

Interaction

Quarterly Publication of the Cross Cultural & Multicultural Ministry Unit
Board of Mission NSW Synod
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Issue 2
June 2010

Chinese National Conference May 2010

written by Jilian Wang

The UCA Chinese National Conference in May 2010 gathered the Chinese church leaders from Sydney and Melbourne. The theme for the conference was STRENGTH & SALVATION: a time for the church leaders to gain the strength of the Lord by encouraging each other through sharing the words of the Bible, sharing the testimonies and the different experiences in the churches. It was a conference that had rich content. Not only did the Chinese Church leaders share their experience with each other, but it also provided an opportunity for the Chinese Church leaders to listen to the sharing from Bankstown Multicultural Ministries as well as the sharing from the UCA Korean Presbytery. The Church Leaders also attended the evangelistic Conference which was held by the Chinese Congregation Wesley Mission and Sydney Chinese

Christian Church Association. Approximately 2,000 people attended the evangelistic conference in 3 nights, and indeed everyone can tell there is a great spiritual need for the people in Australia.

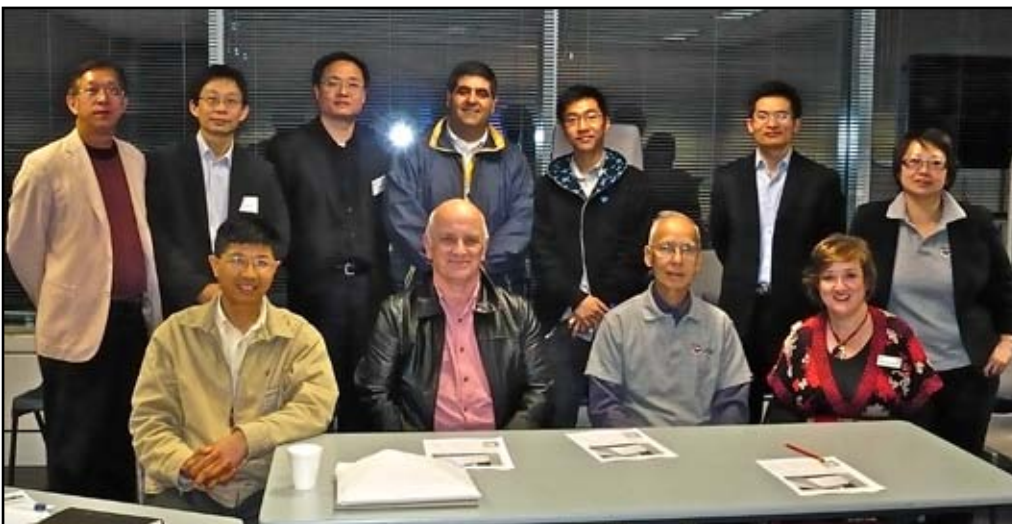
The Chinese population in Australia is growing rapidly. Thank God that the Uniting Church in Australia is a multi-cultural church which is able to share the gospel with different ethnic groups. The leaders of the Chinese Church are all very passionate in sharing the gospel and seeking the growth of the church.

The Chinese Congregation of Wesley Mission in Sydney shared its vision to build a full-gospel healthy church, with an emphasis on spiritual and physical health. The work of the youth ministry was of particular interest in providing a spiritual home for the Chinese overseas students. Many of the young

people accepted Jesus as their personal savior in the Youth Fellowship. Members shared their experience in holding large evangelistic conferences in the past few years, which has greatly impacted the Chinese communities.



The mandarin worship group in Carlingford shared what they learnt on this pathway of church growth and how the Lord encouraged them in the difficult moments. The church from



Melbourne shared of their vision in training the church leaders, providing social care, and evangelistic ministries. There are currently 5 Chinese Churches within the Uniting Church in Australia. Delegates were all encouraged to learn of the growth of the Chinese Churches in Australia and prayed that the church will grow with God's blessings, trusting HIM to use these congregations to reach more people.

On Monday 29th March, in warm autumn weather, nearly 100 mission supporters made their way to Jannali Uniting Church for the Annual Mission Get-Together organised by the Sydney Day Mission Support Group. Following morning tea, the day started with a sing-along- led by Mrs Coral Miller and voices were raised in songs of praise which included old favourites and new hymns, one with a new twist , “Jesus loves me, this I know, Though my hair is white as snow”.

