



TRANSCEND

JUNE - 2017

Ascot Vale Uniting Church Newsletter

THE MENTALITY OF COWARDICE & MURDER

*“There is no life without Jihad [holy war].
Jihad will cure the stress and depression of living in the West.”*

- *An Islamic extremist recruiter in 2015.*

Unfortunately the weak minded will always be attracted to violence and destructiveness. *“Thanatos”*, in New Testament Greek meant the energy of death. When you surrender yourself to the drives of ‘the flesh’ in the Apostle Paul’s phrase, you surrender to your fearful and superficial self- and your reptilian, primitive brain takes over. Your permanent response to uncertainty and perceived threat is always fight, maybe flight.

If those who are different cannot be subdued then they must be destroyed. Such is the warped logic of the extremist. Ironically, pathetically, it’s the militant extremist, it’s the zealot himself, who is intimidated and contorted by his own fears.

Effectively such a person has allowed their circumstances, say the stress of living in a western nation, to determine the quality of their inner life.

A militant’s thinking becomes fixed on bi-polar ideas: good against evil, Islam against the West, and so on. Their mind becomes attached to fundamentalist preaching and concepts as a kind of maladaptive coping. *In doing so the extremist of any belief system gives into the hands of another the keys to their mind and destiny.*

Psychologist John Hogan has studied terrorism for twenty years.

He talks about how extremist recruiters are *“masters of packaging the fantasy deal.”* He observes that:

“People who join these groups are trying to find a path, to answer a call to something- which would basically mean that they’re doing something meaningful with their lives.”

Jesus defined that ‘something meaningful’ as becoming an authority for your own life and having the moral courage of the prophets. That comes through the hard work of self-honesty about how we treat others and the things we tell ourselves to excuse our aggression. Jesus said that instead of fake religiosity and piety, a person should *‘practise the more important things...justice, mercy and faith’* (Matt. 23: 23).

Justice and mercy begin with relationships of absolute equality, and a kind of reverence that one person holds for another.

Hogan also noticed that Islamic militant recruits,

“Are driven by this passionate need to right some wrong- to address some sort of injustice to restore honour to those from whom it’s been taken...”

And extremist recruiters are offering an opportunity for people to feel powerful. They’re making disillusioned, disaffected radicals feel like they’re doing something truly meaningful with their lives.”

It should also be noted that many Islamic militants have criminal records before they join up with extremist groups like the Islamic State.

P.T.O

60 Maribyrnong
Road, Moonee Ponds
Services: Sundays at
10am



Rev. Ron Rosinsky

Coming Events

Sunday June 25
Garden Swap

Sunday June 18 to 24
Refugee Week

Saturday June 24
Family Fun Night

School Holidays
July 1 to 16

Saturday June 17
Men’s Group 4pm

Sunday July 9
Soul Groups

Ascot Vale Uniting is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of age, race, creed, gender, cultural background, or sexual orientation

ascotvaleuniting.org.au

The Heroic In Each Of Us

Jesus pointed to the heroic in each of us- the possibility of developing, “eros”, the New Testament word for life energy. That positive energy is more than enough to defeat *thanatos*, the energy of destructiveness.

Eros is creative energy that comes from living an authentic life; a life developed from the inside out with God’s help, not a mindset dominated by hate. It’s always experienced as a surplus of energy, or an abundance of life and kindness with plenty for others. So the hero or heroine is by definition a ‘*generative person*’, they are concerned about the next generation not just himself or herself.

Here’s the paradox of the hero’s life journey: there is always a sacred wounding of the person. The mature person, the hero, is someone who has invariably been “wounded” in some way: the death of a loved one, divorce, disease, or a crisis of meaning and confidence... Their whole life story largely pivots around the resolution of the trials that result. Often that person has to go beyond their present comfort zone and develop new attitudes and life skills.

There is always a wounding; and the great epiphany is that the wound becomes the secret key that changes a person dramatically; they have to fall before they can rise.

That by the way is the precise meaning of the wounds of Jesus from the cross! In other words it was only after Jesus was crucified that Peter and the other disciples awakened to their maturity and courage. *By his wounds and their remembering they were healed. And the Holy Spirit led them into all the truth, helping them to expand their mental capabilities.*

So the individual who is heroic has their whole world opened up if they have the faith and courage to stay with it..

