

# Beyond 2020 Vision

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

March 2022

Morialta Uniting Church—follow us on Facebook or check out our website at [www.morialtauca.org.au](http://www.morialtauca.org.au)

## Welcome to "Beyond 2020 Vision"

Welcome to the March edition, where the Worship and Faith Education Team offer several ways to celebrate and reflect during Lent. There are two Lenten Reflections for groups – "Climate for Change" and "Faith in a time of COVID" (details were in February Vision). There are also two reflections for individuals or friends over a coffee – "Lent Event" and "Seven days of Solidarity".

Our front page features an article adapted from Matthew Fox which gives much to reflect upon during Lent.

Margaret Cargill has shared a story from her friend in Russia who is part Ukrainian and part Russian, and we have used a prayer for peace from the Catholic Bishops.

The cut-off date for our next edition will be 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 but don't try to fool us!

Either drop a copy in to Nicole at the Office or call/email Colin on 0427 122 106 or [snout-n-bout@bigpond.com.au](mailto:snout-n-bout@bigpond.com.au)

Go well.

## A Lenten reflection - compassion over rules

An extract from an article by Rev Matthew Fox posted on ProgressiveChristianity.org 2016



where Bible passages are taken out of context to uphold racism, sexism, homophobia and unhealthy nationalism: these are the places in which compassion, mercy, gentleness of spirit, inclusiveness and unconditional love should work and speak.

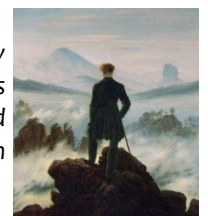
In the terminology of Luke's gospel compassion is not simply a noun but also a verb – for me it is about being active in times of relative peace to ensure that any future war is avoided. If this rings true for you then surely we are to struggle against everything that is unjust; we are to challenge all that creates barriers; we should demand equality and fairness in, for example, provision of adequate health services and education. The list is endless.

Compassion such as this will cost us greatly in time, money and effort because it brings us into conflict with the values of this world. Compassion is not about some simplistic touchy feely, love everybody mentality. Compassion hurts. Compassion includes being angry that the majority of people suffer as a result of having too little while we, among the minority have too much – angry enough to do something about it.

The role of the Christian church in our contemporary world is not so much about propagating systems of outdated belief, of setting up barriers to decide who is 'in' and who is 'out'. The church should be encouraging and enabling ordinary people to do extraordinary things as we live and practice compassion as a way of life: compassion that is inclusive and not exclusive, based upon our experience of the Yahweh God we meet in Jesus. Compassion is to be preached by actions before any words are used.

Dr Martin Luther King Junior said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Matthew Fox holds a doctorate in spirituality from the Institut Catholique de Paris and has authored 35 books on spirituality and contemporary culture that have been translated into 74 languages



Luke 13:6-9 – The parable of the barren fig tree.

Let us think for a moment about the story of the fig tree. It represented those within and beyond the synagogue in Antioch who were rejecting the radical inclusive social and religious message of Jesus. In the story, such people stood condemned by the man [a metaphor for Yahweh God, the judge of all], but it was the gardener [a metaphor for Jesus] who was pleading for a little more time so that the tree could be nurtured and fruit would grow.

This was Luke's literary counter-balance between judgement and compassion. There is a profound warning to repent or else, followed by the comfort of Yahweh God's compassion towards all. Many will know the weight of one's personal transgressions and feelings of guilt being suddenly lifted by the experience that Jesus is all compassion! However, there was a further warning in Luke's message to the Jewish Jesus sect: an awareness of such love was no excuse to continue wilfully abusing such compassion and mercy.

So what has all of this to do with us today? Unlike Luke, we live in relative peace. Unlike Luke, we are not persecuted. I cannot tell you what this story means for you but this I know; the story should speak to each one of us in different ways.

It speaks to me by reminding me that in the wisdom of Jesus the most powerful weapons available to individuals to help us to change for the better are compassion, mercy, gentleness of spirit, inclusiveness and unconditional love.

But sadly in a world dominated by might, money, and power, some people look upon compassion, mercy, gentleness of spirit, inclusiveness and unconditional love as weakness. In a world blighted by terrorism, war and indescribable brutality demonstrated day by day, for example in (Ukraine, Myanmar), Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan; in a world where many have become indifferent, self-righteous and selfish; in a world

## Lenten Reflections

Morialta UC's theme for Lent 2022 is **TOGETHER**. The Worship and Faith Education Team have chosen two reflections that will enable us to come **together** as a community of faith to discuss how we can be the "Church" in these challenging times.



