

Multiculturalism Matters

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA | PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH MORETON | 17 SEPTEMBER 2014



Emerging indigenous leaders gather



Grasree Gathering

Emerging Indigenous Christian Leaders Conference 2014

BROADWATER Road UC, Mansfield, is hosting a key worship service as part of the 2014 Grasree Gathering, being held in Brisbane early next month.

Grasree is a national, non-denominational annual event which brings together about 50 emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders from across Australia.

This year's event is being held at the Riverglenn conference centre, Indooroopilly, from October 6-10.

UC member Brooke Prentis is the conference organiser, with Aunty Jean

Phillips as the vision leader.

A highlight will be a **public ecumenical worship night at Broadwater Rd UC on Wednesday, October 8, at 7:00 pm**, led by many of the emerging leaders.

Grasree's strategies include offering theological and community development education, creating networks and partnerships, developing indigenous ministry pathways, and offering platforms for discussing issues of common concern.

For further details, including sponsorship opportunities, contact Brooke Prentis, 0416 197 324.



Ordinands gain insights into multi/cross-cultural ministry

FOR more than 11 years, Rev. Lu Senituli of Bayside UC has been leading ordinands at Trinity College in a compulsory short-course on multi and cross-cultural ministry. It's offered every 2-3 years, and was held last Friday-Saturday.

Rev. Hohaia Matthews of Logan Central Multicultural UC, Moses Leth of the Nuer UC Faith Community, Rev. David Won Kim of Calvary Korean UC, and members of the Synod's Multi Cross Cultural Committee also participated.

Last week's course began with Mr Senituli explaining how the traditional kava ceremony has become a symbol of the gospel being received into Pacific cultures. The photo shows Mr Senituli pouring kava for student Adam Tipple. To Adam's left is Rev. Hohaia Matthews, students Jenny Potter (with back to camera), Matt Gees, Aaron Moad and Nathan Barton, and Moses Leth. Other students in the course were Matthew Hogg and Glenn Schweitzer.

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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.

Nuer call world day of prayer for S. Sudan



New leaders take the helm of Nuer network

LEADERSHIP of the Nuer Community Association in Qld Inc. changed at its recent annual general meeting, held at St David's UC, Coopers Plains. The association provides a network for social and cultural activities, and was founded by Moses Leth as an extension of the Nuer church community which he drew together at St David's in 2003. Moses is pictured in the middle, with the former President, Biel Jal Liep (right) and new President Marduk Kuony (left). Biel and Marduk had been President and Vice-President respectively since 2010. Both are members of the Faith Community.

THE worldwide South Sudanese Nuer diaspora is organising a global day of prayer for their homeland on Saturday, September 27.

The presbytery's Nuer UC Faith Community will hold a six-hour vigil of prayer and fasting at St David's, Coopers Plains, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, followed by a shared dinner.

It is open to all who wish to share this special event with the Nuer people.

Presbytery minister, Rev. Alan Robinson, will be among those participating.

Congregations are also urged to include prayers for peace, reconciliation and humanitarian aid for South Sudan, in their intercessory prayers the next day.

Nearly 2 million people have fled their homes since inter-tribal violence erupted last December. Thousands have died in the fighting, and up to 4 million people are facing famine because of the crisis.



Korean minister is new Moderator

REV. Myung Hwa Park will be inducted as Moderator of the NSW-ACT Synod on Friday evening, September 26.

Born and raised a Buddhist in South Korea, Ms Park became a Christian, then served as a Methodist missionary in Pakistan among Muslims and Hindus. She came to Australia in the 1980s, began theological training in 1988 and was ordained as a UCA minister in December 1990.

Most recently she has been the minister at St Columba's and Canberra City UC. Ms Park is the fifth woman and second person of Asian background to be elected Moderator of the Synod.

David in N. Korea solar water project

REV. David Won Kim of Calvary Korean UC is brushing off his plumbing trade skills of a former life to take part in a mission trip to North Korea this month.

David is part of a technical team installing water systems at two care centres desperately in need of clean water. The project involves installing solar panels, large water storage tanks, solar powered pumps, distribution lines and hydrants.

In 2012, David visited the two sites as part of a planning and confirming exercise to prepare for this month's construction.

The projects are organised through Christian Friends of Korea, which runs humanitarian aid projects in North Korea.

Jovilisi's family grateful for prayers

REV. Jovilisi Ragata's wife, Amele, has thanked the church for the prayers which have surrounded Jovilisi and his family since his stroke last month.

Speaking at the Brisbane Fijian UC, Annerley, last Sunday (pictured),

PEOPLE & PLACES



Amele spoke of the prayer network which has extended from Fiji to the Fijian community in Australia and UAICC churches across northern Australia, where the couple have had a deep association since the 1970s.

Amele said Jovilisi was progressing well, and his illness had drawn the family and congregation closer together in prayer and in trust in God.

Jovilisi remains in PA Hospital.

Encountering Jesus in Islam and Christianity

A BOOK of reflections on Jesus as found in both Islam and Christianity is the latest work by Brisbane-based community development worker and Christian activist, Dave Andrews.

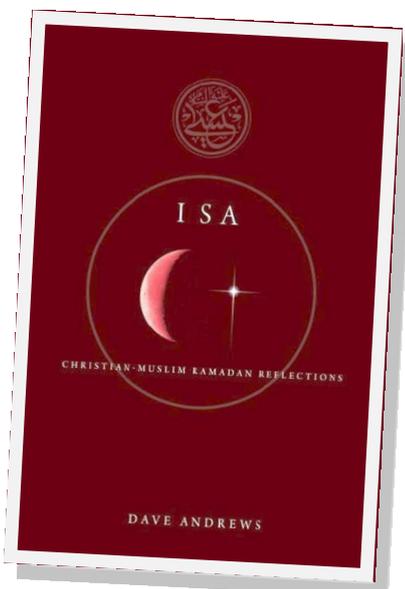
Called *Isa: Christian-Muslim Ramadan Reflections*, it draws on insights which Dave gained while fasting and praying during Ramadan on the spirituality of grace and compassion at the heart of the Muslim phrase, *Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim*, meaning "In the name of God, the most Gracious, the Most Compassionate."

His discussions with many Muslim friends have opened up understandings of how Isa (Jesus) is an embodiment of the grace and compassion of God declared in the *Bismillah*.

While acknowledging the differences which the Koran and the Bible have about the person and work of Jesus, the book looks at elements common in both traditions, respecting the sacred ground on which Jesus stands in both religions as a starting point for dialogue and faith-sharing.

The book will be launched on **Tuesday, September 30, at 6:30 pm at the Meeting Room, Westfield Garden City Library, Upper Mt Gravatt.**

To RSVP and for further details, email Nora Amath at namath14@yahoo.com, by September 25.



Jay coordinates Korean cultural festival for G20

PASTOR Jeongsu (Jay) Park of Calvary Korean UC is coordinating one of the largest events on the Qld Korean community's calendar for 2014—a major cultural festival to celebrate the G20 summit.

The festival will be held at Brisbane City Hall and King George Square, Brisbane, on Saturday, October 4. A range of Korean music

and artistic performances will be held at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm, with a Korean food festival running from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Sponsored by the Korean Society of Qld, the festival is open to the public.

The festival is a lead-in to the G20, which meets at South Bank on November 15-16.

Don't miss out on the

Gold Coast Korean UC

Mega Garage Sale

Saturday, 27 September 2014

Opens 6:00 am

Newlife Robina UC, 4 Greenwich Ct, Robina

Food and beverages also available.

Come and find a bargain, and support the ministry of this congregation