

## Where to now?

*"He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made for a thousand generations." Psalm 105:8*

There is a scene in the first Lord of the Rings movie 'The Fellowship of the Ring', where a diverse collection of characters is gathered together to seek a way of saving their very existence. It's a difficult mission that requires someone to make a dangerous journey to perform a difficult task on behalf of them, although no one can agree on who should do it or how this will be achieved. The conversation quickly erupts into bickering and arguing. In the midst of the chaos, the voice of a small, insignificant, unassuming character by the name of Frodo, pierces the ears of all those present, 'I'll do it, though, I do not know the way.'

Frodo is not a leader, he's not a warrior, an explorer or strategist. He's a simple farmer in a small village. Frodo is a willing participant. His willingness inspired others to join him on a quest to being a fellowship working towards a common goal.

Whether we are part of the activities of our local church or the broader activities of the Conference of Churches of Christ, there are times of difficulty being in fellowship with one another, not being able to agree on a way forward to engage God's mission and sometimes finding willing participants to commit to the task together.

I draw my hope from the Psalm our Conference President, Grant Spangenberg, has presented to lead us into the next Convention this November. God's promise before us is an eternal promise that stretches far beyond our generation and the generations to come. God has a mission that creates a church as it moves forward and

continues to be revealed to us. God's mission calls us to tune in and see what God is up to, to fellowship together in partnership with God and discover together, the adventure God is taking us on as He continues to build the church in our midst.

*"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of his wonderful acts." Psalm 105:1-2*

We have a mission that has been made clear to us – to proclaim the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – his life, death and resurrection. This is the heartbeat of the Good News that has brought us together as a fellowship, a conference of churches. This is our common cause. The activity of God we experience in our churches and discern in our neighbourhoods is what we continue to celebrate together.

## So how do we get there?

'Forward in Faith' is not just a nice theme for our next Convention, it's our response to God's promise. We know God is doing something among us that we cannot do for ourselves. We have been discerning how we move forward in faith through serving, learning and discipling. It's a classic action reflection model of discerning, participating, learning and reflecting on God's mission together. We re-enter the serving, learning and discipling loop with fresh understanding of how God is forming us to participate in the mission most effectively - but first it requires us to be willing participants.

I have been deeply privileged to be able to spearhead a leadership development strategy

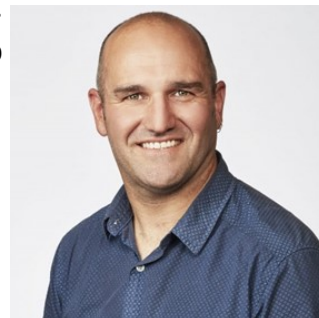
forming ministers for Churches of Christ. It's a strategy based on the promise that God is ahead of us and is helping us build the infrastructure for the future that awaits us. This strategy is called the Tabor Churches of Christ Study Centre.

I've been the director of the centre since January 2016. Not only do I teach a range of subjects from Churches of Christ identity to leadership development, but I have been spending time working with the supervised ministry field education program. Before I started we rarely had churches hosting student ministers. This semester we have 9 Churches of Christ congregations hosting student ministers. This includes 9 of our ministers supervising field placements and at least another 4

of our ministers working alongside students as formation supervisors. This is just one example of the great celebration of pressing into the strategy God's lays on our hearts as we continue to move towards God's great mission.

God has given us the tools we need: prayer, faith, the Holy Spirit and one another. God calls us to join a mission that has been promised for many generations to come. Where to now? That's up to each one of us.

*Mark Riessen*  
*Mission & Ministry*  
*Director*



**You are warmly invited to share with:**  
**BJ & Chipo Mpofu**  
**Associated Churches of Christ Zimbabwe**

The Mpofus are passionate advocates for the future of Zimbabwe and for the central role which the church plays in bringing renewal and hope to their people.

*Come and hear this inspirational couple share the story of the ministries in Zimbabwe at one of the following times:*

**Thursday 26 September 2019**

Pot Luck Tea at 6:00pm  
Murray Bridge Church of Christ  
32 Seventh St, Murray Bridge

**Friday 27 September 2019**

Pot Luck Tea at 6:00pm  
Balaklava Church of Christ  
Baker St, Balaklava

**Saturday 28 September 2019**

Morning Tea at 10:30am  
Brooklyn Park Church of Christ  
3 Allen Ave, Brooklyn Park



**Saturday 28 September 2019**

Pot Luck Tea at 5:00pm  
Strathalbyn Church of Christ  
5 Dawson St, Strathalbyn

**Sunday 29 September 2019**

at 10:00am  
Blackwood Church of Christ  
367 Shepherd's Hill Rd, Blackwood

**Sunday 29 September 2019**

at 6:00pm  
Marion Church of Christ  
Cnr Alawoona Ave & Marion Rd, Mitchell Park

**Bright Solutions Vietnam - Happy Anniversary; Here We Come!**

Bright Solutions, Vietnam, is celebrating their ninth anniversary since being established in 2010. There has been lots of development and change in that time. So much of what has happened has been nothing short of miracles, big and small.

There is a special opportunity to visit Fiona Briers and the Bright Solutions team in person from November 19 – 26. If you would like to register your interest to join the team, email Val Zerna – [val@gmp.org.au](mailto:val@gmp.org.au) or ring 8352 3466 – by 18 September 2019.





15th year anniversary celebration in South Australia

We welcome you to join us for our free afternoon tea event as we celebrate KIDS HOPE and launch into the next 15 years!



