



February 2018

Need2Know.

Remember! Faith, Hope and Love

Much is changing in our society! These changes will present challenges for our churches and Ministers this year and it's already February!

In the midst of change I hold onto the proclamations of Isaiah 43:19: *Look at the new thing I am going to do. It is already happening. Don't you see it? I will make a road in the desert and rivers in the dry land.* I have **Faith** in, **Hope** for and **Love** that, God is doing a new thing which will provide us with new opportunities for sharing the Gospel in 2018.

I pray that last year's convention and our state theme for 2018 of **Faith, Hope and Love** is being remembered as our churches gear up for this year's rosters and theme setting.

I know that your **Faith** in Christ Jesus will keep you safe as you participate in the sharing of the Gospel.

I know that your **Hope**, in the lives that will experience Christ's Salvation both in you and them, which will be celebrated in baptism and new souls welcomed into God's Kingdom, is what will keep you going strong.

I know that your **Love** for all God's people and members of our Churches of Christ will guide your actions in sharing your gifts and the load of ministry (both inside and outside our church communities), while working through any differences that may arise this year.

For me I experience lots of **Faith, Hope and Love** in the churches I have been blessed enough to visit so far. One of the blessings of this role is that I have the opportunity to visit our churches around the state. I have had the honour to meet with Victor Harbor, Milang, Goolwa and Berri Churches of Christ so far and I have also had the privilege of preaching at Milang. I am buoyed in my soul by the

faith of our congregations and the warm welcome I receive as I visit our churches. (That experience is also true as I travelled to churches as part of the Guiding Coalition; Williamstown, Kersbrook, Balaklava and Hewett). As your CEO, I look forward to visiting all our churches over the duration of my two-year term.

I encourage you to pay a visit to your nearest Church of Christ congregation if you are on holidays and spend time with our brothers and sisters in worship together.

I know that many of our congregations wrestle with the challenges of good stewardship around constitutions, policies and procedures. However, keeping these tools in good health will bolster the health of our churches and keep our members safe. Please help your Elders, Deacons, Ministers and Leadership teams with whatever giftings you have (as acknowledged and received by the leaders of our churches) to further our mission and ministry. Again, pray for our churches to be places of safety for all who gather to worship Christ.

Our State review continues and your participation in it is vital to our movement's future. For your information, both NSW and Vic/Tas Conferences have been through similar reviews in the last decade. At present it seems it's our turn, so too the National Council, which will also need your prayers to engage what it needs to do to 'reset' its priorities and agendas.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on our review. I look forward with Faith, Hope and Love for all that God is doing and will do within us to further His Kingdom.

Be safe, pray lots and grab each and every opportunity to be a part of God's great commission.

Scott Combridge



President's Corner

(Alan Young)



Stewardship:

God owns every thing, we are simply managers or administrators acting on His behalf.

With ownership comes responsibility, accountability and in time, reward.

As a State Board we seek to be faithful stewards and will always be *reviewing* our resources and *leading* State Office in *serving* you as part of *State Conference*.

Just as individual Churches are challenged to manage budgets, in good faith, we will do likewise with your involvement.

We need to cut cloth, weave new ways and be good stewards.

We encourage Churches to be part of this by being intentional with each other and contributing to reviews that will shape the direction of our Movement in coming years.

Currently you are engaged in the whole of State Conference review involving all churches and now two pending reviews re Minister to Minister program and the ChildSafe resource to meet the requirements of State legislation enabling programs in Churches to run, so vital to our growth. All of this is being considered within our over all budget which needs to reflect our mission.

We share the stewardship of His kingdom.

In and Around Churches:

As president, it is my intention to be in worship with you where ever you worship and will encourage members of State Board to do likewise, when able, knowing that they also have significant leadership responsibilities in their own churches.

Recently Margaret and I have been able to worship at SouthPoint, *(a combined Edwardstown and Glenelg service preparing for a New Year)* and Brighton, *(rejoicing in the commencement of Craig Schultz's ministry)*. Both services were expressing God's love to all people

and acknowledging God's presence within His church today.

