



Victorian
Council of Churches



Council News

October 2021

Victorian Council of
Churches

President:
Dr Graeme L Blackman AO

Executive Officer:
Rev Ian Smith

Ph: 03 9412 8487

facebook
: www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches/

address: level 6,
West Tower ,
608 St Kilda Rd Mel-
bourne 3004

Web site:
www.vcc.org.au

ABN 51 350 238 724



Reflections

Just outside my study window is a Lilly Pilly tree, it's one of the first trees we brought to this house some 15 years ago... It was from memory about a 20 cm tall seedling in a pot... We've watched it grow to needing a bigger and then a bigger pot and finally we planted it.. Now it's around 4 mts tall giving shade to us but more importantly it's home to a pair of pigeons who have built a nest and are now sharing the nesting duties .. We're hopeful soon of hearing the squawking of a new chick....

This tree reminds me of the teaching of Jesus about the Kingdom. A small seed becomes a tree that gives shelter... in the midst of this unprecedented season we are living through it seems to me that we need to keep affirming the truths that we hold too.. That God is sovereign, that the Kingdom is breaking in, that God's Spirit is continuing to empower and envision His people.

As this tree continues to grow and giving life and shelter , it continues to remind me and to hopefully encourage us all to continue to seek the signs of God's in-breaking love and grace.

- Ian

I am open to accepting invitations to come and share stories of the Council with your Church or group – I'm also happy to appear online or pre recorded you can contact me on 03 9412 8487 or email at ian.smith@vcc.org.au

News from the Council

- Council continues to work with the Victorian Church Leaders Network engaging with State Government and Department of Health Services in understanding and sharing the latest Covid 19 restrictions or information
- Council continues to work on its priorities and activities going into 2022 as it seeks to be a voice amongst the Churches and an influence within society.
- Council is continuing to seek members of member churches to participate in Three Commissions Council currently has. Faith and Order, Living Faiths and dialogue and Social questions. If readers are interested in any of these groups, please contact the Executive Officer Rev Ian Smith, ian.smith@vcc.org.au
- Council is facilitating a number of meetings with Church leaders from across the Christian spectrum in regards to a number of proposed amendments to State Government legislation... ..anti discrimination act
.. Decriminalisation of the sex industry
Contact VCC at vcc@vcc.org.au for more details

VCC—Contact details

- phone: 03 9412 8487

- email vcc@vcc.org.au

- Web www.vcc.org.au

- Facebook www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches

NOTE: The Victorian Office now has a new PO Box number.

- postal address [PO Box 6804 509 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne 3004](mailto:vcc@vcc.org.au)

Victorian News

VALE ALAN MATHESON



How does one aptly condense a multifaceted Alan into a bite-sized portrait?

Never pretentious, underneath his quiet demeanor Alan was a force to be reckoned with. That was not surprising as, apart from his insatiable reading and his countless contacts keeping him well abreast of national and global thinking on contemporary issues, justice and righteousness were his springboard. They grounded his concern for

the marginalised and excluded – First Nations Peoples, workers, migrants, refugees, or others suffering from unfair decisions.

Alan was active in several arenas, but I knew him in the context of the church and ecumenism. “Churches acting together” in the spirit of the Lund Principle, one sidelined in recent decades, informed his Christian outlook. For three decades he was a spark in the life of the Australian Council of Churches and the early National Council of Churches in Australia - especially through World Christian Action and Christian World Service Commissions, predecessors to Act for Peace. At the institutional level, or at the personal level, he sought what was right. After my serious eye injury during a visit to Ethiopia to meet Christmas Bowl partners, he pursued the higher ups relentlessly to ensure a proper response on my return.

Alan was devoted to the Victorian Council of Churches. How often have we seen him upstanding or with a finger in the air to persuade the gathered assembly? But Alan was ‘no fly in fly out’ ecumenist. He participated in and enriched group meetings, all the time quietly reflecting as he developed his elaborate artistic doodles! His love for the VCC mirrored his self-understanding as a proud Victorian.

An ordained Minister, Alan was proud of his Churches of Christ, and its ecumenical roots, which influenced some of his interventions, that at times would displease some. He was a longstanding member of the Church of Christ in Surrey Hills, where he worshipped, preached, joined in fellowship, counselled, and was farewelled.