The studies are "**Faith in a time of Coronavirus**" and "**Climate for Change**". Both studies are a call to care and action, in building a pathway to change. They provide a great opportunity for us to come **together** to discern a way **forward**, and to bring **hope** in a time of change. This is an opportunity to be part of "building a path for our **community of hope** into the future".

### Start times for each weekly study:

"**Faith in a time of Coronavirus**" –

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am** (Rev Bob)

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm** (Chris Ayles)

"**Climate for Change**" –

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm** (Worship & Faith Education Team)



The reflection material for Climate for Change can be downloaded (60 pages) at: [https://archive.abmission.org/data/resources/2020/Climate\\_For\\_Change\\_5.pdf](https://archive.abmission.org/data/resources/2020/Climate_For_Change_5.pdf)

The material for the Coronavirus reflection can be downloaded found at: <https://files.anglicanalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/22143718/COVID-19-Bible-studies-FINAL.pdf>

**OR** you can contact the church office if you want printed copies.

**It is not too late to be part of building a future for Morialta Uniting Church – email Nicole [office@morialtauca.org.au](mailto:office@morialtauca.org.au) or fill in the form on the table in the Foyer today.**



## From UnitingWorld

Lent Event calls you to join other Christians in a pledge to give up or take up something in solidarity with those who live with less. You can learn about how to be a good global neighbour through our Bible study series and donate to support our work, knowing that every dollar is part of God's mission in the world, ending poverty and building hope.

### What could you give up?

Buying things you don't need; wasting food; checking your phone; arriving late; gossip; disposable plastic; mindless eating; worrying about things that can't be changed; going through the motions; procrastination...

### What could you take up?

Composting; gratitude; patience; a new skill; prayer; forgiveness; secret acts of kindness; exercise; a budget; a new idea; graciousness; regular giving; meditation; ...

### Join a team to have more impact!

- **Give up something in solidarity with those who have less, or take up a new spiritual discipline for forty days.** The 40-day season of Lent is an opportunity to disrupt our everyday routines by living more simply, taking up a spiritual discipline or being more intentional about our lives and habits. 'Fasting' is a common discipline for Lent, going without something for 40 days. But more powerful than fasting from chocolate or Netflix etc, is **choosing to fast from indifference to others and to the challenges facing our world:** poverty, conflict, inequality, violence, a changing climate...
- **Donate to our global neighbours** in places of critical need – your donation will be allocated to help where the need is greatest. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.  
<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event/lent-event-donate>

Why not download our **Global Neighbours Bible study**, which is designed for individuals, as well as small groups. You can participate at home alone, or as a family, or join a few friends over a weekly coffee. You can sign up at the following link or contact the office for a study booklet.

<https://d2ozon8d7ta3c6.cloudfront.net/e034f9e4a22b86e0163b5084b0c9aff6.pdf>

## Greetings from Woomelang

*Adapted from a letter sent to John Secombe from Jan Adcock*

Morialta Uniting Church and its members have been doing a wonderful service to all of us here in Woomelang. Thank you is such a small word to show our appreciation.

Much has changed in our lives. Robert and I have moved to Swan Hill because of age and health, and the cards you sent me for the Woomelang computer have been lying firstly unattended in my mail and then unattended in Julie Mitchell's mail at Woomelang. Julie being the Shire Home Help Service around Woomelang and beyond, together with a sick husband, is very hard pressed and exhausted by the ongoing virus situation.

We still have our house in Woomelang which I am slowly sorting through, which is rather a huge and slow job to downsize.

I was over in Woomelang last weekend and I updated the Woomelang computer with your services from 21 March to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021.

Its rather sad to see the church congregation in Woomelang decline. There are only 7 left in the congregation and when they have a Morialta Service a few come from Sea Lake and Berriwillock. Others watch weekly from their homes. Always

good reports about having a Morialta Service. Robert and I have not joined a church community here in Swan Hill yet, because of COVID. But thankfully we participate in your service every week.

Last week I showed Julie how to livestream your services through the church computer to the church TV. Unfortunately, the other ladies are not so techno savvy. John (Secombe) would it be too much trouble to send me another set of your services from October through to now, so when I go to Woomelang, I can update the church computer with your cards giving them an easy library to access? If that is not convenient, please let me know.

