



Together Online

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Together Online New Format

In trying to deliver you the best format for catching up with news from the Council of Churches of Western Australia, we are trying out a new format for Together Online. For the next few months, instead of providing full articles in our e-mails, instead we will provide a snippet, and a link to our website which will contain the full article.

While it cuts down the length of e-mails for you, it expands the possibilities for us. Not only will we be able to see in our statistics what sort of stories our readers are interested in, but also it opens up the possibility for discussion on the stories through the comments at the bottom of each story. Have an opinion? We'd love to hear it.

We'll try this format for a couple of months, and then review whether to go back to the full articles or not. Have any preferences? E-mail us at administrator@churcheswa.com.au

Update: We've received some positive comments via the e-mail, and seen an increase in website usage, which has been great. Remember, if you'd like to comment - positively or negatively - on this new format, send us an e-mail. Or, if you'd like to post your opinions on one of the stories, you can do that on the post. Just scroll down and submit a comment.

[Council of Churches Website](http://www.churcheswa.com.au)

Refugee Sunday, Concert and Climate Change

The focus of this year's commemoration will be the refugees from Iraq. Resources will be available at the National Council of Churches website after 8 August. This will include prayers for Iraq, information about the situation for people both inside and outside Iraq, the Christian Church in Iraq, and the need for resettlement for refugees.

The Council of Churches of WA will be making up a hard copy of some resources for churches and schools which need information about Refugee and Migrant Sunday, prior to 8 August. To order a copy: email please to Eira

CHRISTMAS BOWL CONCERT

WHEN: Sunday, 31 August

WHERE: St Thomas's Catholic Church, 2 College Rd Claremont

TIME: 2.30pm

This concert will be an opportunity to promote the ongoing crisis in Sudan and to have an opportunity to share some stories of the hardships suffered by our own local Sudanese refugees. The Council of Churches supports five aid programs within the Darfur region.

Four million people in the Darfur region or two-thirds of the population are now totally dependent on international relief aid, and over 1 million are now



beyond the reach of aid agencies as attacks on aid workers and their convoys accelerate. In North Darfur alone, 355,000 people were stranded without food aid for three consecutive months late last year. In January this year, 14 Sudan-based UN agencies issued a joint statement warning that attacks were crippling the relief effort, putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk of starvation and disease. In the past six months, some 250,000 people had been forced to flee violence, many for the second or third time. The Darfur humanitarian operation is the largest in the world, employing over 14,000 aid workers at a cost of A\$1.2 billion, but has saved hundreds of thousands of lives since the conflict began in mid-2004. Australia has around 8,000 Sudanese refugees. *Featuring at this year's concert:* Eneksis Vocal Ensemble (WAAPA), The Cottage Children's Choir both directed by Micheál McCarthy and a St Hilda's Choir. Music at St Thomas's has commissioned local talent Laurissa Wylie to write a composition on peace for the concert. All tickets will be pre-sold and are now on sale. Adults \$10 and children \$5. For these tickets please contact the office at Council of Churches of WA on 9274 3888 or email: [the Council](#).

Open Letter regarding Climate Change

In an historic move, a group of Australia's religious leaders have banded together and signed an open letter to the Federal Government, calling for immediate and decisive action on climate change. Signed by 39 leaders from various faith groups and organisations, the letter draws specific attention to the communities across the globe facing devastation through climate change, including the small island nations and low lying areas of the Pacific. The collaboration coincides with a visit to Australia by Pacific Church leaders, who are deeply concerned about the effects of climate change on the region. In countries such as Tuvalu, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands, climate change is an urgent issue, with rising sea levels already endangering many of their islands. "As people of faith, we affirm the fundamental value of the whole of creation, and assert that the responsibility to safeguard human flourishing and ecological integrity extends beyond economic considerations of costs and benefits," the letter states. The open letter has been facilitated by the independent research organisation, The Climate Institute, and the signatories represent Christian; Baha'i; Jewish; Muslim; Hindu; and Buddhist faiths. All of them are committed to working for ecologically sustainable living and advocating for communities, both in the Pacific and worldwide, affected by climate change. You can download the letter from our website: <http://www.churcheswa.com.au>

CELEBRATE SUSTAINABLE SEPTEMBER by walking, riding, running, or carpooling to church

CELEBRATE SUSTAINABLE SEPTEMBER by walking, riding, running, or carpooling to church Sustainable September is a communication campaign that celebrates activities that create a just, sustainable and prosperous Western Australia. Sustainable September is an opportunity to experience sustainability and to put it into action. This year's theme, 'The Climate is Right for sustainability' makes the link between the sustainable practices we employ and the positive impacts they can have on climate change and our quality of life. So show off your

sustainability in September by leaving your car at home and experiencing God's creation on the way to church.