Thanks to their life wound or tragedy the hero ‘falls through’ what is merely his or her life situation to discover his or her real life, or eternal life. This life is always a much deeper river of spirit and abundance hidden beneath the appearances.

Christ walks with us into and through this heroic way of life.

Meanwhile, the man gunned down in Brighton's bloody terror siege has been identified as Kai Hao, known as Nick.

Kai was an only child; he was married only 15 days ago. He was a 36 year old Chinese born Australian. Tragically he was working as a receptionist at the serviced apartments when the militant gunman walked in and shot him.

The kingdom of God has suffered violence and is being taken by violence. *Let’s awaken to the heroic life of moral courage and clarity of thought. And may our wounding lead to an authentic and compassionate life.*

Then those committed to the dark ways of cowardice and murder shall have their answer.

All the best,

Rev. Ron Rosinsky

Kid’s Uniting & Confirmation



Studying the Season of Pentecost and World Environment Day

1 July- 15 July- School Holidays-

Kid’s Uniting- last Sunday 25 June- recommences on Sunday 23 July

Worship Services & Themes- 10 am Sundays

18 June: Refugee Sunday- 'Must opposites always be at war? Can ideological opposites attract?'
Matthew 9:35-10:10- Matthew & Simon the Zealot

25 June: UCA Anniversary Sunday- 'Does the Uniting Church have anything unique to offer the community?' John 17: 20-26- What is real "unity"? **Last Day of Kid's Uniting**

2 July: Communion Sunday- 'Necessary Suffering Precedes Personal Growth'
Matthew 10: 24-39- "Hating" family?

9 July: Family Service- 'When in denial, we resist those who challenge our comfort zones'
Matthew 11: 16-30- Why is Jesus complaining?



On the Grapevine:

"I can think of many men and women I met during my fourteen years as a jail chaplain here in New Mexico. No one taught them the necessary impulse control and delay of gratification, which is the job of a good parent.

With poor identity, weak boundaries, or little inherent sense of their dignity, they allowed themselves to be destroyed- and to destroy others- by drugs, promiscuity, addictive relationships, alcohol, violence, or abuse.

Then the enforced and cruel order of the jail was supposed to serve as their re-parenting course, but now the lesson was so much harder to learn because of all the inner scarring and resentments toward all authority and toward themselves."



- Richard Rohr,
'FallingUpward'

Men's Group



Join us on Saturdays - all (men] welcome!

We are looking for ideas for fun activities and discussions- See Ron

Saturday 17 June: 4pm - A walk along the Maribyrnong River- Pizza Dinner at 6pm at the Manse.
Meet at Ascot Vale Uniting Church at 3:45

Saturday 1 July: 6pm- Football & Pizza at the Manse

Saturday 22 July: Dinner & Discussion?? To be confirmed.

Possible topic of discussion: How have the role models, *John Wayne, Lone Ranger*, for being a 'strong man' changed? Have they changed?



Harvest Swap



The next Harvest Swap will be on June 25th, following the service.

- Bring along plants or anything else related to gardening to swap or share.
- Come and meet people who share an interest in growing plants.
- Get advice from some of the more experienced growers.

Eileen will be away so Nera Ak will again be running the June Harvest Swap.

Please assist her with setting up, packing up and making the group welcome.

refugee week 2017

with **courage** let us all combine



Sunday 18 June to Saturday 24 June 2017

Refugee week is an annual week-long celebration of the positive contributions of refugees to Australian society. Hundreds of events are held up and down the country, including concerts, fundraisers, film screenings and more.

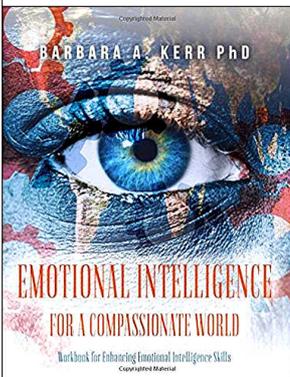
The Refugee Council of Australia has chosen "With courage let us all combine" as the theme for Refugee Week in Australia 2017.