Hear from local guest speaker **Mark Riessen**, as we celebrate the impact of Kids Hope. Mark was instrumental in bringing the KIDS HOPE model to South Australia. After implementing a KIDS HOPE program in his local church in Melbourne, Mark commenced ministry at Blackwood Church of Christ, where he introduced KIDS HOPE to multiple churches across the local community. Many of these churches are still providing mentors through KIDS HOPE and have been for 11+ years. Mark serves within Churches of Christ SA/NT, Tabor College and is passionate about the local church living out the call of Jesus through genuine engagement with the local community.

### **We want to celebrate you all!**

Our new National Program Manager will share some exciting KIDS HOPE initiatives and highlights and we'll hear from local churches and mentors about their journey with KIDS HOPE in SA.

Our Celebration Afternoon Tea is for anyone involved with, or who has a heart for KIDS HOPE, including Coordinators and Mentors and their Partners, Pastors, Prayer Partners, School Contacts (e.g Chaplain or Student Wellbeing Officer), Past Supporters, and those who might be interested in joining a KIDS HOPE.

**Date: Sunday 20th October 2019 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Venue: Knightsbridge Baptist Church, 455 Glynburn Rd, Leabrook SA, 5068**

**RSVP: [events@kidshopeaus.org.au](mailto:events@kidshopeaus.org.au) by Friday 11th October** (for catering purposes)

We look forward to seeing you!

*Marg Perry (National Program Manager), Michael Edgecomb (Community Engagement Manager SA/WA)*

### *Prayer*

God of us all,  
The whole body of Christ,  
Gently guide our way.  
We are filled with hope as your people,  
And look to your golden light on the horizon.  
Softener our 'firm convictions' over which we clamber.  
Draw us out of the valley to the light,  
when we put more energy into being different than  
being loving.  
When we are weary from times of dissonance with  
each other,  
Desert experiences of endings,  
Or travelling into the unknown wilderness  
Of being church in today's world,  
Rekindle that hope-filled dream  
And the warming love of being alive  
and present in this moment with you.  
Remind us, that hope finds the Way of Christ,  
So we will always be led forward to the horizon.  
Our hearts are full because you fill us.  
Our purse of neighbourly love is never empty with you.  
For our hearts will always seek the riches we have  
with our loving God.

Amen.

*Rev Anne Hewitt (SACC)*

## **Convention 2019**

**Wednesday 13th November  
to**

**Saturday 16th November**

***Forward in faith through serving,  
learning and discipling***

**Wednesday 13th—GR Stirling Lecture at  
Tabor College**

**Thursday 14th—CareWorks Celebration &  
AGM at Western Communities Church  
(Danby Street Torrensville)**

**Friday 15th—Celebration Night at  
Noarlunga Church of Christ**

**Saturday 16th—Presentations, Reflections,  
Discussions, AGM & Communion at  
Aldgate Church of Christ**

***Save the dates now!***

## ARPA Players Anti-poverty Week Performance

The ARPA Radio Players are a group connected with the Australian Retired Persons' Association. They do just one thing - radio plays - complete with scripts in hand and sound effects.

ARPA Radio Players will be presenting a performance in support of CareWorks during Anti-Poverty week on Sunday 13 October 2019 at 1.00pm.

This will be an entertaining hour of comedy and capers in front of the microphone. You will enjoy the fun of radio broadcasting as it was in the days before television.

**Venue:** Western Communities Church, Danby Street, Torrensville.

A donation upon entry will be received on the day with all proceeds directed to CareWorks.



**The Board** (Richard, Joanne, Maggie, Ian, Geoff, Bryan and Grant) as they provide strength, wisdom and strategy to the organisation. Pray especially at this time (leading up to the AGM) that the board will be able to recruit skilled members.

**MarionLife** as they deliver much needed community services to their local area. Pray especially for their director, Leighton Boyd as he provides leadership and oversight.

**NCOH Youth** as they support and mentor at-risk young people in the Davoren Park area.

The **Strength in Numbers** Financial Counselling program and its clients who have all been impacted by Domestic Violence.

**Anti Poverty Week** that it might be a week of keen awareness for our Churches, and may we all find new ways to stand against poverty.

**Jill** as she provides important administrative assistance to the CEO as well as volunteering in the Emergency Relief program at Torrensville.

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**Hewett Community Church of Christ** formerly Gawler CofC are celebrating **100years of ministry** in the Gawler area with a church service at 10am, followed by lunch on Sunday 27th of October 2019 .

Any person who has had connection with the Hewett/Gawler Church in the past is warmly welcome to attend. **Please RSVP to the church office on 08 85224938.**

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**The Morialta Charitable Trust Fund** has been supporting disadvantaged Children, Young People and their families in South Australia through its annual program of Distributions for 40 years. To enable the Fund to continue this support through Community Organisations in South Australia Morialta Charitable Trust Fund seeks donations from the public.

Donations of \$2- and above are Tax Deductible and can be forwarded to the Morialta Charitable Trust Fund at PO Box 92, Crafers SA 5152.

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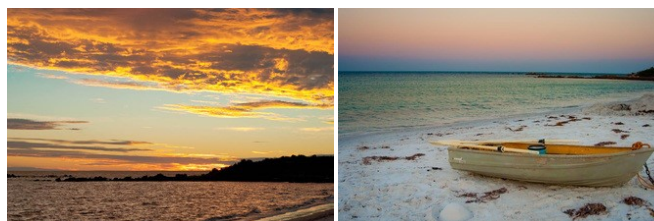
**Call to Pray....**You are invited to join with people across our churches in praying for one another. This month we pray together for:

*Hewett, Kadina, Kersbrook, Lenswood, the Life Care congregations.*

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The **Redcliffs Campsite** at Tumby Bay, right by the beach, has a reputation for being a wonderful place to stop and rejuvenate.

<http://www.redcliffcampsite.com/>



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