



fresh hope

E-NEWS VOL 122 September 2011

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Additional information and full colour brochures on the events mentioned in this edition of e-news can be found at www.freshhope.org.au

Andrew's Message

Dear friends,

In October this year, Churches of Christ in NSW through the Fresh Hope network will launch our most ambitious initiative so far this millennium. I believe that the church in Australia is at an important tipping point, and therefore churches need to learn the art of transformational living flowing from a deeply spiritual place. Please let me explain. In recent years, the levels of animosity and overt aggression towards the church in general and towards Christians have increased significantly. As a consequence, those values, including the sanctity of marriage and our right to even preach Christ are coming under increased scrutiny and threat. Just two weeks ago, the somewhat new popular TV Show "A Can of Worms" went to press with the tag line "Is it OK to tell our kids there is NO God?" Even a decade ago, such a question would not be proliferated so generally in a prime-time viewing slot.

Our society is fast moving to discount religion and increase its' suspicion towards church and Christianity at an alarming rate.

We have two choices; either carry on as if nothing is changing, or seriously consider our position in the midst of rapid change to seek the Lord and His still small voice to discern our pathways going forward. We intend to launch a new network to be known as "Southpoint". Southpoint will be a ministry of Churches of Christ that seeks to affect the spiritual transformation of our nation and our churches. As I write, we have information being produced that will invite churches to express an interest in this new ministry.

Southpoint's primary focus will set churches to pursue God's agenda – if you like, to partner with God in His redemptive activity, as opposed to developing strategy and asking God to bless what we design. This focus and process is more transformational than transactional and is both caught and taught!



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Perhaps one of the most important implications for Churches of Christ in NSW, is that we will seek to gather a cohort of 6-8 churches who are serious about embarking upon a journey of both personal and corporate spiritual transformation. For the church to be everything that God intended, those churches will need to commit to a 3 year partnership with us in peer learning to examine their purpose in the midst of this season of change. Our team is very excited, since we believe that the future of the church and its' effectiveness in Australia flows from both transformed minds (Romans 12:2) and hearts that are guarded (Proverbs 4:23) where prayer and spirituality create the environment for God's activity.

We will produce an application form that encourages churches to pursue this transformational journey. Churches will be chosen on their willingness and demonstrable team dynamic (staff plus elders) to embrace a new journey where the destination is not as important as the learning environment. This initiative will be costly, in that we will ask church leadership teams to retreat and critically examine why their church exists and what theology and values are embedded into their foundations. Churches will be challenged to examine their effectiveness and processes, culture and structures as they seek to equip disciples for Jesus and His Kingdom.

This is a season of urgency for the future of the Australian church. We believe that God is calling forth spiritual leaders who are shaped for 'such a time as this.' I hope and pray that your church will take seriously the charge to embrace the future with us in this transformational journey.

Kind regards

Andrew Ball

Executive Ministry Director



35 people representing eight churches participated in the Fixed Point Leadership Weekend held from the evening of Friday 19 August until Sunday 21 August. Participants travelled from as far as Albury and Tamworth

and as close as Engadine.

Session titles were 'Discerning God's Will Together', 'Fixed Point Leadership', 'Good Governance', 'Knowing who you are when Chaos hits' and 'Putting the Pieces together' led by Dr Steve Smith, Andrew Ball, Peter Davidson, and John Crowther.

What a great time of sharing, fellowship and learning together. Some comments made about the weekend: "the perfect blend of training and encouragement"; "it was a helpful and timely event"; 'thanks for putting this on for us'.

If you have any questions about leadership training, don't hesitate to contact the Fresh Hope Office on 8719 2600.



Navigate 2012.....

**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN
TO APPLY PLEASE GO TO
WWW.NAVIGATE.ORG.AU**

WHY ME?

- Are you passionate about experiencing Jesus and His kingdom here and now, where you live and breathe?
- Do you have a "whatever it takes" attitude as a disciple of Jesus?
- Want to grow deeper, absorbing God's living word so it influences your thinking and behavior?
- Are you keen to be a spiritual leader?

WHAT IS IT?

A year focused on Biblical and Spiritual Training to navigate through life.

