annual flower show for the last 70 years, and runs two jumble sales a year. I grew up with lamington drives and street stalls in my local church — both business activities. This is just more continuous, which allows us to get better at it and reach a wider market."

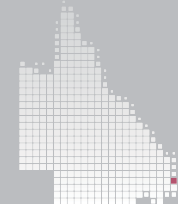
The candles and lip balm are sold locally and online, and through Revs Peter Taubner (Isis) and Russell Reynoldson (Forest Lake) who are partners and distributors. Both men are now putting their own value-add onto the pre-made candles, allowing them to generate funds for mission projects of their choice.

For more information visit:
compassioncandles.org.au
unitingworld.org.au
rememberseven.com.au
 For product distribution enquiries contact:
pwu@comcon.com.au
rev.russell@bigpond.com



Burleigh Heads Never Alone Friendship Centre guests and volunteers. Photo: Neville Free

Burleigh Heads Uniting Church



Fast Facts:

Community:

- > population 9188, 52.2 per cent female
- > average age 40 years
- > a mix of holiday apartments, permanent rental accommodation and private residential blocks, including the Burleigh Cove Community
- > five aged-care/retirement facilities.

Mission focus:

- > to be faithful to the call of our Lord, both within the congregation and the wider community
- > to create a caring community in Christ.

What's new:

- > RE ministry to three schools
- > support for school chaplaincy
- > community chaplain
- > programs include indoor bowls, walking group, Art Attack, and the Never Alone Friendship Centre
- > volunteers assist with on-site playgroups.

Social media:

- > Facebook
- > Website burleighheadsuniting.com.

Gold Coast congregation focuses on outreach

Burleigh Heads Uniting Church is known locally as 'the church on the hill' and is situated on the outskirts of the busy Gold Coast region. Tara Burton spoke to co-founder of the Burleigh Heads Never Alone Friendship Centre, Neville Free.

Who makes up your congregation?

Burleigh Heads Uniting Church is a worshipping and caring congregation of 260 members. It is fair to say that we have a congregation of mature-aged people who are young in mind and heart.

As tourism is a big part of the local economy, we have visitors at each service from all around Australia and from different parts of the globe.

We are entering into a partnership agreement with the Tallebudgera Uniting Church which although in the early stages will no doubt lead to two strong congregations.

How are you enriching your community?

In recent years and under the ministry of Rev Colin Batt, who is also police chaplain for the Tweed District, the church has striven to reach out to the community.

Leading this is the Never Alone Friendship Centre which began in September 2010. This ministry aims to reach lonely and isolated people in the community. From a humble beginning of 12 guests, we now have 53 people registered, along with 27 volunteers.

Each Christmas the centre provides Christmas Day lunch for those in the community who would otherwise spend it alone. Last Christmas we catered for 212 people including 70 volunteers.

We have assisted our sister churches at Nerang and Southport to open similar programs.

Because of our location and the transience of society, we have a heavy call to support homeless and needy people and those who are not coping with life.

Four members of our congregation have been presented with Community Service Awards honouring their commitment to the local community.

What is your vision for the future?

We have adopted the Synod's *Together on the way, enriching community* plan, and are working towards where we will be in 2020. We want to see a vital and re-invigorated church, serving Christ and the community of all ages.

We are in the process of assessing the needs of our locality, and planning to build a service that will meet these needs with professional and suitably trained staff.

We are looking at attracting young families and youth through the Family@5 program. This is a new initiative aimed at offering an alternative worship service to cater for those who require a late afternoon family service rather than the traditional morning service. The afternoon includes a spiritual message, family fun and a barbecue.

50 years of Lifeline

Help is just a phone call away

Fifty years after Lifeline volunteer counsellors took their first call, the telephones are still running hot. *Journey* looks back to the beginnings of this remarkable organisation.

The first call made to Lifeline was at 5 pm on 16 March 1963, one minute after the telephone lines were opened.

The crisis counselling service was founded by the late theologian, evangelist, and broadcaster Sir Alan Walker, after he took a telephone call from a distressed man who later committed suicide.

Lifeline was two years in the planning, and initially operated out of the Central Methodist Mission in Sydney.