Alan was passionate about what he believed, arguing vigorously, as the Apostles might have done 2,000 years ago. A humanist shaped by his work at CURA, EMC, WCC and the ACTU, he was impelled by the vision of a better church and world. He remained loyal and connected with his vast army of friends, most of whom experiencing his warmth, dry humour, mentoring in some cases, all the while exploring "where did it go wrong" and how to "fix it" over a cup of his beloved coffee or a glass of red. Occasionally he would call friends for failing to live up to the highest principles, always out of love, never vindictively. He loved Barbara, Leigh and Debra and their families intensely. But woe betide anyone who faulted his Hawks!

Alan leaves an unmistakable void. The world and the church are the poorer with his passing. Alan RIP.

Caesar D’Mello, former director Christian World Service/ NCCA, with acknowledgement to Greg Thompson, former director Anglicord.

Victorian Council of Churches welcomes New Bishops to our Assyrian and Greek Churches

Assyrian



His Holiness Mar Awa III Royel; Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East Biography

His Holiness Mar Awa III Royel, 122nd Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, was born on 4 July 1975. His participation in the ecclesiastical life of the Church began at the young age of 16, when he was ordained as a sub-deacon. He then assumed the rank of deacon the following year in 1992 at St George's Cathedral in Chicago. These ordinations were both conducted by the late His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV of blessed memory.

On 3 May 1999, he was ordained a priest and on 30 November 2008, Mar Awa III was consecrated as bishop by Mar Dinkha IV at Mar Zaia Cathedral in Modesto, California. He also served as the secretary of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East from the year 2015. Additionally, under his leadership as bishop, the St Isaac of Nineveh monastery, presently being the only active monastery in the Assyrian Church of the East, was established by Mar Awa in California, with the tonsuring and clothing of two monks. Upon the formal resignation of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Catholicos-Patriarch, Mar Awa Royel was elected to become the 122nd Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East by the members of the Holy Synod on 8 September 2021. His patriarchal enthronement took place on the Feast of the Holy Cross in St John the Baptist Cathedral in Erbil, Iraq on 13 September 2021, making him the first Western-born patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East.

He has received a number of academic accreditations, completing his bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Theology with a minor in Philosophy from Loyola University in 1997 and obtained a second bachelor degree in Sacred theology from the University of St Mary of the Lake in 1999. He then graduated with a Licentiate in Sacred Theology in 2001 and received his Doctorate of Sacred Theology in Eastern Liturgy in 2008, both from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome.

He has also been an active advocate for Assyrian indigenous rights and freedom of religion, raising awareness to the plight of persecuted Assyrian Christians during the invasion of the Islamic State in Iraq and its surrounding regions. Notably, he spoke at the inaugural In Defence of Christians Summit in Washington DC in September 2014. Additionally, Mar Awa, alongside His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, provided a briefing to Ben Rhodes, Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications, concerning the dire situations persecuted Christian minorities were facing in Iraq and Syria – bringing to light the Khabour river attack by the Islamic State, where over 200 Assyrian Christians were held hostage. This meeting achieved important outcomes for the Assyrian community, leading to the condemnation by Rhodes of systematic attacks on religious minorities by the terror organisation and a plan by the Administration to protect and help impacted civilians.

A further honourable achievement by the novel patriarch includes the publication entitled *Mysteries of the Kingdom: The Sacraments of the Assyrian Church of the East* – a theological catechistical treatise on the seven sacraments of the Assyrian Church of the East

Greek Orthodox



Bishop-elect Kyriakos of Sozopoli, Archiepiscopal Vicar of Melbourne, on the occasion of the announcement of his appointment as Bishop of Melbourne.

Bishop Elect Kyriakos comes from Sydney where he's been in parish life and teaching at St Andrews.

May God grant Him many years and we anticipated His arrival to Victoria very soon!



Bishop-elect Evmenios of Kerasounta , Archiepiscopal Vicar of Northcote, on the announcement of his appointment at Bishop of Northcote.

Bishop Elect Evmenios is currently a member of the Victorian council of Churches Standing Committee

May God grant him many years and all necessary gifts and grace to fulfil his role.



Victorian Council of Churches

Emergencies Ministry

During the first part of the year we had to postpone training due to the impact of COVID-19 and some training was moved to online. We have made some attempts at face to face however restrictions keep getting in the way.

