

**BULLETIN****Welcome to this week's Bulletin.****From David: Every picture tells a story:**

During 'lockdown' I've spent a bit of time sorting through most of the photographs stored on my computer as well as the much older ones kept in several shoe boxes. You know, doing the kind of thing you say you will do when you have a bit more time to do it. Sifting and sorting, deleting duplicates, dumping bad ones, scanning old ones and creating albums for others. It was a strangely comforting experience flicking through 68 years of photos over more than a few hours.

Not all of them were taken by me of course - I wasn't born with a camera in my hand. But there I was sitting quietly, and revisiting people and places. I'm not prone to melancholy but I did allow myself time to just sit and 'be' with some of the photographs. Reactivating special moments forgotten but instantly remembered. I was reminded that behind every picture sits a story, and behind that, other stories. We are linked by so many unremembered memories to ancient times.

There's something quite science-fictionish about looking at yourself as a 4 year old walking down a road to the beach with your dad holding your hand. A dad who was 20 years younger than I am now. I could almost feel the warmth of his hand and taste the icecream that I was holding.

**I've been lucky during my lifetime to have done a lot of travelling for work and for pleasure, and taken lots of photographs. I've been to some amazing places and had some fascinating experiences.**

Nearly got myself killed a few times too. But of all the photos I've collected it's the ones of people that I love the most. So many people have 'walked along the road' with me – some for just a few minutes others for years. And when I look again at their faces, I remember them with affection. So many people and so many stories. Mostly, they have been of very ordinary people, living humble thoughtful lives. I have learned so much from them.

One photograph (over page), from which I am having another attempt at painting, is of an old man sitting on the wall that surrounds a moat; the moat which wraps around the Angkor Temple precinct in Siam Reap, Cambodia. The study group I was leading made their way across the moat by bridge to the Temple along with the Temple guide. I'd done the tour a couple of times before and said I would meet them in an hour at the Bayon Temple site. I stayed back, needing a little while for myself, and just sat on the wall while the herd of tourists slowly disappeared. Quiet eventually arrived, and after a few minutes so did Samnang, on one of the oldest bicycles I had ever seen. He sat beside me and half an hour must have passed before we spoke. He

seemed to sense my need for some space. He said good morning in English with a French accent. We quickly exchanged identities and had a very poignant conversation. He shared with me a very personal account of life under the tragic genocidal rule of Pol Pot and the Kymer Rouge. Between 1975 and 1979 more than 2 million Cambodians were brutally tortured and killed. I had studied this period through reports and letters, but this was the first time I'd heard a first-hand account from the mouth of a survivor.

Samnang was my age. He pedalled his old gear-less bicycle 20kms to this spot most days. He was the only survivor of his family. He told me that he was the only one left of his name line, and that he came to the Temple most days to 'be' with his family; a place where he knew his ancestors had gathered for some event over the centuries. The conversation made my visit to the 'Killing Fields' at Choeung Ek just outside Phnom Penh the following week, even more poignant. I've never taken any photos there – I just couldn't. Such places are simultaneously horrific and holy.

It never ceases to amaze me that despite the capacity for some people to be so horrendously cruel, others have the resilience to survive and to move forward. To dig deep, and out of the depths of their lived experience, find the grace to be friendly to a stranger.

His is a face and story I will never forget, and when I compare my life to his, I can only conclude that I have been extremely fortunate. Not blessed (I dislike that concept enormously), just lucky to have been born at the same time but in a different place.

Shalom

David



**Samnang**, on the moat wall outside Angkor the largest religious site in the world built over 1100 years ago. Initially a Hindu Temple which became a Buddhist Temple

**CYBER – CHURCH Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30 am**

**Bible Reading: Acts 1: 4 - 11**

**This Sunday sees the continuation of the theme of enlightenment.**

I hope you find most Sunday mornings meaningful, but I think you will find this coming Sunday particularly special. **You are most welcome to join us and find out!**

The invitation to join will come to you by email around 9.45 am, and our service will commence at 10.30 am

See you then. David

***BIBLE STUDY /DISCUSSION:***

After a short break, our next study series begins **this Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 6 – 7pm**

Some people have expressed a desire to learn more about the **concept of the Holy Spirit**. So that's what we will be looking at.

**Invitations to join us on Zoom go out around 5.45 pm for a 6 pm start.** (If you are not on the participant list already and would like to join in, please send David an email)

See you then. David

**The Uniting Church Assembly in partnership with the Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) will host an online interfaith service on 6 August marking 75 years since the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.**

The horrific explosions resulted in more than 200,000 deaths and countless injuries. The impacts are still felt today, with many survivors requiring ongoing care.