Journey volunteer Judith Finau was a staff member at the Mission, and one of the 150 people who attended the first nine-month training course for telephone counsellors. She was present at the opening of the first Lifeline Centre in Darlinghurst in Sydney on 16 March 1963.

"I mostly drew the night shift and some weeks I would be on stand-by to fill in for a volunteer who was unable to do their shift," recalls Mrs Finau.

"Not all calls were potential suicides; some callers were just lonely and needed someone to talk to at night, especially in the early hours of the morning. If there was a potential suicide caller, we aimed to find out where the person was calling from so that we could send out the 'trouble team'. We tried to keep the caller talking so that our team could reach them in time."

Acknowledging the 50th anniversary of Lifeline, Superintendent of Wesley Mission Rev Dr Keith

Garner said that the organisation "grew out of a clear sense of Christian vision".

Speaking at an anniversary function at Government House, Sydney on 13 March, Dr Garner said "Alan Walker had great compassion for the isolated and he believed that through the establishment of Lifeline the mantle of Christianity would cover 'the lonely crowd of the modern city'."

In 1994 Lifeline transitioned the 24-hour telephone crisis support line to a single national number (13 11 14), and in 2007 introduced national call flow.

The organisation has become synonymous with crisis counselling, suicide prevention, and community support. There are 44 Lifeline centres in Australia, represented by Lifeline Australia Inc. and Lifeline organisations have been established in 19 countries.

Volunteers remain at the heart of Lifeline, with over 11 000 volunteers registered nationally, half of whom work as telephone counsellors. Approximately 80 per cent of Lifeline operating costs are funded through retail outlets, book fairs and fundraising activities.

Lifeline services in Queensland are operated by UnitingCare Community. Services include the Crisis Line, suicide bereavement and prevention, individual and group support, and Community Recovery.

There are over 130 Lifeline shops in Queensland.

For more information visit uccommunity.org.au/lifeline

"[Alan Walker] believed that through the establishment of Lifeline the mantle of Christianity would cover 'the lonely crowd of the modern city'."

Keith Garner

Closing the gap



Adjunct Professor Stewart Gill, Principal at Emmanuel College, University of Queensland (centre), Assistant Dean (Indigenous Students) Shane Drahm and college resident Maccalla Fenn. Photo: Holly Jewell

Indigenous students close the gap

A university residential scholarship program is helping to close the education gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Dianne Jensen talked to students and staff at Emmanuel College, Brisbane.

A growing band of young Indigenous students are taking their place at university graduation ceremonies, thanks to the scholarship program at Emmanuel College, a University of Queensland (UQ) residential community.

The Indigenous scholarship program was created in 2008 to provide full or part residential scholarships to students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background who have been accepted into UQ. It is funded by the college and private benefactors.

Adjunct Professor Stewart Gill, Principal at Emmanuel, says that the program enables students to live within a community which provides pastoral care, academic support and the opportunity to network.

"We don't engage in tokenism where Indigenous recruitment is concerned. We use the same criteria for acceptance for all students — we are interested in students who have performed well academically, who want to contribute to the college community and be good ambassadors for the college."

Former college resident Keiron Laifoo from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait graduated last year with a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a dual major in Accounting and Finance.

"The more that society can see Indigenous people succeed; living at Emmanuel, going to university, graduating with a degree, I think is for the better," he says. "I also believe that it's important [that] other students who might become doctors and work in remote Indigenous communities have a chance to meet, speak with and understand some of the issues that an Indigenous person encounters."

This year Emmanuel will support six Indigenous students including Maccalla Fenn, from north east New South Wales, who is studying for a Bachelor of Science (Preliminary Medicine).

"I have found that being part of the college community has made the transition from school to university a lot easier and a lot less daunting," says Ms Fenn.

The college recently appointed an Assistant Dean (Indigenous Students) to provide strategic direction

and support for the initiative. Former professional footballer and teacher Shane Drahm will help build community partnerships and provide mentoring for college students.

Founded by the Presbyterian Church in 1911, and now under the auspices of both the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches, Emmanuel College aims to provide a supportive Christian environment for the students in its care.