Taken from the second verse of the national anthem, the theme celebrates the courage of refugees and of people who speak out against persecution and injustice.

It serves as a call for unity and for positive action, encouraging Australians to improve our nation's welcome for refugees and to acknowledge the skills and energy refugees bring to their new home.

For details check the Refugee Week website: www.refugeeweek.org.au

SOUL GROUPS



You are welcome to come along on the second Sunday each month for discussion, spiritual formation & inner well-being.

Next meeting-
Sunday **9 July-**
11:30- 12:45

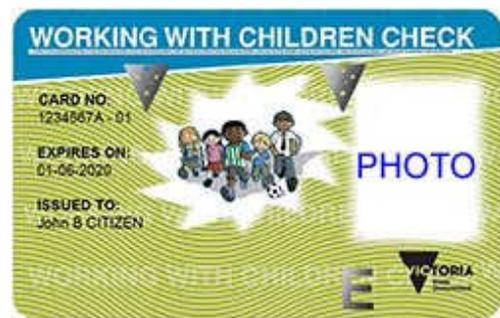
Topics of Current discussion:

- 'Falling Upward- A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life', Richard Rohr

and;

- 'Emotional Intelligence for a Compassionate World', Barbara A. Kerr

Urgent: Working With Children Checks



Anyone who works directly with children at church, must complete a working with children check. It is a legal requirement and needs to be done as soon as possible.

When the check is completed and passed, a card is issued. Ron needs to see the card. It has a number that is recorded by the Synod.

Working with children checks can be applied for on-line by filling out a form. For church volunteers the check is free.

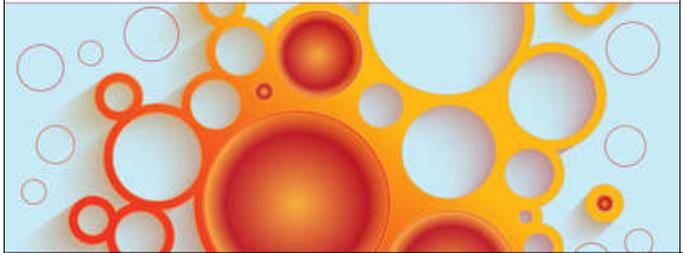
★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!



Rev Mark lead a Service Celebrating
National Reconciliation Week on
May 28th.



RE:GENERATIONS 2017
Exploring intergenerational
ministry and mission



Geelong June 20 Hoppers Crossing June 21
If an intergenerational approach is the key to effective ministry with people of all ages, what does it look like in practice? How can it be implemented by local congregations? What can stay the same and what needs to be changed?

Re:Generations - Exploring intergenerational ministry and mission is a unique opportunity to engage with these questions and more.

Facilitated by Chris Barnett from the Centre for Theology & Ministry, the day will include three engaging, participatory and practical core sessions. Come for the whole day or simply select the session/s that are of most interest to you.

10:30am Intergenerational ministry - worship, mission and more

12:30pm Messy mission - learning from Messy Church as an intergenerational model

2:30pm Playgroup plus - intergenerational possibilities in pre-school ministry

Each session will run for 90 minutes and there will be time to browse resources and connect with others in-between sessions. Register for any one session and participate in as many of the others as you like for FREE.

DETAILS

Geelong Tuesday June 20 Western Heights UCA
31 Douglass St Herne Hill 3218

Hoppers Crossing Wednesday June 21 Hoppers
Crossing UCA 235 Derrimut Rd Hoppers Crossing
3029

Cost:

\$10 per person

REGISTER ONLINE @:

<https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/regeneration2017>

**Registrations appreciated by Thursday 15
June**

MORE INFORMATION:

info@ctm.uca.edu.au;03 93408815

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

For up to date information on what's happening at
Ascot Vale Uniting go to our Facebook page.

Uniting Church Ascot Vale

The rich man and Lazarus



Do you remember the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)?

It tells the story of a wealthy man who lived in luxury. Outside his gate was a beggar named Lazarus who was covered with sores.

The rich man ignored Lazarus' plight, walking past him every day. Even the dogs showed more sympathy by licking Lazarus' sores.