We are planning on running one on Thursday the 14th of October for Basic Training/Refresher training in Psychological First Aid and Emotional Spiritual Care. 9am-3pm

The training course is a 2 stage process involving;

- Self-paced learning and completion of the workbook. This material must be completed at least 5 days prior to attending the training day.
- **Face to Face Zoom Training day** This day utilises multi learning opportunities including teaching, discussion and personal reflection along with role playing / scenarios to enable the trainee to assimilate the information and understand the context, roles, responsibilities and processes involved.
 - A Short Face to Face physical session when Covid guidelines allow in the Melbourne Metro area or Yarra Ranges area subject to attendee locations.
- Completion of the workbook and attendance at the training are essential prerequisites for application for registration with VCC Emergencies Ministry. Successful registration will require the completion of safety checks including a National Criminal History Check, WWCC and referee reports and will occur after the training has been completed.

If you would like to come along for a refresher you are most welcome to register and join us alternatively if you know of someone who would make a good volunteer please pass this information on to them. Registration can be submitted at <https://vccem.org.au/training/>

You may wish to share this video in online church <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAjB3jAvvbA> or even one of these. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kcCaNYIRDx2ni7lLHsrXfpYg7-1iRIe?usp=sharing>

Please share this with potential volunteers.

Regards
Michael

Michael Downing

Workforce Manger VCCEM



Personal Support Training



Where: Yarra Ranges & Surrounds. When: October 14th

For more details or to register visit www.vccem.org.au

WHAT DOES THE TRAINING INVOLVE?

VCC EM training is a comprehensive training package designed to equip members of faith communities to support affected residents through their participation in VCC EM deployments.

The training course is a 2 stage process involving:

- Self paced learning and completion of the workbook.
- A zoom on the date above with a short face to face when permitted under COVID guidelines.

Successful registration will require the completion of safety checks and referee reports and will occur after the training has been completed.

WHY COMPLETE THE TRAINING?

This training is essential for all in the faith community intending to respond to emergencies and disasters in Victoria.

The Victorian State and Local Governments are continually tightening the requirements for people entering disaster areas.

The VCC EM is authorised by Government to coordinate an integrated faith communities' response when disaster occurs.

www.vccem.org.au emergencies@vccem.org.au 9422 8481



President's reflection

"MAY THEY ALL BE ONE"

Our history shows that disunity makes the Gospel harder for people to hear.

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one". John 17:20

[Read More >>](#)



Reflecting on peace



Peaceful Yearnings amid nuclear plans

NCCA President, Bishop Philip Huggins, reflects on peace, loving our enemies and choosing abundant life.

We pray, in the prayer Jesus gave us: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

[Read More >>](#)

Act for Peace

Update from Act for Peace's partner in Afghanistan

- Prayers - please pray for the people of Afghanistan
- Afghanistan Emergency appeal - help provide urgently needed food, shelter, and health supplies to displaced families in Afghanistan

[Read More >>](#)



National Unity Week 2021

Celebrate National Unity Week

The NCCA is partnering with the Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA) to promote the celebration of this week. Reach out and connect with your local Muslim community.

- **National Unity Week** - 22-30 October 2021 and **National Mosque Open Day** - 30 October 2021

- **DATE CLAIMERS** - Online panel events

[Read More >>](#)



Safe Church Program

Upcoming webinars, online training and celebrations

- NCCA Safe Church Professional Learning webinar - Friday 22 October 2021
- Child Wise - 5 and 14 October 2021
- NSW Reportable Conduct Scheme for Religious Bodies - 15 October 2021
- Children's Week 23-31 October 2021

[Read More >>](#)



Care of Our Common Home

Ecumenical Prayer Service:

in prayerful preparation for global environmental talks:

From Season of Creation to COP 26.

Online: Sunday 10 October 2021 4:00 pm (AEDT)

[Read More >>](#)



First Nations

- **NATSICC Virtual retreat** - *I am the vine, you are the Branches.* **21-24 November 2021**
- **The Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Development Fund** - Applications close **Friday 15 October 2021**. Funding made possible from the **Martung Upah Appeal**

[Read More >>](#)



NCCA (con't)

Advent resource

The Coming of Jesus Christ: past, present and future

An Advent Study from Rev. Dr Chris Walker, UCA.