Chairperson, Mrs Joy Brookes welcomed all those present including special guests representing the Anglican Board of Mission, Australian Church Women, Catholic Women's League, Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union and the Salvation Army. Choral items were presented a cappella by 12 members of the Endeavour Harmony chorus, who delighted us with 2 beautiful songs.

The speaker at the morning session was Rev Dr Kerry Enright, the National Director of UnitingWorld. With his usual enthusiasm, Kerry expanded on some of the projects of the four units of UnitingWorld.

1. RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Kerry focused on South India and showed a DVD describing the joint project of Uniting World and the Church of South India which aims to help the Adivasi community of forest people who live in the Nilgiri Hills of South India. The authorities view these people as lacking an official identity, so they are not allowed to access basic civil services or to own land. Over time, the authorities have rezoned the land where the Adivasi people were living, and their land is gradually being taken from them. This project is helping the people obtain official identity papers and many have been able to obtain land rights. A pre-school and other educational facilities have also been provided.

2. PEACE MAKING

Young Ambassadors for Peace (YAP) is an international network of committed people working to bring peace and reconciliation in their own communities under the direction of Joy Balazo. In Ambon, Indonesia, workshops have been conducted to try and solve conflict between Christian and Muslim communities. A new initiative is now working

Events

Noticeboard 2010

24-26 September

Cross Cultural Gathering
(Wagga Wagga Uniting Church, Wesley Hall, Cnr Johnston & Tarcutta Street, Wagga)

For further information please contact Charissa Suli, Cross Cultural Consultant at BoM on 8267 4300

Saturday 27th November

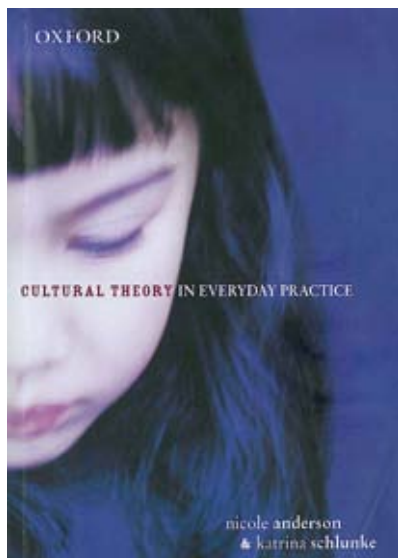
Youth Praise and Worship
The Next Wave

A Celebration of young people in our Synod

Dee Why Beach Reserve,
Dee Why

For further information please contact Charissa Suli, Cross Cultural Consultant at BoM on 8267 4300

Book Review



Title: Cultural Theory in Everyday Practise

Author: Nicole Anderson and Katrina Schlunke

Publisher: Oxford University Press 2008

Cultural Theory in Everyday Practice takes some of the most prominent theoretical approaches used in Cultural Studies and demonstrates the ways in which they are used to evaluate, analyse and interpret recent events, debates, topics and texts in contemporary society. The book offers more than one example in each part, the text reveals that there are not only many theories and many practices in which theory can be applied, but also many styles of writing, many styles of thinking about and articulating cultural practices and everyday life. I have found this book most useful in understanding culture as a theory practice and being able to apply the theory in everyday life.

for peace between Muslim tribes in Indonesia. There are eight peacemaking centres across Asia and the Pacific.

3. EXPERIENCE

UnitingWorld is committed to “Connecting People for Life”. Last year, the number of people serving with our Partner Churches in Africa, Asia and the Pacific doubled. The 100 placements offered every year aim to strengthen the links with the partner churches and help transform the lives of those trapped in poverty. The volunteers who are sent are also enriched.



4. CHURCH SOLIDARITY.

This involves partnership with our Partner Churches in mission and evangelism, and supporting churches through difficult situations. In Fiji in 2009, the government threw out the judiciary and it is trying to limit the role of the Methodist Church. The Annual Church Conference and monthly and quarterly meetings have been banned. UnitingWorld is working with the World Methodist Conference and the Methodist Church in UK and New Zealand to support the Fijian church in these difficult times

WHERE IS UNITINGWORLD GOING?