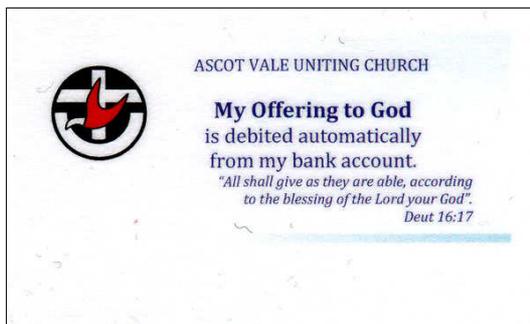
When they both died, Lazarus is carried up to heaven while the rich man goes to a place that resembles hell.

It is easy to think of this parable as the story of a rich man and a poor man. But it is actually a story of two poor men – one who is materially poor and one who is spiritually poor.

In a world seemingly obsessed with materialism, it can be easy to centre our lives around money, profits and the accumulation of wealth. But where is the space in our hearts for our neighbour, especially those who, like Lazarus, sleep hungry every night?

Christ had a close affinity with those living on the margins. Helping the poor is a central tenet of the Christian faith. If we are to be true disciples of Christ, we must reach out to all the Lazaruses in the world.

UCA VicTas—Pew Sheets



Cards are available for those using Direct Debit to place in the collection bag. They are on the table near the name tags.

FROM THE TREASURER

Offering envelopes

Envelopes June 2017 through May 2018 are now available on the table in the gathering space. Please take a set.

Direct Credit

A number of members are now using direct credit, using electronic funds for offerings. If you are interested please see Peter Macdonald.

For those using direct credit we have cards available that you can place in the collection bag when it comes around. The cards are on the table near the nametags.

Income and Expenses - April 2017

Offerings	\$2,339
Fundraising	\$ 100
Appeals	\$ 340
Donations	\$ 100
Building Users	\$1,561
Total Income	\$4,440

Ministry	\$3,724
Mission & Service	0
Property	\$1,982
Other	\$ 753
Expenses	\$6,459

Deficit for April is \$2,019

Deficit for year through April is \$12,051

2017 Budget

2017 budget is -	Income	\$66,000
	Expenses	\$93,000
	Deficit	\$27,000

Budget was approved at Church Council meeting on April 26th.

Donations

Melbourne Heart Institute (Professor Keen Soon) donated a further \$1000 during May. Total donations from MHI since 2014 are \$14,700.

ACNC Submission

Our annual 2026 information statement has been submitted TO ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission)

Finance Committee

The next finance committee meeting will be Thursday July 20th 7.30pm at the church.

Peter Macdonald - Treasurer

An Urgent Appeal!

DOROTHY: JAMES DENG'S FAMILY AND THEIR NEEDS:



This is what James has told me:

He is the oldest surviving male in his extended family and Deborah's. In Sudan, as in Biblical times, it is the custom for the oldest surviving brother to take on responsibility for the widow of any brother who dies, by marrying her, and so providing for her and her children. Without a social security system, this is the only way to ensure that widows and orphans can survive. Two of James's fathers' brothers died before him, leaving him to undertake the responsibility for three wives and their combined families. This responsibility, and that for Deborah's family, has now devolved onto James.

At the moment the family has two pressing needs:

For the past several years James has been supporting his younger half- brother Elijah through high school, where he graduated a year ago with such good results that he passed an exam, then an initial interview, for a scholarship to study Petroleum Engineering in Canada. But then it was discovered that there was a discrepancy between two records of his birth date. While waiting to have this corrected at the UN Embassy, Elijah has been supporting himself as a teacher's aide. Now the official birth certificate is ready to be signed and stamped, but to finalise this he must travel from his village of Adior to the nearest UN Office before 29 May (the date of the scholarship interview), a trip which will cost about A\$150. James is naturally anxious that, after all the work and money that he and Elijah have put in up to this point, Elijah should not miss the opportunity to receive this scholarship, which could lead to him getting a good job in the petroleum industry in South Sudan, which is rich in oil, or elsewhere.

