



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

inspire • provoke • engage

Journey

Here we
grow!

November 2015 • journeyonline.com.au



South Sudanese
heal old wounds

7 kind
deeds

We Have! Will YOU?



Driven by our faith to serve others, we wanted our Will to reflect our beliefs.

We have provided for Wesley Mission Brisbane in our Will because they have served those on the margins of society for over 100 years.

We know our gift will be in safe hands.



For more information on bequests, speak with your solicitor, go to www.wmb.org.au or call 07 3621 4679.

Young peoples' ministry coordinator

Broadwater Road Mansfield and St Mark's Mt Gravatt Uniting Churches

Broadwater Road and St Mark's Mt Gravatt Uniting Churches are seeking a young peoples' ministry coordinator.

The coordinator will give active leadership and visioning to develop missional strategies to grow disciples and outreach to a growing and changing community, with specific responsibility in children, youth, families and young adult ministry.

The position is a joint placement at Broadwater Road (0.75) and St Mark's (0.25) Uniting Churches. **Applications close 30 November 2015.**

For enquiries and position description please contact JNC chair Beth Nicholls at bethnicholls@bigpond.com



The Queensland Choir BRISBANE SINGS Messiah

2:45PM SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER | BRISBANE CITY HALL

Handel's magnificent choral masterpiece performed by 160 Voice Choir

Leanne Kenneally - soprano Jill Sullivan - alto

Virgilio Marino - tenor David Hibbard - bass

Conducted by KEVIN POWER



Tickets & Bookings: www.4mbs.com.au ph: 07 3847 1717

Bethel Funerals

Compassion • Peace • Hope

Peace of mind, not profit.

Bethel Funerals

A not-for-profit Christian Funeral Company

Offering Compassion, Peace and Hope to grieving families

Prepaid funeral planning

All profits go to mission and community work

Brisbane

07 3219 9333

www.bethelfunerals.com.au



Order your 2016 Synod calendar today at ucaqld.com.au

Contact Sharon Knol in the Synod office on sharon.knol@ucaqld.com.au phone 1300 822 753 or (07) 3377 9727 or visit ucaqld.com.au for an order form.



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

Hello. I'm Roland Schroder



When it comes to decisions regarding your biggest investment, talk to the team of experts that will deliver the very best result. As a member of the Uniting Church, I am able to assist you with your next move with minimal fuss. If you require any assistance, or know of someone that does, I would only be too happy to help.

For a no obligation conversation contact me today.

☐ 0404 426 045

@ rschroder.broadwater@ljh.com.au

✉ 64 Frank St (cnr Central St),
Labrador QLD 4215

LJ Hooker Broadwater

© LJ Hooker Limited 2015 - BL500033 - 070915

Classifieds

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 boulder creek.com.au for more information or ph 5483 5221.

CALOUNDRA, beachside units, from \$300/wk. ph 0427 990 161.

London B and B. Lovely home, reasonable rates. Ph 0011 44 20 8694 6538. rachelallen1234@gmail.com.

Fabulous holiday accommodation. Treat yourselves to absolute luxury, beachfront accommodation on Kangaroo Island's famous Island Beach. Due to owners' change of holiday plans, extensive availability over summer months can now be secured in this large, beautifully appointed home. The home provides private ensuited accommodation in four king size bedrooms; ideal for four couples. Summer rate including linen \$4500 per week. Enquire now on 0418 836 833.

Jewellery repairs. Five day turn around. Brisbane area. Call Jack at Forest Lake m. 0401 584 879



Plant a little seed

“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.”

It's a “Greek proverb” that's been doing the rounds on Facebook recently (so who knows where it really comes from) but I had to think about it while writing this month's cover story on church planting (page six).

Church planting has been around for as long as there has been a church, so I think it's safe to say that we have all benefited from the labour of our predecessors forming communities of faith. Recently there has been renewed interest in founding new churches and faith communities, particularly in the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church.

There's a lot of excitement about sharing the good news.

It's the kind of good news that brings together people who have previously been in bitter conflict, such as the Dinka and Nuer people from South Sudan (page 12) and it's the kind of good news that sees cross-generational friendships flourish (page nine) and vulnerable people being cared for (page 14).

Just as we have enjoyed the fruit of our predecessors' work, so we should plant for the benefit of those who come after us.

On a different note, I encourage you to turn to page 19 and complete the readership survey. Your feedback is incredibly valuable to us, as it give us information we need to continue to make *Journey* better in 2016 and beyond.

Rohan Salmond
Cross-platform editor

Contents



6 Church planting



8 Seven kind deeds



12 South Sudanese National Conference

4 Moderator's message

5 Blackall youth ministry

9 Secrets of youth ministry

10 Profile: Lesley Bryant

14 Blue Care dementia funding

15 Review: *The Work of Theology*

16 Review: Global Leadership Summit

17 Fast news

18 Letters

19 Readership survey

Journey



journeyonline.com.au



Subscribe to receive *Journey* in your inbox



facebook.com/unitingchurch.queensland



twitter.com/UCAQld



youtube.com/UnitingChurchQLD



Synchronise stories to your blog reader

Cover: Church planting Illustration: Kaitlyn D'Arcy

Editor: Rohan Salmond

Writer: Dianne Jensen

Design: Holly Jewell

Advertising: Ashley Thompson

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

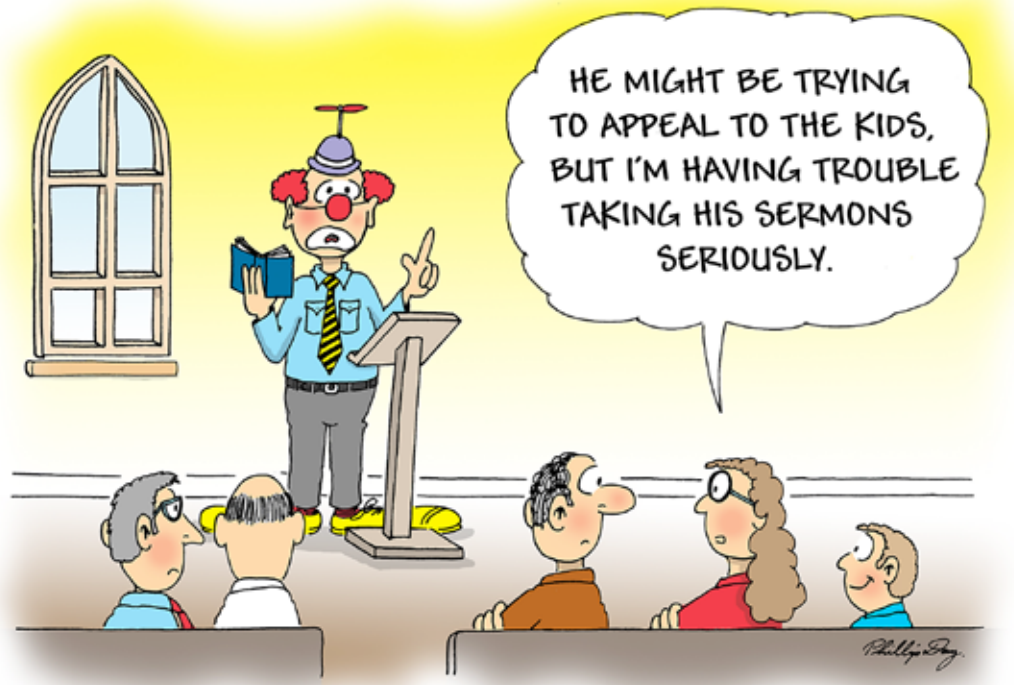
GPO Box 674, Brisbane QLD 4001

Ph: (07) 3377 9910 | **E:** journey@ucaql.com.au

F: (07) 3377 9717 | journeyonline.com.au

ISSN: 0817-4466; **Circulation:** 15 000; *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 December *Journey* is Monday 16 November. The next issue of *Journey* will be available on Sunday 6 December.