[Read More >>](#)



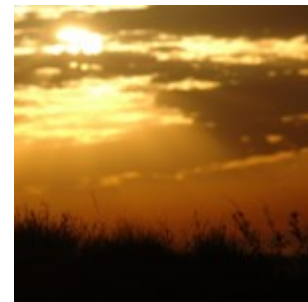
Lectionary Year

Entering the Year of Luke

An ecumenical online and in person event with Rev'd Dr Joan Riley sharing her reflections on Luke and its message to us, in our diversity and communion together, as one body in Christ.

When: Wednesday 20 October 2021

[Read More >>](#)



Christians United for Afghanistan - Church Support

As the crisis in Afghanistan unfolds, Christians, and followers of Jesus, from across these lands now called Australia, alongside a wider public movement, are being moved to speak boldly to our national leaders to provide urgent action for the well being of Afghan refugees. The Uniting Church has joined other Christians in Australia calling for urgent action by signing onto the call for *Christians United for Afghanistan*. This call joins your own Christian voice to the sector wide calls, and asks our Australian Government to follow the lead of Canada, in offering 20,000 additional resettlement places for refugees fleeing Afghan-

(



World Council of Churches



World Council of Churches



[Ge-](#)

[neva churches gather to celebrate Season of Creation](#)

On 21 September, representatives of the Rassemblement des Eglises Chrétiennes de Genève (Ecumenical Assembly of Churches of Ge-

Ge-

[WCC mourns passing of Rev. Dr Timothy Stewart, president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention](#)

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is mourning



[South Sudanese Churches shelter populations displaced by floods](#)

Churches and schools in South Sudan are providing shelter to displaced populations after floods—caused by early seasonal rainfall—submerged their homes and farmland.

[Read more](#)

[Women in Argentina walk in solidarity with women of Afghanistan](#)

Women in Argentina have reached across more than 15,000 kilometers with a message of solidarity for women in Afghanistan. Their video puts a creative flair on the World Council of Churches Thursdays in Black campaign for a world free from rape and violence.

[Read more](#)





**World Council
of Churches**



[Podcast reflects on risks of child trafficking in Malawi](#)

In a new episode of WCC podcasts, Frederique Seidel, WCC senior advisor on Child Rights, interviews Malawian journalist Mphatso Moses Kaufulu on documenting the risks for vulnerable children in his country and how churches can protect them in local communities.

[Read more](#)

[World Communion of Reformed Churches delegation visits WCC](#)

A delegation composed of the “collegial general secretariat” of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) visited the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva on 17 September to discuss with World Council of Churches (WCC) leadership how to strengthen ties between the two organizations by connecting programmatically.

[Read more](#)



[Violence against girls and women: the unanimous “no” of girls and women of the churches of Benin](#)

Improving awareness among girls and women on violence, transformative masculinities and femininities, HIV in the COVID-19 context: in order to achieve this very important objective, the World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy, in collaboration with the non-governmental organization Déborah and the Bible Society of Benin, held an intergenerational workshop for 25 girls and women from the Protestant Methodist Church of Benin, the Assemblies of God Church of Benin, Pentecostal churches and non-governmental organisations. The workshop took place at the Bible Society of Cotonou.

[Read more](#)



LAUNCH OF NEW INITIATIVE IN PHILIPPINES

ECUMENICAL NETWORK FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

(EcuNet PHRP) 30 August 2021

We in the ECUMENICAL NETWORK FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES (EcuNet PHRP) act in solidarity with our fellow church workers, justice and peace advocates, and the majority of the Filipino people who are suffering injustice in its various forms. We are a network of church people from the various churches, denominations, church organizations and institutions working together in the advocacy of human rights, justice and peace in the Philippines.

The Spirit of God invites us to see the signs of the times and act in faith to turn 'khaos' (crisis) into 'kairos' (opportune time for positive transformation). The Gospel commissions us to be "...salt of the earth and light of the world." (Matthew 5:13-16). The foundations of our respective churches and faith traditions set us on the path to respond in our present situations to act in defense of human rights and continue to walk the way of justice and peace.

The World Council of Churches 10th Assembly calls its member churches to pursue the **Way of Just Peace**: "*We reaffirm the Ecumenical Call to Just Peace which states 'While life in God's hands is irrepressible, peace does not yet reign. The principalities and powers, though not sovereign, still enjoy their victories, and we will be restless and broken until peace prevails. Peacemakers will speak against and speak for, tear down and build up, lament and celebrate, grieve and rejoice. Until our longing joins our belonging in the consummation of all things in God, the work of peace will continue as the flickering of sure grace.'*"

Catholic Social Teaching also calls the faithful to defend human rights: "*Human rights are to be defended not only individually but also as a whole: protecting them only partially would imply a kind of failure to recognize them. They correspond to the demands of human dignity and entail, in the first place, the fulfilment of the essential needs of the person in the material and spiritual spheres.*" (**Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church**, n. 154.) We defend human rights in the spirit of solidarity and subsidiarity.