As we have all no doubt heard, after an extended period of drought a state of famine has been declared in South Sudan. There is still to be food to be bought in the capital Juba, about 120 kilometres away, but James's family (like many others, of course) have no means of getting to Juba, nor any money to buy food if they could. The rains have started to fall, but it will be at least two months before crops can be harvested. In the meantime, James's relatives continue to ring him to beg him to send them money for food.

Any money which James can save or collect can reach the family safely in this way: James goes to a money transfer agency, which he has successfully used for years, and asks them to transfer the money to an account in his cousin's name in Juba. The agency performs the transaction and gives James a receipt showing the money has been moved into that account.

James then checks by phone that his cousin has safely collected the money.

The cousin goes to the market in Juba, converts the money into local currency, buys as much wheat flour, beans and oil as he can, and drives it to the family in Adior to distribute among them.



James and Deborah's work situation:

James has a Security Officer's certificate, but has been able to obtain only occasional on-call shifts. He has been applying online for work in various other fields too (such as cleaning) – as indeed he is required by Centrelink to do - but without success. He was referred to a Job Network for assistance in looking for work, but has found they are not at all helpful, simply telling him to spend his time while at the interview applying online for positions (which he could do at home). I asked him whether they have suggested any training opportunities, such as for a certificate in cleaning, food handling or aged care, but apparently they have not. (When back on deck I would like to attend one of these interviews with him, and ask about other options which might improve his chances of finding work. The fact that James and Deborah are now living in Melton may make things harder for him, though he can drive and is also happy to use public transport.)

Continued next page

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Deborah is working four days a week in a program to teach Sudanese parents how to help their children to learn to read (her task is to role-model good parent “behaviours” in this area of parenting). She enjoys this job and finds it rewarding, though it is a fairly low-paid one. The work is in Fitzroy, so she travels there by public transport, leaving at about 7.30 and getting home about 5.00. (This of course complicates James’s job search situation, as he is responsible for the care of their three-year-old, and for getting the older three children to and from school and kinder – where I understand they are doing very well: Majok’s behaviour, is a good deal more socially acceptable than it was!).

Summary:

James and Deborah would be most grateful for any contribution AVUC members or friends may be able or willing to make towards their present financial needs. James estimates it would take at least \$500 a month to feed his family in South Sudan. However any contribution to add to what he may be able to save and send would be a help, and much appreciated.

He expects that this situation may (hopefully) only last for the coming two or three months.

He would be happy to provide the church with the receipts from the money transfer agency, to prove any money donated has actually reached his family.

Perhaps some generous individual might like to contribute the \$150 to enable Elijah to attend the scholarship interview. (This has been done.)

In addition a number of people may be willing to make a once (or twice?) off donation to help save James’s family from starvation. He has already received a modest sum from a friend to start this collection.

Again, Church Council may be willing to make a more substantial contribution – say \$200-300, perhaps over a couple of months, if that seems reasonable.

Thanks for your attention and any help you may be able to provide – Dorothy

To assist please pass your donation to Candace or Dorothy

PROPOSED DATE FOR CAKE STALL



**Saturday
September 16th**

‘Transcend’ is published on the first Sunday of each month except January

Articles, photos and other contributions are welcome. Email them to the Editor, Robin Waltrowicz no later than the Wednesday before publication at : avuniting@hotmail.com

*To receive a monthly copy of Transcend by email
Contact: avuniting@hotmail.com*



Lodenah presented the Readings in Farsi on May 28th.



The Victorian Council of Churches Emergency Ministry was established in 1977 to assist people in Victoria during and after emergencies and disasters. The assistance is provided by 1,700 trained volunteers drawn from the many faith communities in the state.

Since its establishment in 1977, VCC has attended emergencies including the Gippsland floods, Anthrax outbreak in Shepparton, sieges in Doncaster and Mitcham, Port Arthur massacre, Ash Wednesday and Black Saturday bush-fires and the MH17 and MH370 air disasters.

In 2016, the volunteers of Emergencies Ministry were called to 44 events across the state including the Bourke Street attack.

When an emergency event occurs, area coordinators send text messages to contact volunteers who live in close proximity and can attend rapidly.

Support includes the provision of information, practical assistance, emotional support, assessment of immediate needs and referral to other agencies and services required.