Monday Midday Prayer

Lord,
Have mercy upon us.
Incline our hearts toward
you, that we may fulfil your
commandments.
Amen

Moderator's highlights

- 11 November**
Moderators and president
gathering, Sydney
- 14 November**
Guest speaker at 110th
anniversary for Caboonbah
Undenominational Church,
Toogoolawah
- 16 November**
Muslim-Christian working
group, Brisbane

The members of the last Synod in Session asked the church to prioritise ministry with children, youth and families.

While my journey of faith was marked by a conscious decision to commit my life to Christ in my early 20s, the experience of Christian community as a child and a youth was profound and life changing. I look back on those years and reflect that the overwhelming message to me was that I, as a child, was valued and nurtured. I belonged to this mob. They invested in me. Each one of those communities had leadership councils and people who made conscious decisions to invest significant time, money, and energy into children and young people, that they may grow to live in the great vista that is Christian faith.

Looking back, it was a good bet that I'd "return to the fold", given that experience—let alone the family life I enjoyed.

Out where I live, in the past few years, I've seen a couple of churches make conscious decisions to shape their life towards children, youth and families. At Karana Downs Uniting Church, a small church in the western suburbs of Brisbane, the minister, Ian Smallbone, has grown young people who are becoming leaders themselves. The congregation decided to change worship times to become more accessible to families. (It's easier to change the theology of the Trinity than change worship times!)

At Moggill, over the past six years, a decision to prioritise ministry with children and families has seen the church

commit to funding a worker and changing the way they gather for worship. This worker is helping Moggill members grow ministry activities with young families. At Toowong, the congregation members have committed to extra funding to support the growth of a new ministry to young adults.

It does come back to whether we believe the Christian faith has something distinctive and vital to say about how life can be lived.

UnitingCare Queensland, through UnitingCare Community, embodies a belief in children, young people, and families through some of the most profoundly difficult circumstances that children and families face. People commit their lives to this work through our agencies. It is high risk work; it is deeply challenging work; it is work that the state trusts UnitingCare Community to do well. That trust has not been misplaced over many years.

So, how about it? How is your community prioritising ministry with children and families? Talk to your church council about it. There are Uniting Church ministers around who can help; I'll put you onto them. Email me at moderator@ucaqld.com.au or check out uccommunity.org.au to see how you can get involved with UnitingCare Community.

Rev David Baker
Moderator, Queensland Synod

IT IS CUSTOMARY TO WANT THE BEST.

WHEN YOUR LIFE'S HARD WORK
HAS REWARDED YOU WELL,
MAKE YOUR FINAL JOURNEY
IN THE STYLE TO WHICH YOU
HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE TO SUIT.
ASK FOR DETAILS WHEN YOU CALL.



K.M.SMITH
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
We think of everything

BOWEN HILLS | 3252 2031
ARANA HILLS | 3351 8244
ASPLEY | 3263 2326
CAPALABA | 3390 1333
GOODNA | 3818 7833
HILLCREST | 3800 7800
IPSWICH | 3281 7831
NORTH LAKES | 3886 3412
SHERWOOD | 3716 0161
STRATHPINE | 3205 8655
VICTORIA POINT | 3820 9588
WYNNUM | 3348 4133

www.kmsmith.com.au

KM15017_Fleet



Blackall Uniting Church
youth pastor Scott Walker.
Photo: Dianne Jensen

Youth ministry blooms in the west

Blackall Uniting Church in western Queensland has planted the seeds for a thriving youth ministry. Youth pastor Scott Walker speaks to Dianne Jensen.

Thursday night at the Blackall Uniting Church is youth group night, and youth pastor Scott Walker starts the evening by praying with the six regular attendees. The numbers have fluctuated over the last two and half years as the drought tightens its grip.

“An important thing that I’m learning about running any kids’ ministry out here is to be ready to adapt and change to meet the needs,” says Scott, who has been involved in youth ministry since high school. “Because it is such a small community sometimes all it takes is one family to move away and you have to completely re-think your youth ministry strategy.”

Scott attended Youthworks Bible College in Sydney and studied and worked as a graphic designer before returning to Blackall. He combines the youth pastor role with working on a local property and running the Design Hub with his wife Rachel.

“I grew up out here and I know what it’s like to grow up in a small town—the good and the not-so-good. God has put the young people out here on my heart so I wanted to come back and use my studies to serve God.”

As a parent of young children he knows how tough family life can be out west.

“Ongoing drought and the town in economic decline can cause stress for parents which in turn can cause stress for the kids. Employment is an issue as there aren’t many opportunities or options for jobs and most kids will have to move away from Blackall after they leave school to do extra study.”

Before starting the youth ministry program, Scott took the time to train local leaders.

“We met once a week and worked through a book that helped us shape how to best run our youth ministry. During this time we also did things like child safety training and getting blue cards. I believe it was spending this time in training and planning that has made our youth group such a success,” he says.

From its genesis the youth group has attracted kids from outside the church, with some becoming regular attenders at the Sunday afternoon Bible study and monthly evening youth service. The church hopes to start a play group as soon as they can find a leader.

“One of the biggest challenges is the lack of resources. People resources—we would welcome Christians who would like to move to Blackall and help with running children’s and youth ministries—and equipment resources,” says Scott.

‘ I grew up out here and I know what it’s like to grow up in a small town—the good and the not-so-good ’

Scott Walker



EDUCATION AND VALUE FOR LIFE

Clayfield College

Girls: Pre-prep to Year 12 **Boarding:** Girls from Year 5
Boys: Pre-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 from Prep to Year 12 and a day school for pre-prep girls and boys
Boarding: Years 6 to 12
(07) 3248 9200 www.somerville.qld.edu.au

Sunshine Coast Grammar School

Co-educational day school Prep to Year 12
(07) 5445 4444 www.scgs.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.

Get the dirt on church

A renewed passion for planting new communities of faith is taking root in the Uniting Church Queensland Synod. **Rohan Salmond** explores.

