



BELROSE UNITING CHURCH

Good News Quarterly

Issue #126

November 2021 – January 2022

Assembly of
Confessing
Congregations



Good news worth singing about!!

There's a wealth of research that proves the benefits of singing on our physical, and mental, health and wellbeing. Apparently singing relieves stress and tension, enhances feelings of trust and bonding, improves depression and feelings of loneliness, boosts confidence, improves breathing, and is (mostly, when I can hold a tune) a pleasurable experience.

No wonder I have really missed our Congregational singing at Church over recent weeks (& months).

Thankfully, we are able to sing again as a Congregation in worship, and just in time for Advent & the Christmas season! It is not surprising that the major announcements in the Bible concerning the coming of Jesus (at his birth, and in anticipation of him coming again) are accompanied by a lot of singing. It is news worth singing about!

Singing, especially at Christmas, will help us to jubilantly express the joy of this good news that we celebrate, not only at Christmas, but every time we meet together. Hymns, songs and Christmas Carols give us the words and tunes that enable us to join with the people of God worldwide, past and present, in joyful celebration of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. The good news of forgiveness, a fresh start, reconciliation, hope and peace, is worth singing about.

Regardless of whether you are tone deaf, or an operatic diva, I invite you to bring your voice, along with your heart and mind, and join me in singing the praises of Him who loves us abundantly, generously, graciously; for we will join with the angels singing:

'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power & wealth & wisdom & strength & honour & glory & praise!'

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, forever and ever!'

(Revelation 5:12, 13)

Ian Weeks

We WILL have a Merry (Covid-free) Christmas!! 😊

We will be celebrating Christmas this year, rejoicing in God's amazing gift:

Christ the Saviour is born!!!

Friday 24th December Christmas Eve at 6.30 pm

Saturday 25th December Christmas Day at 9.00 am

Good News Quarterly is the quarterly newsletter of the Belrose Uniting Church: *To Know Christ and Make Him Known!*

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Belrose Uniting Church

in the Assembly of Confessing Congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia

Corner Forest Way and Morgan Road, Belrose

We aim TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world since 1916.

**Every Sunday at 9.30 am Multi-generational service
and at 5.30 pm Digging into the Bible – all welcome**



ASSEMBLY OF CONFESSING CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

We are a movement that believes in the lordship of Jesus Christ, that loves God and people.
We have a heart for prayer, authentic worship and passionate about the mission
to see God's kingdom established across the earth.

The ACC National Council 2021-22

Chair: Rev. Dr Hedley Fihaki (Queensland)

Deputy Chair: Pastor Matt Kang (NSW)

Secretary: Rev. Anne Hibbard (NSW)

Council Members:

Rev. Walter Abetz (Tas)

Rev. John Blazé (Vic)

Ms Esther Bishop (Qld)

Rev. Mike Fawcett (WA)

Rev. Lulu-'OHa'angana Senituli (Qld)

Mr Frank Reale (Vic)

Mr Barry O'Ryan (Qld)

Rev. Ian Weeks (NSW)

*Confessing the Lord Jesus Christ
Proclaiming the Truth
Renewing the Church*

A Message from the Chair - Rev. Dr Hedley Fihaki

"Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap." Ecclesiastes 11:4.

In Ecclesiastes 3:2, the Preacher reminds us that there is 'A time to plant and a time to pluck what is planted' or 'uproot' (3:2). The conditions for planting and reaping, as we know, will not always be perfect or ideal. It is why the Preacher goes on to say, that simply gazing or staring at the effect of the wind and the darkness of the clouds will mean no sowing or reaping.

One commentator put it in this way, *'Lack of complete knowledge is no excuse for inactivity'* (E. Jones 1961). *'The life of joy will not come to the waverer'*. The fact is, if we wait for the ideal condition, we will rarely achieve anything worthwhile. We must, therefore, as Paul put it, make *'the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil'* (Ephesians 5:16, NIV).

This year has been a time of wrestling with God regarding the future of the ACC in its current form. Does our current vision and role as the ACC adequately address the fact that the 15th UCA's National Assembly's decision to validate same-sex marriage, maintaining two contradictory definitions of marriage (the "two integrities") has instituted a 'new gospel' into the heart of the UCA, putting it 'outside' the Christian faith? This is what apostasy means!

Sadly, many are blind to this fact. I believe we are now in the dangerous zone of 'complacency'. Living within the 'two integrities' framework is rapidly becoming 'normalized', and we will soon no longer see a problem living in a compromised and contradictory state of existence. We have some important decisions that we must make in the very near future for the sake of the 'gospel'.

