



# UC Information

Registered by Australia Post PP530028/00079

## Jumping on the Peace Train

Sharonne Price  
Executive Officer, Pastoral Relations

I was feeling a little flat over the weekend. There was the usual plethora of challenging issues for Pastoral Relations to deal with – and at the same time I knew it was my turn to write a piece of encouragement for this edition of UC Information. I felt there was not much I had to say.

But then, I had quite a weekend of surprises, as it turned out.

*Songs of Praise* is still a ritual in the Price house. On the Sunday programme, Eamonn Holmes was journeying between Dublin and Belfast on the Enterprise Express. At the end of the 80's and the beginning of the 90's, it became dangerous and inconvenient to travel between the two cities by train because of the threat of bombing and the military vigilance that went with it. Sam McAughtry, a Belfast broadcaster and writer, and Chris Hudson, a Unitarian minister from the South, decided that they would organise the Peace Train, an opportunity for people to board a train, travel the journey in both directions, and communicate and celebrate together. It was a symbol that ordinary people were committed to peace, and that the railroad belonged to them, not to those with sectarian motives. Instead of the expected two hundred, two thousand people turned out on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 1989, decked out in fancy dress and carrying placards for peace. Sam McAughtry's words captured on film ring through the years - "You cannot stop us from meeting! The railroad is ours! These cities are ours, not yours!" Twenty years later, you could see the wonderment at the overwhelming response still on the faces of those two organisers. A train had become a symbol of the whole peace process. It makes me wonder, in many a conflict, who's doing the arguing, and why? And what about everyone else, the "ordinary" people?

Friends called. *"Would you like to go to the movies? We've got a film people say we should see. Don't know much about it, but it's about Christians and Muslims and conflict. Wanna come?"* Groan. *"Yep, but let's have dinner afterwards. OK?"*

The film was "Where Do We Go Now?" – and it is a treat. The director, Nadine Labaki, herself stars in the film as Amale, one of many women desperately attempting to mediate in a growing feud between the Muslims and Christians in a small village in Lebanon. In a village where everybody knows everybody else,

residents have comfortably been living side by side for centuries despite the clash of religious beliefs separating them. Yet the country is in turmoil following the futile war between religious zealots, and the wives are desperate to steer their husbands and sons away from any potential violence. This story – more like a fable, really – will make you want to sing and dance, laugh and cry, and the scenes of grieving women will tear at your heart. Once again its message is clear – conflict kills people, and peace, fragile, costly and complicated as it is, is what ordinary people long for. They'll brave great danger to preserve it. The mayor makes a famous speech – "We are all sons of this village". Sorry to give it away – but peace is achieved by confusing everyone about just who is who, and confounding the lines that divide the villagers. You will get lots of laughs out of the delightful characters of the priest and the imam too. Colluding with the mischievous women of the town may be a new leadership style!

It was the Sunday in the lectionary where we read the story of Jesus in his home town. Our preacher pointed us to Jesus' amazement at their unbelief, and suggested that this statement is about Jesus more than the people of Nazareth. He'd confronted unbelief before, but how could these people who knew him so well, be so recalcitrant, so unbelieving? Was his amazement really about the impact their unbelief had on him personally? Nice insight! Sometimes our deepest hurts come from those with whom we live and work and minister, because frankly, they should know us better!

So, that was my weekend. I expected God to be silent and to leave me wallowing in my little cul-de-sac of sadness. Oh no! The Source of Life has still more truth to break forth not just for me, but perhaps for all of us. And I can't get these Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens) lyrics out of my head!

Now I've been happy lately,  
thinking about the good things to come  
And I believe it could be,  
something good has begun ...  
...Oh peace train sounding louder  
Glide on the peace train  
Come on now peace train  
Yes, peace train holy roller

## PLACEMENTS NEWS

Placements finalised since the last edition of UC Information:

- Rev Rod Dyson to Adelaide West (Priority) from 1 January 2013
- Dr Rosemary Dewerse (Candidate for MOP) to Director in Missiology (0.5) and Post Graduate Co-ordinator (0.5) from 1 July 2012

The following is the current list of vacant approved placements:

### Profiles available

- Ardrossan (0.5)
- Barossa (Angaston, Greenock, Nuriootpa, Tanunda & Truro)
- Bordertown, Buckingham & Mundulla
- Eden Hills (0.25)
- Plains Community Churches (0.5) (Windsor, Hamley Bridge & Owen)
- St Andrews by the Sea, Glenelg

### Profiles not yet Available

- Blackwood
- Kangaroo Island Linked Congregations
- Mallala and Two Wells (0.6)
- Port Augusta Congress
- Executive Officer MR (SA) - to be advertised

Placements available can also be found at [resources.sa.uca.org.au/uc-positions-vacant](http://resources.sa.uca.org.au/uc-positions-vacant)

If you wish to express an interest in any of these placements, or would like to have a look at the profile, please advise Rev Philip Gardner, [pgardner@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:pgardner@sa.uca.org.au) by **Tuesday 24 July 2012**. **You should also inform your Mission Network's representative on Placements Committee of your interest.** The next meeting of the Placements Committee will be held on **Monday, 30 July 2012** when names of Ministers will be considered to fill a number of these placements.

### **EFFECTIVE PASTORAL CARE IN DISASTER RESPONSE**

A Seminar featuring Rev Stephen Robinson  
7-9 August 2012 9.30am to 4.30 pm  
At Burnside City  
See enclosed brochure for details

Please join us at the following  
Special Service  
Details will be in the UC E-news as  
they become available

**Rev Leanne Jenski - Induction**  
*Flinders Medical Centre*

### **MISSION NETWORK DAY**

**An opportunity  
to talk with each other  
about the role of Networks,  
the things we are learning,  
and how we do what we do.**

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012  
**Venue:** The Corner UCA  
(cnr Oakland Rd & Diagonal Rd, Warradale)  
**Times:** 10.00 am – 3.00 pm  
Lunch will be provided.

**RSVP: To your Mission Network**

**Pornography: 2 Day Seminar**  
September 14 & 15, 2012  
Adelaide West UC



Addressing some questions about  
pornography:

*Social, Psychological and Theological issues in  
exploitive material  
Assessment and Treatment  
Working with the Collateral Damage*

Presented by: **Rev Dr Peter Powell**,  
Registered Psychologist, Australia; Director,  
Pastoral Counselling Institute; Synod of NSW  
and the ACT

*Put this important seminar into your diary  
and plan to attend  
More details and registration coming soon.*

### **Update on Ministers' Day**

**Brenton Miegel** has checked out the questions about Fringe Benefits, Income and Tax. He has a definitive answer from Centrelink about what is considered income and why. If you would like to receive this information contact Gill Morel [gmorel@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:gmorel@sa.uca.org.au) 8236 4204

**Enzo Libri** has very kindly prepared a handout for us that summarises his PowerPoint slides on resilience. To obtain a copy contact Gill Morel [gmorel@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:gmorel@sa.uca.org.au) 8236 4204

**Thank you** to everyone who made it such an enjoyable time.