

Around our churches



Minlaton street-side after inside Good Friday service. Coffee and buns on offer with several tourist passers by conversations and New Testament handouts outs.

Support for employees in our congregations of ideology directed discrimination

This past month has seen an alarming intensity of opposition to Christians by reverse -tolerance activists. Besides threatening Christian employees and businesses like Coopers, Mark Allaby (IBM) , and Stephen Chuvara (McQuarrie University) Qantas and large Banks have issued a special ring for employees to wear promoting their imposition of gay-marriage and gender

theory. Sophie York of Marriage Alliance states; 'people I have spoken to as recently as this week are already living with fear to express their view on marriage or not wearing the ring for fear of [losing their job](#). This corporate driven bullying may affect folk in HN congregations or family and people known to them

If there are any in your congregations who are experiencing this please give them support and encouragement. Also ,we would like to know of any such cases .

Importantly go to the petition arranged by Marriage Alliance, a body HopeNet has recently joined to [sign the petition](#) urging corporations which have signed up for AME(homosexual marriage) not to discriminate against employees who hold to natural marriage and the Australian Marriage Act.

ACC Conference day "The Radical Gospel" Listening to the Reformation Witnesses, **Saturday, May 20th, 2017 9.30am – 2pm 24 Fifth Avenue, Ascot Park, SA Venue:** Fishgate, and Ascot Community Uniting Church. Go [here for program](#), speakers and details for this worthwhile Reformation contribution from our sister organisation, the ACC.



Gulf and Eyre Peninsula round HN ministry visit. Meeting with Pstr Jesse Size and Port Augusta saints for lunch and shared kingdom insights on the way. On to gatherings with saints of Driver River Cleve and Arno Bay and enriching hospitality. Our people stand firm in the truth and reap the blessings of God's faithfulness and grace. Deut 4.7-8. Abundant life indeed. Thank you Lord Jesus, king over all.

Public Actions by HopeNet : We have written to **Susan Close** over the discredited and dangerous Safe Schools program, **Simon Birmingham** on the freedom of faith in relation to changes to the Marriage Act, **Coopers** on the need to stand firm in their values,

Media-Com on promoting marriage services in contradiction of UCA policy, Minister for health arguing for an appropriate chapel at the **new RAH**, numerous comments on blogs and media articles. Wendy Newman(Glenunga) has pursued the Christian chapel space matter with the state government. Others in our churches have raised their voices for public goodness. have We understand all of this is contending for the faith for the sake of the Gospel and leaving the results in the hands of our Lord.

With **Macclesfield Oversight** and elders meeting Eat and meet for joyful business! Receiving asstnt pastor Trevor Pugh and approving Dillon young adults worker with Pstr Darryl.

HopeNet will be represented at the Assembly Marriage Conversation in Brisbane May 10-11. This meeting may well set the direction of the UCA on marriage and sexuality with significant ramifications for HopeNet and ACC. Pray for this and Ian.

HopeNet retreat is on again. Nineteen pastors and spouses hosted by Hope and Acacia Lodges excellent setting and facilities on KI, May 8-10. Always a popular annual.

And beyond

Transforming worship; imagining, crafting, leading. **National UCA event.** July 27-30 Burnside church. [Details here](#)
Adelaide men's Convention. May 13. [Details](#)

Leading media puzzled. People like [Paul Kelly](#), Greg Sheriden and Andrew Bolt have expressed more than once the lack of 'fight' in the church against the forces and manipulators that continually strive to destroy it. They ask: Why doesn't the church spearhead vigorous advocacy for their suffering persecuted family of believers they ask? Why is the church so anaemic in the face of secular- humanism? Why does the church seem to accept continual attack on its right to a place in the public square while Islam is lauded as the religion of peace? Why is there no loud protest at the protection of mosque and Islamic school from the Royal Commissions institutional child abuse? Interesting questions indeed! We might say God fights our battles and His church is assured of victory while we rest back. That interpretation is disturbing. More than that it is theologically erroneous and Biblically inaccurate. God fought for Israel, but they had to go into battle wielding sword and spear trusting him. Or if Israel was unable to do that they were at the end of their strength utterly helpless and poured out loud cries to God for His help. We contend for the faith, Gospelise secular leaders calling to repentance, publicly championing righteousness and persistently advocating for our suffering brethren.

Other churches in the public square. Church of Scotland debating marriage view this BBC [video interview](#). The Church of England general Synod likewise, but watch this powerful statement from [Andrea Williams](#) before all the Lords and bishops. This courageous woman is visiting Adelaide in July 20-22 to help us prepare to honour Jesus in the storm. She says; **"It remains an honour** to be called to speak of Jesus in public life in the United Kingdom; I have been humbled and failed and been weak and vulnerable in public as I have sought to love Jesus and His righteousness in public. I know I'm called to run with perseverance in it. And this I shall do until He calls me home."

Why do people migrate to Australia? Intriguing insight on Australia's immigration, Abrahamic blessing and witness. Article here and [video](#) clip from Vishal Mangalwadi

Multi million dollar find and gift for poor pastor [Pastor Emmanuel Momoh](#) discovered a 706-carat diamond worth millions of dollars near one of his churches in Sierra Leone's mining communities. Analysts say it is the 13th largest diamond to ever be pulled from the ground. He decided to give the diamond away in hopes that the proceeds could help his impoverished country. "I believe the government can do more, especially at a time when the country is undergoing some economic challenges," he said. President Bai Koroma expressed gratitude for the pastor's generous heart and called the diamond "a gift from God." The uncut diamond is now in the country's central bank where it will be auctioned off for what could be tens of millions of dollars.



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