



# OIKOUMENE

## TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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0418-3076-449

August 2013

### The 'Lund' Principle

*Should not the churches act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately?*

#### *From the President*

##### ELECTION TIME



**THE CHALLENGE:** In September we vote in the federal election. At the Annual Meeting of the Tasmanian Council of Churches (TCC) in June, three politicians from the three tiers of government kindly addressed the Council. They were Senator Helen Polley, Michael Ferguson MP, and Albert van Zetten, the Mayor of Launceston. They shared with us their own experience in the political arena, and generously shared in an open forum around the topic "Church, Faith and Politics". The point was well made that there are not

enough people of Christian faith in parliament. This resulted in my President's Charge to the Member Churches of the Council:

*As part of our mission, to pray that God will raise up Christian men and women to serve Christ faithfully in our parliaments and local councils for the betterment of Australia.*

**OUR RESPONSE:** If we, as electors, wish to see wise legislation and good governance on sound Christian principles of faith, peace, justice and mercy then it is every church's responsibility to pray that God will raise up faithful people who will not be shy to live out their Christian witness in their political participation. At the moment, the level of public debate on many issues too often sadly lacks the depth that a healthy, persuasive, Christian perspective gives. I believe it is our collective responsibility to correct that.

##### BEING ECUMENICAL

**THE CHALLENGE:** The TCC has been around since 1946, and has several functions outlined in its Constitution. These centre around promoting a closer unity among Christians in Tasmania. Jesus prayed that those who believe in Him through the Apostles' message may be one, just as Jesus and the Father are one (John 17: 20-21). The modern ecumenical movement takes seriously the Lund Principle, shown in the banner above on this page, which was promulgated just over sixty years ago at the Third World Conference on Faith and Order held in Lund, Sweden. Ecumenicalism is not just an attitude or disposition; it is also acting in acknowledgement of that spiritual unity which is ours in Christ, which He prayed for on the night that He was betrayed.

**OUR RESPONSE:** There are many ways that the churches of Tasmania act ecumenically. The TCC is a significant expression of this. The TCC provides Tasmanian churches with a common forum to discuss issues, a common vehicle for governments to speak with the Christian Churches collectively in Tasmania, and a means whereby the Tasmanian churches can act together. An example of the common forum was the recent "Church, Faith and Politics" discussion in June. An example of the second has been the development of guidelines with the Tasmanian Department of Education for State School and college chaplains. An example of the third is the Bushfire Recovery Process and the Chaplaincy Working Group that has arisen from that (a project in progress). There are many more examples, but these will suffice to illustrate how the TCC is acting out its functions in ways that matter to the Member Churches, and non-member churches, and in ways that matter to the people of Tasmania.

#### Act For Peace Syria Crisis Appeal:

Information on the Syria Crisis Appeal is found on pages 4 & 5.

In the midst of this crisis, please let the people of Syria know they are not alone.



#### A visitor from Taizé

Brother Matthew from the Taizé Community will visit Tasmania during the week of 30th September.

Information on his visit is found on page 3.

Please come to a gathering near you, and encourage others from your congregation, school, or community.

The next *Oikoumene* will be published in November, 2013. All material for publication should be received at

[tcctas@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tcctas@bigpond.net.au)

or at

PO Box 166, New Town 7008

by the end of October.



# TCC Annual Meeting, 2013



***The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Tasmanian Council of Churches was held on 15 June at the Kings Meadows Salvation Army Citadel.***

*Major Graham Roberts (The Salvation Army) concluded his two years of service as President of the TCC at the Annual Meeting, and was succeeded by Mr. David Morris (Anglican). We thank Graham for his service as President and wish David well in this new area of service. They are pictured in the above photo at the Annual Meeting, shortly after David's installation as President.*

## **The TCC's new president:**

David Morris is a lay member of the Anglican Church, and is active in the life of St. John's Church in Launceston. He lives in Launceston with his wife Melanie and their children.

In his working life, David is a teacher-librarian at Scotch-Oakburn College in Launceston. He has worked in a number of Tasmanian schools, both government and non-government.

David's service to the ecumenical movement in Tasmania has included a number of years service as a member of the TCC's Commission on Christian Ministry in State Schools (**CCMISS**), both as a representative of the Anglican Church and, more recently, as the Commission's convener.

## **Welcome to the Churches of Christ!**

One of the highlights of the 2013 was the readmission of Churches of Christ Tasmania as a member church of the Tasmanian Council of Churches. The TCC rejoices in the fact that the Churches of Christ are once again part of its fellowship.