There was something different about the 31st Queensland Synod in Session. While synods are usually fairly sedate—sometimes even ponderous—on 14 and 15 October 2014 members of Synod raced from room to room talking excitedly in groups about the future of the Uniting Church. There was a sense of urgency as the members used open space processes to hash out action outcomes to address the question, “Our church is on life support, what’s our call now?”

Eight action outcomes were identified as being essential to fulfilling the call of the Uniting Church into the future. The top three were all about outreach: making worship welcoming to non-Christians, making faith sharing a priority and church planting.

A disruptive little seed

Silicon Valley entrepreneurs like to talk about “disruption”. Disruptive companies upend business-as-usual in a marketplace by reaching previously overlooked customers or providing services in brand new ways. The go-to example is Uber, which has overturned the conventions of the taxi industry by providing transport services without actually owning any vehicles.

Church plants are obviously not new, but they could hold the key to unlocking modes of outreach that have been largely overlooked by Christian denominations in recent decades. While all congregations can share faith and make their worship accessible to people outside of “church world”, planting new churches is arguably the most direct way to disrupt old patterns and serve new people in new ways.

Rev Kath Hobson is minister with Ipswich City Uniting Church and is helping spearhead a new faith community in Ripley, a burgeoning suburb in south-east Ipswich. The Ripley faith community will be a collaborative project for all the Uniting Church congregations in Ipswich.

“It has no history and therefore no baggage,” she says, adding, “Whatever the Ripley community ends up looking



planting

like, it will never be on its own because it comes from a family and a tradition that's larger than itself.

"It's an experiment to re-vision the church and be able to hold both together—the tradition as well as doing something new."

When talking to church planters the same themes come up again and again: that church needs to be relevant to the community, and that a church needs to exist for a reason other than maintaining itself. After all, Australian society is already being disrupted in many ways. Perhaps, they say, the church needs to change too. Church planting is not a case of "build it and they will come"—the focus is on adapting the traditional worship model for new contexts.

Rev Orrell Battersby is campus minister with Newlife Uniting's church plant in Pacific Pines, a growing suburb at the north end of the Gold Coast. He has been planting churches for 30 years and joined the Uniting Church five years ago.

"This is a new world we're all experiencing right now which is very exciting," he says.

"I know from experience that the church Jesus said he would build is not set up for maintenance, it's set up for mission. You know, it's Holy Spirit-inspired to have a focus other than itself.

"[The church is] not set up to be status-quo; it can't do it. It's not just set up to get through. It is only really set up to be mission, on mission, reaching people doing whatever it takes."

Desperate times

But will the Uniting Church be willing to embrace the disruption to worship-as-usual? Orrell says he can see a shift in the conversation in his newly-adopted denomination.

"I'm very excited about the Uniting Church ... We're in a desperate position and that's a *great* place to be.

"When you go to Synod and have open space and you come out with eight priorities that are all about

creating a culture of church reproduction and evangelism and worship, you get very excited and go, this is it! God is moving!

"Church planting is still the best way to do it and it's scary as. It's desperate people who do it! They're desperate to see the church turn around and see people coming into a relationship with Christ."

Kath Hobson harks back to the "pioneering spirit" of Methodism reaching new people in new places.

"There's that call to faith that the church should always be existing for outside of itself. I think there's a sense that for a number of our congregations in Ipswich that we've probably become a bit stuck.

"Going back to Ipswich City Uniting Church, 167 years ago the pioneers came down the Bremer River and you know, planted in this area that only had a few houses in it and from there it's grown.

"I think that's probably what's been stirring up in us as a congregation and me personally as well."

New shoots from root stock

A renewed focus on church planting may leave established churches feeling left out. Not everybody can start over in a new suburb, and traditional congregations also have communities to which they need to minister. But another project is already underway to revitalise older congregations.

Rodney Eivers from Acacia Ridge Uniting Church is part of the Milpara Project, developed to assist local congregations to become integrated with their local communities.

"I'm not talking about the church doing things in the community," says Rodney, "I mean, you hear stories of that in *Journey* and so on all the time.

"I'm talking about the community getting involved in the church, right? Coming from the other direction so the community actually comes to feel that the church belongs to them, and they will work to support it.

"This is why we are trying to integrate the community into the church, so that the community see that the church is relevant to them in their particular geographic community."

Millennial mission to the millennials

Orrell Battersby says millennials are vital for planting new communities of faith.

"My senior minister was from a completely different generation to me, but he said, 'I love [baby] boomers'. You could see him training us in leadership, loving us like a spiritual father and releasing that ministry to us. So when I was in my 20s I was planting a church.

"Why are we not doing that? We should be doing it with the millennials."

Millennials are known for being ambitious and optimistic, and Orrell says they will be missionaries to their own generation.

"What I really love about them is they don't want to save the church, they want to save the world."

It's that kind of thinking which can lead to some serious innovation—and disruption.

"They will show us boomers what planting churches looks like in this context right now."

Keep planting and planting and planting

Orrell says of Newlife Pacific Pines, "We're getting the finance and the numbers and we're happy with each other and we're loving each other. We've become a family over four years."

He suggests that the challenge for renewal goes far beyond creating a few new church communities.

"But if that's it, we've failed. If all we do is pop out one church, well then what a waste of time! But the exciting thing is we can keep doing this.

"Are we now going to plant somewhere else?"





7 kind deeds to build up your church community

Journey has put together a few suggestions to mark World Kindness Day on 13 November in your church community. Visit us on Facebook to add your own ideas for random acts of kindness.

1

Clean out the church fridge

You will need a strong stomach, a calm disposition, and rubber gloves. Open the door, descend into a gentle squat (avoid locking the knee joints) and fully extend arms. Do not inhale. Place items carefully into a plastic bag and seal. Remove old notices from the door and replace with your own set of rules. Add a smiley face.

2

Sort out the storage cupboards

Again, this job should be approached with caution as items such as self-published memoirs and Christmas decorations are often stored on the uppermost shelves. We recommend performing this act of kindness with the discretion of the poor widow tossing her last mite into the collection box, as throwing out items may cause discord. Beware of crawly things in dark corners.

3

Don't eat the biscuits

We know that the supper roster comes around too quickly, but the arbitrary redistribution of property according to need is quite properly frowned upon when it comes to church biscuits. If you must dip into another group's supplies, a truly kind person would replace the arrowroot biscuits you ate with some decent shortbread creams.

4

Sing along, even when you hate the music

Surely even the saints struggle with this expression of Christian unity, but try to remember that someone in your congregation actually chose this hymn for specific reasons, however misguided. And believe it or not, a musician spent time writing this song, so give it a shot. If all else fails, simply move your lips slightly and look upwards, as though transported by musical bliss.

5

Don't talk to anyone you know

This Sunday, break away from your normal clique and chat to people you don't know well or at all. And while you're at it, take time to listen to people who are grumpy or just plain sad. Giving time is one of the greatest acts of kindness.