A mid week visit to Murray Bridge Church was most revealing to learn of their ministry to community through their coffee and bookshop program, especially now as they support a number of their members suffering job losses with the town's major employer, due to fire. Call in if you are passing by! Well worth a visit.

Please include these three active Churches in prayer as they undergo leadership changes and/or significant challenges.

Convention: 2018

The State Conference **Convention** happens once a year in November and planning is already underway for this year's gathering. A time of celebration, a time to be together and claim who we are as followers of Christ. Ideas and suggestions for Convention would be welcomed by the planning committee for consideration.

State Board has acknowledged Jade Nokes' art work from last Convention by acquiring it to, one day, be part of the State Office entrance. Jade brilliantly captured the 2017 theme of Faith, Hope and Love before our eyes. It has already visited many Churches as one way of reminding us of God's daily gifts to us. If your Church would like to have it briefly, phone Lyndall (8443 7572).

Jade is an active member within Blair Athol and Magill Churches and is beginning primary teaching studies this year at Tabor.

Need2Know Guidelines:

Lyndall is the editor of this much looked for publication that has become so vital in State Conference communications between churches and individuals within our Movement.

A small group is developing some guidelines to assist her in this role.

We encourage you to share your thoughts by phone and email directly to Lyndall in the next two months.

Report to Members on Conference Review

– No.8 Feb 2018

Review update

At our Convention many people were asking Derek Lindsell “What’s next for the State Conference Review?” In recognition that Derek answered many of your questions by saying “that’s up to you”, as your appointed person ensuring the review continues, I want to invite you into the process of our journey while not pre-empting any outcomes (as Derek was keen not to do).

Historically

- a. In 2016 the State Board initiated a review of Churches of Christ in SA and NT with Derek Lindsell of Apricot Consultancy.
- b. A Review Team was created to oversee and implement a State Wide Review intending to:
 - i. engage the members of our churches in order to seek vision for the future,
 - ii. address the financial viability of the Conference of Churches of Christ.
- c. In 2017 the Review Team (with Derek) held 6 regional review meetings
- d. Out of those meetings, a preliminary definition of the term “conference” was formed (for the purpose of the review having a common theme) and three groups were created in order to support the appropriate progress of this State Conference Review:
 - i. Guiding Coalition – created to hear each church’s perspectives/visions and relational desires.
 - ii. Financial Sustainability Team – created to explore how we best utilise our current resources and explore further opportunities to support our future finances.
 - iii. Prayer Group – called into being to support this process prayerfully and seek God’s leadership and guidance during this period of review.

Presently

- a. The Guiding Coalition have been visiting churches and gathering feedback to be analysed and collated.
- b. The Financial Sustainability Team are continuing to meet.
- c. Prayer Group members are praying (please join them in your prayers for this process and Godly outcomes).

Where to from here

- i. The Review Team will receive the feedback from the churches and delegate 5-6 people to independently consolidate these your responses.
- ii. Your responses will then be collated and shared with:
 - a. the State Board
 - b. you, the members of the churches that make up Churches of Christ in SA
- iii. We will enter into a time of
 - a. Prayerful consideration of this input

- b. Assessing responses to the findings
 - c. Exploration of implementations of the desired outcomes
- iv. At the same time the Financial Sustainability Team will be submitting their preliminary reports to the State Board.

To date there have been twenty-three visits to churches while others have been arranged or are being arranged. With 19 churches still to visit, the State Board and Review Team are keen to not let the process drag on too long.

We know that some of those 19 churches yet to be visited, are ready and willing to participate in the review. To that end, the new approach for 2018 is that I will contact each of our remaining churches seeking their nomination of an appropriate time for their membership to gather and respond to the review. The Review Team are committed to having someone from the Guiding Coalition available to facilitate this conversation, note responses and answer any questions which church members may have about the review.

The Review Team has also set the date of 29th March for the conclusion of these church consultation visits by the Guiding Coalition members for the review.

Let me remind you that these meetings are designed for our churches to share with each other through the review, their dreams and hopes for the future of our Churches of Christ in South Australia.

The key to these discussions and our future explorations as a Conference of churches is the definition agreed to in the May 2017 meeting. That definition was

“Conference is the intentional relationships between churches under the banner of Churches of Christ, committed to each other and the gospel, with God working through us for the benefit of God’s Kingdom.”