Thanks again John for all you have done for the people in Woomelang and surrounds, God moves in mysterious ways, so the future is very hard to predict. I guess it's just one day at a time.

Stay safe and well and our warmest regards to all at Morialta.

Sincerely, Jan Adcock

**PS** – Minlaton UC has also joined Kimba UC in taking our live streamed services.



## Fellowship News

*Margaret Clogg*

On a cool summer evening, 13 Fellowship members met at the picturesque Felixstowe Reserve, adjacent to Linear



Park, for a "Picnic in the Park" to celebrate the beginning of the Fellowship year for 2022. We discussed our program for the year ahead and look forward to some very interesting meetings. The evening finished with most of the group going to McDonald's for ice-creams or coffee.

Present were Margaret and Ray Clogg, Margaret and Roger Whibley, Margaret and Merv Boundy, Marion and John Beard, Joan Wagner, Jenny Swanbury, Beverley Tredrea, Ruth Pitt, Margaret Dix and Arlene Lomman joined us at McDonalds.

**Our next meeting is on Thursday March 17th at 10.00am at the church.**

Jenny Humphries, a retired registered nurse, (a neighbour of the Cloggs and the Purlings) will give an account of her nursing life at the Australian Inland Mission Hospital at Oodnadatta and with the Royal Flying Doctor Service in the 1960s. It promises to be a very interesting talk. Every-one is welcome.

## The Ten Commandments

*From the Kissing Fish book by Roger Wolsey*

Practice loyalty to the sacred

Do not forget that any given image of God is only a glimpse

Do not use God's name to harm

Do not let life be defined as productivity

Care for those who have cared for you

Do not be destructive

Be faithful to the commitments you make

Do not take what does not belong to you

Do not hinder justice from coming to fruition

Do not let your internal desires lead you to harm another



## My wish for you...

"This is my wish for you: Comfort on difficult days, smiles when sadness intrudes, rainbows to follow the clouds, laughter to kiss your lips, sunsets to warm your heart, hugs when spirits sag, beauty for your eyes to see, friendships to brighten your being, faith so that you can believe, confidence for when you doubt, courage to know yourself, patience to accept the truth, love to complete your life."

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*



"The craze evidently is dying out fast and in a few months it will have been forgotten."  
*The New York Times, in 1925, on crosswords!*

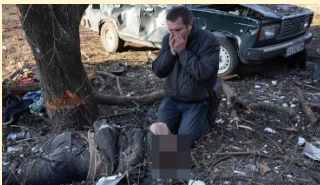


## The Russian Invasion through the eyes of a Russian-Ukrainian

From Julia Khukalenko, whom Margaret Cargill met when teaching in Moscow in 2019; used with permission.

I'm half Ukrainian. My grandmother never learned to speak Russian without mistakes and with an accent. Mother was born in Ukraine. I grew up on Ukrainian songs. I married a man who is half Ukrainian (yes, my mother-in-law's native language is Ukrainian).

Our family was touched by war in the most direct way. My mother's cousin lives in the same Gorlovka. Grandfather is from Lugansk, relatives there too. And in Donetsk, Kiev, Kharkov, Sumy region, and in other cities. This morning, my husband's native aunt called (I've never seen her like that) and told me that in the neighbouring village there were Ukrainian troops, and a Russian military convoy passed through their village. The places where my husband grew up.



And now the meaning of fasting. The worst part about these events to me is that our family is separated. Some perceive the arrival of Russian troops as liberation, the second beg and urge to go out to anti-war rallies, and the third with foam in their mouth repeat the wordings of the first channel. And all of them are my relatives, beloved people.

I shared with my loved ones that I have fallen into some strange tranquillity since January. Anxiety is so inadequate to me, and here is a complete zen: no fear, no despair, no surprise. Probably this is some kind of cunning mechanism of nature gifted to mothers: Sonia (daughter) always unmistakably reads my emotional state and reacts to it. I guess my internal resources are automatically directed to ensure a child's sense of safety.



