

## Transitions

Churches of Christ in SA & NT is on the cusp of a new era. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> we will welcome Peter Barney into our office as the new State Minister. With this comes excitement, anticipation and expectation. We will all feel this for different reasons. While some of our expectations might be unrealistic or what we anticipate might not come to pass, the excitement that God is doing something new surpasses all personal agendas. There is one thing we can be assured of and that is God has been actively leading us to this point and God goes before us into this new season. With this will come difference, change, new activities, and different ways of being God's people responding faithfully to God's mission wherever we have been called to be the church of Christ.

Some of what God might require us to do, is let go.

Dr. Aaron Chalmers, Academic Dean at Tabor College, shared reflections from Deuteronomy 31: 1-8 with the Tabor staff this week at our all staff development day to commence the year. I was quite moved by what he shared as I felt he was telling our story.

Aaron's reflection focused around transitions. As the people of Israel stood at the border of a land that was promised to them, their leader Moses spoke to them 'The Lord has told me, "You shall not cross the Jordan".' (Deut 31:2b). It's actually quite a shocking and saddening revelation, to hear that the leader who has brought the community to this point will not cross into the place of promise with them. I realised as Aaron was speaking, that Israel was not the same nation at this point as the one who came out of Egypt. In fact, the majority of the generation who were exiles from Egypt have now passed away and there is a new generation standing at the border of the land that will shape a new identity for Israel. Moses is saying to his people that he is prepared to let go in order to allow God to do a new thing through a new leader for a new generation of God's people in a new place.

"The Lord your God himself will cross over ahead of you." (Deut 31:3a)

These words were to calm the fears of the people. Even though they had already seen and experienced the wonders and the provision of God, they are looking out over an already established nation in the location of the land that had been promised to them, wondering how on earth they are going to fulfil their calling. How do we be the people God has called us to be when we are in uncharted territory and we don't know exactly what lies ahead of us? Do we have the right tools? Do we know what we are doing? Are we going to be conquered? Is God really with us?

Moses brings before Israel a new leader, Joshua, and says to him in the presence of Israel; 'Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors.' (Deut 31:7). We honour the heritage and promise of the past to fulfil a new vision for a new people.

We are God's people called to be bold and courageous in this time and place. We have new opportunities ahead of us with a new leader. God goes before us. This is the promise of being Christ's people transforming through the reality of Christ's resurrection. We are not called to stay in one place, in one time, but to be a people on the move with God ahead of us. As we look to new leadership for new ways of fulfilling our calling to be the Churches of Christ in this time, may we be encouraged through the presence of the Holy Spirit, to let go of whatever it is we are hanging on to that might be holding us back, and step forward into the path of God's leading.

*Mark Riessen  
Acting State Minister*



***People commencing employment in ministry with Churches of Christ this year include:***

Peter Barney – State Minister, Churches of Christ SA & NT

Graham Mann – Minister, Magill Church of Christ

Verity Riessen – Student Minister, Aldgate Church of Christ

Phil Alcorn – Associate Minister, Noarlunga Centre Church of Christ

***People who concluded ministry end of 2019:***

Sonny Pillay – retiring from Living Waters (Loxton) Church of Christ

Daryll Telfer – retiring from Strathalbyn Church of Christ

Russell Mountford – retiring from Maylands Church of Christ

***Please pray for the following churches who are still discerning ministry placements for 2020:***

Living Waters (Loxton) Church of Christ

Modbury Church of Christ

Maylands Church of Christ

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“O Lord  
You lead me  
by the still  
waters,  
quietly  
restoring my  
soul...”

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

*Maylands, Milang, Modbury, Mt Barker*

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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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## Upcoming Events

**Ordination service for Col Heslop:**

**Saturday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>** beginning with the Ministers' dinner at Owen Arms Hotel from 5pm. The service itself is at **7:30pm** at the Owen Community Hall hosted, by the Owen United Parish with worship led by the Balaklava Church of Christ. If anyone would like to help contribute to catering for supper, please contact Col Heslop on 0413 522 992.

**Induction service for Peter Barney:**

**Friday Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm** at Blackwood Church of Christ (367 Shepherds Hill Road). Supper provided after the service.

*Both these events will be a time of real celebration.*

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## World Day of Prayer

**Friday 6 March 2020** and the country of focus is **Zimbabwe**.

2020 city service is at **St Patrick's Catholic Church** 268 Grote St. Adelaide at **10.00am**

South Australia has 120 services around the state so see the website for your local venue.

[www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org](http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org)

**This year's theme is 'Rise! Take your mat and walk!' John 5: 2-9a**

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

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## Giveaway—pick up required

The State Office has an electronic white board to give away as it is now surplus to needs. It comes with a stand on castors. It's a Panasonic KX-B530 and the instruction book is included.

Please contact the State Office (8443 7572) from Tuesday, 28th January, if you're interested.

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As 2020 begins, many of us have been shrouded in smoke, dread and a deep concern for those experiencing and fighting the terrible fires that have been raging across Australia. The images of devastated ecosystems, darkness at noon, and burnt-out homes has been surreal to watch, and terrifying to experience.

**We have mourned the losses of residents and firefighters in this cruel season.**

We can often feel helpless in the face of such natural disasters.

One way that we can make a difference is to donate to those most in need, and through agencies that we know will distribute those funds wisely and compassionately.