6

Share the load

Offer a lift to someone who needs a ride to church and back. Cook a meal for a family who are going through a tough time. Small things can make a world of difference.

7

Hand out *Journey*

We hope you do this anyway. The Uniting Church is a community centred on sharing stories of faith, hope and courage, so help us spread the word.

It's never
easy to
say farewell



Arranging a funeral for a loved one may appear daunting but with our professional, caring guidance you are guaranteed of a truly fitting farewell.

Just call **3851 7800** for immediate help.



ALEX GOW
FUNERALS

Creating memories since 1840

...still family-owned

24 Hours/7 Days Service | Pre-arranged Funerals | Funeral Insurance Advice



Youth ministry—it's not rocket science!

Forget the flashing lights and loud music, ministry to children and youth is about valuing people and relationships. **Rev Josie Neuendorff** explains.

When I speak to people in congregations about children and youth ministry, I am almost always asked about what programs and activities will attract young people and keep them interested.

The answer is, simply, there are none.

Compared to the rest of society we will never win by trying to entertain young people. But we have something else: hope, love, joy and peace. There is something within the spiritual and faithful aspects of how we seek to live as a community that is very attractive and fulfilling for young people (just as it attracts people of all ages).

There are a few key tips to help congregations continue to grow and engage in ministry with young people. Firstly, for youth and children's ministry to thrive within a church it must be seen and held as a priority across the congregation. As Roberto, Black and Martinson write in *The Spirit and Culture of Youth Ministry*, "It is the culture of the whole church that is vital in nurturing youth of vital faith."

Secondly I would add that church offers a unique family atmosphere where young people can build healthy and life-giving relationships with those from other generations. This beautiful opportunity for intergenerational relationships can be life-changing for all involved. Developing healthy cross-generational

relationships makes young people feel more connected and a true member of the church family.

It's not about running the greatest games, or having cool lingo, it's about valuing people and relationships. God does the rest.

Easter Madness is an upcoming event in the life of the Queensland Synod that seeks to put the above into practice.

We've hosted these "Madness" programs for young people before, but this time we are opening it up for more age groups and inviting young people from across Queensland to journey together through the life-changing story of Easter.

Even if you are not in this age group or able to be an Easter Madness leader you can still be involved by:

- praying for the leaders and participants
- promoting Easter Madness in your community
- sending your minister to go with the young people
- inviting young people you know to attend
- sponsoring a rural young person.

Online donations to the Easter Madness Appeal can be made at missionpossible.ucaqld.com.au

'It's not about running the greatest games, or having cool lingo, it's about valuing people and relationships'



Help young people like Nick grow in faith!

Nick; 12 years; Emerald Fernlees Uniting Church

**easter
MADNESS
Appeal**



The Uniting Church Foundation
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

missionpossible.ucaqld.com.au

Give online to the Easter Madness 2016 Appeal or call 3377 9777 to donate over the phone by credit card or cheque. Every donation will subsidise registration fees (\$340 pp) for young people from regional and remote Queensland, to attend the 2016 Easter Madness camp and enjoy the same leadership opportunities as their friends in Brisbane.

The truth shall set you free

Multicultural advocate Lesley Bryant talks to **Dianne Jensen** about her passion for building trust in fractured communities.

When Lesley Bryant first learned about her Samoan great-grandmother, it seemed like a romantic addendum to an ordinary family history. Years later, she came to understand how the legacy of Queensland's dark history of indentured South Sea Islander labour had affected her own life and thousands of others.

Lesley is a retired microbiologist and librarian with a background in disability advocacy. She is a passionate supporter of Initiatives of Change (IofC), a world-wide movement of people committed to building peace through social cohesion, and a member of Elanora Uniting Church.

Her story begins more than 125 years ago, when her Samoan great-grandmother married a Cornishman. Their son was born in Fiji and the family emigrated to north Queensland and eventually settled in South Johnstone, a small town in the heart of the sugar estates once worked by indentured South Sea Islanders.

These were called “Kanakas”, around 50 000 labourers, mostly men, abducted or enticed primarily from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to provide cheap labour. Records from the State Archives reveal 15 000 deaths in Queensland over 40 years of the lucrative trade, which was cut off by the *Pacific Island Labourers Act 1901*. Three quarters of the 10 000 Pacific Islanders working in Australia at the time were deported.

“The White Australia Policy was to get rid of them and not have a remnant population here. Those left just had to blend in with the scenery and with the Aboriginal people,” says Lesley. “By the time my grandfather had moved to South Johnstone, there was legislation preventing the employment of Islanders in the sugar industry.”

Legacy of fear

When her grandfather died in the 1920s, leaving a young family, the enduring prejudice against Islanders forced his widow to hide her husband's antecedents.

“Eventually my grandmother remarried and had two more children, and although my mother's stepfather was good to her, his family were racist and so grandma didn't keep in touch with the great-grandmother who was Samoan out of not wanting to cause trouble ... so they sort of passed as Italian.”

The fear of being labelled “Kanaka” haunted Lesley's mother who did not acknowledge her heritage until a casual conversation only a few years ago.

“Mum just couldn't talk about it and we didn't until my mother and father were in their eighties. I made a remark about a relative with racist views being in denial of his heritage ... Mum burst into tears and said, ‘Nobody knows what racism has cost me’,” says Lesley.

“Dad realised that she thought that he didn't know that she was coloured, and he said ‘I knew that you were coloured. Mrs So-and-so told me not to go out with you and I didn't care’. So here they are, finally having this conversation in their eighties!”

Forgotten people

After 100 years of separation, the Initiatives of Change network helped Lesley and her mother to locate their lost family in Samoa and Fiji.

“Mum even came back and told her church ladies her true story, so I knew she'd made it,” says Lesley.

She began wondering about the Australian descendants of the “Kanakas”—now known as Australian South Sea Islanders (ASSI)—and why their story had virtually disappeared from mainstream society.

“I saw what a difference reconnecting with family had made in mum's life, and realised that people should be able to be proud of all of their heritage, and not be shamed by any of it.

“The Initiatives of Change concept is to first look at yourself and see what needs to change, and then to engage others in change—so looking at myself and my

‘I think these days Jesus would probably preach the parable of the good Muslim, and people would be as shocked as they were when he preached the parable of the good Samaritan’



Multicultural advocate Lesley Bryant.
Photo: Rohan Salmond

family story and these silences made me think, I should look at the people who really are ‘Kanaka’.”

When Lesley discovered that the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first South Sea Islanders was coming up in 2013, she saw the opportunity for healing some old divisions.

Under her leadership the ASSI 150 project was born, centred on the arrival of the first indentured labourers in August 1863 to work on the cotton plantation of Robert Towns at Townsville (now Veresdale) near Beaudesert. The 67 workers arrived at Redbank and walked 45 km to the property.

The focus of the project was on reconciliation as well as celebrating the cultural heritage of the ASSI community living in the region. With the support of the Mununjali traditional owners, the state government, regional councils, local landowners, artists and historians, a “This is our story” commemorative walk was planned together with the *Echoes* exhibition in Beaudesert. Others organised 150th events and exhibitions wherever there was a sizeable ASSI community.