## **"Church, Faith, and Politics"**

A major part of the programme of the Annual Meeting was a conversation with a panel of Tasmanian elected officials about the relationship between their Christian faith and their political service to the community. Senator Helen Polley, Michael Ferguson MHA, and Launceston Mayor Albert Van Zetten spoke to the meeting, engaged in conversation with each other and answered a variety of questions from those present.

## **Emergency Ministry Training**

**The TCC, in co-operation with the Victorian Council of Churches, continues to offer training for people (lay and ordained, of a wide variety of faith perspectives) seeking to be involved in ministry in response to community emergencies. Training will be offered in the North and North-west of the State in November, with sessions planned for Friday-Saturday, 8-9 November, in Launceston and on Monday-Tuesday, 11-12 November, in Ulverstone. More information will be available shortly. If you want to receive further information, please contact the TCC ([tcctas@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tcctas@bigpond.net.au)) as soon as possible.**



## A visitor from Taizé :

Brother Matthew, from the Taizé Community, will visit Tasmania from 30th September until 3rd October.

At present, plans for Brother Matthew's visit include:

- On Monday evening, 30 September, a "Pints of Faith" gathering will take place at the Hotel SoHo in South Hobart along with a brief prayer service led by Brother Matthew.
- On Tuesday evening, 1 October, a "Pints of Faith" gathering will take place at the Cock and Bull British Pub in Launceston, along with a brief prayer service led by Brother Matthew.
- Details of the exact time of the "Pints of Faith" gatherings with Brother Matthew, and the time and locations of the prayer services, will be publicised in early September, when they are finalised.
- On Wednesday evening, 2 October, a prayer service led by Brother Matthew will take place at All Saints' Anglican Church, South Hobart, beginning at 7:30 p.m.



For more information, please ring 0418-307-449 or e-mail the TCC on [tcctas@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tcctas@bigpond.net.au) .



**Monthly Taizé Prayer in Hobart:** On the third Sunday of each month, a service of prayer using the music of the ecumenical Taizé Community is held at All Saints' Anglican Church, Macquarie Street, South Hobart, beginning at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



# Act For Peace: Syria Crisis Appeal

Meet Zahra, a widow and mother of 4 children...

Zahra lived an ordinary, happy life with her husband, three daughters and one son. They operated a family clothing business and her mother and two sisters lived in the same neighbourhood, they were a very close family. But that all changed in just one day...

“Bombs started coming down from the air.”

A bomb raid destroyed their home and entire neighbourhood. Zahra escaped with her children, but her husband was not so lucky...

“Someone yelled at me so I looked back, and that’s when I saw my husband killed with my very own eyes.”

Her brother-in-law also died that day, leaving Zahra and her sister living in terror of the daily threats against her and her children...

“Men would come and say to me, ‘we’re going to burn you and your children’, I was terrified.”

Zahra was living in constant fear, they had to escape Syria. Zahra fled to Jordan where she is now living in one room with 16 other people. The violence is over, but she now faces a new terror for herself and her family... Because she has lost everything.

And now she cannot even afford food or basic living essentials for herself and her children, so they suffer hunger and the threat of disease.

“I cannot even get milk or a nappy for my child.”

Sadly, there are many more families like Zahra’s that desperately need your support because they cannot afford even the most basic living essentials.

We cannot do this alone. Without your support, families like Zahra’s will miss out as there are not enough supplies, with resources stretched to breaking point.

This is a crisis, we need your support right now. Let them know they are not alone.

To help, please contact Act for Peace on Free Call: 1800 025 101 or email: [info@actforpeace.org.au](mailto:info@actforpeace.org.au).



**act for peace**  
reduce poverty | protect refugees  
prevent conflicts | empower communities

# SYRIA CRISIS APPEAL

Please **GIVE TODAY**  
FREE CALL 1800 025 101  
[www.actforpeace.org.au/syria](http://www.actforpeace.org.au/syria)

Your gifts will provide life-saving resources  
to innocent Syrian families in urgent need.



**act for peace**  
release poverty | protect refugees  
prevent conflict | empower communities



Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council  
of Churches in Australia and a member of the global ACT Alliance.  
ABN 64 493 941 795

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

**Act for Peace Volunteers Wanted:** Jeff Wild from Act For Peace will be visiting Tasmania to participate in the Tasmanian Centre for Global Learning's "Fairer World Festival", on the 2nd and 3rd of September in Launceston (Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, U.Tas./Newnham) and the 5th and 6th of September in Hobart (University Centre, U. Tas., Sandy Bay). Volunteers are needed to assist Jeff, from 9:00 to 11:00 each morning, and from 12:15 to 1:00 in the afternoon. Volunteers are particularly needed to assist on Tuesday the 5th, as Jeff will be speaking at a school during the morning. Please contact the TCC on 0418-307-449 or by e-mailing [tcctas@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tcctas@bigpond.net.au) if you can help.