- An opportunity to build a robust spiritual GPS system.
- Cert IV in Christian Ministry and Theology
- Teaches you how to set, chart and live out your kingdom values.

navigate





Ministers Awakening 9-12 October 2011 at The Tops



Dear friends,

Each year across Churches of Christ in NSW, those in ministry gather for encouragement, input, rest and networking. I am acutely aware, that ministry is not always easy. There are challenges across a number of fronts, and in the midst of serving, it can become easy to lose sight of the bigger picture. At Awakening this year, we'd love to you re-ignite your passion to serve God and his kingdom; to have a fresh vision for your own life and ministry, and to understand the importance of 'being you' in your context and community. You and I can only lead into the future, to the extent that we can see it! What is the future for your church and ministry? How do you manage the many complexities of church life? What compels you to give your best for Jesus and His church? These and other questions are pivotal if you are to lean into God's agenda going forward.

Awakening is a time when we do celebrate together what God is doing across our family of churches. Our line up of speakers this year, carry different gifts and experiences across the wider church. We are excited that you can join us for this time. I can personally guarantee that Awakening will be a significant investment for you and your team. I welcome you to this time, and know that you will be blessed as you share with us.

Andrew Ball

Executive Ministry Director

Churches of Christ in NSW.

To register please go to [The Tops website at www.thetops.com.au](http://www.thetops.com.au) and click on the graphic for Ministers Awakening:



What does it mean to Collide across the generations?

This current generation in Western society has seen the creation of silos. We can find ourselves in siloed environments even in our home - all with our own rooms, computers, TV, iPhones....

The social networking world takes our young people to a place where most of their interaction is through a screen. This is the first generation that does not need leaders to gain information.

This is not just an issue for young people, it is across the generations.

"As a result, many don't learn how to interface with folks from a different generation. Life for them is like an isolated compartment containing mostly people just like them."
(Tim Elmore, pg 45, 2010)



Collision Retreat 12 – 14 August 2011

August 12 -14 saw the first "Collision" retreat at the Tops. There was over 100 people from 5 churches, aged 7 weeks old to 70. We created environments where the generations could collide socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually. It was powerful, challenging and uplifting. Many walked away asking the question what a positive "Collision" might look like in their family, Church and the community they live in. We are starting to share our stories.

Check them out on www.collide.net.au, share a story or come along to the next "collision" retreat. All are welcome.

Positions available

There are currently a number of positions available with Churches of Christ NSW

- Director of Church Transformation and Evangelism
- CareWorks Administration Officer
- Senior Human Resources Manager, Churches of Christ NSW
- Manager Ministry Services, Churches of Christ NSW
- Communication Co-ordinator, Churches of Christ NSW

To view these and other positions across Churches of Christ Australia please go to:
<http://www.freshhope.org.au/page/35/Positions+Vacant>



Global Mission Partners

Annual Celebration of Global Mission

Join with us in **Celebration of Global Mission** on Saturday 29 October 2011, 10:30 am – 3:00 pm, at Northside Community Church, Cnr Oxley St & Pole Lane, Crows Nest, NSW.

Come and meet special guest Hery Susanto, Lecturer and Academic Dean at Sekolah Tinggi Theologia Jemaat Kristus Indonesia (STJJKI is the Churches of Christ Theological College in

Central Java). Hear stories from places around the world where churches and individuals partner in mission together including Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

\$20 includes Lunch and Refreshments

RSVP: Fri 21 October

Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Inc

PO Box 6454 Halifax St, Adelaide 5000

08 8212 4446

info@inpartnership.org.au

www.inpartnership.org.au

Following this event there will also be an opportunity to meet Hery in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

Celebration of Global Mission

Hear stories of mission in Bangladesh • India • Zimbabwe • Sudan
Papua New Guinea • Vanuatu • Fiji • Vietnam • Indonesia

Northside Community Church
Cnr Oxley St & Pole Lane, Crows Nest
Saturday 29th October 2011
10:30am – 3:00pm
With special guest Hery Susanto
\$20 includes lunch & refreshments

RSVP: Fri 21st October 2011
(08) 8212 4446 | info@inpartnership.org.au

Global Mission Partners
Churches of Christ
in Australia

Horn of Africa Appeal

The United Nations reports that the number people needing assistance in the Horn of Africa crisis has now risen to 12.4 million, with drought declared in three more areas of Somalia.

