



Bulletin – March 2016

Working together with a desire for community and respect for difference

Thursday, 25 February

AS THE SUN began to set over Adelaide, Goodies Op Shop was open for business; barista Nick, was steaming milk and creating wonderful lattes, cappuccinos, espressos; platters of cheese were being devoured; there was happy mingling, and a looking forward to the promised Persian meal. In words and pictures we reflect on the first network gathering for 2016.



“A community declares to the world that passes by that they have an affinity with this Jesus who was a refugee. So anyone who might identify with being disempowered and alienated would feel at home with the people who declared that Jesus was a refugee. Such was my joy to discover at the recent Urban Mission Network gathering at the Spire Community.

I wondered how the young man who used to lecture in an Iranian University could possibly feel the need to escape his homeland.

I was awestruck by the eloquent manner a young couple explained the way they came to be key instigator in holding a conference on Living with Poverty by utilising the Spire Community facilities besides they themselves living below the poverty line.

I tasted delicious Persian food, prepared and hosted by people who delighted in an opportunity to share and celebrate their culture.

I discovered a community that was brave enough to show that their affinity with this once refugee Jesus, went far further than the words on a banner could ever imagine.

It was obvious that the Spire Community is now a much richer and diverse community since it decided to identify with the alienated and disempowered.”

Neil Brown

“The recent meeting of the Urban Mission Network at Clayton Wesley’ Hope’s Café was a revelation! We heard about the wonderful work done by Hope’s Café with the support of Uniting Communities and the Clayton Wesley community. We shared a Persian meal and heard from some of the patrons of the Café. We had a “language lesson” and we learned to dance the Persian way. It was a night to remember.”

Bob Macintosh



“...in the course of a week more than 90 volunteers come together at Hope’s Café – a meeting place for a large number of refugees and local citizens – with a focus on hospitality and friendship. Through joint collaboration, a formal alliance and shared premises, Uniting Communities Eastern Branch and Clayton Wesley have come together as the Spire Community. Perhaps this Parish Mission model has other applications in linking, in a joint and formal way, a church agency with a local church.”

Ken Burt

“It was a wonderful night for us, so much fun and lovely people! I really enjoyed talking in depth to quite a few, they gave me much to ponder and feast on, too. And it was fun.”

Rebecca Walker, Manager, Hope’s Café

Articulating the Gospel for 21st century hearers

An amazing opportunity for a conversation with Hugh Mackay

Saturday, 7 May 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Church of the Trinity

318 Goodwood Road, Clarence Park

This well-known social commentator and author will explore his new book *Beyond Belief*, entwined with the popular *The Art of Belonging*. Both books contain research that holds important information for the church location and presence and social attitude to spirituality.

Mackay argues that while our attachment to a traditional idea of God may be waning, our desire for a sense of meaning remains as strong as ever.

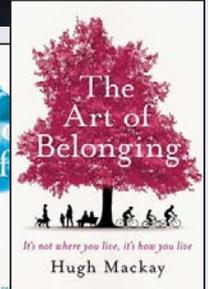
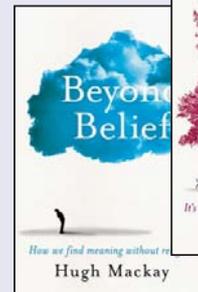
In *Beyond Belief*, Mackay looks at the various ways we try to find transcendence in our often stridently materialistic lives and considers what maybe lost with the wholesale casting out of organised religion.

1.00 pm – 1.30 pm Refreshments, books and book signing

1.30 pm – 2.30 pm Conversation with Hugh Mackay

2.30 pm – 3.00 pm Books and book signing

Cost: by gold coin donation, but please RSVP for catering and seating arrangements to susan@urbannetwork.org.au mobile 0412552703



Sharing our missional objectives and strategies

Urban Mission Network May Gathering

Thursday, 26 May. 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm at
Oasis

A faith friendly home away from home

Flinders University Function Centre, downstairs in the OCE building

We will:

- immerse ourselves in Oasis' hospitality and culture of care
- experience its innovation and transformation
- discover Oasis for students, staff, and the wider community



A recommended donation of \$10.00 to cover the cost of your meal. However, we would not want cost to prohibit you from attending. Please pay what you can.

It is important that we have notification of your intention to attend on, or preferably before, Friday, 20 May. Please reply to susan@urbannetwork.org.au, including any dietary requests.