# Praying and Learning Together

**Living Faith:** The Uniting Church Derwent Cluster and Northside Anglican Parish will be conducting the "Living Faith" Discipleship program commencing Tuesday 3 and Thursday 5 September 2013.

Living Faith is aimed at assisting Christians to take their place confidently in an ever changing community not familiar with Christian thinking and practice. It is for those who are serious about their faith, and have a desire to understand it better, and to share their understanding through the way they live day to day at work, home and play.

Some of the topics are :

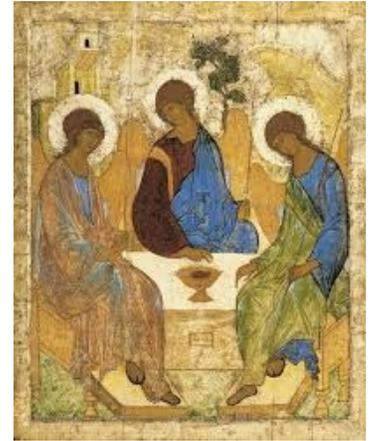
- The Story and Message of the Bible,
- The Hebrew Scriptures,
- The World, Life and Ministry of Jesus,
- Christian Doctrines and beliefs,
- Other Religions and Beliefs.

These and others will be covered in a lively and absorbing series of 2 five week blocks, using a DVD and Study Guide which feature the Rt. Rev. Tom Wright.



Tom Wright was formerly Bishop of Durham and was recently named by **Christianity Today** as one of the world's top five theologians.

For more information, please contact the Rev. Jeff Gray (62729897) or the Rev. Ross Ellwood (0408477981).



## Pints of Faith

**Pints of Faith** continues as a gathering for young adults offered by Catholic Youth Ministry Tasmania.



In Hobart, **Pints of Faith** will continue at the Soho Hotel on the first Thursday evening of the month, from 6:30 until 9:00.

In Launceston, **Pints of Faith** will happen, as announced, at the Cock and Bull British Pub.

Please ring Catholic Youth Ministry on 62086274 or 62086270 for more information about **Pints of Faith**, and other CYM programmes.



**Monthly Labyrinth Prayer in Launceston:** On the last Sunday of the month, a Labyrinth Walk is held at the Emmanuel Centre, 123 Abbott Street, Newstead, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Come and discover this ancient form of Christian prayer and reflection.



# Praying and Learning Together

## Ageing and Spirituality

The Rev. Prof. Elizabeth McKinley (Professor of Theology, Charles Sturt University) will lead two-day professional development opportunities (in both Hobart and Launceston) for anyone engaged in providing pastoral care.

The Launceston sessions will be held on Friday, 6th September, and Saturday, 7th September, at the Punchbowl Centre, Newstead.  
(Contact: Pamela Cornish, 6348-7243,  
**e-mail:** [pamela.cornish@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:pamela.cornish@dhhs.tas.gov.au)).

The Hobart sessions will be held on Friday, 13th September, and Saturday, 14th September, at the Citywide Function Centre, Mornington.

(Contact: Carmel Williams, 6278-5232,  
**e-mail:** [carmel.williams@calvarycare.org.au](mailto:carmel.williams@calvarycare.org.au)).

These sessions are offered by the Tasmanian branch of Spiritual Care Australia.

More information is found on the attached handbill and registration form.

## Christian Meditation Conference

The Australian Christian Meditation Community will hold its National Conference at the Sydney Church of England Grammar School on Friday, 1st November, and Saturday, 2nd November.

The conference will be led by Father Lawrence Freeman OSB, Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation.

More information is found on the attached flyer and registration form.

## Thank you to Archbishop Adrian Doyle.

## Welcome to Archbishop Julian Porteous.

Pope Francis has recently appointed the Most Rev'd Julian Charles Porteous DD BTheol, as Archbishop of Hobart. Bishop Porteous is currently serving as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Sydney. He will be installed as Archbishop on 17th September.



