

# Multiculturalism Matters

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## Multicultural art theme is Gwen's gift to the Presbytery

A LARGE print celebrating cultural diversity was Rev Gwen Fisher's gift to the Presbytery, which she presented at a dinner on March 22 marking her retirement.

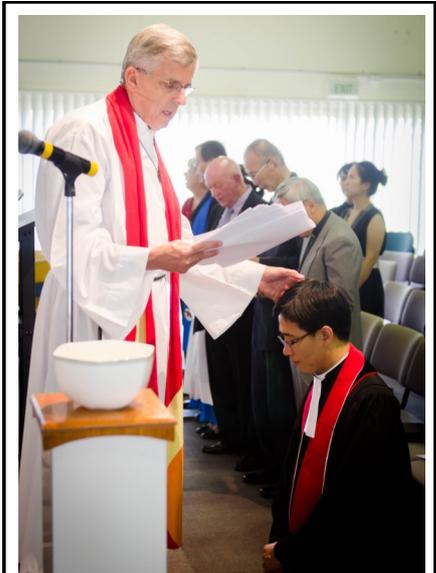
The painting, called *One Race*, is by her son-in-law, the celebrated indigenous artist Jandamarra Cadd of the Sunshine Coast.

In presenting it to Presbytery chairman Rev Dr David Mackay-Rankin, Gwen said, "This painting for me is a good representation of our Presbytery. The apostle Paul speaks of our Christian journey as 'running the race.' This painting shows people of many cultures bound together as 'one race,' running 'the race' against the background of an ancient land, a context of the land of the First Peoples of this nation."

Speakers paying tribute to Gwen at the retirement dinner included the significant work she had done supporting the multicultural congregations and faith communities of the Presbytery as a highlight of her 6+ years as Presbytery Minister.



Above: The canvas print, *One Race*.  
Below left: Gwen Fisher presents the print to David Mackay-Rankin, with artist, Jandamarra Cadd.



## Grant Cheng inducted

Rev. Yikuang (Grant) Cheng was inducted as minister of the Brisbane Taiwanese UC on March 30. Rev. Harold Kilah led the service for the Presbytery. **More on page 3.**

**Editor: David Busch, Project Officer: Multicultural.** Phone: 0438 646 559. Email: [davidbusch@bigpond.com](mailto: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.

# Jeongsu prepares combined choir for Good Friday



Calvary Korean UC's music pastor, Jeongsu (Jay) Park, leads a rehearsal of a combined choir with members from Calvary Korean, Broadwater Road UC and Holland Park UC in preparation for a special Good Friday cantata. Jeongsu, an accomplished musician and singer with a BA in Opera, has been Calvary Korean's music director for two years, and has been approved as a Pastor (A). He will be commissioned after completing core requirements and his visa is finalised. The cantata, called *A Time for Alleluia*, includes a 35-voice choir, a 20-voice children's choir, a 10-member chamber orchestra and 5 actors. It will be performed at Broadwater Rd church on Friday, April 18 at 7:00 pm. Admission free, all welcome.

## ... while young people bring their music passion to worship

(Below left) Children from the Nuer Faith Community sing and groove their praise to God at the Presbytery Youth Service at St David's Coopers Plains UC on Sunday night, March 30. The Nuer community worship at the church every Sunday afternoon. Presbytery youth services are held on any 5th Sunday of the month at a different venue each time. (Below right) Youth lead the singing at the Niue worship service at Knox Moorooka UC. UC minister Rev. Steve Havilitama leads the services. The young people will present a special Easter musical at Knox on Sunday, April 13, at 9:00 am. All welcome.



## Fijians come together

About 60 people attended a combined Fijian service at Brisbane Fijian UC, Annerley, on Sunday, March 23. Pictured after the service are: Back row, from left: Osea Seru, Roko Tavola, Malachi Tilangucanguca, Sefanaia Masi and Sunia Nadruka. Front row, from left: Rev Dr Jovili Meo, Rev. Jovilisi Ragata, Amnele Ragata, Amini Laveta, and Terani Lima, chair of the Synod's Multi Cross Cultural Committee.



# ‘In our journey of faith, we cannot stay in one place for too long’

“WE must not stop looking to God, that he would lead us to leave behind all that we have, to move forward, for we are still far away from perfection.”

That was the challenge which newly-inducted minister Rev. Yikuang (Grant) Cheng gave the Brisbane Taiwanese UC congregation on March 30.

Grant, a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan and former journalist, who arrived only a week earlier, said immigrants knew the disruption and challenge of leaving home and going to far places. But they could not then become too settled in their new environment.

“Faith is a journey, filled with stop after stop, with unceasing departures and arrivals,” he said. “We are all here in Brisbane, and some may stay here for their whole life, whereas it’s uncertain for others.

“Yet in our journey of faith, we cannot stay in one place for too long. We can never stop moving forward, otherwise we will not reach the next stop.

“With human nature, we will always try to leave a painful place, and stay where we are comfortable. However if our faith is to grow, we must try to leave our comfort and complacency even if we are unwilling.

“One who is willing to honestly face God, will not allow themselves to stay idle in a comfortable place.

“If we don’t want to leave, our faith will fail to increase. If we don’t want to leave, we will not prepare for our next stop, and we will not be able to throw off that which entangles and prevents us from moving forward.

“If we don’t want to leave, we will not be able to take the hard-earned fruits of the ministry of those before us, and bring them to a more beautiful and fulfilling territory.”

Grant compared the elders from Taiwan who established this congregation, with Abraham, who left his homeland trusting in God’s promise. Yet, he said, citing Hebrews 11:39-40, although the biblical patriarchs were commended for their faith, none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

## Taiwanese rally to reach out to youth

A CREATIVE mix of videos, music, testimony, preaching and church décor focused on the theme of “return to God,” for the annual Return Youth Rally at Brisbane Taiwanese UC on March 21. Retired UC minister, Rev Ian Hartland, who has been supporting the church in the two years it has been without a placement, preached on the parable of the prodigal son. The photo shows Ian and the music team concluding the rally.



Grant speaks at his induction. Photo: Geoffrey Lee

“Old and young alike are gathered in the same place (in this church), in the promised land God has prepared for us. But we must also think and ponder, is this enough?” Grant said. “Has the journey of our faith reached its destination? Or is there another stop further ahead, waiting for us to depart, to arrive at a more beautiful and perfect land?”

“On the journey of faith, even if we have reached the promised land, we must always be prepared to leave. It is only by this that we can receive the ‘something better’ that God has planned for us, reaching perfection.

“It doesn’t matter how long we have already immigrated here; it doesn’t matter what work achievements we have; it doesn’t matter if we have many children and grandchildren and it doesn’t matter if we are retired. We must never think we have already reached the promised land.

“We can’t settle. We must not stop looking to God, that he would lead us to leave behind all that we have, to move forward, for we are still far away from perfection.

“Let us follow Jesus, he who left the heavens, and let us together set foot upon this journey of faith, one of continuous departing, leaving and growing, to draw closer to perfection in Christ.”