And about a big family.... I'll share Voloshin's four-leaves from the "Civil War", 1919:

*And here and there between the rows*

*Sounds the same voice:*

*"Whoever is not for us is against us!*

*No one is indifferent: the truth is with us! "*

*And I stand alone among them*

*In a roaring flame and smoke*

*And by all my might*

*Praying for those and others.*

## Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice,  
who change the hardened heart  
and break the power of violence,  
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril;  
let them know not death but life,  
not slavery but freedom.

You are God of all;  
We are brothers and sisters.

Give us strength  
To live in love,  
choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen



## "I No Longer Pray For Peace"

By Ann Weems

On the edge of war, one foot already in,  
I no longer pray for peace:  
I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn  
to tender heartedness,  
and evil intentions will turn  
to mercifulness,

and all the soldiers already deployed  
will be snatched out of harm's way,  
and the whole world will be  
astounded onto its knees.

I pray that all the "God talk"  
will take bones,

and stand up and shed  
its cloak of faithlessness,  
and walk again in its powerful truth.

I pray that the whole world might  
sit down together and share  
its bread and its wine.

Some say there is no hope,  
but then I've always applauded the holy fools  
who never seem to give up on  
the scandalousness of our faith:

that we are loved by God.....

that we can truly love one  
another.

I no longer pray for peace:  
I pray for miracles.

Anne Weems was a noted writer,  
speaker, liturgist and worship leader  
and was 'the American Presbyterian  
poet laureate' when she died in 2016.

The sunflower is the national flower  
of Ukraine, and is a symbol of peace  
and optimism.



## Malietoa Tanumafili – The King Who Served Others

By Melebola N Loma Tonga

It was a sunny day in Apia, Samoa, and eight-year-old Kolini (Colin) and his mother had been waiting at the harbour for over an hour. They had arrived by boat from Savaii and were expecting to be met by Kolini's father. They waited and waited but it seemed that he had forgotten that they were arriving that morning!

Finally, Kolini's mother asked him to find them a taxi. "I'll wait here in case your tama (father) comes".

Kolini left the harbour and ran to the main street. He saw two cars parked on the side of the road but no taxi sign. "What does a taxi even look like?" he thought to himself. Breathless, he stopped and looked around in dismay. "How are we going to get home?" he wondered. Suddenly he saw a tall man walking towards him from one of the parked cars. "Are you alright?" the man asked.



"My tina (mother) and I need to get home" replied Kolini, "but I can't find a taxi to take us".

"Let me help you" said the man with a kind smile. "Why don't you take me to your tina".

"Thank goodness!" cried Kolini's mother when she saw him. "'t was getting too hot to sit here any longer! Here's our luggage," she told the taxi driver, as she pointed to two large boxes. "And this is where we need to go". She handed him a piece of paper with an address on it.

"No problem," said the man as he loaded the heavy boxes into his car. Kolini and his mother sat comfortably in the back seat as they drove towards their village.

When they arrived at the house, Kolini's father came to the door to see who had arrived. To his surprised he saw Kolini running towards him from the car. "Tama! I think you forgot that we were arriving this morning! But look! I found a taxi all by myself!"

The taxi driver was about to get back into his car and leave when he saw Kolini's father coming towards him with some money but when Kolini's father saw the taxi driver he stopped in his tracks. "What is he doing here?" he thought to himself "And where is the taxi driver?" He turned to his wife to ask but she had already gone into the house. Completely shocked, and with his heart racing, Kolini's father turned towards the taxi driver and kneeled down in front of him. With his head still lowered, Kolini's father realized what had happened. His wife and son had thought that this man was a driver.

But this was no taxi driver. This was Malietoa Tanumafili 11, the Ruler of Samoa!

Kolini's father started apologizing for the mistake that had been made and humbly offered the money. But His Highness lovingly shook his head. As he got into his car, he turned, and with a smile he said "it is always my joy to be of service!"

His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili 11 was the ruling monarch of Samoa for over 45 years. He served the people of his country with love, kindness and respect. At the time of his passing, he was the oldest national leader in the world. He was also the only reigning monarch to become a Baha'i.

## Special days for celebration and action in March

**8 March - International Women's Day** celebrates the rights of women and feminism. Attend some of the best women's day 2022 events near you; events that celebrate womanhood in the best way possible. Meet like minded ladies at meetups, listen to the stories of your fellow girls at the open mic events, run for the international women's day. Discover all things to do in Adelaide on Women's day that promote and celebrate femininity and the rights of ladies. Check out events at <https://allevents.in/adelaide/international-womens-day>



**15 - 21 March - Harmony Week** includes 21st March, which is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In Australia 21<sup>st</sup> March is also celebrated as Harmony

Day to celebrate Australian multiculturalism. The Day is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

Harmony Day events are held in churches, childcare centres, schools, community groups, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies across Australia.



