



Together Online

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Revd John Henderson to leave NCCA

The General Secretary of the NCCA, the Revd John Henderson, announced this week that he has accepted a call from his own Lutheran Church of Australia to become Principal of Australian Lutheran College in Adelaide, the tertiary training institution of the Church.

John has therefore resigned as NCCA General Secretary from the end of 2008. John has served the NCCA for seven years.

People from WA will have an opportunity to bid John an early farewell when he speaks at the Council of Churches' General Meeting on the 18th October. The meeting will take place at the brand new church of St Peter and Emmaus in Yokine, from 9 am to 12 noon. Please let the CCWA office know if you plan to attend on 93855477 or email

administrator@churcheswa.com.au



Rev. Keith Dowding

We regret to announce the passing of Reverend Keith Dowding on the 26th of August, 2008. Keith was 97 years old. Keith was the first General Secretary of the Council of Churches and until a few years ago a regular at our meetings, where he would raise issues of social justice and peace making. We offer our sincere condolences to his family. The family has announced that a private funeral will be followed by a public thanksgiving service at a date to be announced.

2008 CHRISTMAS BOWL CONCERT – 31st August

In 2008, Christmas Bowl Concert will raise funds for aid work in the Sudan – a country home to one of the worst humanitarian disasters of our time. In Sudan, over 200 000 people have been killed, and 2.5 million people displaced. The concert will raise money to provide antibiotics, malaria treatments, food, shelter, water, and education to internally displaced people.

Local talent will be showcased at the Concert. The Cottage Children's choir, St Hilda's Chapel Choir and the Eneksis Vocal Ensemble will perform a varied and entertaining selection of music.

A highlight will be the World Premier performance of a new composition by local talent Laurissa Wylie, commissioned by Music at St Thomas's. Click here for more information.

WHEN: 31st August, 2008 2.30pm

WHERE: St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 2 College Rd, Claremont



TICKETS: \$10/adults and \$5/children
Tickets available from the Council of Churches of WA on 9274 3888 or
administrator@churcheswa.com.au
Common people helping common people
A little boy:

Samir is 9 and he can't remember his father and his two brothers. It seems to him that he has been living in an Internally Displaced People camp forever. In the beginning, it was him, his mother and his little sister, but both are now dead in a minefield. "I miss them, but I'm lucky I've got Fatimah with me". Samir is right- he is lucky- in 2003 there were 1.3 million orphans in Sudan and the number still growing.

In fact Fatimah is an old woman in her country, as she is 43 years old. The war took everybody from her, husband, children, brothers, sisters. But she found Samir and together they are building a new family -a family born in a camp.

A mother:

Saiesha Moodley, 20, is one of the 100,000 people travelling through the forests of southern Sudan trying to find some safe place to live. She spent some nights under the rain walking with her two youngest children without any help. In these conditions one night Saiesha's youngest child, Tahir, was born. "He is healthy but the birth was very difficult," she said. The oldest is only two.

Her two older children and her husband are dead, as are her father, mother and brothers. Now she is fighting to save the two youngest: "It is hard to carry them but I don't have a choice." She knows she is alone and there is no one to help her. But also she knows her children's life depends on her and she decided that she has already lost enough people.

A man:

Mbarote was a husband, a father, a brother, a son like everybody in his neighbourhood. Now he is only a combatant. He's lost everybody and everything. Now there is only the war left. He doesn't have any story to tell, he doesn't have any dream, he just has the rebellion. "I wake up every day, I take my gun, and I think that today may be my last day alive."

We are here today, because of these people. War, humanitarian crimes, hundreds of deaths daily, -it is a world that seems so far away from us. But these are people like us who are suffering, losing their families, losing their dreams-and that is what we can understand and feel.

That's why CWS, along with 60 Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox organisations, supports the Sudan Council of Churches, Sudan AID and the Sudan Social Development Organisation. In the Internally Displaced People camps antibiotics are distributed, malaria patients are treated; food, shelter, water, and education are provided. The operation also aims to equip Sudanese partners to manage it in the future.
Today we've joined them: common people helping common people with music.

September Happenings

Social Justice Sunday in September

Social Justice Sunday Statement 2008. This year's statement, A Rich, Young Nation: the Challenge of Poverty and Affluence in Australia, can be ordered now from the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council using an online form at
www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au



A summary is posted on the website which will also host liturgy notes and teachers notes as Social Justice Sunday, 28 September approaches.
Worship Resources Available – Sustainable September & Social Justice Sunday

Sustainable September – A four part bible study series and liturgical resources have been prepared for use during Sustainable September 2008 (or at other times as desired). These resources were prepared for the Social Justice Board by Rev Professor Bill Loader and Gail Creswell.
<http://green.wa.uca.org.au/index.php?page=worship-resources>
CELEBRATE SUSTAINABLE SEPTEMBER by walking, riding, running, or carpooling to church

Sustainable September is a community 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. The calendar of events occurring during Sustainable September has now been posted on the web. Click here to check out what's on!