Creators of peace

Lesley has since been involved in the Fiji Melanesian 150th commemorations in 2014 and this year with the *Australian Reflections on Blackbirding* exhibition in Vanuatu.

She also works with women in Queensland and Fiji as an IofC Creators of Peace facilitator.

“The idea is that you bring women from different backgrounds into the circle where they create a

safe space to hear each other’s stories ... this is a way to hear the hard stuff that people are not usually game to even voice at times,” says Lesley. “This is how we learn to listen to the power of reconciliation and forgiveness.”

Building trust at home

The need to build trust between divided communities took a personal turn when conflict erupted on the Gold Coast where Lesley lives.

Like many, she was disturbed by the acrimony in her local community over an application to build a mosque in Currumbin. The application was rejected by the Gold Coast City Council in September 2014, ending up in court with no final resolution to date.

Lesley began helping local Muslim women organise chai cafés to bring women from all backgrounds together. Cafés have already been held in the Kirra community centre, Southern Cross University and Elanora Uniting Church with plans for another at Bond University.

The anger and fear generated by the issue was scary, admits Lesley, who was one of many people who copped personal flak for their involvement.

“I think that people have to get to know one another and realise that we are all in the one community. If we devalue anyone we are devaluing all of us ... no one is asking us to change our beliefs or our practices, just that we leave space for others.”

Faith in action

At 69 years of age, Lesley’s faith journey reflects her life-long compassion for those who live with disability or disadvantage.

Along with working with IofC and a range of community and humanitarian organisations, Lesley spent 25 years as a volunteer with the Leprosy Mission. This work, she says, truly reflects the transformational ministry of Jesus.

“Reaching out to the outcasts who could not even be touched because they were unclean—Jesus was able to value them and heal them and restore their place in society ... if compassion doesn’t rule our motivation, I can’t see that we’re following Jesus.”

While remaining firmly rooted in the Uniting Church, Lesley belongs to the Progressive Spirituality Network and openly questions some of the beliefs to which other Christians hold fast.

“Certainly I call myself a passionate follower of Jesus but some people in my church wouldn’t even call me Christian because I don’t say the creeds like I’m expected to. But I am a Christian, because I’m a follower of Jesus and I don’t know what else you are supposed to be.

“I think these days Jesus would probably preach the parable of the good Muslim, and people would be as shocked as they were when he preached the parable of the good Samaritan.”



Give peace a chance

South Sudanese Christians come together in Christ

When Christians from different tribal groups came together at the Uniting Church's South Sudanese National Conference, new hope for peace was born. **Rebecca Beisler** reports.

When Gai Kur Akuei arrived at Brisbane airport for the South Sudanese National Conference he was greeted by members of the Nuer faith community. It was the first time he had spoken to a Nuer person since war erupted in South Sudan in December 2013.

**‘God has sent us here today to become messengers—to make peace in South Sudan, starting with our communities here and then back home’
Gai Kur Akuei**

A power struggle between the president and his deputy dragged the young nation into a bloody conflict with both sides seizing upon tribal divides to further the war for their own gain. In just under two years, tens of thousands of people lost their lives and more than two million people fled their homes—around the same number as the entire Brisbane population.

Gai, who is secretary of Adelaide's Dinka Faith Community, lost a cousin in the recent violence. It was another painful loss in what has been a harrowing journey.

As a young boy, Gai was forcibly separated from his family to be trained for the army. He still mourns the loss of his father who was killed in 1991 in another conflict. Gai spent 12 years living in a refugee camp in Kenya, where ongoing tribal violence meant he feared for his life every night.

He was married in the camp and came to Australia with his wife and their three children in 2004 as refugees. Their airfares were paid by a Uniting Church congregation. They now have seven children and live peacefully in Adelaide's northern suburbs.

Learning to trust

Unspoken words between the largely Christian South Sudanese population in Australia reflect the hurt and distrust people have carried amid the warfare in their home country.

From the airport, Gai was taken to the family home of Moses Leth, the pastor for the Nuer Faith Community in Brisbane which hosted the conference in conjunction with the Presbytery of South Moreton at St David's Uniting Church in Coopers Plains.

As a Dinka man, having not spoken with any Nuer person for two years, Gai now found himself sitting, eating and praying alongside them.

The experience transformed him.

The next day Gai stood up and spoke to the South Sudanese members gathered from across Australia.

“God has sent us here today to become messengers—to make peace in South Sudan, starting with our communities here and then back home.

“I am the right person and you are the right person to make that reconciliation and that peace.”

Gai is currently studying to become a minister in the Uniting Church. He attended the conference at the last minute, prompted by his lecturer Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler to write about the experience for his studies.

With flights confirmed just days before, Gai said it was God's plan for him to be there.

“There are 64 tribes in South Sudan and they are very conflicted. They need to be connected. I feel I need to do that work.”

Building peace

The will for peace and reconciliation permeated the three-day conference from 25–27 September. With the fitting theme *Building bridges of hope*, the conference brought together around 40 South Sudanese members



(Picture left) Gai Kur Akuei speaking at the South Sudanese National Conference. (Above) Dinka and Nuer Christians come together.
Photos: Rebecca Beisler

of the Uniting Church from Perth, Darwin, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and regional parts of Queensland.

A highlight of the program was the presence of Rev James Makuei Choul, the executive director of the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency of South Sudan (PRDA). James has been on the frontline of the emergency response and work for peace in South Sudan. His visit to Australia was facilitated by UnitingWorld, which partners with PRDA and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCoSS).

Speaking at the conference, James indicated the vital role that the church in South Sudan must take to build peace between communities.

“There has been a lot of trauma. For people to even hear the name of a certain tribe can be a source of conflict.

“People praying in the church were asking, ‘Why do we not ask God for those causing the problem to die?’ But our God is not magic. Our God is different from us.

“Jesus said ‘Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing’. That is the message we have for people as a church.”

PCoSS lost ten pastors in war. Churches, schools and other infrastructure were flattened. The church faces the task of rebuilding both physically and emotionally.

James Choul said the healing would begin with the church leaders themselves. Fifty pastors have already taken part in workshops where they could share their experiences of the war. PCoSS plans to equip its church leaders to become peace-builders in their own communities.

A ceasefire agreement signed in August remains fragile but James says the desire for peace is strong

among the people of South Sudan. He asked the Uniting Church for its continued support and prayers.

In the image of God

Also significant was the presence of Uniting Church president Stuart McMillan for the duration of the conference. His opening sermon provided great encouragement to the South Sudanese members.

“My friends, as a Christian I know that all people are created in the image of God,” he said. “A God of love and forgiveness, a God of mercy and compassion, a God who in Christ has destroyed the walls of hostility between people and who calls us and equips us to be peacemakers.”

