

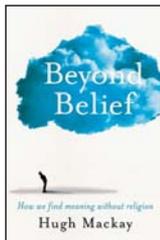


Bulletin – May 2016

Discerning trends in the social environment

“What do people actually mean when they say “God”?”

“Around two-thirds of us say we believe in God or some ‘higher power,’ but fewer than one in ten Australians attend church weekly. In *Beyond Belief*, Hugh Mackay presents this discrepancy as one of the great unexamined topics of our time. He argues that while our attachment to a traditional idea of God may be waning, our desire for a life of meaning remains as strong as ever.” (back cover *Beyond Belief*; Pan Macmillan Australia.)



Hugh Mackay’s books *Beyond Belief* and *The Art of Belonging* contain research that holds important information for the church’s location, presence, and social attitude to spirituality.

On **Saturday 7 May** we have an opportunity to meet this well-known social commentator and author, engage in conversation about the newly released book *Beyond Belief*, and reflect with him on *The Art of Belonging*.

Time: 1:00 pm for books and book signing (books will be available for purchase)
1.30 pm **Conversation with Hugh Mackay**
2.30 pm books and book signing

at

Church of the Trinity
318 Goodwood Road, Clarence Park

Cost: by gold coin donation, but please RSVP for catering and seating arrangements

susan@urbannetwork.org.au mobile 0412552703

Working together where there is a desire for community and respect for difference

“Oasis recognizes the diversity of cultures and religions, but is intent on developing a model and a language to respond to the question of our time: ‘how are we all going to live together?’”

(Geoff Boyce)

UMN May Gathering

Thursday 26 May
6.00 pm for 6.30 pm start
Come and experience

Oasis: A faith friendly home away from home

Flinders University Function Centre, downstairs in the OCE building, Humanities Road, Bedford Park opposite car park 5 (follow the signs along Humanities Road to car park 5)
short term parking available on level 1 with no fee after 5.00 pm

Continuing the theme for 2016 – ministry on the margins – this gathering will focus on chaplaincy. We will:

- hear and engage in conversation about multi-faith chaplaincy
- experience Oasis’ hospitality of space, inclusive spiritually, and culture of care
- discover Oasis for students, staff, and the wider community
- enjoy a meal prepared by the international students
- enjoy a time of fellowship and story sharing

Recommended donation of \$5.00 – \$10.00 to cover the cost of your meal. However, as we would not want cost to prohibit you engaging in this amazing evening, 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.

Urban Mission Network Retreat Day 2016

Tuesday 28 June 2016, 9.30 am – 3.30 pm

Wisdom from St. Benedict

For 1500 years the Rule of Benedict has guided monastic life. In recent years the wisdom of this Rule is being embraced by people from all walks of life. Renowned for its gentleness, practical wisdom and balance, the Rule nurtures people along their spiritual journeys and guiding their paths of discipleship and ministry. The retreat will explore, and offer opportunity to reflect on, key aspects of Benedictine Spirituality with a special focus on one aspect for which the Rule is renowned – leading a balanced life.

Led by **Rev Dr Gary Stuckey**

Stillpoint Spirituality centre

5 Burnell Drive, Belair SA 5052

Cost: \$20. Morning and afternoon refreshments provided, but please bring your own lunch.

RSVP on or before 14 June susan@urbannetwork.org.au, or phone 0412552703

Taking joint action to further the mission of God

Health Education Project with Our Philippine Partners

Since July last year, the Uniting Church in SA has been working with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) to support a health education project – addressing malnutrition, mother's classes on health, hygiene issues and managing household waste.

So far, churches in SA – many from the Urban Mission Network – have raised \$16,000. Thank you!

As \$8,000 more is needed, are there other churches who would also like to support this project? This will pay the costs of running the seminars aimed at training key community people, increasing literacy

and will make a direct contribution to transforming the lives of hundreds of vulnerable people in the Philippines.

Alongside these projects of health and education, the community leaders are recovering indigenous culture, particularly through a children's and youth program. The adults are handing on the stories of their culture to the children and strengthening traditional values.

If your congregation is interested in helping, please contact Adrian Nippres International Mission Officer, Mission Resourcing on 8236 4203 (M 0466329191) or via anippres@sa.uca.org.au

Sharing ideas, resources, and celebrating together

Around our congregations

Spire Community Quiz Night

Burnside City Uniting Church

384 Portrush Rd, Tusmore

Saturday 21 May

7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start



Proceeds to support Hope's Café English Language classes

Cost: \$15 per person (tables of 8)

BYO food and drink

Bookings: Bev Gum 0438840756,
bev.gum@gmail.com

Morialta Uniting Church

26 Chapel Street, Magill

June Environmental Sunday Forums

Caring for Creation – Australia's energy supply into the future



A series of Sunday forums will be held on 5, 12, 19 June to celebrate World Environment Day. The forums will explore future energy supplies that cause the least damage to the environment. Energy supply is closely connected with climate change and the wellbeing of future generations, so it is important topic for those who care about Creation.