Social Justice Sunday (28 September 2008) - This year on Social Justice Sunday (or on another Sunday, with your Bible study or fellowship group, or during some quiet time on your own), you are invited to think about poverty through four special stories. The National Council of Churches in Australia has this year produced a collection of four stories and reflections for use on Social Justice Sunday.

Click here to access electronic copies of these resources. If you would like to be posted copies of any of these resources, please contact the Social Justice Unit on 9260 9800 or social.justice@wa.uca.org.au.

On 21 September, churches and communities throughout the world are committing to the International Day of Peace through prayer, meditation and other forms of spiritual observance. 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".

DISCOVERING BALANCE: 2-4 October Prison Reform, Restorative Justice & 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/>

Download the IRJPR Conference Flyer

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Safe as Churches? IV Conference 2009
11 – 13 June, 2009
Adelaide West Uniting Church, Adelaide, South Australia

Building on the past 3 'Safe as Churches?' Consultations, the National Council of Churches in Australia is pleased to announce that the Safe as Churches? IV Conference 2009 will take place in Adelaide, South Australia from 7pm on Thursday 11th – 2.30pm on Saturday 13th June 2009. Heads of Churches, Professional Standards Directors and other Practitioners from churches across Australia and New Zealand will be invited to this conference.

An extensive program is currently being planned with opportunities for theological reflection, professional development and nourishment for the work to be done in creating safer churches.

Mark these dates in your diary now and watch out for further conference updates.

For further information about the conference or to register your interest, please contact Tracy Lethbridge at tracy@bridgeevents.com.au.



Job Vacancy: Victorian Council of Churches

The Victorian Council of Churches is seeking to appoint a Chief Executive Officer to work within the vision and mission of this Council of 19 member churches, relating not only to all Christian traditions but with the leadership and communities of other faiths and the wider community. The successful applicant will be a committed church member, have a clear understanding of

the ecumenical movement and the theological perspectives which inform it, and exercise administrative and organisational skills.

For more information or the Position Description, please phone (03) 9650 4511 or email vcc@vcc.org.au

Applications marked Private and Confidential should be sent to the Victorian Council of Churches, Level 4 Causeway House, 306 Little Collins St., Melbourne 3000

Applications close Monday 29th September, 2008

Events for the Heart and Soul

REFUGEE & MIGRANT SUNDAY – 31 August - RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE
This year the NCCA's Refugee and Migrant Sunday resources focus on Iraq. Please visit this website to access the resources.



FAITH AND REASON – 5th September -Presented by Dr Peter Vardy and Julie Arliss

An intensive one day teacher training conference at John XXIII College, JohnXXIII Avenue, Mt Claremont

For further information and registration details go to: <http://www.johnxxii.edu.au> or telephone Bernadette Canny on (08) 9383 0404

VOICES IN PRAISE ECUMENICAL CHOIR – FUNDRAISER SPRING CONCERT-
September 14th.

A selection of Spirituals and other sacred music – John Rutter, Vivaldi, Faure and others.

This concert is being held in support of fundraising for the Clifton Pipe Organ Built (1898-1908).

TIME: 2.30pm

WHERE: St Albans Highgate, 423 Beaufort St Perth

TICKETS: \$15 /\$10 concession (tickets available at the door): Enquiries please to: 9328 8071

If you love to sing and would like to make enquiries about JOINING Voices in Praise Ecumenical Choir, phone John Chatfield on 9457 2801. We would love you to come and join us at practice nights – Mt Pleasant Uniting Church, Cnr Reynolds & Coomoora Rds – wonderful music, fun choir, all ages welcome.

A GREENER FAITH AND THE FUTURE OF PLANET EARTH 11 October

The Progressive Christian Network WA are hosting an eco-theology workshop 'A Greener Faith and the Future of Planet Earth'.

WHEN: Saturday 11th October

TIME: 8:30AM – 3PM

WHERE: Floreat All Saints Uniting Church, 50 Berkeley Cr, FLOREAT.

TICKETS: \$25 (includes lunch)

For more information about the event, including information about the guest speakers and registration, click [here](#) or contact Marie Yuncken 9385 8537, Theo Mackaay 9325 5766, or email clc@westnet.com.au.

SPIRIT OF THE STREETS CHOIR IN CONCERT

The City of Perth presents – Spirit of the Streets Choir in concert with the Male Voice Choir and Working Voices Choir. To celebrate International Mental Health Week and National Carers week, The Spirit of the Streets – a choir comprised of people normally regarded as the forgotten section of our society – have pride in presenting a concert in this major venue. With the same idea as the Choir of Hard Knocks (as seen on ABC TV), The Big Issue newspaper sellers of Perth have assembled this choir, which is led by music director, Bernard Carnley. The concert will be hosted by Sonia Vinci of Channel 9.

WHEN: Perth Concert Hall, 5 St George's Tce Perth
WHEN: Tuesday, 14 October
TIME: 8 PM
TICKETS: A Reserve - \$25; Concession \$14.95 Seniors card holders, unwaged,
full time students. Children 16 and under. Group bookings discounts available. For
tickets, visit www.bocsticketing.com.au, BOCS outlets or call 9484 1133.

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