As the State Conference Review continues, I invite you to consider how you might respond to this definition of who we seek to be, both individually and as a church.

Prayer as always remains our strongest tool for the road ahead. Our Prayer Partners are a valued part of the review process. Through praying we hold each other in Love and ensure God’s will be done.

Please continue to pray for our churches, for the Guiding Coalition members, Scott, and the review process. Please feel free to contact me or Doug Walladge (as ongoing chairperson of the Review Team), if you would like further information or you would like to offer a comment.

Scott Combridge
CEO

Churches of Christ in SA and NT





CareWorks SA

Offering Day 2018 -

Sunday March 4

There is a song (a few years old now) which has the words,
'We found love in a hopeless place'. Whilst the song itself is a soppy love song, the idea of finding love in a hopeless place is very strong. Surely the aspiration of all our churches is that regardless of the hopelessness of their circumstances, people might find God's love in our midst.



Many of the people who come into contact with CareWorks find themselves in circumstances (poverty, homelessness, illness...) which appear quite hopeless.

CareWorks, alongside local

Churches of Christ, seeks to embody God's love and address the needs of some of the most vulnerable in our community. Will you join with us as we seek to be a practical expression of God's amazing love for His people?

Your donations make a world of difference as we work together.

Here's the difference you can make:

Your gift of \$10 helps CareWorks clothe a disadvantaged person at the Op Shop.

Your gift of \$20 helps assist an at-risk child through the Wellbeing Classroom project.

Your gift of \$40 helps a person to stay a night at OASIS.

Your gift of \$55 helps CareWorks to provide an emergency food hamper to a family.

Your gift of \$75 is equivalent to the average amount paid towards a struggling family's utility bill.

Offering envelopes are available through your Church, or you can visit www.givenow.com.au/careworkssa

Dulwich/Rose Park United Parish

On Sunday February 25, 2018, in the Gartrell Church, **Adrian Clark** will conduct his final service as Minister of the Dulwich Rose Park United Parish congregation. This day will mark Adrian's retirement from full time ministry. An invitation is extended to friends and colleagues, as well as members of congregations in which Adrian has ministered to attend this service at 10 am. The service will be followed by morning tea, for which an indication of your attendance would be welcome. Reply to: admin@gartrellchurch.org.au; or phone or text Adrian Clark P: 83312075 M: 0403317497 Gartrell Church corner of Alexandra Avenue and Prescott Terrace Rose Park. gartrellchurch.org.au

God at Work over Christmas



At Khayelihle Children's Village in **Zimbabwe** the children presented a Christmas play during the morning service and then enjoyed a special lunch. KCV Director, Mrs Vimbai Vuma, said, "The children had a splendid Christmas. We received the Christmas cards. We are grateful for all the blessing, motivation, donations and the love we receive from you, our dear partners."



In a remote tribal Mru community of the Bandarban Hills in **Bangladesh** the whole village came together on 25th December to celebrate Christmas for the first time. Pastor Rambuai and his wife joined Evangelist Menpoi in

sharing the gospel. Five people came to faith in Christ and were baptised on Christmas Day, turning it into a double celebration of God's love and grace. Menpoi has been ministering in this village since October 2017 and longs to see the whole village come to faith in Christ.

One of this year's Great Gifts is Bibles and Songbooks. Check out the GMP Facebook video clip of Vana Bawm sharing a story of how this gift is changing lives in Bangladesh - <https://www.facebook.com/GMPAustralia/videos/1560455674037557/>



**BIBLES AND
SONGBOOKS
GIFTS OF LEARNING**

World Day of Prayer Friday March 2nd

Look out for a Service in your area.

The Service was prepared by women of **Suriname**, a small country in the north of South America. They chose the theme: **All God's Creation is Very Good!**

City Service, 1.30pm

Flinders St Baptist Church, 65 Flinders St, Adelaide.

All welcome

For further information contact Julie Walladge on 0422 279 083



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

Blackwood, Blair Athol, Bordertown, Brighton, Brooklyn Park.

Churches of Christ in South Australia and Northern Territory

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