Last year, financial support, including disaster relief, grew dramatically. Uniting World is encouraging links between local congregations and overseas churches. Forty congregations now have direct partnerships with partner churches. In our Bible reading from Acts, the early church reached out to the gentiles, and we aim to point people to hope and life in Jesus Christ.

After a lunch break and wonderful hos-

pitality from the Jannali ladies, we gathered for the afternoon session where Tina Rendell spoke about the Board of Mission's ABC and Easter Appeals. The main speakers in the afternoon were Rev Professor Dean Drayton and Mr Jim and Mrs Gill Mein. Last October, they spent a week in Niue where a partnership agreement between the Uniting Church of Australia under the auspices of UnitingWorld, and the Ekalesia Kerisiano of Niue was signed. Dean, Jim and Gill shared different aspects of their visit.

Niue is situated 2400 kms north west of New Zealand and has an area of 260 sq. kms. It is a beautiful, dramatic island, quite unlike what our image is of a typical Pacific Island surrounded by palm trees. It is the largest limestone outcrop in the world, and 30 metre cliffs surround most of the island. Niue gained independence in the form of self-government 35 years ago and the current population is 1,200. There are approximately 22,000 Niueans living in New Zealand and 5,000 in Australia, and the economy of Niue is heavily dependent on aid from New Zealand.

Captain Cook discovered Niue in 1774,



but left after receiving a hostile reception. He named the island “The Savage Island”. The missionary John Williams came to Niue in 1830 and was also not received. Peniamina, a Niuean was taken to Samoa where he learnt to read and write, and was converted to Christianity. In 1846, when he returned to Niue, he brought the good news of the gospel. A national holiday, Peniamina Day, is held on 26th October each year. From being an impenetrable savage island, the island was gradually transformed as the people heard and accepted the gospel, and the church is now central in their lives.

The church in Niue is facing a number

of issues. The people live very simple lives and their homes are simple and basic. Ministers are paid a stipend of \$400 per month. As the population is decreasing, the people are looking for ways to make the church financially viable. Ownership of land is also an issue.

The Uniting Church is still trying to define what can be done to help the church in Niue. It may be possible to provide assistance with theological education or possibly help in other ways.

We were pleased to meet two leaders of the Niuean community, Rev Matagi Vilitama, a former president of the church in Niue, and his wife Jo who spoke briefly to the meeting. Matagi is now ministering in the Carlton-Ramsgate Uniting Church.

David, Jim and Gill fell in love with the people of Niue, who despite living in a harsh environment, demonstrate a reliance on God, and are filled with joy and love. We were left with a new understanding of the island of Niue and the issues being faced by our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are grateful to the Jannali music team for their assistance, and the ladies of Jannali for their hospitality.

The next Mission Get-Together is planned for Monday 30 May 2011 and will again be held at Jannali Uniting Church. Don't miss the opportunity to join us to get vital updates on mission activity and enjoy great fellowship.



A Night of Music at Quakers Hill Uniting



In celebration of their 11th Church Anniversary on the night of the 24th of April 2010, the Quakers Hill Uniting Church Filipino Congregation (QHUCFC) held a spectacular, inspiring and life-giving message musical – “Chains”. This one of a kind musical play, prepared and played by the A.T.A.P (All things are possible) youth, together with the Quakers Hill Filipino Choir provided a story based on the reality of how, not only the youth in today’s society but also every single individual can be wrapped within chains that represent all kinds of impurity, lies, fears, low self esteem

and pride that surrounds us in our everyday lives.

The night started off with praise and worship lead by the Quakers Hill Music Ministry team. Because of the darkness within the place, there was eagerness within the crowds on what ‘Chains’ would be about and nervousness within the choir, dancers and main characters.

