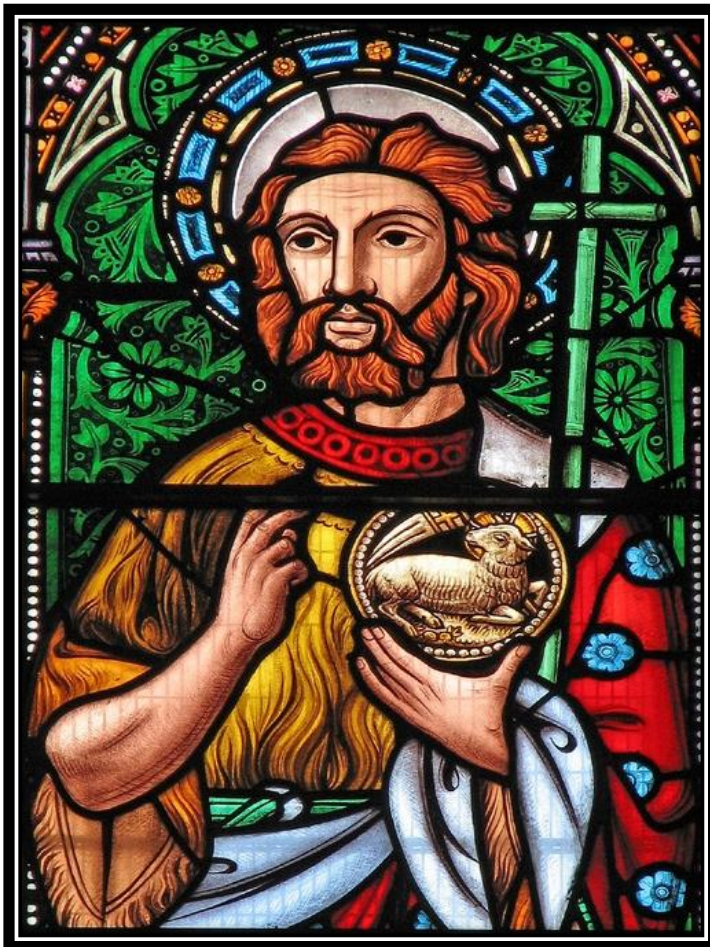


ABM Speakers' Corner



Issue 2, June 2013

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FEAST DAY JUNE 24



THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Speakers' Prayer

Almighty God, as we engage with our ABM family and friends around Australia, may the gifts that you have taught us give us the confidence to spread your word and bring our work into the hearts of all Australians. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to your second edition of Speakers' Corner for 2013. Your feedback is always most welcome. We would again like to hear what you think future Speakers' Corner editions should contain.

Thank you for your hard work, tireless efforts and support of ABM -we can't do it without you.

Yours in Christ.

Michael Robinson

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ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

John the Baptist was Jesus' older cousin. He was a prophet sent by God to prepare people for the coming of Christ into the world.

John's parents were Sts. Elizabeth and Zechariah. They were an elderly couple who had nearly given up hope that their marriage would be blessed with a child. Then the angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah in the Temple and told him that Elizabeth would give birth to a son. Gabriel said they should name the child John. Read about the birth of John in Luke 1:57-80.

The Gospel of Luke also tells us about the mission God gave to John. He was called to tell people to repent, or to be sorry for, their sins and to be baptized. He told the people to "Prepare the way of the Lord" (Luke 3: 4). He said, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs on his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16).

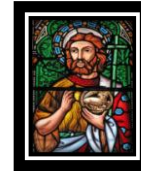
John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Luke tells us that the heavens opened at that moment and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus. Then the voice of God spoke, saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3: 21-22).

John preached against King Herod who was married to his brother's wife. This was a great sin because the brother was still living. The wife's name was Herodias. She demanded that Herod arrest John.

Herodias plotted with her daughter, Salome, for revenge against John. At a party, Salome danced for Herod. Her dancing tempted Herod and he promised Salome that that he would give her anything she wanted. She asked for John the Baptist's head on a platter. John was martyred that night.

Just as John prepared people for the coming of Jesus, his brutal death prepared Jesus' followers for Christ's sacrifice on the cross. We thank God for St. John the Baptist. We can honour him by preparing the way for Jesus by being sorry for our sins and trying to live as loving children of God.





Reconciliation Coordinator – Malcolm MacCallum

ABM has created a new role as part of the implementation of the Reconciliation Action Plan. We would like to introduce Malcolm MacCallum who commenced this part time role in early April this year. Mal has come from an education background and was most recently (08-12) the CEO of the Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Land Council and prior to that he the Foundation Principal of St Peter's Anglican College at Broulee in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn (02-06). An Anglican all of his life with a genuine understanding of the spiritual dimension coming in his late teens Mal is pleased to be part of ABM with the particular focus on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships into the future.



