

Multiculturalism Matters

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA | PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH MORETON | 30 APRIL 2014



The main choral performance is available to view online. Just go to www.youtube.com and search for 2014 Calvary Korean Uniting Church Easter Cantata.



Cantata a compelling Good Friday experience

ELEVEN choral pieces, a 5-character drama and an instrumental prelude provided a moving and memorable Good Friday cantata, organised by the Calvary Korean UC.

Broadwater Road UC was packed for the evening performance, under the baton of Calvary's music director Jeongsu (Jay) Park.

The photos show: (top) Jay Park conducting the choir and the Qld Korean Chamber Orchestra; (above left) Jay and his wife Mikyung (Grace) Chun with soloists Leon and Leanne Warnock; and (above right) the drama tableau provided by members from Holland Park UC. Other participants included the Calvary Korean children's choir and tenor Matthew Kim.

Editor: David Busch, Project Officer: Multicultural. Phone: 0438 646 559. Email: davidbusch@bigpond.com

Multiculturalism Matters is published fortnightly and emailed with the Presbytery Newsletter. You are welcome to email, or copy and distribute. Each issue can also be downloaded from the Presbytery web site: <http://www.southmoreton.org.au>. Please email David if you would like to receive the newsletter directly by email. Submitted photos and stories reflecting the cultural diversity of the South Moreton Presbytery are welcome.

Moderator speaks out

The Moderator, Rev. Kaye Ronalds, has issued a statement condemning the recent violence in South Sudan.

Children have been among dozens of internally displaced persons in UN camps attacked by gunmen, while hundreds of men, women and children have been killed in a number of centres.

The Moderator expressed serious distress about the targeted slaughter of civilians in churches, hospitals and UN peacekeeping bases and expressed concern over the increasing number of internally displaced persons.

"Developments in the past couple of days in South Sudan have caused considerable distress to the members

of our Nuer Faith Community in Brisbane," she said on April 24.

"They are closely connected with their family members and communities in South Sudan and we sense their alarm and their feeling of powerlessness to make an effective response from this distance."

Ms Ronalds said while acknowledging there are Australian Sudanese people with family and friends on both sides of the conflict, the church had a pastoral responsibility to stand alongside all who grieve and mourn.

She has called the UC in Qld to prayer for a cessation to hostilities and the implementation of the cease-fire agreement signed on 23 January.



A date to remember

The Presbytery's Nuer Faith Community is planning a huge fund-raising day on Saturday, May 31, at St David's Coopers Plains UC, to assist people, especially children, in desperate circumstances in South Sudan as a result of hostilities. Details will be provided next issue, but mark the date and plan to come.

Presbytery to hear Matu tell their story

THE Matu Christian Uniting Church was formally recognised as a Faith Community by Presbytery in November 2013.

The forthcoming Presbytery meeting on May 10 will hear some of the story of the Matu people and their church. So by way of introduction, here are nine things you may not know about the Matu:

1. Matu is one of the largest tribes of the Chin, a race of some 5 million people spread throughout the north-eastern states of India, north-western Myanmar, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

2. Christianity came to the Chin people by American Baptist missionaries in the 1890s. Most Chin are now Christian.

3. As an ethnic and religious minority in Myanmar, Chin people have suffered violent suppression by the military regime since the 1980s. Threats, intimidation, harassment and discrimination continue today.

4. More than 100,000 Chin refugees live in India; thousands more are in Malaysia. They are very poor, vulnerable and have no official status. Neither country is a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention.

5. The [Chin Human Rights Organisation](#) monitors and reports on



Children from the Matu Christian UC sing to the congregation.

human rights issues affecting Chin people in Myanmar and refugees in India, Malaysia and other countries.

6. Matu people speak several dialects. The traditional languages do not have any script of their own, but were translated into Roman script by missionaries.

7. [The Bible](#) is available on the web in Chin-Matu language.

8. The [Matu Community of Qld Inc.](#) is based at Logan City.

9. A common Matu greeting is, "Na sa ding aa?" (how are you doing?). The response is often, "Ka sa ding" (I am doing well). Thank-you is "Ka uem."

TONY FLOYD MEETINGS

The UCA's National Director of Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry, Rev. Dr Tony Floyd, is holding two meetings in Brisbane this week for people from our culturally diverse churches.

► **Thursday, May 1, 4:00-6:15 pm, Logan Central Multicultural UC, 119 Bardon Rd, followed by dinner.**

Arranged by South Moreton Presbytery. Phone 0438 646 559.

► **Saturday, May 3, 9:30-11:30 am, Brisbane Taiwanese UC, 1 Wineglass Ave, Hillcrest.**

Arranged by the Synod's Multi Cross Cultural Committee. Phone 0414 454 683.