To live our evangelical mission, we shall endeavour to continue updating ourselves on human rights situations in the Philippines and deepen our understanding of the root causes of injustices and human rights violations through webinars and other online platforms, and small group reflection sessions. We shall link up with ecumenical circles and churches in the Philippines that advocate and share the same mission on justice and peace. We shall issue statements on human rights and peace advocacy for the Philippines. We will engage with Australian and international political bodies to advance justice and peace advocacy for the Philippines. We will work with likeminded civic organizations in Australia to advance our cause. Through personal prayer and community services and liturgies we will highlight our commitment to justice and peace in the Philippines.

Prayers and resources for coping with Coronavirus

<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/covid-19-resources>





News from the Australian Student Christian Movement

4 October 2021

Upcoming ASCM and WSCF events

Weekly Bible Study

Robbie Tulip is hosting weekly online Bible study meetings, open to anyone, *every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm (AEDT)* via Zoom. We will start with a discussion of Hosea on 6 October. Please put this in your diary and join us on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87093523080?pwd=VXY0eCtzMzl1MTI2UGhjZXJSZ0JOQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 9352 3080

Passcode: 227037

NSW discussion series

The NSW Area Council is hosting a series of online discussions via Zoom. You can catch up on past talks on the [ASCM YouTube channel](#).

This Sunday 10 October 2021, 5-6pm (AEDT): Victorian Senior Friend Sandy Yule will speak on **The challenge of the 1960's to the churches: the ASCM experience.**

Join us on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96767231457?pwd=Rmk0aVpscHRJc20yWDQ5RndTOVBaZz09>

Meeting ID: 967 6723 1457

Passcode: 351827

ASCM and WSCF event reports

On 11 September, [SCM Canberra met virtually to discuss the situation in Afghanistan](#) – shout out to our staff worker Caity Cameron, who's studying Middle Eastern Studies, for organising!

With thanks to all who took part in our lively discussion – participants included senior friends from Indonesia, Timor Leste, Ireland, South Korea, Finland and Sri Lanka.

Vale Professor Peter Fensham

Professor Peter Fensham, longstanding senior friend of ASCM and former national chair, died on 23 August. He is remembered in this [Monash University obituary](#) and [in The Age](#).

ASCM will hold an online discussion of Peter's influence on the movement in the next few weeks.

Support ASCM

Donate to our [annual appeal](#), [general fund](#), or [centenary trust fund](#), or find out how to [make a bequest to ASCM](#).

We want to hear from you

ASCM News is published fortnightly. Share it widely! You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) for more news.

Do you have news about friends of ASCM and WSCF or other items of interest? Contact us at digital@ascm.org.au.

SAVE THE DATE
HOLDING THE LIGHT
AN ECUMENICAL SERVICE
REMEMBERING VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS
OF FAMILY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2021, 2.30pm

You are warmly invited to this time of remembering victims and survivors of family domestic violence.

to be held at

ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL

15 GISBORNE STREET, EAST MELBOURNE, VIC 3002

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

The end of the rental moratorium



For those people seeking asylum with no income and no access to JobSeeker payments, the pandemic continues to create a perfect storm of disadvantage, putting people's safety and wellbeing at risk.

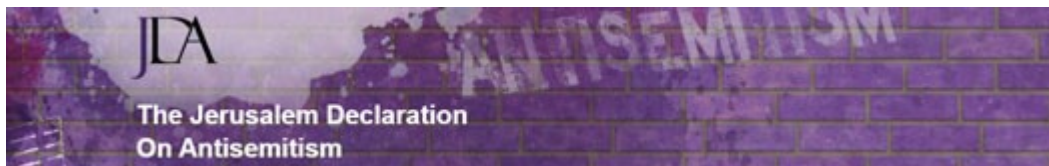
Already facing financial stress and unable to pay their accumulated rental debts, the end of the rental moratorium is now putting entire families at risk of becoming homeless.