21 March  
International Day of Forests

**21 March - International Forest Day** celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. Countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns. The restoration and sustainable management of forests help address the climate-change and biodiversity crises.

One way to support trees is to support 'Trees for Life'. <https://treesforlife.org.au/>

**26 March - Earth Hour** is the world's biggest movement to protect our planet. Every year hundreds of millions of people around the world in more than 7,000 cities in over 190 countries take part by switching off for 60 minutes as a symbolic gesture of solidarity to show they care about our planet's future. It is observed at 8.30pm local time. Things you can do as individuals or groups are switch to solar power, switch your ride, or just #SwitchOff your lights for Earth Hour to show your support for greater action on climate change. Individual actions can benefit our planet, while symbolically demonstrating support for a renewable future for our country, and for the world.





Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) is an independent, not-for-profit research institute based in Sydney, Australia. Previously known as the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, NeuRA's goal is to prevent, treat and cure brain and nervous system diseases, disorders and injuries through medical research.

Every year, one in five Australians is struck down with a major brain or mind disorder. NeuRA is dedicated to reducing this burden on our community. For many affected by these devastating diseases, medical research offers the only hope.

Some of the many aspects of neuroscience we explore include: Degenerative brain diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other dementias; mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia; developmental disorders such as autism and Asperger's syndrome; neurological disorders including obstructive sleep apnoea, nerve damage and chronic pain; falls and balance in the elderly; rehabilitation after stroke and spinal cord injury; and increasing the safety of car travel for children and adults.

NeuRA also provides advice to friends and carers of people with nervous system diseases.

An example is "How to talk to people with dementia"

- Communicating with someone with dementia can be difficult.
- Always speak in a calm voice
- Be aware of your body language and tone of voice
- Keep sentences short and simple
- Allow plenty of time for what you have said to be understood
- Minimise competing signs and sounds (eg radio and TV)
- Try not to argue, to be condescending or correcting

- Be positive through all instances and avoid telling a person what they can't do
- Always respect dignity and self-esteem
- Love them unconditionally.

**Don't forget the carer**

It is important that carers are supported. The physical and emotional demands of caring for someone with dementia can be high. Caring can become socially isolating and carers can easily burn out. There are some simple and effective ways carers can be supported, encouraged and refreshed.



- Joining a local support group where comfort and assistance is provided
- Keeping to a routine, and being realistic about what is achievable each day
- Learning as much about dementia as possible
- Talking – sharing the ups and downs with friends, family and others in similar situations
- Looking after yourself through diet, exercise and by maintaining hobbies and social engagements
- Asking for help, taking a break, and not feeling guilty for doing so.

Remember, sometimes carers need encouragement to take time for themselves.

You can donate to the work of NeuRA at <https://foundation.neura.edu.au/donate/> or you can attach your name and address with a donation and post it to NeuRA, Reply Paid 1165, Randwick NSW 2031.

**Groovin' with 'The Creator'**

Adapted from "Kissing Fish: Christianity for People Who Don't Like Christianity" by Roger Wolsey

Our Creator God does *indeed* create. But she is not the *only* one who makes the decisions about what will be created.

If that were the case, blind obedience would be our only mission. We would merely be *puppets* who could only do things when God pulls the strings.

As children of God who've been called to groove, let's groove on the metaphor of "Jazz Music".

In Jazz there is an *imperative* for listening to and respecting the composer and arranger. However, for *truly* beautiful and *creative* music to flow, there must be room for the musicians to play *off* the score. They need to *improvise*.

God (or the Spirit) is the composer and lead musician of all creation. He sets the beat and the main melody lines, and we humans are asked to apply our gifts and graces and to playfully *experiment* and create *variations* on the theme.

When we open up and listen we can hear some cool sounds floating in ... *Dom diba dooba* ... and we can groove on that way for a while ... then someone gets an idea of her own ...

*doobie doobie dooba* ... she tries it out and then the next guy adds a little extra ... *zoobie dee dom* ... before a third brings in some ... *zip zip zoi* ... and before long, something new has been created. Something that can only come from the dynamic synergy of the Spirit and God's people, jamming together!