"Being a church-related college adds an extra dimension to whatever we do," says Adjunct Professor Gill. "The Gospel was at the heart of the founding of the college, and an important part of that is a commitment to social justice issues including acknowledging the special role that our first nation plays in Australia."

For Keiron Laifoo, faith is important to his future.

"Faith will always be a factor in my decision making. I believe that what I am aiming to achieve now is the path that God has set out for me."

For more information visit emmanuel.uq.edu.au

Want a Christian Business in Brisbane? Remember the "Christian Referdex"



289 Listings are now online...

Web Search Now > i.e. Uniting Christian Referdex then a

listing such as Bus & Coach Charter or Optometrist or Solicitor or Fireworks or Funeral Director or Lighting or Retail or Bricklayer or Solicitor or Family Law or Air Conditioning and see the result.

The Christian Business Directory used by Uniting Church folk since 1978.

All the Christian Business Community ask is that they be given the opportunity to serve. Remember "Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone - especially to those in the family of faith."

"Regular Fellowship at a mainstream Christian based Church has always been a requirement of applicants. They have attested to their Christian faith by signing the appropriate documentation. Each person supports good work in the community."

"Remember the Referdex..." Ph: 3245 1777. www.ChristianReferdex.com.au. National: 1300 3111 31.

ATTENTION

Business, Professionals and Trades

Register now for the 2013 July Edition



Phone Brenda or Kerry 1300 3111 31

ANDREWS LIGHT UP

five great showrooms offering more in lighting

INDOOROPILLY INDOOROPILLY CENTRAL 34 Coonan Street Phone 3720 1877	ASPLEY HOMEMAKER CITY 825 Zillmere Road Phone 3662 8374	JINDALEE HOMEMAKER CITY 38 Goggs Road Phone 3279 1961	LOGAN LOGAN MEGA CENTRE 3525 Pacific Highway Phone 3299 4588	ROBINA ROBINA SUPER CENTRE Robina Town Centre Drive Phone 5578 8355
--	---	---	--	---

ANDREWS LIGHT UP ONLINE

www.lightuponline.com.au

your number one choice for online lighting

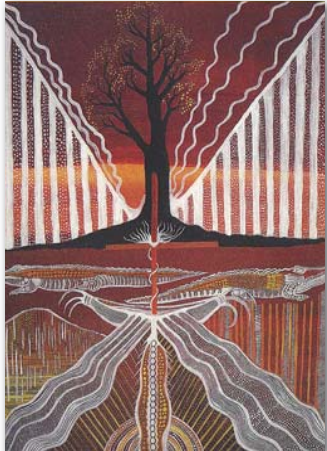


Image: Detail from book cover

Recognising God in the whole of creation

This is a book about indigenous spiritualities, with particular reference to Australia, Korea, Japan and New Zealand. It is a collection of articles, written by authors from around the world, that offer a strong affirmation of the integrity and authenticity of indigenous spiritualities and the way in which they gather up and interpret every dimension of life for those who are born into them.

We have come quite late in Australia to an appreciation of the deep, abiding spirituality of our own indigenous people, and the realisation of just how much harm was inflicted by those who sought to deprecate and suppress it in every way possible for nearly 200 years.

Anyone who still has doubts about just how badly indigenous people in this country were treated (and still are being treated in many respects) should read Richard Trudgen's book, *Why Warriors Lie Down and Die*, and the compelling *Rainbow Spirit Theology*, written by a group of Australian Christian Aboriginals.

The various contributions in *Dreaming a New Earth* are all informed by the work of Raimon Pannikar (1918-2010). His mother was a Spanish Catholic and his father an Indian Hindu. He was a committed Christian, an ordained Roman Catholic priest, a theologian who wrote prolifically (more than 40 books and 400 journal articles) and he devoted most of his adult life to interfaith and

intercultural dialogue. Pannikar had a deep respect for indigenous spirituality.

Pannikar used the term "cosmotheandric" in order to argue that the reality we experience every day is comprised of three inter-related elements: the cosmic, the divine and the human. He argued that we can think about each of these dimensions of reality individually, but we can't separate them without doing damage to the way in which that reality is experienced. He was convinced that many in western thought endeavour to separate them for the purpose of study and discussion, but that indigenous spiritualities understand how they properly exist only in a vibrant unity with each other.