The play focuses on a young man named David who lived a double standard life and is confined and surrounded by a net with ‘chains’ hanging all over. Through David, the audience is taken into his journey and distress of being wrapped into ‘chains’ and not having the ability to break free on his own. At first we can identify David pushing aside the help from his parents and his Pastor James. David’s friend, Marco represents an individual who is ruled by sin and someone who tempts David into more ‘juicy cds’. In the turning point of the play, Cassandra represents an individual who makes a stand in her faith, and causing David to be more confused and distressed about the ‘chains’ placed upon him and also questioning the ‘power of God’. As David constantly tries to break free, the chain master places

more ‘chains’ therefore causing David to call out for help. David then seeks advice from Pastor James who advises David to ‘cast your cares on the Lord’. The performance ended, with the powerful voices of the choir singing “Unshakable Kingdom”, David is then free from the net and the ‘chains’ taken down, with the help of God.

As Christian’s in today’s society, filled with influences from the media and other peers, these ‘chains’ will always be a baggage allowing us to be wrapped in our own world of sin. Just like David, we will feel the distance from God and question God “where are you?” In order for us to see the power of God and to break from these bondages we must “cast our cares on the Lord.” In every circumstance, he will always be there, helping us to break the ‘chains’. The play ended with the challenging question of ‘When you deal with your own Chains, what are you going to do?’

Again I say CONGRATULATIONS and WELL DONE to the Quakers Hill UCFC for the spectacular evening and wonderful message about God’s continuous grace and love for all his people.

10 Years of Service as the Cross Cultural Consultant

Appreciation to Rev Dr Myong Duk Yang

This is to record our appreciation for the service of Rev Dr Myong Duk Yang during his 10 years of ministry as the Cross Cultural Consultant for Multicultural Ministry in the Board of Mission, NSW-ACT Synod.

Rev Dr Myong Duk Yang has been acknowledged as making a distinctive contribution to Cross-cultural and Multi-cultural ministry. The NSW-ACT Synod’s interest in providing quality resources to assist congregations, presbyteries,

congregants and ministers in cross cultural activities was matched by Rev Dr Yang’s passion for Multi-cultural and Cross-cultural ministry.

(Continue on page 5)

The Uniting Church supports Fiji Methodist Theological College

In 2008, Rev. Carolyn Thornley and her husband Dr Andrew Thornley spent a term teaching at Davuilevu Methodist Theological College in Fiji, Carolyn in Pastoral Care and Andrew in Church History. The Uniting Church in Australia is in partnership with The Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma. During their time at Davuilevu, Carolyn and Andrew observed that the College Library had unreliable access to

electric power and they returned to Australia keen to raise funds for a solar-generated power system for the Library. This would ensure permanent air-conditioning for the Library and thus better preservation of the book collection and attached computer centre.

Contact was made with the Friends of Fiji, an Australian-wide Uniting Church support group established some years earlier under the auspices of the Uniting International

Mission (or Uniting World as it is now known). Generous contributions were made by the Friends of Fiji to the Solar Fund as well as to the purchase of text books for the Library. Then in 2009, thanks to the efforts of Uniting World's Ms Amy Goodhew, the Davuilevu Library Solar scheme was accepted as a Project for the NSW Board of Mission Easter Offering. Providence was indeed playing a part. The combined donations of the Friends of Fiji and the Easter Appeal provided sufficient funds to allow the Methodist Theological College at Davuilevu to commence the preliminary steps in securing solar power for their Library. The project should be completed before the end of 2010.

Andrew and Carolyn would like to thank all those who contributed to this project. Support of this kind from the Uniting Church to its partner church in Fiji and Rotuma is particularly significant in view of the very difficult times that the church is going through.



[Picture Caption: With staff and students in attendance, Dr Thornley, on a visit to Fiji in April 2010, hands a cheque from the Uniting Church for the implementation of the Solar Project to Rev Dr Epineri Vakadewavosa, Principal of Davuilevu Methodist Theological College. The College Library is in the background.]

Cont.....10 Years of Service as the Cross Cultural Consultant

Appreciation to Rev Dr Myong Duk Yang

Rev Dr Yang used his gifts to help design and produce resources for Cross-cultural Workshops, as well as the publication of a handbook to help Korean churches understand the polity and ethos of the Uniting Church. Myong co-authored *Crossing Borders* and has engaged in teaching and liaison for Multi-cultural and Cross-cultural ministry in the Synod and Assembly.

We thank God for Rev Dr Yang's

commitment and inspiration during his term as the Consultant,

and pray for God's blessing on his ministry into the future.