For your interest and information go to website:

<http://www.sustainableseptember.net.au>

CARAD Fundraiser - "The Visitor" - 17 August

In a world of six billion people, it only takes one to change your life. Sixty-two year old Walter (Richard Jenkins, Six Feet Under) is sleepwalking through his life, until he returns from a work conference to find a young couple have taken residence in his apartment. Victims of a real estate scam, Tarek, a Syrian man, and Sainab, his Senegalese girlfriend, have nowhere else to go and so Walter reluctantly allows the couple to stay with him. Through these unexpected connections with two virtual strangers, he is awakened to a new world and a new life.

'Best Movie I've seen all year? Hands Down!' – Lou Lumenick, NY Post
'The visitor will make you think, and feel, and care about the world you live in.' - Rex Reed, NY Observer

Have a look at the trailer at: <http://www.thevisitorfilm.com>

WHEN: Sunday, 17 August

WHERE: Windsor Theatre, Stirling Highway Nedlands

TIME: 4.00pm for 5.00pm start

COST: \$20 or \$15 concession - includes refreshments - Bring Raffle money – great prizes to be won

Access for people with a disability. Please note: Parking – please park only at Theatre or in the street. (no parking available in shopping centre – fines will be imposed)

TICKETS can be obtained by phoning the CARAD office on 9227 7322 or email: carad@carad-wa.org



Williams says world has "genuine opportunity" to end extreme poverty

Dr Rowan Williams, spiritual head of the world's 78 million Anglicans, recently called on wealthy governments to fulfil their promises on aid, trade and development or see the world's poor continue to suffer disease, starvation and death.

The call came at the end of a procession of 1,000 faith leaders and bishops from central London to Lambeth Palace.

The archbishop said that there was a "genuine opportunity" to halve poverty by 2015 - the slogan on the placards distributed throughout the march, which was headed by a banner proclaiming "Keep the promise".

Prime Minister Gordon Brown also spoke, lavishly describing the march as "the greatest public demonstration of faith that this great city has ever seen."

"A hundred years is too long to wait for justice and that is why we must act now". You have sent a symbol, a very clear message with rising force that poverty can be eradicated, poverty must be eradicated and if we all work together for change poverty will be eradicated," he added.

Mr Brown joined Dr Williams in warning that time was running out if the United Nations Millennium Development goals were to be achieved.

In a letter to 10 Downing Street, the archbishop declared: "In our human family the continuing consequence of failure is the death of millions of women and children from childbirth and preventable childhood diseases."

It continued: "Millions more have hopes for sustainable life diminished because of poverty-fuelled conflict, lack of education and gender inequality, all of which undermine a new generation's liberation from HIV."

Other faith leaders on the march were Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor,



leader of Catholics in England and Wales; Sir Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth; the former secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain Sir Iqbal Sacranie, and Network of Sikh Organisations director Dr Indarjit Singh.

Discovering Balance - an international conference on prison reform, restorative justice, and human rights

2nd to 4th October 2008, Murdoch University, Western Australia
**** Registration is now open for the Discovering Balance conference.**

Visit the conference web site to register on-line or to download a manual registration form: <http://irjpr.net.au/conference/>

All delegates are encouraged to register by 1 September to take advantage of early bird fees.

Special rates for NGO members, students, and the unwaged also available - see the web site for details.

Discovering Balance will include presentations and workshops from activists, researchers, academics, and community and government representatives exploring a wide range of issues including penal reform, victims' rights, restorative processes, Indigenous justice, and rehabilitation.

Conference Themes and Plenary Sessions - Prisoner rehabilitation; Victims' rights and restorative processes; Human rights in custodial settings; Indigenous Australians and the criminal justice system; Restorative prisons; Restorative justice processes and juveniles; Restorative processes and human rights in a punitive society; Prison reform, the media and the public

Confirmed Speakers:

- Professor David Brown (University of New South Wales)
- Professor Andrew Coyle (International Centre for Prison Studies, Kings College London)
- Professor Richard Harding (Inspector of Custodial Services in Western Australia)
- Steven Heath (Chief Magistrate, Western Australia)
- Ian Johnson (Commissioner, Department of Corrective Services, Western Australia)
- Professor John Pratt (Institute of Criminology, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ)
- Hon. Margaret Quirk (Minister for Corrective Services; SmallBusiness; Member for Girrawheen)
- Baroness Vivien Stern (International Centre for Prison Studies, Kings College London)
- Professor Hilde Tubex (Department of Corrective Services)

Visit the conference web site for more about the conference, including key dates and the latest program information: <http://irjpr.net.au/conference/>



Events for the Heart and Mind

WACOSS & Uniting Church Australia Social Inclusion Public Forum

Saturday 16th August 2.30 - 5pm Scots Uniting Church York Street ALBANY.
The afternoon will be an opportunity for interested local people and community organisations to share current issues affecting you and your community.