[Find out more about how we're helping people seeking asylum during this time.](#)



PALESTINE ISRAEL
ECUMENICAL NETWORK

The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism



This important new document has emerged that aims to present a comprehensive description and understanding of what antisemitism is and is not. The Jerusalem Declaration is largely in response to the inadequacies and misuse of the [Working Definition of anti-semitism](#) of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which has been adopted by many countries as the standard definition.

As this new declaration points out however, *“The IHRA Definition” (including its “examples”) is neither clear nor coherent. Whatever the intentions of its proponents, it blurs the difference between antisemitic speech and legitimate criticism of Israel and Zionism. This causes confusion, while delegitimizing the voices of Palestinians and others, including Jews, who hold views that are sharply critical of Israel and Zionism.*”

Read [The Jerusalem Declaration](#).

*“The **Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism** is a tool to identify, confront and raise awareness about antisemitism as it manifests in countries around the world today. It includes a [preamble](#), [definition](#), and a set of 15 [guidelines](#) that provide detailed guidance for those seeking to recognize antisemitism in order to craft responses. It was developed by a group of scholars in the fields of Holocaust history, Jewish studies, and Middle East studies to meet what has become a*

Jewish Christian Muslim Association



DONATIONS

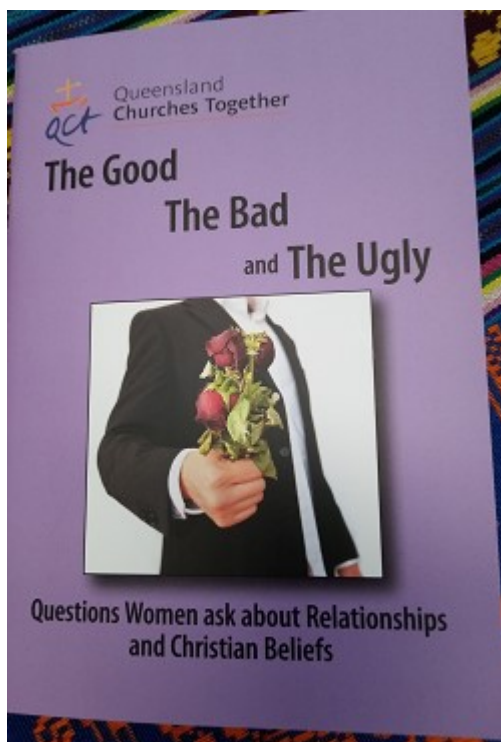
JCMA is a not-for-profit organisation and donations go directly towards delivery of our many events, forums and conferences and to support our workshop programs in primary and secondary schools. As a listed harm prevention charity we have DGR (Deductible Gift Receipt) status. Your donations are tax-deductible (donations over \$2 are tax-deductible). If you would like to make a donation to help support the work of JCMA please go to our website <http://jcma.org.au/donation>.

JCMA Membership

JCMA is a membership based organisation for Jewish, Christian and Muslim people of faith. If you would like to find out about joining JCMA as a member you can go to our website at <http://jcma.org.au/jcma-membership> or call Ginette Everest on (03) 9287 5590 or email to: memberships@jcma.org.au.

For more information and details on any events see website: www.jcma.org.au

New Book from Churches Together Queensland



Rev David Baker, General Secretary of Queensland churches together writes...

This book let, produced by the Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project is intended for clergy, pastoral carers and those seeking support in the family relationships.

The booklet is designed for locals churches to use in the teaching.

Copies are available from admin@qct.org.au

Cost is \$5 plus (Postage)

UCA CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY – OCTOBER

Ministry *in* Minecraft

FREE Zoom Event

October 20

7pm AEDT

Over the past 18 months Rev. Sandy Brodine has been exploring creative ways of engaging her community *with-in* Minecraft. Drawing on this experience, in this FREE on-line event Sandy will particularly focus on...

Prayer possibilities

Building Bible stories

Engaging intergenerationally

...with-in the Minecraft context. Whether you're familiar with Minecraft or not, this promises to be a fascinating evening for all!