Is it time to uproot and plant a new? The conditions for planting and reaping will not always be ideal. If we simply gaze at the wind and the clouds, then, we will end up not sowing or reaping at all. We must *'make the most of every opportunity because the days are evil'*. **Please help us Lord! Give us boldness and courage to do your will for your honour and glory alone. In Jesus name, Amen**

Grace and peace, Rev. Dr. Hedley Fihaki National Council Chair

ACC Congregations in Australia



You can get a full report of the 2021 ACC AGM along with videos of some session at the ACC web-site:

<https://confessingcongregations.org.au/>

A good news story: Bread Australia – “Gleanings For The Hungry!”

BREAD AUSTRALIA, a welfare arm of Barnabas Fund Aus., launched a new project called 'Gleanings for the Hungry'. The vision of this project is to partner with Australian farmers in collecting their surplus harvest and exporting it to food-insecure countries.

In the Old Testament, God instructed His people not to reap to the very edges of their fields. They were to "Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow." (Deuteronomy 24:21.) Now the Australian Christian farmers have the opportunity to help some of the most vulnerable and impoverished communities in the world. BA aims to work with Australian farming communities to bring hope and nutrition to the world's most underprivileged communities.

BREAD AUSTRALIA sees the value and effectiveness of partnering with regional communities in our humanitarian response. Jude Simion, CEO of BA writes: "In our experience, coordinated humanitarian grain exports will help to repurpose surplus grain and manage local pricing. In addition, it will help the Australian farmers to be directly and practically involved in humanitarian interventions. The project's main objective will make use of the surplus barley, grain, and other food products, exporting them to food-insecure countries. We are very excited about what this project will hold for our suffering brothers and sisters overseas who struggle with malnutrition and combat hunger."

BA has been promised 100 tons of fresh Chickpeas from an Aussie farmer, and they are planning to ship five container loads of this produce through to Lebanon in Jan 2022. Similarly, many South Aussie farmers are hoping to give BA barley produce. Another large company previously gave 50,000 blankets, which were sent to the middle east. Jude Simion asks for more supportive farmers and God's protection and speedy transport. Jude is excited to hear from keen farmers who have fresh and seconds of produce to give to those in need.

BREAD AUSTRALIA is a Christian relief and development agency initiated by Barnabas Fund Australia as its Relief and Development Arm to respond to humanitarian and development needs. BA is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission, and as a Public Benevolent Institution with Deductible Gift Recipient status with the Australian Tax Office.

(Written by Assoc Ed. Doug McDonald for *New Life Aus*, 28 Oct 2021. Info @ <https://breadprojects.org/about-us/>)

Malawi: More Than 37,000 People Decide To Follow Jesus At Andrew Palau Mission Outreach

“Love Malawi Festival proved to be yet another powerful example of God’s grace and favour over Andrew and Wendy Palau’s ongoing evangelistic work”, reports the Luis Palau Association. “Uniting more than 2,250 local Churches for two weeks of evangelistic ministry, this campaign helped saturate four cities with the clear Good News and led more than 37,922 people to indicate a decision to follow Jesus Christ!”

In total, combining all events during the two-week campaign, more than 150,000 people were reached in person with a clear gospel message. *“Many more were reached through an extensive media campaign, including national television broadcasts of Andrew’s messages from the prisons as well as the final weekend’s evening messages, on one of Malawi’s top national television networks.”*

Wendy also joined Andrew in preaching the Gospel at several of the events, including one of the prison outreaches (a first for Wendy) and at a women’s dinner (with the first lady of Malawi sharing her testimony).

This recent campaign focused attention in and around the city of Blantyre and was built off the tremendous impact of Andrew and Wendy’s previous campaign in Malawi in 2016. After experiencing great growth in Church unity and significant impact of the Gospel in the city of Lilongwe in 2016 – as well as exciting outreaches in the large refugee camp known as Dzaleka – it was pure joy that the national leaders, including the President of the nation, invited the team back for renewed efforts in Blantyre and the surrounding area.