Alongside other relief agencies such as Red Cross, Emergency Ministry volunteers can be deployed at short notice to relief centres or incidents sites. Volunteers may also provide personal support in a variety of other settings including at outreach activities, community meetings and events.

Additional Volunteers are being sought.

Recruitment focuses on people with pre-existing qualification or experience in the caring professions – pastoral care, youth work, teaching and chaplaincy. Once they join Emergencies Ministry they receive specific training in disaster counselling, spirituality and trauma.

To become a volunteer you must:

- be nominated and referred by your faith community leader
- successfully complete a Police Check and Working with Childrens' Check
- Successfully complete the training
- agree to on site supervision during deployment

For further information contact:

(03) 9650 4511
emergencies@vcc.org.au
www.vccem.org.au

A teacher asked her accounting class: "Who do you think was the first businessman?"

One hand shot up. it was Noah, miss," said the bright lad.

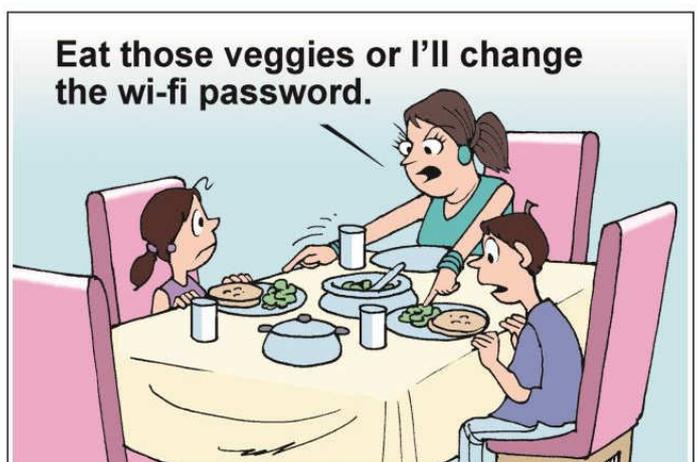
"Noah, why Noah?"

"Well, while all the rest of the world went into liquidation, Noah floated his own company."

NEED A NEW NAMETAG?

Haven't got one yet / lost the old one /
changed your name???

Robin Waltrowicz will be happy to make
a new one for you.



AVUC ROSTER, June-September 2017.

	LEADER	COMMUNION	DUTY ELDER	MUSIC	WELCOMER	READER	MORNING TEA
11 June Family Service	Rev Ron		Dina	Julian	Robin	MaryCon	MaryCon/ Chris
18 June Start Refugee Week	Rev Ron		Michael	Dorothy	Peter	Peter	Bente/ Dina
25 June Garden Swap	Rev Mark Dunn		Dorothy	Candace	Jan Dunn	Jan Dunn	Judy/ Angelika
2 July Communion Kids Uniting Holiday	Rev Ron	Angelika	Angelika	Julian	Judy	Barbara	MaryCon /Bente
9 July Family Service	Rev Ron		Noel	Rob	Robin	Chris	Chris/Barbara
16 July Kids Uniting resume	Rev Ron		Dorothy	Dorothy	Jan	Jan	Angelika /Dina
23 July	Rev Ron		Dina	Julian	Cally	Dina	Judy/MaryCon
30 July Garden Swap	Rev Mark Dunn		Michael	Rob	Jan	Jan	Chris/Angelika
6 August Communion	Rev Ron	Dina	Dina	Julian	Dina	Angelika	Bente /Barbara
13 August Family Service	Rev Ron		Noel	Julian	Robin	Cally	Chris / Dina
20 August	Rev Ron		Dorothy	Dorothy	Ken/Jenny	Bente	MaryCon/Angelika
27 August Garden Swap	TBA		Angelika	Rob	Michael	Melita	Dina /Judy
3 September Communion	Rev Ron	Dorothy	Dorothy	Rob	Robin	Chris	Bente/Chris
10 September Family Service	Rev Ron		Michael	Julian	Peter	Melita	MaryCon/Barbara
17 September Kids Uniting on Holiday	Rev Ron		Noel	Dorothy	Judy	Ken	Angelika/Dina
24 September	TBA		Dorothy	Candace	Cally	Barbara	Chris/Judy

Please make your own arrangements for any necessary exchange of dates.