Pannikar was convinced that true spirituality takes seriously the presence of God in the whole of creation, the vital need to build community in the midst of diversity, and the individual search to discover meaning in life. He found all three of these elements, alive and dynamically inter-related, in the indigenous spiritualities that he encountered through his work. He was deeply respectful of the spirituality of indigenous Australians.

Anyone interested in indigenous spirituality will find this book interesting and provocative. It also offers an introduction to one particular aspect of Pannikar's immense contribution to the field of religious studies and inter-religious conversation.

Rev Dr David Pitman
Past Moderator of the Uniting Church in Queensland



Talking about ethics: Negotiating the maze
Justin Denholm
Acorn Press 2011
RRP \$14.95

Play the ball, not the player

It is often said that "ethics is a conversation", but as Justin Denholm points out in his helpful study guide, we need conversations that go beyond a mere sharing of opinions or disagreements.

Talking about ethics is a good place to start for Christians interested in becoming part of the ethics discussion.

Dr Justin Denholm has directed the Centre for Applied Christian Ethics at Ridley College Melbourne since 2008.

He provides succinct introductions to common approaches to ethics — principle, utility and character (virtues). Perhaps that latter could have been fruitfully expanded, as it often is, to include the feminist ethics-of-care approach, particularly as Denholm is otherwise careful to explain how ethical approaches are shaped by our worldviews; that is, our interlocking beliefs and attitudes about the physical world and the human condition.

For Denholm, the best way to study Christian ethics is in conversation with other Christians. He offers practical and clear guidance about the relationship between Christian ethics and other approaches, and how to encourage ethical reflection both in the church and in the wider community.

Denholm offers advice on using the Bible in ethics, recognising that there is no reliable index for ethical issues in Scripture that could save us from the necessity of interpreting passages both in the light of Jesus prioritising love as the great commandment, and the realities of modern life. For example, there would be no entry under "F" for Facebook, a current site of ethical concerns.

A strong emphasis is placed on first understanding the viewpoints of others, and then offering a Christian alternative, if need be, in a reasonable and constructive way.

Even within the church there are differences of opinion on ethical issues, so creating a safe environment for ethics discussion is important. This is achieved primarily by encouraging each other to "play the ball and not the player".

Using stories as tools in ethics discussions will lead to a greater appreciation that ethical decisions are embedded in relationships, rather than being free-floating intellectual calculations.

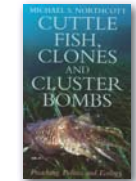
Recommended for groups wanting to start talking about ethics.

Trevor Jordan
Encouraging Ethics encouragingethics.tumblr.com

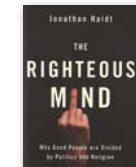
Reviews available at journeyonline.com.au



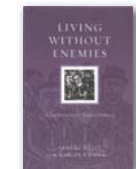
Hope in Hell: Inside the world of Doctors without Borders
Dan Borlotti
Firefly Books 2010
RRP \$24.95



Cuttle Fish, Clones and Cluster Bombs: Preaching, Politics and Ecology
Michael S. Northcott
Darton, Longman & Todd 2010
RRP \$34.95



The Righteous Mind
Jonathan Haidt
Penguin 2012
RRP \$19.99



Living without Enemies: Being Present in the Midst of Violence
Samuel Wells & Marcia Owen
IVP Books 2011
RRP \$17.95



CHC
Higher Education

DEGREES TO INSPIRE YOUR THINKING
CHC.EDU.AU

CHC is about discovering a Godly perspective for life and career. It's about discovering your purpose, no matter what your age... knowing that you are called to do something extraordinary to transform this world for His glory. Find your balance between life and study, anywhere, anytime.

Business

Education & Humanities

Social Sciences

Ministries



ALEX GOW FUNERALS
Quality funeral care since 1840

Proud member of
FAMILY-OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOC.
Putting you first

Ph 3852 1501

Beautiful funerals indelible memories

As a family-owned business we believe we offer a more personal service and the flexibility to ensure every funeral is truly individual.

Alex Gow remains totally focused on **your** needs and provides over 170 years of experience to ensure everything goes exactly as planned.