**Global Mission Partners Extend, a new entity that is part of the GMP family, is launching an appeal to support the recovery of people impacted by these massive and unprecedented bushfires.** This is the first time that GMP Extend has launched an appeal, and we are doing so after requests from churches and individuals.

Donated funds will be distributed through trusted churches and agencies with the capacity to identify, support and meet the needs of those affected by the fires. Through donating, we know that we can make a difference to those most in need.

**Donations in excess of \$2 are tax-deductible and can be given via GMP Extend by:**

**Bank transfer to Global Mission Partners Extend**

BSB: 063 130 Account No: 1047 0548

Customer reference line: 'Bushfire Appeal'

**Please also complete the donation form**

**included.** Additional forms can be downloaded on [www.extend.org.au](http://www.extend.org.au) or

**By calling the GMP office on 1800 467 222** and using the GMP Extend Credit Card facility. There may be a short delay in processing Credit Card donations, as this is a new facility still being finalised.

We have valued your many expressions of concern and support for those suffering the impact of these fires.

Around the world, GMP partners have expressed their concern for us here in Australia – from Bangladesh to the Philippines to Papua New Guinea, the message has been the same:

*"We are praying for you, and we are praying for rain."*

That is our prayer as well, and we thank you in advance for your care and generosity.

Sincerely

John Gilmore

Executive Officer, Global Mission Partners

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## Amplify Conference

In March, we are taking a cohort of young Church of Christ leaders to Brisbane for a one-day conference called Amplify. This conference is a merging of a children's ministry conference (Ignite), and a youth ministry conference called Elevate. Amplify is for children, youth and families ministry leaders, and is a mix of specialist electives, a large ministry Expo, and keynote speakers. It's happening on Saturday March 7th.

Please pray for the team attending, that it would be a powerful time of personal and professional development, and for strong relationships to be formed amongst them. If you would like more information on Amplify, contact **Adrian Blenkinsop** or **Carl Milne**, or visit the website: [amplifyconference.com.au](http://amplifyconference.com.au)

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## Save the Dates!

### Convention 2020

**19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November**

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### Correct State Office Postal Details

Please note that the **correct postal address** for any mail for the State Office is:

**PO Box 743**

**Torrensville Plaza SA 5031**

Please do not address anything to 114 Henley Beach Road.

Thank you.

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## Bushfire Recovery

Churches of Christ (State Office and local Churches) and CareWorks are working together to help out with the work needed for our Adelaide Hills communities recover from the bushfires. Funds to assist in this will be available through the **GMP Extend Bushfire Recovery appeal** to help church members and neighbours recover and rebuild. If you would like to contribute to this fund, go to the GMP Extend Bushfire Recovery Appeal at:

<https://www.extend.org.au/our-projects/bushfire-recovery-appeal>

We are also looking to build a team of volunteers who will help with rebuilding (eg fences and irrigation systems). If you, or people in your Church community, would like to make themselves available to assist by providing manual labour, you can contact Geoff at CareWorks ([geoff@cwsa.org.au](mailto:geoff@cwsa.org.au)) and from there we will co-ordinate teams. It would be helpful if you were able to let Geoff know roughly how many people are available to help and who the contact person is for your congregation so Geoff can get in touch at the appropriate time. The Lenswood Church of Christ have appointed someone from within their membership to coordinate contact with families who need assistance and compile a list for what assistance is needed.

### Please Pray for:

All of the **CareWorks staff and volunteers** as they return from Christmas breaks, and re-start all the programs for the new year.

The **guests who are staying in the Oasis** accommodation, may they find a safe place, and genuine acts of love and kindness in Jesus' name.

**Jacki**, the new financial counsellor who will represent CareWorks as she assists women who are escaping Domestic Violence to get their finances in order.

The team at **CareWorks Noarlunga** who do an amazing job reaching out to the disadvantaged in their community.

The team who run the drop in centre at **Davoren Park (the Hope Street Program)** that they might have strength and wisdom as they support the lives of disadvantaged young people.



The coordination of volunteer support will be through CareWorks working directly with the Lenswood Church of Christ, who are able to best identify what the needs are and direct how they are addressed.

While there is physical work to be done, please be aware of the impact on mental health which is setting in now. That is the long road to recovery. We appeal to you all for prayer support for the Lenswood Church and their neighbours. Please pray for the church to be a light of hope in the lives of those who are struggling with loss, clean up, isolation, despair, helplessness and facing the prospect of rebuilding. Pray that the relationships the church is building with the community have long lasting impact beyond the rebuild effort.

**Please consider writing a letter from your church to the Lenswood Church** with your offer of prayer and solidarity. It will mean so much to them to know you are thinking of them.

*Mark Riessen and Geoff Payne*



### Offering Day March 15, 2020

Each year, CareWorks invites Churches of Christ congregations to make a point of supporting the various ministries in

CareWorks through the annual offering day.

*Many people in our communities find themselves in circumstances which appear quite hopeless; poverty, homelessness, illness...*

**Join in, as together we express God's amazing love.**

**Your gift of:**

**\$10** helps CareWorks clothe a homeless person at one of the Op Shops.

**\$40** helps a person facing a medical crisis to stay a night at OASIS.

**\$75** helps towards a struggling family's utility bill.

**\$100** can assist providing resources to support at-risk teenagers in the Hope Street program at Davoren Park.

**Visit [www.givenow.com.au/careworkssa](http://www.givenow.com.au/careworkssa)**