

## HopeNet Connection: 22 September 2018



## HopeNet+Connection

**ACC Conference.** Let me tell you the Conference was wonderful. It was packed at Wesley Mission conference centre. Many I had never met before across Australia, young and older, indigenous, multicultural, brothers and sisters. Stirring, believing, worship of our Lord God, the Saviour of the world. It was plain that there was a strong stirring to lovingly confess Christ in word and action. There was no heart for 'just waiting to see' or dallying. Rather our

heritage in credal truth was joyously celebrated with determination not to just 'stand aside' from the problems but to forge ahead in belief and hope.

The music was glorious. We sang our way around the business and prayed it through. There was almost resounding unanimity with the decisions. And even the few questionings were helpful and warmly acknowledged because they helped us see the strength and seriousness of the resolves. Everyone was a positive part of it.

You can [read the decisions here](#).

**What does it mean for HN churches?** Many HN churches have been waiting and watching for ACC's position intending to stand and move together in solidarity.

1. There will be some things to sort through with other councils of the church as well, which must be addressed not legalistically but in grace for the building up of Christ's congregations and for His Kingdom. These are uncharted waters.
2. ACC as you see from the decisions claims it is 'of' the UCA, that is, its belief stand is totally consistent with the Basis but because of the unprecedented circumstance caused by the Assembly decision ACC is offering to give covering in the place of the Assembly in the critical area of doctrine to its member churches (and others) who wish it. This is now in place and congregations may elect to accept the offer.
3. Besides the other suggestions that came out of the August 7<sup>th</sup> HN General meeting, like signage etc. it will take a while to submit ideas to church councils and congregations going forward. Driver River suggested we plan a general meeting in new year after hay cutting, harvest (yes we have many rural churches) and January break to bring it all together and move ahead as one. Exec has agreed to that idea. Meanwhile just keep following and growing in Jesus!
4. There are more groups suggesting ideas, new networks, possible coalitions plus Assembly and Synods inquiry into what all this may mean for the denomination. The big thing is going forward in humility, singularity of purpose learning to love as Jesus loves us, taking every Kingdom opportunity no matter how seeming small, learning from our Lord all the way. There may be some amazing surprises ahead in this journey. To God be the glory!

**Welcome new members into HN fellowship.** We warmly welcome Ministers and Pastors: Ted Curnow, Phil Marshall, Tony Johnson and Robert Bailey. Blessed to have you join and minister with us.

**The Great debate.** If you are down from the country at Adelaide Uni and looking for Christian fellowship on campus, [here's an intro](#).

**A brief update on religious freedom efforts:** There are still many MPs on both sides that remain either largely ignorant of issues at hand and/or unaware of the degree of concern amongst religious communities and others.

Folk are encouraged to take the release delay as an opportunity to make an appointment to see your MP now, when the Ruddock Report is released, potentially late October, and when MP's are about to vote. To gain more help and information contact Kudzai Zvenyika 0423 496 850. See also the helpful [AFC site](#) on this important matter.

Patrick Sookhdeo will be speaking and leading a discussion on this topic detailing its effect on Gospel ministry at Burnside CC, UCA Portrush Rd, Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 2018, 9.30 am.

**China leads the world?** 279 Chinese pastors issued a public declaration on 12 September 2018 calling on the government to allow full religious freedom. These Chinese church leaders have shown remarkable courage in speaking truth to power. Their declaration concludes, "For the sake of the gospel, we are prepared to bear all losses – even the loss of our freedom and of our lives." Read the [full Declaration](#).

**What's happening?** Check this [summary calendar](#) 'towards unity' of evangelical events upcoming in SA . A feast of opportunities. Note the Franklin Graham Adelaide event with [preparation gatherings](#) for ministry team leaders and pastors. Pastor Dean Whittaker invites to hear this prophetic evangelist, Darren Canning, on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm at their church at 17 Bedwin Street Salisbury North. And of course the much talked about Living Water Men's Conference Oct 5-7 Balaklava. [Rego here](#).

**Quote:** "My grandfather used to say that once in your life you needed a doctor, lawyer, priest and policeman, but every day, three times a day, you need a Farmer." *From Karoonda HN bulletin*

**Quote:** Christ carried an earnest of our resurrection along with him into heaven. Moreover, how weak and fragile would this hope be, had not this very flesh of ours in Christ been truly raised up, and entered into the kingdom of heaven. *Tertullian*.

**HopeNet**