The service will include prayers from different faith traditions to honour the victims and survivors of nuclear weapons use and testing worldwide.

Prayers will also focus on our common hopes for a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons. There are still almost 14,000 nuclear weapons held between nine countries today. Every single one represents a catastrophic disaster, either by accident or design, that must be prevented.

**Encouraging people of faith to join the service, UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer said, “As Christians, we are called by God to love our neighbours and to work for an end to violence. Nuclear weapons threaten the survival of humanity and our living planet. They breed relationships of distrust and fear.”**

“Rather, we seek to build a world transformed by hope, peace and justice where the sacredness of all life is protected.”

ICAN Australian Director Gem Romuld will speak about the ongoing campaign to eradicate nuclear weapons and work towards the global treaty which comprehensively bans nuclear weapons and any activities that support them. Currently 39 countries have ratified the Treaty. Australia is yet to sign on.

Pacific Conference of Churches General Secretary Rev. James Bhagwan will speak about the impacts of nuclear testing across the Pacific in the 50 years since the end of World War II.

“Their impact on the fragile ecology of the region and the health and mental wellbeing of its peoples has been profound and long-lasting,” said Rev. Bhagwan. “The world must end any possibility of nuclear war; there must be no chance of even one weapon being ever detonated

The service will take place on Thursday 6 August, at 6-6.45pm. Register here to join the service by Zoom: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/interfaith-service-for-nuclear-disarmament>  
The service will also be shared live on the [Assembly Facebook page](#).

The UCA is a signatory, along with many other denominations and faith groups, to an open letter initiated by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition calling on Australia to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Please visit our website: [www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au) It is updated on a regular basis by Petra. If you would like to make a contribution to support the work of the church, the best way is through bank transfer: 013 427. Acct 3108 34465. The only identification needed is ‘ offering’ .

By mail: PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183

Contributions to these bulletins welcomed – please send to [desleighk@ozemail.com.au](mailto:desleighk@ozemail.com.au)  
(photos, articles, poems – anything you would like to share with others)

## July 2020 JustAct Newsletter



## Be the change that you want to see.

Every two months we publish a newsletter with campaign updates and social justice actions you can take. If you would like a hard copy please email [jim@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:jim@victas.uca.org.au), or if you would like an electronic version please sign up to our mailing list below.

*We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung – the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather. We pay our respects to their Elders - past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.*

# CLIMATE PASTORAL CARE CONFERENCE

*Christian training in Care, Communication & Action*

Online: 30th July - 1st August 2020

Registrations are now open!

To view the full program and register visit: [www.unitingearth.org.au/climate-conference/](http://www.unitingearth.org.au/climate-conference/)

## SPEAKERS:

### Dr. Rebecca Huntley

Hear one of Australia's most experienced social researchers discuss: Why is it so hard to talk about climate change? (KEYNOTE Fri 12:45pm)

### Merle Conyer

KEYNOTE: Responding to children and young people who are experiencing anxiety about our warming world (Fri 3pm)

### Dr. Sally Gillespie

WORKSHOP: Holding Grief, Honouring Beauty, Healing our World: A reflective workshop on sustaining climate engagement (Fri 2pm)

### Dr. Byron Smith

KEYNOTE Deadly Growth: Cancer, COVID-19 and Climate (Thurs 8:15pm)

WORKSHOP: Emotional barriers to climate action (Fri 2pm)

### Krystyna Kidson

WORKSHOP: All you need to have a transformative, therapeutic, Spirit-centred, climate-related conversation (Fri 5pm)

### Rev. Dr. Stephen Robinson

KEYNOTE: Bushfires, Chaplaincy and Climate Change (Thurs 7:30pm)

### Brooke Prentis

KEYNOTE: 250 years of advocacy for Creation and Climate Justice:

Learnings from Aboriginal peoples (Sat, 12:15pm)

WORKSHOP: Hope and Grief in the face of climate inaction:

Whiteness and #BlackLivesMatter (Fri, 3:45pm)

- + School Strike 4 Climate
  - + Christian Students Uniting
  - + Stories from Australian eco churches
- And more...

## Main Program:

Thursday 7pm - 9pm

Friday 12pm - 6pm

Saturday 10am - 2pm

See the full program for bonus sessions...

Climate Anxiety  
and  
Pastoral Care

How to communicate  
climate change

How your church  
can take action



Sponsors:



**Register now!**  
[www.unitingearth.org.au/climate-conference/](http://www.unitingearth.org.au/climate-conference/)

*Look what's been happening while we  
have been away.....*

*The church tower is finished - hurrah!*

*No more fences!*

*Just needs our wonderful church  
community!*