However, we need to carefully listen to, and work with the Spirit and each other – otherwise all we have is *noise*. We can monopolise the act and not allow the Spirit, or others, their turn to play ... we can play out of tune or in the wrong chords ... we might play too weakly when it's our turn to solo, or try to "hide-out" by meekly playing behind others ... or play an inappropriate style.

We must all play our parts in creation and use our creativity and join with the Spirit to make beautiful music together.

Are we willing to open up our ears? To release the energy of our minds? To let loose the passion in our hearts, souls and bodies?

If we are then we need to tune our horns, flutes, clarinets... open our hearts, minds and souls ... and groove with the Spirit!

Amen



## Community Sponsorship of Refugees –

a new way for Australians to say 'Welcome!'

*From the Australian Refugee Taskforce*

Australia has a proud tradition of offering refugees the chance to rebuild their lives in safety and community sponsorship of refugees offers a way to unlock the goodwill of ordinary Australians. It enables groups to help refugees successfully settle and integrate into their new local communities.

If your church or your group are interested in getting involved in welcoming and supporting refugee newcomers, a new government program provides a way to welcome and help settle a refugee individual/family into Australian society.

The recently announced federal government 'CRISP' program ('Community Refugee Integration and Support Pilot') will enable Australian community groups (such as churches) to take primary responsibility for welcoming and settling 1,500 UNCHR-referred refugees over a four-year period, beginning in July 2022. Refugees involved in this program will be able to access Centrelink support and Medicare benefits on a par with other resettled refugees, while the community groups will focus on providing welcome, practical support and some basic 'on arrival' needs like temporary housing, furniture and household goods and other material needs.

A second program (Community Support Program - CSP) provides friendship and wrap around support to a refugee already living in Australia through their Group Mentorship Program. This program trains and matches local groups to provide 6-12 months practical support to refugees who are already here. From July 2022 the visa application charge associated with the current CSP will be significantly reduced. This will make it more affordable for Australians to sponsor the visa of a refugee who is already known to them (e.g. a family member or friend).

While these programs won't expand the size of Australia's humanitarian migration quota in the short term, this remains an important goal to achieve in future years, building on these new foundations.



Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA) is grateful for church groups and individual Australians who rallied to help trail-blaze this new approach by signing up to be a part of the Group Mentorship Program for newly arrived refugees (most, but not all, being Afghan evacuees). Mentor groups are providing much needed welcome, orientation, friendship and practical support, supplementing the role of government-funded settlement services. Activities have included:

- hosting dozens of welcome picnics and other events in communities around Australia;
- providing families with donated laptops, phones, toys and household goods to help fill gaps;
- helping evacuees inspect and secure suitable housing in a very challenging housing market (with some successfully negotiating significant discounts with landlords);
- sorting out problems with the registration of families with Medicare and Centrelink;
- providing advice on employment and educational opportunities;
- advising on the steps needed to have overseas qualifications recognised here.

For more information about joining with the groups involved in a new era of refugee protection in Australia, contact [Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia \(CRSA\)](#).

## This is innovation

*From Act for Peace*

In a small village in Zimbabwe, farmers are being forced to innovate because of climate change.

With every day that goes by, the climate around them is fundamentally changing. As their community lives through extended periods of drought and erratic rainfall, the ways they once lived off the land are no longer sustainable.

And so, Ariko is becoming a beekeeper. He is one of many farmers recruited by our local partner in Zimbabwe, Christian Care, to trial a range of pilot activities to help farmers diversify the ways they can earn an income.



Engaging with the latest climate science, Christian Care is equipping farmers like Ariko with new livelihood skills, equipment, and expert training in areas such as fish farming, small livestock farming, and of course, beekeeping.

The goal is to ensure that farmers aren't 'putting all their eggs in one basket' and can continue to grow food, earn an income and ultimately, have a safe place to belong for years to come.

While picking up beekeeping has been a steep learning curve for Ariko, the benefits of the practice are twofold. Not only can he make good money from selling the honey, but there are also the added environmental benefits of cross-pollination when the beekeeping units are set up next to other crops.

The beekeeping pilot is the epitome of creativity, innovation and sustainability – all of which we know are essential to tackling the global climate crisis.

And still, closer to home this week, a new report came out showing that tech giants like Amazon, Apple and Google are still lagging on their promise to reduce their emissions footprint – brands who actively pride themselves on innovation.