ABC APPEAL - 2010

PROJECT 1 – KIDS HOMEWORK AND FUN ACTIVITIES CLUB

This project of the Cessnock/Bellbird Uniting Church aims to provide a place where, one afternoon a week, school aged children receive homework support in a positive and caring atmosphere. Although the main focus is on homework, other activities will include afternoon tea as well as indoor/outdoor recreation.

PROJECT 2 - KIRIBATI CHAPLAINCY MISSION ENLARGEMENT PROGRAMME

The inhabitants of Kiribati live on the equator where the effects of global warming are now a stark reality. In this context the Kiribati Protestant Church has a number of chaplains who facilitate important pastoral care in their communities. Your contribution will enable the UCA, as a partner church, to respond to a request for some formal chaplaincy training in Australia.

PROJECT 3 - COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT THROUGH OUTINGS

The staff of Parrahouse Youth Refuge support young people in their late teens who have been the victims of mental or physical abuse. The result of this treatment often leaves the young people with limited social skills and

low self esteem. It is hoped that this appeal will enable the residents to attend paid outings with the Youth Workers to develop and support positive relationships, team building skills and positive community involvement.

PROJECT 4 – LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN EAST TIMOR

Throughout this developing nation, the Protestant Church in East Timor serves the community and witnesses to Christ where more than 60% of all protestant congregations have no trained leadership. Local churches are often abandoned while many others struggle without a pastor to address their critical needs.

In 2009, an initiative of the Moderator and General Secretary led to the implementation of an intensive training program in West Timor to prepare local pastors for full time ministry. A further program is being arranged for 2010-2011 and funds raised will assist the UCA in its ongoing commitment to equip leaders to minister within the East Timor CONTEXT.

EASTER THANK OFFERING - 2010

PROJECT 1 - KITCHEN UPGRADE FOR USE AS COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Over the last two years the members of Inverell Congregation have joined with a local organisation, Linking Together, to provide meals for 40 – 60 people who have a disability or are disadvantaged in some way. However, in order to continue this service there is an urgent need to ensure the kitchen facilities meet local council regulations. Contributions to this project will meet the costs for labour required to install new fixtures and fittings.

PROJECT 2 - PACIFIC THEOLOGY TEACHERS

Many of our Pacific church partners want to make a difference to their communities where, increasingly impacted by westernisation, the church needs to provide a prophetic voice in response to complex political contexts, the effects of climate change and economic decline.

Your donations will enable four theology teachers to serve for one semester in a Pacific partner church.

PROJECT 3 - CARPENTRY WORKSHOP UBUYA VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL

As an activity of our partner church in Papua New Guinea, the Ubuya Centre provides accredited training for 200 students in a remote isle off the coast of PNG. This project will finance the building of a carpentry and furniture making workshop. Currently, the students work under a mango tree with no shelter for tools and equipment. It is anticipated that the students will take part in construction of the workshop as part of their training.

PROJECT 4 - HEALTHY BODIES = HEALTHY MINDS

This project aims to improve the living standards of young people under the age of 18 who are participating in drug and alcohol recovery programs. Based at the Parramatta Mission Induction Unit, young people are encouraged to change their lifestyle by experiencing the benefits of improved fitness and understanding the positive impacts of good nutrition to their bodies.

PLEASE POST YOUR DONATION TO:

ABC Appeal 2008/2009, Board of Mission, PO Box A2178, Sydney South NSW 1235

(cheques/money orders should be made payable to: BOARD OF MISSION)

A video or DVD of the ABC projects is also available through your Presbytery Office or the Board of Mission office.

Any enquiries please contact Veronica Rebelledo on phone no. 8267 4390

World Mission

Sydney Day Mission Support Group

MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM, LEVEL 10, 222 PITT STREET, SYDNEY ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM FEBRUARY TO NOVEMBER.

