

Notes from our churches.

Maureen (Branches HopeNet) will be guest Gospel singer in a major Ugandan Arise Crusade with Bp. Joel Kakembo who has visited several HopeNet churches .Can you get behind her? More info [here](#).

From this week's Bute newsletter on the importance of voting this month "let's ensure we are intentional and informed when we make this decision. Our vote counts. Our decision is important. Just as every day we need to choose to love, to be people who forgive quickly, to learn to listen and



follow the voice of the Holy Spirit in our lives.. So let's readily and intentionally choose to live lives worthy of our Saviour's sacrifice. "

Please keep in mind our sister congregation, **Coromandel valley** which has given much financially to care for Iranian refugees . They need some support. If would know more, contact Neil here neiladair@esc.net.au

Clare Hopenet Conference update. Nearly a full house of Hopenet church representatives gathered in Clare last month. We were refreshed in the truths about Jesus who is extolled as Lord above all by His power to keep and strengthen us in adversity, to build His unconquerable church and in the inspired Scriptures He fulfils. The last session was an almost unstoppable line up of reps stating their concerns with denominational and congregational questions. Overall a clear call and need for HopeNet to hold together and move ahead in these days of deception with clear leadership. There was unity in Word and Spirit . More will happen in the coming months because of plebiscite. Exec decided to issue a statement to the wider church on our position. Next year we plan more regional connections for strength and encouragement and more.

Re Marriage, our Lod's teaching and what is happening. HopeNet is a member of Australian Marriage Coalition (AMC). If leaders in HopeNet churches wish to receive informed AMC updates, connect here. Marriage Coalition Lyyle Shelton asks us to sign the [pledge](#). See former deputy PM John Anderson [here](#). What redefining the institution has done in [England](#), and now in [New Zealand](#) and also in [Ireland](#) which formally promised exemptions. So the vote has only to do with the wording of the Act, nothing else? And [leadership](#) from our local Family Voice whose director stirred us at Clare. And importantly check excellent articles in our [ACC Catalyst](#)

Two things have impressed me these last few weeks on this subject.

First, the sheer enormity of Australia even contemplating redefining marriage. Its like redefining gravity. Never before in the recorded history of civilisations have any governmental powers enforced upon their citizens laws which contradict the simple, natural and self-evident truth that marriage is the one flesh union of a man and a woman.

Never before have judicial penalties been forced upon its citizens who in conscience resist compliance with the repercussions of such laws, or whose children are required to accept transgender normality and sexual practices in school sex education.

Never before has a state's legal status of marriage been overturned and replaced with a definition which is untried, unnatural, infertile and disregarding of children's welfare by rejecting the complementary mother/father natural rearing of offspring.

Second. What is it that motivates and informs our minds and actions when we speak on this subject? Some will say the consequences on society for freedoms, education and child rearing. Enormous repercussions. Others will focus on love or justice for gays wanting marriage. For me the

whole debate and matter raises the basis of my ethical and moral decisions. And it is simply this; I must love God with heart, mind and soul. This is the first command affirmed by our beloved Lord. Love of our Lord will produce right moral decisions. We should so keep ourselves in His love as to feel and know that we are drawn to Him in love and desire to do first and foremost what pleases Him. Real love is shaped by the commands of a loved Lord. 'This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome' says dear John, the elderly apostle. Believers will seek the Lord in Scripture, listening for Holy Spirits mind and holding fast in holy fear to His direction. All other becomes either legalism or licentiousness. There are essentially two starting points for right decisions in this marriage question; love for God on the one hand and rejection of God on the other.

One of our churches has this banner on display declaring a powerful truth for sustainable and blessed marriages as well as social health for our nation. **National marriage Week starts this Sunday.** Lets pray this Sunday and next for the well being of marriages in our assemblies and beyond into our families and communities. Check the [resources](#).



Quotes

"Nature knows no ethics. There is no right and wrong in nature; the controlling realities are power and fertility."

"The gospel is not just the illustration of an idea. It is the evidenced record of actions by which the human situation is irreversibly changed."

"The attempt to interpret human behaviour in terms of models derived from the natural sciences eventually destroys personal responsibility."

Lesslie Newbigin, Truth to Tell: The Gospel as Public Truth