For a FREE copy of "A helpful guide to Funeral Planning" simply call TODAY.
www.alexgowfunerals.com.au

www.alexgowfunerals.com.au DECEPTION BAY | NEWSTEAD | BROWNS PLAINS | CLEVELAND ... still family-owned

Adoption: 'Everything was for the best, and everyone went home a winner'. Photo: Creative Commons



Shining a light on forced adoption



The national apology for past forced adoption, held in Canberra on 21 March, was a day of high emotion, says **Trevor Jordan**.

I never met the woman who gave birth to me. She had died two years before I located my sister, who looked after her for the last eleven years of her life. I still have not brought myself to the point where I can visit her grave.

When I was getting information about her and my siblings from Adoption Services in Queensland, I remember stopping the worker on the other end of the phone and asking them, "Why didn't anyone ever stop to ask her if she needed any help?" Of course there was no answer to this. A healthy woman, a "good type" as it said on her file, who regularly offered healthy children for adoption by infertile couples, needed none.

Forced adoption takes many forms: sometimes direct physical restraint and emotional coercion to sign consent forms, and sometimes just a deck of cards so stacked against you that there is nowhere else to go.

The national apology for past forced adoption, held in Canberra on 21 March, was a day of high emotion. About a thousand people attended the apology in the Great Hall of Parliament House and the accompanying reception. Both the Prime Minister Julia Gillard and the Leader of the Opposition Tony Abbott delivered detailed and heartfelt apologies to those affected by past practices of forced adoption.

Many of those attending were hoping for a turning point in their lives; some public acknowledgment of the grief and loss they had suffered and a chance to reconnect with a community and institutions that for so long seemed deaf to their pain.

For decades, the costs have been so personal and so high for some that they have been borne in complete secrecy and isolation, fenced in not only by past messages of shame and guilt but also by the dominant narrative that everything was for the best and everyone went home a winner.

As a community we do things differently now. We hope we do them better. The national apology is an implicit recognition of past failings.

All states and territories (except the Northern Territory) already have offered their apologies for past practices of forced adoption, as have many institutions and professions, including the Uniting Church.

Although the Commonwealth's role in past forced adoption was minimal, its role in future moral repair is crucial. Addressing the past wrongs of forced adoption and meeting the very different needs of individuals will require coordination between governments, institutions and professions.

Trevor Jordan
President, Jigsaw Queensland Post-Adoption Centre

Jigsaw Queensland provides information and support for all those affected by adoption, including referral to specialist search and mediation services and adoption specific counselling. For more information visit jigsawqueensland.com or contact 07 3358 6866 or jigsawqueensland@bigpond.net.au

Legislation will ban non-profit gag clauses

Senator Penny Wong, Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister for Finance and Deregulation, has released details of new legislation aimed at safeguarding the right of the not-for-profit sector to advocate in the interests of the community.

Senator Wong addressed representatives from Queensland non-profit community service providers at a forum on 4 March hosted by UnitingCare Queensland.

The Not-for-Profit Sector Freedom to Advocate Bill will be introduced during the next sitting of Federal Parliament.

Senator Wong told the forum "... we are safeguarding the right of the not-for-profit sector to advocate in the interests of the community ... It will protect the voice of your sector, banning gag clauses from all Commonwealth contracts."

The minister advised that she was writing to all States and Territories calling on premiers to match the federal initiative. The Queensland Government has inserted gag clauses into Queensland Health service agreements.

*To read the full text of this article visit journeyonline.com.au
To read Senator Wong's speech visit pennywong.com.au/speeches/a-strong-voice-unitingcare-nfp-forum-brisbane*

Halifax jubilee plans

Halifax Uniting Church is seeking information and photographs for their jubilee on 19 May. The church will celebrate 50 years of Christian fellowship with a service at 3 pm, with the Rev Dr Paul Moore as guest speaker. Dr Moore was the first resident probationer at Halifax.

For information contact Noel McClintock on 07 4776 1924 or Liz Bosworth on 07 4777 1617. Mail can be directed to PO Box 146 Ingham QLD 4840.