Later, Moses Leth shared how grateful the South Sudanese members were for the welcome they had experienced in the Uniting Church, particularly from its leaders.

“We ask ourselves, if these people can love us so much, surely we can extend this love to each other.”

Fellowship and prayer

It was the first official South Sudanese National Conference for the Uniting Church after a national gathering took place in Adelaide in 2012.

As well as the conversation on peace, participants shared in fellowship and prayer. A Brisbane-based Anglican South Sudanese community performed cultural dance and song. Congregations from the South Moreton Presbytery provided food for participants. This included a Maori dinner and cultural welcome from Logan Central Multicultural Uniting Church and an African feast prepared by the Nuer faith community.

National director for Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry, Rev Dr Apwee Ting, spoke about the way the Uniting Church embraces cultural diversity as a gift from God. He affirmed participants in their journey towards reconciliation.

“When you come together and make reconciliation, God will use you to make a bridge for others,” he said.

Australian support

UnitingWorld’s national director Rob Floyd spoke about its support for the people of South Sudan since 2010. In particular, UnitingWorld funds a midwifery school which has trained 59 women to become midwives, a significant step in helping to reduce high maternal and infant mortality rates in South Sudan.

The current cohort of 20 students relocated to Lokichoggio in Kenya after the school in Leer was torched in the violence. The women who made the perilous journey out of the country are now completing practical training in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya and making a difference for mothers there.

Rob Floyd said UnitingWorld stood ready to support the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, particularly as it rebuilds and trains new leaders to take leadership in the peace-building process.

Hope for the future

It was this commitment to justice that inspired Gai Kur Akuei to serve in the Uniting Church.

His great hope is to one day return to South Sudan and serve as a chaplain in the army.

“The soldiers do not know the word of God; they do not know they are good people. I want to share with them that regardless of the tribalism, they are children of God. They are brothers.”

Indeed, bridges of hope have been laid for the people of South Sudan, here in Australia and in their homeland. Their shared hope for peace is a gift to us all.

Blue Care honoured with grants, hall of fame



Blue Care nurse Lisa Tranter (left) with Sister Olive Smith (nee Crombie), who was the first Blue Nurse in 1953.
Photo: Supplied

**‘We’ve always
believed in
supporting
people to remain
living at home
for as long as
possible’
Robyn Batten**

Not-for-profit service provider Blue Care will launch new programs to care for people with dementia. *Journey* reports.

Blue Care has received \$243 000 in grant funding to implement programs to care for people with dementia.

The grant funding was awarded by a coalition of philanthropic groups: the Perpetual Foundation—John Thomas Wilson Endowment, the Gladys Myrtle Brown Charitable Trust and the Dr and Mrs JJ Luddy Charitable Trust.

The money will fund a dementia specialist for 12 months in Blue Care Brisbane’s south services and a pilot program of staff education and mentoring based on Montessori for Dementia teaching methods.

Blue Care memory support advisor Denise Edwards says six Blue Care sites in Queensland would pilot the Montessori for Dementia program, involving approximately 40 staff members.

“Dementia care models have historically been based on what people can’t do, whereas Blue Care and Montessori’s method identifies client’s strengths and what they can do,” says Denise.

“Our preferred method focuses on activities clients used to do but may not remember how to, such as eating dinner, setting the table and having an active role to play in the community.”

Dementia describes a collection of symptoms caused by disorders affecting the brain, which affects thinking, behaviour and the ability to perform everyday tasks.

Blue Care provides dementia-specific care across its residential aged care, community care and respite care centres and services.

The grant funding comes just months after Blue Care was admitted into the Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame, a joint initiative between QUT Business School, State Library of Queensland and the Queensland Library Foundation.

It celebrates those organisations and individuals who have enhanced the state’s reputation and economy.

“Blue Care has a proud legacy of assisting Queenslanders and it is an absolute privilege to receive this great honour on behalf of the organisation and staff and volunteers,” says Robyn Batten, Blue Care’s executive director.

“We’ve always believed in supporting people to remain living at home for as long as possible and have facilitated this since the early days of the Blue Nursing Service 62 years ago.”

Blue Care, which started with a single nurse, Olive Crombie, was founded by Rev Arthur Preston at West End Mission (now West End Uniting Church). It now employs more than 11 000 staff and volunteers, caring for more than 12 500 people every day across 260 sites throughout Queensland and northern New South Wales.

bluecare.org.au



ANTON BROWN FUNERALS

100% QUEENSLAND FAMILY OWNED

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

www.antonbrownfunerals.com.au

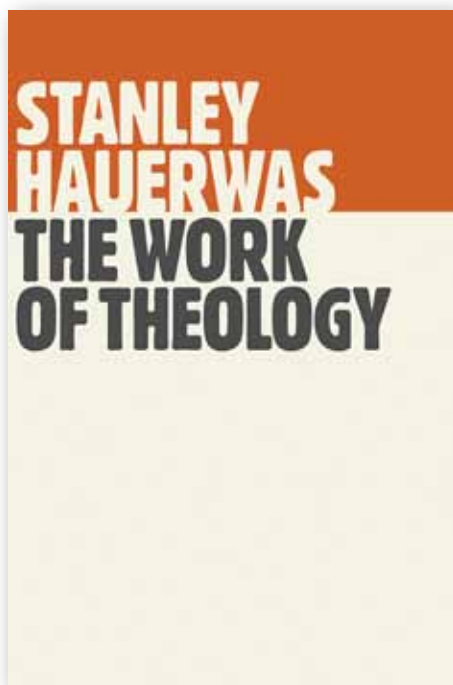


57 BALACLAVA STREET
WOOLLOONGABBA

3217 3088

1285 GYMPIE ROAD ASPLEY

3863 4000



The Work of Theology,
Stanley Hauerwas,
Eerdmans, 2015,
\$39.99

Theology: hard rewarding work

Stanley Hauerwas talks about himself a lot, and this may confirm for some that he has bought into the hype that has him labelled as “America’s best theologian”.

Quite the opposite! Because he is a prominent theologian, he has attracted his share of criticism and comment, and therefore much of Hauerwas’s writing is defensive. He requalifies, elaborates, apologises, restates, argues fiercely—sometimes in exasperation.

His career shows writing theology is difficult, in particular when, in his case, he argues that the church is decidedly alternative to the world, yet must engage with it—a view sometimes misconstrued as retreat from the world. In his book *Approaching the End* he argues that Christianity can’t claim to exist apart from how it relates to the world. The church’s very being is a reaction to the world and its injustices, and he is therefore critical of church accommodation to the world, whether it be sanctioning war or using the language of business to address the “unchurched” (a word he finds “hilarious”) as part of “growth strategies”.

He also carefully points out that ethics can’t be pulled apart from theology. Theology for Hauerwas can’t be an abstract thing—it must be performed in the messiness of life. He is keen to say that being an ethicist is not a specialisation, but is simply part of any Christian’s life,

as being a Christian means acting ethically in light of the gospel. Theology is not primarily an academic activity either. We always start “theologising” on the run, in the midst of whatever we are dealing with in the church at any given time, which is why Hauerwas resists the urge to systematise his theology (though, he points out, he is not against consistency).