“ CATHEDRAL COFFEE, PRAYERS, AND SPIRITUALITY”

Wed 27 August 9.30-11.30 Anglican Cathedral-Burt Hall.
10.00am “Out of the Silence ... Into the Silence” Prayers;



10.15am Presentation: "Spirituality and ... Poetry" by Professor Christopher Wortham with group participation.

The cost including morning coffee/tea/Muffins is \$5. Please let Bishop David Murray know that you are coming by Monday 25 August on 9325 5766 Extn 117 (Message Bank) or david.murray@perthcathedral.org

Silent Retreat Day: Art and Silence: A Hands-on Day

September 20 2008

The Christian Meditation Community is holding a Silent Retreat Day (9.00am-3.00pm)

Incorporating ...Practical sessions, time for personal reflection, Prayer of the Hours, periods of meditation and a silent lunch with lectio divina.

Led by Dianne Pereira

Venue: Our Lady of Grace Parish Centre. 3 Kitchener Road North Beach

Cost: \$10 Donation (Includes art materials) Tea / Coffee provided. BYO Lunch.

Enquiries: CMC WA Ph: 9444.5810 email:christianmeditation@iinet.net.au

The 21st of September 2008 is the **International Day of Prayer for Peace**. The International Day of Prayer for Peace offers an opportunity for church communities in all places to pray and act together to nurture lasting peace in the hearts of people, their families, communities and societies.

For 2008, the WCC office for the Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV) has made available prayer and liturgical resources developed in the context of this year's DOV focus on the Pacific region and its theme "Witnessing to God's Peace".

You can find out more information by clicking [here](#).

For a brochure on the event, please click [here](#).

3rd to 5th October 2008 **Children of the World Children's Ministry Training** - Ideal for Children's Workers and Scripture Teachers!

Speakers:

- Graham McDonald Children of the World National Ministry Leader
- Pauline Pang Children of the World NSW Field Worker
- Amy Leong Children's Worker Burwood Chinese Presbyterian Church

Topics: Class Discipline, Story Telling, Ages/Stages, Music, Counseling, etc.

Location: Dalkeith Baptist Church. Waratah Avenue.

Times: Friday night, full day Saturday and Sunday Afternoon.

Costs: \$100 includes training materials, catered refreshments & lunch on Saturday

Contact us for a Program, Enrolment Form and enquiries:

Children of the World PO Box 280 FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

Email Brady Williams: yearofchild@aol.com or phone: 9291 9293

Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice One Day Intensive - Status of Women in African Societies: Myths and Realities

Saturday, 23 August 2008: 9.00 am - 4:30 pm EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, FREMANTLE

One day Intensive: Status of Women in African Societies: Myths and Realities.

Explore and interrogate myths and realities on the Status of Women in African Societies. Through sharing stories on the influence wielded by women in Africa, the session will feature presentations, small group discussion and time for individual reflection.

Further information about the Seminar on Status of Women in African Societies can be found on www.erisj.org.au

Presenter: Dr Suma Kaare, the Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice Education Coordinator. She has a strong background in training, research and consultancy gained through more than 20 years experience working with communities, NGOs, Governments, The UN and donor agencies in numerous developing countries.

She will enrich the day with insights drawn from her personal experience as a woman from a matrilineal society in Africa and as a development worker in women development

Programs in various African countries including Southern Sudan, Cameroon, and Tanzania.

PARTICIPANT COST

Unwaged/Student \$25.00

Unwaged Retiree \$35.00

Waged Adult \$50.00

NGO / CSO \$100.00

Waged Others \$150.00

Venue :24 High St, Fremantle WA, 6160. For more details or to Register Tel: 9432-2400. email: admin@erisj.org.au

www.erisj.org.au. Registrations close 19 August 2008

Thursday, August 28th **Equal Opportunity Commission inquiry into race based discrimination in the private housing rental market - THIS IS YOUR CHANCE**

Thursday, August 28th Equal Opportunity Commission inquiry into race based discrimination in the private housing rental market - THIS IS YOUR CHANCE

Has this happened to you or someone you know? Come along to the "This is your Chance" forum to receive support and assistance in creating submissions into the Equal Opportunity Commissions inquiry into whether persons from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and aboriginal people are discriminated against on the basis of their race either directly or indirectly in the private rental market. Submissions can be anonymous. Please Come along and bring community members.

Time: 9.30am for a 10am start

Place: Herb Graham Recreation Centre Chesterfield Road Mirrabooka, WA 6052

Bring: People, Case Studies, Stories and Hope

Contact / RSVP: (08) 9216 3900 or toll free on 1800 198 149 or TTY (08) 9216 3936

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