While communities like Ariko's continue to innovate and lead initiatives to reduce the impact of climate-driven displacement, the world's leaders and corporate firms must be doing the same to address the climate crisis at a systemic level.

***Because, for Ariko, the impacts of climate change are being felt right now.***

## Polling day fundraiser at Morialta UC

This year Morialta UC is being used as a polling station in the upcoming elections on 19th March. On the day we hope to run a sausage sizzle and a bake sale to raise much-needed funds to support our programs.

If you are able to assist with the sausage sizzle, please talk to Craig Mackenzie. If you are willing to bake goods or serve at the bake stall, please talk to Helena Begg.

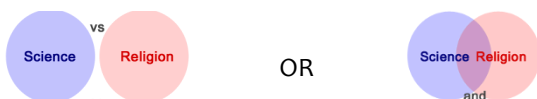
Many thanks!

## Do Australians trust religious leaders

*Adapted from Australia Talks – Nick Baker (Reporter), Teresa Tan and Annika Blau (editor)*

The "Australia Talks" National Survey of 60,000 people found that 41% of Australians don't trust religious leaders at all, a 6% rise since 2019. In 18–24-year-olds this mistrust rises to 47%, a jump of 15% in just two years.

For some young people it was the internet, particularly YouTube, that helped them interrogate the teachings they had grown up with. It seemed obvious to them that science was telling the truth at a time when the value of science has never been clearer. The institutions that were dispatched to deal with the pandemic and climate change were medicine and science.



Science **versus** Religion OR Science **and** Religion?

Others point to child sex abuse scandals as fundamentally changing how Australians view religious leaders. Young people have lost moral trust in these leaders, who are meant to be guides and examples of how religion is supposed to be.

Researcher Dr Ibrahim Abraham from the Australian National University confirms that these sentiments are shared by many people around the country. Religious leaders "lose their privilege and centrality to the lives of many Australians." Also demands that (some) church leaders are making for exemptions to anti-discrimination laws are no longer seen as appropriate in the eyes of many Australians, particularly young Australians.

Dr Abraham does not use the term "atheist" when talking about young Australians, he prefers 'apatheists' — the combination of apathy and atheism. "They're just not interested in religion", he says.

One significant response from younger people was that if people who are in charge are distant, there's more mistrust. A young Jewish group agreed – "with our religious leaders, we feel comfortable to disagree, we have long conversations ... and we will be listened to because we have a good relationship."

While the Jewish group may be outliers among young Australians, they're not alone. While just 5% of Australians trust religious leaders "a lot", it increases to 15% in Australians with non-European ancestry, up 7% since 2019.

Still, the data shows there's a steep climb ahead for religious leaders to regain the trust of Australians, especially younger ones.

## Welcome to Seven Days of Solidarity

Let UnitingWorld connect you to the global church. Each day UnitingWorld will tell you a story of God changing the world through one of our partner churches. This is your chance to join the movement and do your part.

### Pray. Change. Give. Celebrate!

Seven Days of Solidarity runs from March 27 - April 3 2022, but you can do it anytime.

### How to get involved

You can sign up at <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/7dos> and receive everything you need, or contact the office [office@morialtauca.org.au](mailto:office@morialtauca.org.au) to receive the material.

**All you need do is set aside your 7 days** including a launch Sunday and a Celebration Sunday. You will be able to view the launch and celebration videos during the service at Morialta UC on 27<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

**You will receive** a story each day of the week of Christ at work in a different part of the world; **PRAY** for the work and **TAKE ACTION** in solidarity.

These stories will be available on this website, emailed out to everyone who signs up or in hard copy from the MUC office.

**So celebrate God's faithfulness and re-commit to God's global mission.**

## Lessons from a guide dog called Gilbert

*Adapted from  
Tasmanian Health*

Gilbert is the Launceston General Hospital emergency department's first four-legged recruit.

As well as his role as facility dog, Gilbert has starred in a poster helping patients and visitors learn how to wear their face masks correctly in the hospital.

And he's already left

his pawprint on social media with a patient sharing a picture of Gilbert's advice. The poster is even being used by hospitals and healthcare facilities internationally.

Gilbert is an alumnus of Guide Dogs Tasmania.

*This poster is used with the permission of Tasmanian Health Service.*

