

## Notes from Project Reconnect Conference in Parkes 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> May 2010

*These notes have been compiled from the conference and are a summary, or an overview, of the content. They are not meant to be a full and comprehensive report of the conference.*

### Principles of Project Reconnect – Rev Tom Stuart

Tom set up a visual scenario for us to think about. Rows of chairs lined up 4 abreast, divided into two with an aisle up the middle, about 10 deep.

#### What did that look like?

Responses were: sitting in a bus, all in a bus together but can't communicate, the bus driver is in control, no one else will be given that control.

#### Question: What are the things that are of greatest concern to you, challenges, fears?

- 1 Number of people who are going to be present.
- 2 The future – what's going to happen?
- 3 Finances – surviving, few people, all the expenses
- 4 Ageing congregation
- 5 Lack of leadership, no minister
- 6 Music – how will you get it, what will you use
- 7 Need for purpose
- 8 Consistent worshippers
- 9 Sustainability of congregation, loss of building, instability
- 10 Distance
- 11 How to embrace non-church people into worship
- 12 Lack of self determination –when you are joined in with other congregations -- that someone else is going to tell you when you can worship & if you're viable to exist.
- 13 Passivity of congregation. When comments are made "we are not coming to church to watch TV". In reality that is what they have been doing all these years – coming to church and passively sitting in the pew.

- For small congregations we needed to have provision for resources.
- Insight – church is not something that happens on Sunday, it is something that we do, not something that a minister provides.
- People are the church. The task is to resource those people who gather to live out in all fullness that that you already are.
- We continue to define ourselves from our weaknesses & reinforce that thinking often by negative thinking about ourselves.
- PR wants to grasp those elements of who we are.

#### Question: What are our strengths & potential strengths?

1. Wisdom of the years
2. Belief in God, faith
3. Confident leadership
4. Love for each other, feeling of community & support for each other.
5. Know each other a bit more intimately in a smaller congregation
6. Willing to participate in question time & share of themselves
7. Shared interests
8. Togetherness, commitment & "stickability"
9. Self maintained - looks after itself
10. Church members known in the community for who they are & what they are.
11. All members are involved in decision making
12. Supportive of each other
13. Capacity for innovation
14. Do have reliable congregation prepared to support the church
15. Flexibility
16. Resources from parish
17. Empathy with each other & complement each other's gifts
18. Positive relationship with each other
19. No cost, only our own personal travel costs, no maintenance

- You are mission outposts. If you weren't there the Christian presence in your community would not be there.
- There are hundreds of you all over the State – 210 congregations.
- If you were to increase by one person each year then corporately you become very powerful.

That we maintain church gives God representation in our communities. Funerals, baptisms, & weddings are great opportunities to do that.

### **Reconnecting with God**

It's like the old had to die to reconnect us as a church.

1. Reconnecting with God
2. Reminded we are brought into unity with God through Jesus Christ
3. Called to be agents with God.

### **What is it that we are doing in church that reconnects us with God?**

1. Praying together
2. All taking part in preparing the service, strengthens your faith
3. Discussion very good, very vital to their new life
4. Active participant
5. Worship, continual connection
6. Ownership of your faith story. Sometimes you only know it is part of your story after you tell it. Given the opportunity to talk about the message you have just heard
7. Keeps your mind focussed on what is being said –so you can join in the discussion time, not thinking about what you are going to do after church.
8. You pay attention more – engage better with worship.

### **Reconnect with each other**

1. Talking to each other more
2. Doing special times at Christmas & Easter
3. Sharing during discussion our spiritual journey that we wouldn't otherwise know
4. Fundraising in conjunction with school under the banner of UC to set up race meeting – community event
5. Share opinion of message through their life experiences, historical research.

### **The thinking behind the four questions asked in PR**

- Question **one** is about your own story in reconnecting with God (What can you identify in the message that relates to your faith journey)
- Question **two** is about reconnecting with God
- Question **three** is about reconnecting with each other in your faith community
- Question **four** is about reconnecting with your wider community. Developing this aspect of PR will make you strong, active, and powerful
- The previous pattern of the minister up the front doing all the work is unbiblical.
- Participation is ESSENTIAL.
- We are encouraged to keep asking people to do things. Don't pressure, but just keep asking. God is working in them & eventually they will respond.

PR lets congregations decide for themselves what happens in their church. What happens in your church is reliant on your commitment.