Neither can there be any final resolution to theology, as Karl Barth’s (unfinished) *Church Dogmatics* famously demonstrates. Not that Hauerwas makes it explicit in this new book, but we can assume this is also why he keeps writing so noticeably in the first person—he realises that a theologian can never make the definitive pronouncement about God as if he were writing about the atomic structure of carbon dioxide or the degree of tilt of the Earth’s axis.

His carefulness is part of what makes him, perhaps paradoxically, such a good—and exciting—theologian, and why a book of essays such as *The Work of Theology* is as good or better than a systematic magnum opus at showing how to go about the task of theology.

Nick Mattiske
Nick writes about books at
coburgreviewofbooks.wordpress.com

‘... a theologian can never make the definitive pronouncement about God as if he were writing about the atomic structure of carbon dioxide ...’

Business

Education
& Humanities

Social
Sciences

Ministries

Transform Your World

CHC

Higher Education

Apply Now
Start in July

chc.edu.au

No
Upfront
Fees

Leading from the front

Newlife's band led Global Leadership Summit worship.
Photo: Bek Grace

Bruce Mullan attended the Global Leadership Summit and came away surprised and impressed.

‘260 000
leaders from
around the
world in over
120 countries
and in 55
languages
participating
in the 2015
Global
Leadership
Summit’

From the moment you were greeted in the car park of Newlife Robina Uniting Church it was clear that this event was going to be something special.

A team of over 40 volunteers welcomed 250 people to hear video presentations from experts in leadership training and church management, blended seamlessly with live input from the local host organisation.

The packed auditorium was welcomed by a video clip featuring faces like Nelson Mandela and John F Kennedy, and telling us that “leadership is hard work”, before the live band pumped out a rock version of “How Great Thou Art”, complete with a subtle light show and a hint of smoke machine.

Host pastor and chair of Willow Creek Australia Rev Stu Cameron offered a prayer thanking God for the privilege of being leaders, and we were off to join 260 000 leaders from around the world in over 120 countries and in 55 languages participating in the 2015 Global Leadership Summit (known by enthusiasts as the GLS).

The speaker line-up (all on screen) included pastors of churches where membership is numbered in the tens of thousands, authors and academics, a multiple Academy Award winner and a hotel manager, but some of the best learning came from what was happening off the stage.

The level of hospitality offered by the host congregation was little short of exceptional. As Stu Cameron put it, they had been trained in the understanding that “excellence honours God and inspires people”.

More like a series of 50 minute TED talks (Google if you haven’t heard of it) than a church conference, the content was at times predictable but mostly inspirational.

A Uniting Church member undertaking a period of discernment Ryan Degroot attended the GLS for the first time and came away energised by the experience.

“I didn’t just learn about leadership, I was inspired,” he said. He wasn’t on his own.

With most of the content coming to us on an enormous video screen, from time to time I would ask myself if I felt like the presenters were actually in the room and decided in the end that it probably didn’t matter.

While I found I couldn’t applaud the video “speakers” (most did) or put my hand up in answer to a question, I was absolutely engaged by the content and the process to the extent that I was able to forgive the advertising and allow the GLS to inspire me to believe that leadership is important—and that I could do it.

willowcreek.org.au



Six great showrooms offering more in lighting

INDOOROPILLY
INDOOROPILLY CENTRAL
34 Coonan Street
Phone 3720 1877

ASPLEY
HOMEMAKER CITY
825 Zillmere Road
Phone 3862 8374

JINDALEE
HOMEMAKER CITY
38 Goggs Road
Phone 3279 1961

LOGAN
LOGAN MEGA CENTRE
3525 Pacific Highway
Phone 3299 4588

KAWANA
HOME CENTRAL KAWANA
566 Kawana Way, Birtinya
Phone 5493 6044

BUNDALL
17 Upton Street
(Beside The Good Guys)
Phone 5504 6777

ANDREWS
LIGHT UP ONLINE

www.lightup.com.au
your number one choice for online lighting





Synod theme announced

The theme for the 32nd Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church will be *On purpose*, encouraging church members to focus on discovering a life of purpose in Christ.

Synod will be held from 20 to 24 May at the Alexandra Park Conference Centre on the Sunshine Coast.

Polities and faith leaders unite over reform

President of the Uniting Church in Australia Stuart McMillan joined a cross-party forum between religious leaders and members of parliament in Canberra on 15 October to support renewed efforts to reform Australia's asylum seeker policies.

Mr McMillan described the continued abuse of asylum seekers in offshore detention centres as "inexcusable", and said that courageous citizens were speaking up in increasing numbers.

"I applaud the actions of staff at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital in refusing to return children in detention to places where they are at risk of further abuse and trauma."

Representatives of different faiths agreed to form a working group with five members of parliament to advance the case for reform.

"We stand together with all people of decency, of faith or no faith, for the welfare and dignity of asylum seekers," said Mr McMillan.

UnitingWorld warns of drought disaster in PNG

UnitingWorld partners in Papua New Guinea are continuing to report the impact of an El Nino-related drought and consequent famine unfolding in the highlands of PNG and potentially into West Papua.

The drought appears to be following a similar pattern to the 1997-98 drought and *Taim Hangre* (time of hunger); however the earlier onset and greater severity are raising concerns that this event will be more even more serious.

There are reports of patients being hospitalised and on medication due to water-borne and air-borne diseases and at least three reported deaths of children. The chances of a major disease outbreak are very high as clean drinking water is no longer available in many places.

UnitingWorld is responding via the Emergency Contingency Fund. To assist visit unitingworld.org.au

UnitingWomen 2016 registration open

Registration for UnitingWomen 2016 is now open. The conference will be hosted by Wesley Kent Town Uniting Church and held at Prince Alfred College in Adelaide, South Australia from 28 April to 1 May.

The theme of UnitingWomen 2016 is *Sharing stories of hope*, with a program of speakers and workshops aimed at empowering Christian women to share the ways Christ is inspiring hope in their lives and communities.

Program details and marketing resources are available at unitingwomen.org.au or follow facebook.com/UnitingWomen2016

Prayer vigils mark Anti-Poverty Week

Nearly 200 participants at Micah Australia's annual *Voices for Justice* joined with federal politicians and local Christians in a public candlelit prayer vigil on the lawns of Parliament House on 12 October.

Rev Gregor Henderson, former general-secretary and president of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia represented the Uniting Church. The public prayer was one of many held across the country during Anti-Poverty Week from 11 to 17 October.

"Having Christians around the country praying in this way sends a powerful message to politicians and reminds them that we hold politicians to their highest calling which is to work for the common good and to protect the rights of the poor and needy both within our borders and beyond them," said Ben Thurley, national coordinator of Micah Australia.