The Urban Mission Network welcomes Jeff Telfer to the Reference Group

A little about Jeff:

- lived in Fiji from birth to age 13, then Victor Harbor, Modbury, Glenelg, and, for the last 14 years, at Marion.
- an active member of Methodist Church, now Uniting Church. Member of Pilgrim Uniting Church since 1981.
- married to Raelene, and father to son Ian who lives in Dunedin, NZ with Mary and 2 sons, and daughter Wendy who lives on a sheep farm near Mt Gambier with husband Nick and 3 children.
- studied Mechanical Engineering and worked in manufacturing with several companies in Adelaide, with a 2-year stint in Netherlands.
- currently doing a Master of Theological Studies at Adelaide College of Divinity, and interests include contemporary faith issues, especially to do with justice, environmental issues (member of UC Environment Action Group), music (clarinet and piano player), keeping fit (bike riding and gym).
- has been to a number of UMN gatherings and impressed with the role it is playing within UCA-SA in providing opportunities for church people to meet those from other UC churches, experience ways of being church in a strongly secular environment, and benefit from workshops and input from the Synod Office.



We look forward to Jeff's continued support of the UMN through the many gifts he will bring to the Reference Group tasks.

Mission in the wider community

A new documentary **The State of Rakhine**

produced by filmmaker Jason Bray,
Red Earth Films

will be screened on
Tuesday, 15 March
7.30 pm – 9.00 pm

at Pilgrim Centre
14 Flinders St, Adelaide



In 2015, Jason journeyed to the volatile and isolated Rakhine State (Burma), to witness flood relief being distributed between sworn enemies and to see first hand the plight of the Rohingya people. The film raises questions about humanity, justice and spirituality. Are we bound to be slaves to the hate that religious, racial and political differences bring, or can we rise above it?

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the director.

Visit: www.pilgrim.org.au, <http://redearthfilms.com.au/>

RSVP: 8212-3295 / office@pilgrim.org.au. **Entrance by donation** (to contribute to production costs)

Positive Parenting

Understanding your Child's Temperament

- Wednesday, 16 March at 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

Managing Anger in Children

- Wednesday, 30 March 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

Cost for sessions: \$15 adults \$10 concession \$20 couple

Bookings: <http://www.effectiveliving.org/positive-parenting/>

Phone: Effective Living Centre 82710329

A discussion night

Beyond Suspicion & Ignorance

Are Australians Islamophobic?

Professor Riaz Hassan
University of South Australia International Centre for Muslim and non-Muslim Understanding

Tuesday, 12 April 7.30 pm – 10.00 pm
at the Effective Living Centre
26 King William Road, Wayville

The discussion will centre on the report "Islamophobia, social distance and the fear of terrorism in Australia"
www.unisa.edu.au/Global/EASS/.../Islamophobia_report.pdf

Tickets: \$15.00 adult, \$12.00 conc.
\$10.00 Friends of ELC and students

Supper is included

Bookings on line <http://www.effectiveliving.org/social-issues/>
or phone: 8271 0329

Sarah Agnew, *storyteller, poet and Uniting Church minister currently living in Scotland, returns to Adelaide this April for a series of storytelling events.*



Sunday 17 April

at Blackwood Uniting Church
366 Main Road Blackwood

3.00 pm *Workshop: Encourage One Another in Love* will be an opportunity to discover the stories of your own that are worth telling, and to give them shape for telling effectively for your own wellbeing and to encourage the wellbeing of others.

Tickets: \$10*

Coffee and tea available from 4.30 pm

5.00 pm *Performance: Welcome One Another in Love* is the performance at the heart of Sarah's PhD project exploring biblical performance as a way of making meaning of the texts. Hear Sarah bring Paul's letter to the early church in Rome to life, listening for its message for a 21st century audience.

Tickets: \$10*

Coffee and tea available from 4:30 pm

Contact the church office for details and to book – 8278 7699, office@blackwood.unitingchurchsa.org.au

* Attend both events on 17 April for \$15 *

Wednesday, 27 April at 7.00 pm

at Pilgrim Uniting Church,
12 Flinders St. Adelaide

(in)humanity – stories of human fear and love
Original stories of extraordinary courage in the face of danger from history and imagination
Followed by supper and launch of new poetry collection, *The Only Constants*

Tickets: \$10 – book through <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inhumanity-with-storyteller-sarah-agnew-tickets-22723011138?aff=es2>

contact Sarah for more information – sarahagnew.storyteller@gmail.com