Rebecca Larson, the deputy general secretary of ACT (Action by Churches Together, the partner through which Church of Christ Overseas Aid support is being directed) says ACT members globally are working tirelessly to raise funds and to keep at bay the worst effects of famine and drought. Experts predict there is no likelihood of let-up in the crisis until well into next year. Larson says more attention and energy is urgently needed to save lives, and that more funds must be raised in order for ACT members and other organisations on the ground to do the work they are able and prepared to do.



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She also emphasises that the underlying drivers of vulnerability in the region - conflict, poverty and food insecurity - demand that emergency relief be provided in a way that promotes long term sustainability.

Larson says that while much of the ACT response is organised nationally, it is important to assess and understand the wider regional perspective. "This is a crisis with severe impact on the local communities but which also crosses borders, with national, regional and international implications. We understand that this crisis will be long term and has already begun spreading. We must keep urging the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the UN and other key global players to renew efforts to resolve the Somalia problems if innocent Somali lives are to be saved."

COCOA recently released \$30,000 to its ACT Alliance members caring for the people in the Dadaab refugee camp. Donations of \$2 or more to the Horn of Africa Appeal are tax deductible. For further information see www.inpartnership.org.au or contact info@inpartnership.org.au.



Dadaab, Kenya. Families wait to be registered

MECOC Ministry at Umsa in PNG

The trip to Umsa, a village where the Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ (MECOC) leaders were to meet with the pastors of the Sogeram area in Papua New Guinea, was not an easy one and required two days travel. The hired Land Cruiser took a road the MECOC leaders had never been on and deposited them at a small village with still a way to walk to reach their intended destination at the river's edge. The next day involved a five hour walk to reach the dugout canoe fitted with an outboard motor to take them to Umsa. By the time they arrived it was getting late. The river is full of tree stumps that can damage the engine or capsize the canoe so the second night was spent in a village right on the river.

But the long haul was worth it to meet with those who had gathered for this special occasion. Johanes Vin, Church Growth Director, took the devotions and Yabru Jerry, Executive Director, led the studies. Silas Gibe, Finance and Administration Officer, discussed financial issues and Brin Tarat,



Brin Leading bible study for the women



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Director of Women's Ministry, led Bible Studies with the women.

Silas Gibe reports, "The event was very good. Our trip to encourage the Christians, the pastors and leaders of the Sogeram area turned out to be inspiring and challenging. The final day of the event there was some sadness because the people really felt sorry for not doing what they were supposed to be doing and also there was much rejoicing for what they had learnt and shared together."

Drastic 2011.....

for more information check out www.freshhope.org.au
register online at www.thetops.com.au



Synergy Grants

Each year our Freshhope network provides opportunities for churches to apply for Synergy Grants. This is a part of our heart to serve the local church on the frontier of mission.

This year, due to some staff moving, we are a little behind on our timelines for when Grants close. As a consequence, the Synergy Grants application process will stay open until the end of October 2011.

We will put some new information on the website next week. Our focus for this year's grants will centre on evangelism and discipleship.

We foundational believe that your church needs to be a discipleship community that empowers and resources people to be all that God intended them to be, in His Kingdom.



Diary Dates for 2011

Make sure you enter these dates in your 2011 Diary now and plan to be involved:

24 September

Activate 2011

@ctiv@te Children's Leadership Conferences 2011 are now open for REGISTRATION

Register online @ www.thetops.com.au

@ctiv@te one day Conference (24 September)

@ctiv@te 4 Day Intensive (25-28 September)

@ctiv@te Combined Conference (24-28 September)

24 – 28 September 2011

'The Director's Cut' – Live the Search Camps are for Students in years 3-5 and years 6 & 7 in the September/October school holidays

Camp 1 (Years 3-5) Dates 24-28 September

Camp 2 (Years 6-7) Dates 29 September – 3 October)

Early bird rates are available until 1 August 2011

Register online @www.thetops.com.au

4 – 7 October 2011

Drastic Youth Camp – Register online @ www.thetops.com.au

9 – 12 October 2011

Ministers Awakening @ The Tops – registrations open online at www.thetops.com.au

31 Oct-2 Nov 2011

Spiritual Mentoring Course Residential Date Two