More information & Registration: [Ministry in Minecraft, using Minecraft in Ministry](#)

Halloween Resources

[Halloween ideas \(Strandz\)](#)

[Shining in the darkness \(Roots\)](#)

[All Hallows' Eve resources \(BRF\)](#)

[Something to smile about \(UCA SA\)](#)

[Halloween ministry resources \(Ministry Tools Resource Centre\)](#)

Games Ideas (via AYCF, Brisbane)

[8 Quick Games \(Build Faith\)](#)

[Ice-breakers and Group Games \(Jubed\)](#)

[Games & Ice-breakers \(The Source4ym\)](#)

[11 Fun Ice-breakers \(Christian Camp Pro\)](#)

[20 Fun Games for On-line Groups \(Youth Group Games\)](#)

via Max7

[Parable of the Great Banquet animation \(Max7\)](#)

[A Fun Family Event \(Max7\)](#)

[Fun trick: 3 Rope classic \(Max7\)](#)

[Fun craft: Paper Helicopters \(Max7\)](#)

[Fun idea: Drawing on your head \(Max7\)](#)

[Faith Practices Project: Service \(CRCNA\)](#)

[5 Ways to practice service as a family \(CRCNA\)](#)

[Living like Jesus: service as a faith practice \(CRCNA\)](#)

[Strengthening intergenerational mentoring \(Generation Spark\)](#)

via CRCNA

[Building Blocks of Faith Toolkit \(CRCNA\)](#)

[Faith Practices Project: Service \(CRCNA\)](#)

[5 Ways to practice service as a family \(CRCNA\)](#)

[Living like Jesus: service as a faith practice \(CRCNA\)](#)

[Strengthening intergenerational mentoring \(Generation Spark\)](#)

Via AIR (Australian Intergenerational Roundtable)

[AIR Resource Paper 1: What is AIR?](#)

[AIR Resource Paper 2: Recommended Intergenerational Reading](#)

[AIR Resource Paper 3: 23 Easy Things To Try](#)

[AIR Resource Paper 4: Toward a Common Understanding](#)

[Air Resource Paper 5: An Eastern and Western Perspective](#)

via Faith Forward (Podcasts)

[Fostering healthy spirituality in families: Cindy Wang Brandt \(Faith Forward\)](#)

[Holy listening with children: Lacy Finn Borgo \(Faith Forward\)](#)

[Emancipatory youth ministry: Annie Lockhart-Gilroy \(Faith Forward\)](#)

[Pandemic-era innovation: M. Nichol, S. Argue, T. Smith \(Faith Forward\)](#)

[Youth ministry as a practice of non-violence: Elizabeth Corrie \(Faith Forward\)](#)

via the Justice Cluster (UCA)

[A Covenanting Guide \(UCA\)](#)

[Nov 6 Justice Convention \(UCA\)](#)

[A Vision for a Just Australia \(UCA\)](#)

[Surrender Co Church Resources \(Surrender\)](#)

[A Statement from the Heart Study Guide \(UCA\)](#)

Oct 12 Meet the First Peoples of Gondwana 9am-12.30pm

Join with Rev Dr Garry Deverell to listen and engage with his story and reflections as an indigenous person. Garry Deverell is a Trawlolway man from northern Lutrawita and is a regular contributor to radio programmes, podcasts, and conferences on Indigenous matters. Garry will be speaking on...

- Who are the First Nations/First Peoples of this country, and what is our traditional spirituality or way of life?
- What is the result of our history when it comes to First Nations health, well-being and socio-economic status?
- Who are the 'Second Peoples' and how can they be good allies in the Indigenous struggle for something resembling justice?

More information & registration: [Meet the First Peoples of Gondwana](#)

Victorian Council of Churches

President:
Dr Graeme L Blackman AO

Executive Officer:
Rev Ian Smith

Ph: 03 9412 8487

facebook :

Council News is the official newsletter of
the Victorian Council of Churches

Editor Rev. Ian Smith Executive Officer

Email (as well as to unsubscribe):
vcc@vcc.org.au

Tel: 9412 8487

Website: <http://www.vcc.org.au/>

The Victorian Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*** If you have an event that you want others to know about then contact at vcc@vcc.org.au excluding January we plan to publish a Council News each month ***

We're on the
web!
www.vcc.org.au



Victorian
Council of Churches

Contact us: web. www.vcc.org.au

Email. vcc@vcc.org.au

Facebook

www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches/

The new Office

The office of the VCC is now level 6, West Tower, 608 St Kilda Rd.

Access to the building is via the right hand drive to the rear double glass doors.

If you wish to visit please ring 9412 8487 or 0408 313 610 and arrange at time.