The forums will commence at 11.00 am and conclude around 12:15 pm

The themes that will be discussed are:

5 June Nuclear Energy and Storing the Waste *Mr Bob Major*

12 June Renewable Energy – fact of fiction? *Rev Brian Phillips*

19 June Hydrocarbons – their place in the current and projected energy-supply mix *Professor Steve Begg*

Rosefield Uniting Church

2 Carlton Road, Highgate

Friday 13 May 10:00 am – Sunday 15 May 2:00 pm

Remind, Refresh, Resource

Uniting Church members are invited to the **Rosefield Teaching Weekend**.

The keynote speakers: Rev Dr Sunny Chen and Craig Bailey.

A number of electives will be offered over the weekend, and will focus on the Year of Luke, helping to resource local congregations.

Online registrations and further information is available on

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/remind-refresh-resource-rosefield-teaching-weekend-tickets-24357348485



Rev Dr Sunny Chen



Craig Bailey

Around our centres

Residential Retreat – The Life of the Beloved

(Based on the writings of Henri Nouwen)

Nunyarra Conference Centre and Stillpoint House

5 Burnell Drive, Belair.

From Friday evening 22 July – Sunday
lunchtime 24 July (optional extension to
Monday lunchtime 25 July).

Fully catered. Live-in
or live-out.

Cost \$110—\$280

For more information
contact

(08) 8178 0048, or
stillpoint@internode.on.net, or access
the brochure at www.stillpointsa.org.au



A book to make us really think!

In his book *Born Bad*, author James Boyce proposes that in spite of the idea of “original sin” being abhorrent to most people, it is so deeply embedded in the West’s cultural psyche that it still haunts us with the assumption that somehow human beings are deeply flawed.

What do we make of such a proposal?

PcNet SA invites us to share in reading excerpts from this book and then engaging in tantalizing discussion, as well as enjoy delicious soup and bread rolls.

Where: The Effective Living Centre, 26 King William Road, Wayville

Time: 6. 00 pm – 7. 30 pm

When: Friday 20, 27 May, and 3 June

More information: office@effectiveliving.org, or phone 8271 0329 Wednesday and Friday 11 – 2 pm

Bookings: www.effectiveliving.org. from 3 May.

Blended Families – Survive and Succeed

Presenter: Vina Hotich

- **Wednesday 18**
- **Wednesday 25 May 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

Combining families has lots of potential for both good and challenging times. Over 2 sessions, Vina offers core strategies to keep focused on what is working, and to identify where new tactics could help. The second session will focus on common issues identified by the group at the first session.

Child Inclusive Mediation

Presenter - Rod Wenham

- **Wednesday 1 June 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

It doesn't have to be this way. Trying to deal with the anger, hurt and blame that often follows separation is difficult enough. Dealing with the best interest of the children at the same time can be extremely harrowing. Rod will look at various ways in which the children can be given a voice and both parents can be positively involved in their ongoing needs and development

BREAKING NEWS

Professor Gillian Triggs to deliver the Effective Living Centre Wilks Oration for 2016

The Effective Living Centre is delighted to announce that Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, has accepted an invitation to be the Wilks Orator for 2016. The event will be held on

Friday 29 July starting at 7.00 pm. Her topic is expected to be "Revitalising a Commitment to Human Rights," and will be held at the Christ Church, 26 King William Road, Wayville.

An outstanding speaker, we look forward to Professor Triggs delivering a timely oration in the tradition of previous speakers. If you wish to attend this event, please contact the Effective Living Centre.

Phone: 8271 0329 or send an e-mail and ask to be put on the e-mail list for further announcements.
office@effectiveliving.org <http://www.effectiveliving.org/wilks-oration/>

News from the wider church



Sharing Stories of Hope: UnitingWomen 2016

From 28 April to 1 May, over 400 women (plus volunteers) from around Australian and overseas met at Kent Town Uniting Church to share stories of hope at the UnitingWomen 2016 Conference. There is so much to tell about these four days, but where to begin? Rev Dr Vicky Balabanski and Dr. Liz Boase gave a brief overview at the beginning of their reflections during closing Sunday worship.

"Over these days, we've been thinking about hope as the attitude of trusting expectation that we are part of God's story, a story of loving mercy and redemption.

We've given our attention to some key moments in that story – the creation of human beings in God's image in Genesis, the feisty midwives in Egypt who defy Pharaoh and allow the Hebrew baby boys to live, the moment that Jesus unrolled the Isaiah scroll in the synagogue in Nazareth and read the words which encapsulated his mission.

We have also had God's story spoken in other forms as well. We've heard stories from our indigenous sisters giving us insights into their law and customs, their connection with land, their ancestors and family, and naming their experience of the present. We've heard God's story as it's being lived out in among our Pacific neighbours – a story of great challenges to overcome and great faith, love and hope along the way. We've heard a rich feast of stories, each of which mirrors in some way the big picture of God's story."