Micah Australia is a coalition of church and Christian organisations. Visit micahaustralia.org

Uniting Church to march on climate

The state and national councils of the Uniting Church in Australia will officially support the People's Climate Marches taking place around Australia and the world in November.

"I'm delighted that our church is getting behind this important global campaign," said Uniting Church in Australia president Stuart McMillan.

For details of the rallies taking place across Australia, visit peoplesclimate.org.au



passionate ABOUT WORKING
WITH young people?

Certificate IV
IN YOUTH WORK
CHC40413

Diploma
OF YOUTH WORK
CHC50413



enrol now FOR 2016

FOR MORE INFO CALL 1300 478 753
OR VISIT training.suqld.org.au

SCRIPTURE UNION QUEENSLAND RTO 30548





To the editor

Power of plain language

I loved the moderator's comment about needing the "power of the Spirit" to interpret some financial reports ("The Spirit is abroad in the world", October 2015, page four).

For example, the article on page 18 of the October edition tells me (as one who sits in the congregation) what the current financial position of the Synod now is. Indeed, the pie chart has such gobbledygook statements like "Strategic Projects", "In Solidarity", "Core Oversight" and "Particular Function".

I don't need the Holy Spirit to interpret—just someone to speak in plain language.

Don Dalzell
Morningside Uniting Church

Blue Care correction

I received my copy of October *Journey* today, and my attention was drawn to the review of Keith Suter's dissertation on the future of the Uniting Church ("Suter gets the ball rolling on reform", October 2015, page 14).

I have to say I have found it to be a clear and compelling account of the situation we find ourselves in.

Just one point: In the references to some of the church's innovative welfare services, he ascribes the founding of Blue Care (formerly Blue Nursing Service) to Albert Street Uniting. He should be corrected! While Albert Street did establish its aged-care work at Chermiside very early, in the 1950s it was West End Mission, under the guidance of Rev Arthur Preston, that founded that service. As an "expat" in NSW, I am still a distant admirer of how Blue Care has developed into the major service it is today.

I continue to read *Journey* with deep appreciation. Keep up your good work.

Robert Luxton
Armidale Uniting Church, NSW

Get a war room

War Room is NOT terrible ("Klaxons sound at *War Room's* success", October 2015, page 16). I saw it recently in a packed theatre and have not enjoyed a film so much for many a year. Of course as an 80-year-old, born again and Spirit-filled Bible-believing Christian Zionist, I am far from being politically correct, and I do like to see Christians score a win once in a while. I also do like to take my problems and the problems of others direct to the top, to my creator, redeemer and king. Does it always "work" how I would like it to? No it does not! But sometimes the answer is so quick that it's scary. Of course the change in "Tony's" life is miraculous, true conversion always is.

If all Christians had a well-used "war room" things would change dramatically in mainstream society.

Rob Pym
Iona West Uniting Church

All letters must directly address articles and letters from the previous month's edition of *Journey*. Opinions expressed are only indicative of the individual writer, not their entire congregation. While direct responses to letters are acceptable, ongoing discussions about an article more than two months old will not be published. Letters should be no longer than 150 words. Full submission guidelines for letters to the editor can be found at journeyonline.com.au/submit

When will I be able to retire? Ask Robert!

Robert Bullock is a dedicated Christian, qualified financial planner and member of the Association of Financial Advisers (AFA).

Receive a 100% money back guarantee on your financial plan preparation fee if you believe your financial plan will not add value to your financial situation.

Mention this ad for a free consult!

1300 303 387 robert.bullock@kenmorefinancial.com.au kenmorefinancial.com.au



Journey readership survey

Your feedback helps us continue to make Journey better. Please complete this survey by 16 November 2015. If you choose to return the survey in paper form, please post to Uniting Communications GPO Box 674 Brisbane 4001.

1 What is your gender?
☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other

3 What is your postcode?

2 What is your age?
☐ Under 18 ☐ 36-50
☐ 18-25 ☐ 51-64
☐ 26-35 ☐ 65+

4 Please rate your satisfaction with the following aspects of *Journey*

	Very unsatisfied 1	2	3	4	Very satisfied 5
Physical size of the magazine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length of magazine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Articles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of reading	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Writing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Layout and design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Photos/artwork	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Frequency of publication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extra information (links to other relevant info/stats)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5 If you are not satisfied with any of these aspects, please indicate any specific changes you would like to see

6 Please rate your interest in the following items covered by *Journey*

	No interest 1	2	3	4	Very interested 5
Feature articles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Profiles and interviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local congregation news	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agency stories (Blue Care, Wesley Mission Brisbane, UnitingCare, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Synod news	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assembly news	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Editorial (page 3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Moderator's message (page 4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opinion pieces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Theological reflections	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Letters to the editor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
List articles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fast news	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7 Are there any kinds of stories you would like to see more or less of?

8 Why do you read *Journey*?
☐ For personal reflection
☐ To adapt as a Bible study
☐ To use as part of small group discussions
☐ To keep up to date with the Uniting Church position on issues
☐ To keep up to date with current affairs
☐ To hear about news from my own and other congregations
☐ Other (please tell us)

9 What article/theme/topic has been the most memorable in the past year?

10 What do you like most about *Journey*?

11 What do you like least about *Journey*?

12 What changes or improvements would you like to suggest?

13 Do you subscribe to the weekly Queensland Synod email newsletter *Uniting News*?
☐ Yes ☐ No



Do it now!
Get out your smart phone or tablet and complete the survey online now! Just scan the graphic (left) or go to surveymonkey.com/r/journeymag2015



My Blue Care

Make it **yours**

Blue Care's strength lies in our people. Your dedicated Blue Care team will put your needs and interests first. Why not make Blue Care part of your every day?

Please contact one of our friendly team members and discuss your care needs or enquire about our services.

1300 258 322
mybluecare.org.au




General Secretary Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Western Australia

This position has at its core, providing leadership in the development of the Synod's capacity for mission and ministry. The successful applicant will have a deep knowledge of the Uniting Church and the ability to lead through times of change with a pastoral approach. The position requires a person of vision, prayer, managerial skills and empowering leadership.

To be considered for this position you must be a member of the Uniting Church and available to commence in 2016. A position description and information package is available.

Please email your expression of interest to:
Maureen Bourke, administrative assistant to the Selection Committee
Uniting Church in Australia (WA Synod)
Email: maureen.bourke@wa.uca.org.au
Phone: 08 9260 9833




\$35 can change someone's story this Christmas

Since her husband died 20 years ago, Pat has lived alone in her tiny apartment. Her health is failing, and some days she can barely walk.

Pat is one of hundreds of Brisbane residents who received a **Red Bag** Christmas hamper last year, valued at \$35. Each hamper is full of food, decorations, bonbons, Christmas cakes and pudding – a Christmas celebration in a bag.

We want to offer hope, joy and a reason to celebrate. We want to change someone's story – and we can't do it without your help.

Visit www.wmb.org.au or call **1800 4 WESLEY** to give your \$35 gift today. Contact redbags@wmb.org.au for more information.