On behalf of the whole Tasmanian Christian community, the TCC thanks Archbishop Adrian Doyle for his 14 years of ministry as Archbishop of Hobart, and his strong encouragement of the ecumenical movement in Tasmania, and wishes him a long and happy retirement. Archbishop Doyle plans to remain in Hobart in his retirement.

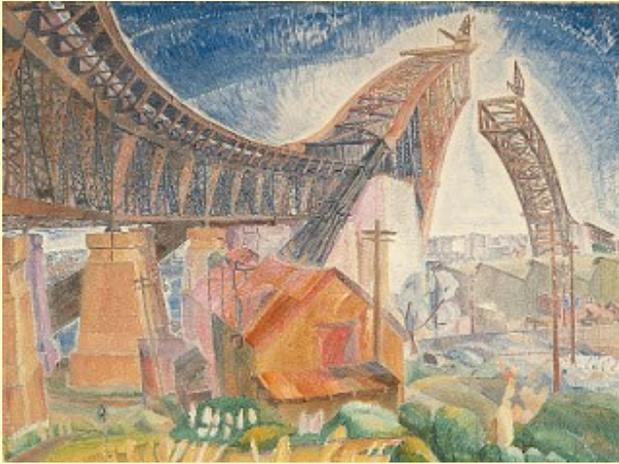
We welcome Archbishop-designate Porteous to Tasmania and look forward to his leadership in the coming years.



**Advance notice:** An ecumenical service for Advent will be held on the evening of the First Sunday of Advent, 1st December, at St. Mary's Cathedral, Hobart, organised by the Hobart Ministers' Fellowship. More details of time, etc., will follow later. Please keep this evening free.

# From the Liaison Officer

## *A Work in Progress*



Some years ago, when I was beginning my D.Min. through the Melbourne College of Divinity, I had an assignment (for a unit in Ministry and Culture taught by Father Pat Negri) to write a theological reflection on a work of Australian art. I chose this painting "The bridge in-curve" (1930) by Grace Cossington-Smith, depicting the Sydney Harbour Bridge while it was under construction. While I can't find a copy of my original reflection, here's some of what I remember writing.

I chose this picture for a number of reasons.

One reason is that it is an urban landscape. Landscape painting was always important in Australian art (Glover, Roberts, McCubbin, Namatjira, ...) but, for the most part,

Australian landscape painting depicted rural scenes rather than urban ones, even though the vast majority of Australia's people have always lived in or near cities. This painting, thus, is a rare Australian landscape, focussing on Australia's urban reality rather than Australia's rural myth.

Another reason is that it is a link with my life before I lived in Australia. The Sydney Harbour Bridge was completed within a year of the Bayonne Bridge, which links Bayonne, New Jersey, and Staten Island, New York. The two bridges are of the same type and look very similar to each other. For decades, one was the highest and the other the longest bridges of their type in the world. Many of the same engineers worked on both bridges. I grew up in Bayonne. The Bayonne Bridge is "my" bridge. For many people in Australia, the task of relating their life in Australia to their life pre-Australia is a significant cultural task. This picture speaks to me as an Australian-by-choice who grew up in Bayonne, New Jersey.

But, most importantly, I chose this picture because it showed a work-in-progress, i.e. Sydney's iconic "coathanger" before the roadway was put down, and even before the arch was completed. The idea of "a work in progress" speaks to the Australian reality. The relationship of most Australians with Australia's indigenous people, ... the relationship between Anglo-Celtic Australians and those who have come to this land in more recent decades, ... our relationship with neighbouring countries, ... our constitutional arrangements *vis a vis* the U.K.: all of these aspects of Australian life are very much "works in progress". The notion of "a work in progress" richly expresses the Australian reality.

As well, "a work in progress" is an important note of any spirituality - Christian or otherwise - that has integrity. Most people in the community have a healthy mistrust of any religious leader - Christian or otherwise - who has their beliefs, spirituality, ethics, etc., all neatly packaged up with no room for change, growth, or doubt.

On the other hand, a spirituality - Christian or otherwise - that has an authentic sense of being "a work in progress" has the potential to engage the community in a lively exploration of life's meaning. Developing this sense of being part of "a work in progress" is an important challenge for churches and other faith communities today.

Bob Faser, TCC Liaison Officer

(You may also want to read Bob's blog "*A funny thing happened on the way ...*", which can be found at <http://revdocbob.blogspot.com.au>.)

We have room for news from **YOUR** congregation, parish, corps, Meeting for Worship, or local ecumenical group. To get information into the November **OIKOUMENE**, please send your news to [tcctas@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tcctas@bigpond.net.au) by the end of October.