The entire campaign included more than 50 outreach events and culminated in a massive three-day festival in the heart of Blantyre, complete with live music from Don Moen, Brandon Burke, and several local artists; action sports (with the partnership of *The Stunt Dudes*, and a children’s area (led by local Churches). Andrew shared the Good News with the crowd each night, while more than 1,800 local believers (who were trained by the team) helped counsel and follow up each new believer at the festival. *“As is the case in all Palau campaigns, ministry partners stood with us to help saturate the city. Empowering local evangelists and believers with tools and opportunities, they helped spread the Word in prison outreaches, eye glass clinics, school assemblies, sports tournaments, visits to orphanages, and through evangelistic dinners for key groups of individuals.”*

One of the local leaders had this to say about the entire campaign: *“Thank God for the Love Malawi Evangelistic Outreach; a great outreach initiative almost unparalleled in planning, ingenuity, spiritual intensity, relevance and faithfulness to the core Gospel. I have seen the hand of God at work in various spheres.”*

(Written by the editor for *Inspire Magazine/UK*, 27 Oct, 2021 Reproduced from *New Life Aus*. Nov 2021)

Belrose Uniting Church

Morning Service Preaching Plan November 2021 – January 2022

	Date	9.30 am Morning Church	5.30 pm Evening Church	MISSION OF THE MONTH
	November			Assembly of Confessing Congregations
1	7 th	Rev. Ian Weeks <i>Seeds of Hope Sunday</i> <i>A Prayer for Growth</i> Ephesians 3:14 - 21	Rev. Ian Weeks <i>Christianity Explored</i> <i>Final Session</i>	We are a member of the ACC, a network of UCA Churches seeking to uphold the historic and Biblical teachings of the Christian faith.
2	14 th	Rev. Ian Weeks The Lord's Supper <i>Standing Firm on Truth</i> 2 Timothy 4:1 – 8	Rev. Ian Weeks The Lord's Supper Bible Study	While we are part of the UCA denomination, we don't always agree with the teachings of the denomination that are contrary to the teaching of Scripture – the Bible is our ultimate and final authority in all matters of faith, discipleship & teaching.
3	21 st	Mr Ross Swadling	Bible Study	The ACC is committed to adhering to the UCA Basis of Union, especially the call to be open to "constant reform under His Word" (BoU para 1) and constantly praying that God will "correct that which erroneous in (the Church's) life" (BoU para 18).
4	28 th Advent 1 Congregation Meeting	Rev. Ian Weeks <i>Leaders Appreciation Sunday</i> 2 Samuel 23:13 – 17 and Acts 20:17 – 19 & 25 - 38	Bible Study	The ACC seeks to encourage UCA Congregation in the faithful proclamation of the Gospel, to stand firm in the faith, and to provide fellowship and resources for discipleship and ministry. See: www.confessingcongregations.org.au
	December			Christmas Appeals
1	5 th Advent 2	Rev. Ian Weeks <i>Days are coming!</i> Jeremiah 33:14 - 26	Bible Study	Wesley Dalmar Wesley Dalmar began its life in 1893 as the Central Mission Home for neglected children in Woolloomooloo. Today Dalmar provides homes for more than 620 children and young people in foster care.
2	12 th Advent 3	Rev. Ian Weeks The Lord's Supper <i>Prepare ye the way!</i> Malachi 2:17 – 3:4 & 4:1 - 5	Rev. Ian Weeks The Lord's Supper Bible Study	Dalmar provides homes for children and young people who cannot live with their families, by recruiting, training, and supporting foster carers.
3	19 th Advent 4	Mr Ross Swadling <i>Lessons and Carols</i>	Bible Study	 Pastor Jack Harradine & The UAICC Church in Broken Hill
	Friday 24th Christmas Eve	/	6.30 pm Service Rev. Ian Weeks	Jack writes: "We have poor families in our church. I am having a Christmas party for some special children whose families will struggle this Christmas.
	Saturday 25th Christmas Day	9.00 am Service Rev. Ian Weeks	/	I am trying to raise money to buy each child a present or two. Can you help?"
4	Boxing Day 26 th	TBA	No Service	Please take an envelope from our Christmas tree in the Foyer and return it with \$ by Sunday 19th Dec.
	January 2022			NSW Synod and Sydney Central Coast Presbytery Levy
1	2 nd	Rev. Ian Weeks The Lord's Supper	No Service	UCA Congregations are required to contribute to the wider church activities.
2	9 th	TBA	TBA	The Synod Levy pays for the various staff and agencies of the Synod.
3	16 th	Mr Ross Swadling	TBA	Likewise, the Presbytery Levy funds the various staff and activities of the Presbytery of which we are a part.
4	23 rd	Rev Anton Dykman	TBA	
5	30 th	Rev. Ian Weeks	Bible Study	