Thursday 18th February - Our Speaker will be Kathy Pereira - Associate Director - Experience Programs
UnitingWorld

Any enquiries, please contact:

Chairperson: Mrs Joy Brookes, Ph: 4321 0033 or the Secretary Mrs Jan Dunstan, Ph: 9876 3344

MEETING DATES FOR 2010

Level 10, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney. 10am-12pm

Thursday 15th July Rev John Barr - Associate Director of Church
Solidarity (Asia) - UnitingWorld

Monday 9th August - Thank Offering Service at Roseville UC

Thursday 19th August Mrs Kathy Pereira - Associate Director
Experience Programs - UnitingWorld

Thursday 16th September Rev Alistair Macrae - President of the
UCA

Thursday 21st October Mr Colin & Mrs Jill Bakon - will share with
us about their work in E cudour - Sth America

Please include
details in your
weekly church
notices

Dates for your 2010 diary

Monday 9th August - Thank Offering Service at Roseville UC

Morning Tea is served from 10.00am

Service Commences at 11.00am

Speaker - Pastor Julie Greig - Rural Chaplain Her Topic will be "Taking a Risk"
Bring your own lunch - Tea, Coffee provided After lunch we catch up on what is hap-
pening in the Board of Mission from Tina Rendell

FRIENDSHIP NOTELETS AND PENS

Joint Project Convenors

Mrs. Norma Chambers - PO Box 165 West Pennant Hills NSW 2125

Telephone: (02) 9484 1993

Mrs. Margaret Dibdin - 9/47 Woniora Road, Hurstville NSW 2220

Telephone: (02) 9570 8544

Friendship Notelets - Single fold notelets in 2 designs

'Bird on Bottlebrush' and 'Golden Plains'. Packets of 8 with envelopes \$3.00.all items display UCA emblem

TEA TOWELS, PLACEMATS AND APRONS

Teatowels, placemats, aprons and hankerchiefs available from:

Joint Project Convenors

Mrs. Norma Chambers - PO Box 165 West Pennant Hills NSW 2125

Telephone: (02) 9484 1993

Mrs. Margaret Dibdin - 9/47 Woniora Road, Hurstville NSW 2220

Telephone: (02) 9570 8544

Tea Towels are available in 22 designs for \$6.50each Some are linen/cotton, most are now 100% cotton.

Sets of four placemats are \$14 per set. Blue Wren and Bottlebrush -only 2 designs now available.

Aprons are available in two designs - Willow Pattern (linen and cotton for \$11 each) Cottage Garden (cotton for \$9 each).

Handkerchiefs in five designs - Birds, Butterflies, Flowers, Kangaroo and Koala at \$1.50 each.

Supper Tablecloths - 93cmx93cm 100% cotton Australiana Wildflowers \$16 each.

All these items are ideal gifts, particularly for friends overseas

ORDERS ARE SUPPLIED ON INVOICE, BUT THE COST OF POSTAGE MUST BE ADDED.

PLEASE NOTE: Teatowels, Placemats, Aprons, Hankerchiefs, Notelets are also available from the
Board of Mission, Level 9, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW.

BOARD OF MISSION CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Board of Mission wishes to say a BIG THANK YOU to individuals, Congregations and Fellowship Groups who have sold CHRISTMAS CARDS this last year. If you have any remaining stock, could you please return them with your cheque, to the Board of Mission as soon as possible.

If you have any queries, please contact Veronica Moya on 8267 4390. Please post your cheque to: Uniting Church Board of Mission, PO Box A2178, Sydney South 1235

The 2010 Christmas card brochure will be posted with the June Interaction. If you or others would like to be on the mailing list for the 2010 Christmas card brochure, please contact

Belinda Fry, Board of Mission, PO Box A2178, Sydney South NSW 1235
or phone 02 8267 4270 or email belindaf@nsw.uca.org.au



BOARD OF MISSION VOLUNTEERS - THANK YOU

At different times during the year, volunteers from the Sydney Day Mission Support Group come into the Board of Mission office to help with mailouts for the latest edition of In-A-State of Prayer, Interaction, Easter Thank Offering envelopes, Christmas cards and brochures, ABC Appeal Information, Project Leader etc.

From the Board of Mission we would like to say THANK YOU for your helpful support of this Board.

Would you like to be a volunteer??? For further information, please contact Sue Willgoss on 8267 4387 or email suew@nsw.uca.org.au

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Please post your cheque or money order to: Uniting Church Board of Mission, PO Box A2178, Sydney South 1235