The Key Challenges & Responsibilities of the role:

1. Implement ABM's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
2. Manage all aspects of ABM's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Program
3. Reinvigorate ABM's relationships with National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC) & other key Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander stakeholders
4. Explore opportunities for raising awareness of Community Development models & partnerships with key Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander stakeholders
5. Expand opportunities for engagement & cooperation between ABM & Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.

I am challenged by the complexities of moving into this role. I appreciate the legacy of both ABM's place in the Church and this particular work which was foundational from the outset. I have had the privilege of meeting a number of key people who have been ministering in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' long term. People such as Gloria Shipp, Colleen Hodge, Brian Kirk, Ray Minniecon and Chris Peters. I am looking forward to the development of relationships across the scope of ABM's current partnerships and assisting to develop new opportunities. Fundamentally I hope to add genuine value in the context of Christ's love within the ABM parameters. There is much that we as a Nation and specifically as Christians within it can carefully and prayerfully offer in travelling the reconciliation path.

Recent visits Moree and Dubbo



A living memorial to the Terry HieHie Aboriginal Mission. A new partnership between the Kamilaroi people of Moree and National Parks and Wildlife. A poignant place with lessons for the future.



Orana Juvenile Justice Centre Dubbo. Rev Gloria Shipp humbly ministers three times every week to what she says is a group predominantly of Aboriginal boys. My question is how we as a Nation answer the question of why and to work together for a way forward.



Monitoring Visit to Amity Foundation in China - Yunnan and Nanjing, May 2013 - Isabel Robinson

The Amity Foundation, one of ABM's newest partners, is working for social good in the rapidly changing environment that is modern China, with its more than 1.25 billion people. I was fortunate to visit Amity in May 2013, to monitor the progress of the rural women's health project that ABM has been supporting over the past 3 years. I flew to Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province in China's west, and then on to Mangshi and drove to the border of China and Myanmar where the project is located.

The project is impressive, with hundreds of rural women having had physical health checks over the last few years. Hygienic toilets have been installed in several villages, and vibrant Women's and Youth Associations have been supported, that now take ownership of community activities and serve the needs of the elderly and people with disabilities in their villages. ABM has also been cooperating with fellow Anglican Alliance member, Episcopal Relief and Development, in the funding of these projects, and in turn Amity and the local government have cooperated very closely to ensure that project outcomes are sustainable. Two notable successes are the village of Mangbingdai being declared a 'Drug and HIV Free' village by the government, and the village of Nandeng a model village for others to learn from.

What I found so impressive about the work that Amity is doing, besides the excellent outcomes for community members, is that they are teaching government staff how to carry out holistic, participatory development - very different from the usual top-down approach of the Chinese state. Officers I met expressed their deep gratitude to Amity, ABM and other supporters for showing them how to engage with local people to achieve improved health and well-being for the rural population of Yunnan. They can now model this approach in many other areas, bringing better health, income generation and community cohesion to many rural Chinese.

I was further struck by the large scope of Amity's work: rural development, HIV prevention and support, care for the elderly, empowerment of people living with disabilities, English language exchanges, support for small start-up NGOs, disaster response, and the list goes on. The committed and compassionate people I met in China were quite extraordinary, and there are many exciting possibilities for the relationship between Amity Foundation and ABM to grow and deepen.



Contact List

This list only contains people who have given ABM written permission to have their contact details published. To be included, please e-mail your details to Michael Robinson (see address below).

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| <i>Bendigo</i> | <i>Mrs Myrtle Shay</i> |
| <i>Brisbane</i> | <i>The Rev'd Ken Spreadborough</i> |
| <i>Bunbury</i> | <i>The Rev'd Bill Byleveld</i> |
| <i>Canberra</i> | <i>The Rev'd Rebecca Newland</i> |
| <i>Grafton</i> | <i>Helen Newton</i> |
| <i>Melbourne</i> | <i>Mr Brett Collins</i> |
| <i>Newcastle</i> | <i>The Rev'd Canon Katherine Bowyer</i> |
| <i>Perth</i> | <i>The Ven. Lionel Snell</i> |
| <i>Rockhampton</i> | <i>Mrs Sybil Pawley</i> |
| <i>SA Province</i> | <i>The Right Rev'd David McCall</i> |
| <i>Sydney</i> | <i>Mrs Edwina Waddy</i> |
| <i>Tasmania</i> | <i>The Rev'd Warwick Cuthbertson</i> |

List of Resources

For Education and Publicity

- Prayer Diary
- Project Book
- Annual Report
- ABM DVDs
- Partner Brochures
- Magnets
- Posters (Marks of Mission, Country overview)
- Banners

For Fundraising

- Duplex (Giving) envelopes
- Purses
- Bequest Forms
- Crosses
- Prayer Diaries
- Project Book
- Partners' Magazine

CONTACT US AT ABM

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