Historical cemetery at The Gap

The 140th anniversary of The Gap Uniting Church cemetery (formerly The Gap Primitive Methodist Church Burial Ground) will be marked by the publication of a history book by The Gap Pioneer and History Group. The book will provide a walking guide to the cemetery with information about each burial since 1873. A celebration and book launch will be held on 9 November.

To contribute information, contact Jeff and Ann Hilder on 07 3300 1783 or jfwamhil@bigpond.net.au; or Alan Wallis on 07 3300 6204.

60 years of ordination honoured

Four of the 23 men who were ordained in 1953 into the ministries of the three uniting churches (becoming ministers in the Uniting Church in 1977) gathered in March to mark the 60th anniversary of their ordination.

Revs Brian Lee, Ron Smith, Ron Elvery and Dr Lewis Born were joined by Babs McIntyre (widow of Ron McIntyre), and greetings were received from Jean Moore, Val Panton and Beryl Willson. Those unable to be present included Revs Gordon Robinson, Owen Marks, Richmond Kenyon, Neville Ross and Fred Webber.

The Moderator Rev Kaye Ronalds preached at the short Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving.

Also present was newly ordained Rev Fa Ngaluaf. Her presence was a symbol of "the fellowship of the ministry across generations and cultures, and the continuity of God's gifts for and call to Ministry," says Rev Ron Elvery.

UnitingCare research on mining impact

UnitingCare Queensland has launched a report on preliminary research conducted into the social impacts of the mining and gas boom on its workforce and services in Gladstone, the Bowen Basin and the Surat Basin.

The research was undertaken in response to concerns expressed by staff and clients.

The report is based on more than 100 interviews and surveys conducted with UnitingCare Queensland staff and community stakeholders in 2012.

Initial findings indicate that mining and gas operations increase costs of living, force employees and clients into insecure rental accommodation, change the nature of communities, reduce the supply of volunteers and create higher staff turnover rates.

One positive outcome from the research was the building of collaborative networks with other Non-Government Organisation partners. This group has applied for an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant to understand the socioeconomic impacts of mineral resources development on people who are vulnerable, and the implications for human services providers.

*To read the full text of this article visit journeyonline.com.au
To read the report visit ucareqld.com.au*

Classifieds

CALOUNDRA, beachside units, from \$400/wk. ph 0427 990 161.

London B and B, Lovely home, reasonable rates. Ph 0011 44 20 8694 6538. rachel@brockleybandbsfnet.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 for more information or ph 5483 5221.



ANTON BROWN FUNERALS

100% QUEENSLAND FAMILY OWNED

We can help with all your funeral needs in Brisbane and Surrounding Areas

www.antonbrownfunerals.com.au

57 BALACLAVA STREET
WOOLLOONGABBA

3217 3088
1285 GYMPIE ROAD ASPLEY
3863 4000

Experience · learn · develop
Escape to the heart of the Sunshine Coast



At Alexandra Park we have come a long way from the traditional camp, with modern facilities that suit churches for family camps, youth camps, and retreats, and schools for leadership, music camps, sports team training, beach and adventure camps, sporting clubs, community and craft groups.

We have ensuite rooms with modern facilities for 4–5 guests per room or our Acacia dormitories remain a popular lower cost option.

Modern fully equipped meeting and conference rooms make presentations easy, while our catering team will create quality, freshly cooked nutritious meals so you won't need to lift a finger.

There are plenty of recreation options on site, or take a five-minute walk to Alexandra Headland beach.

Experience the benefits of camp for your ministry. The National Church Life Survey indicates 32 per cent of church-goers made life-changing decisions at camp; faith commitments and/or ministry or mission decisions. 45 per cent of respondents stated camp was important in strengthening their faith.

Please contact us if you wish to organise your own camp, or be part of **Alexandra Park – Uniting Church Family Camp** from 30 August – 1 September 2013: a weekend of faith, fellowship and fun.



An activity of The Uniting Church
in Australia, Queensland Synod

Call 1300 789 192

Email info@alexpark.com.au

Visit alexpark.com.au



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

30TH SYNOD

24 – 28 MAY 2013



Uniting in Christ
acting with love
living with hope
witnessing in faith
working for justice

Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Sunshine Coast | ucaqld.com.au