- Communication is so essential as we reconnect to each other as part of the body of Christ.
- Be inter-generational – have something there for any of the age groups (activity sheets, colouring in sheets, sharpened pencils, etc). Then you can say “we have been waiting for you to come today & we have prepared this for you.”

## Resources - Rev Bron Murphy & Rev Lindsay Cullen

- PR website - [www.projectreconnect.com.au](http://www.projectreconnect.com.au)
- ELM Centre – resource & train lay ministers - [www.elm.org.au](http://www.elm.org.au)
- You can have missional opportunities to your community through the courses offered.
- Pick what you want. They are opportunities to grow.
- The important thing is to learn from one another, talk to one another.
  
- ELM courses revolve around group work – work in teams. It is much better to learn in a group than on your own. You have the support of the group to help you & encourage you through any difficulties or struggles.
  
- Lay ministry in service – usually held in May each year. Worthwhile going to.
- John Maynard website link on ELM website

Think about the times Jesus did something that upset regular church leaders!!

Healing on a Sunday	eating with sinners	Zacchaeus
Children coming to Him	riding on a donkey	raising Lazarus
Disciples eating on Sabbath (etc.)	touching an unclean woman	claim to be God

- Tell the **story** of the bible readings. Biblical story tellers. Make the reading **ALIVE**.

Christian practices leaflets by Chris Walker on Assembly website as doc bites -  
[www.assembly.uca.org.au/doctrine/home.html](http://www.assembly.uca.org.au/doctrine/home.html)

Also on ELM site - [www.elm.org.au/resourc-downloads/docbytes/](http://www.elm.org.au/resourc-downloads/docbytes/)

With Love to the World – to help you engage with the readings for the week & get you thinking.

For subscriptions contact Mrs Irene Roberts 02 97471369 or [wlwuca@bigpond.com](mailto:wlwuca@bigpond.com) . It's a **good discipline** & helps you with the discussion questions.

Doing a study with your church council or elders on their responsibilities would be beneficial for congregations who are not sure about those details. ELM conducts a 2-day training course called Living Values. Also helps to develop leadership capacity.

You can also download a booklet from ELM website.

ER direct – Rural Evangelism – Ross Neville – does book reviews. To subscribe, send email to [bomrural@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bomrural@bigpond.net.au) or Ph: 02 6361 4224.

Board of Mission website - <http://nsw.uca.org.au/bom/>

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## Friday night Session with BRUCE IRVINE

30 years ago we assumed that what worked in a big congregation would work in a small congregation. The small bush congregation was the poor relation, no power, no say, took what was offered to us by the minister that was running from one church to another each Sunday.

When MLMA was set up it was to give to each of its nine congregations its best shot at renewal. To reverse the self fulfilling perception that the rural church faces inevitable decline.

Aim; to care for and resource small village congregations. They had no intention of closing the small churches down. Tom empowered the people to believe in themselves. He said to them, “you are the people of God in this place, you make the decisions”.

The small congregations are the heart of the church, it is a gift of God to the whole church, not a burden, and has potential to show the rest of the church what it is to be church. Being faithful to a particular style of worship is only helpful as it serves people in their relationship with Jesus.

What is needed is a style and format of worship that helps them meet Jesus in their context.

The people of the congregation are the church. When the minister comes out to the small churches he doesn't bring the church, the church is already there.

People's attitude was they expected their minister to do the God stuff, to do the personal stuff, to do the community stuff. People wanted the minister to do all that.

Biblically this was the role of the congregation & we have to learn how to do that again.

Tom began thinking how to do that & how to change the worship format without sacrificing the quality or the depth. He recognised that there were talents of leadership already there. For many the stumbling block of doing worship on their own was the message.

The message needs to challenge & inspire. That's why there are lay preaching courses.

Tom began to think about how they could meet that need. Initially no one thought it would work. Kept on thinking about how it would work. Eventually Tom managed to convince MLMA to buy four TV's & four DVD players with a SMRF grant.

Not only did people get to hear the good news but they also shared the good news. The discussion time was crucial in causing PR to really come into its own.

People started to share their own faith journey with each other. This is the key to making it successful. Each one has insight to offer. There is no one correct answer to any of those questions.

Taste and seeing that the Lord is good by hearing what each other has to say.

The congregation is taking on the role of the minister. Taking on the God stuff, the personal stuff and the community stuff.

All reconnecting with God, each other and their community.

PR is at the cutting edge of a new style of worship in the church.

Questions open up the bible passage for you, to stimulate your thinking to help you grow, to reconnect with God, each other and the community.

### **What questions are unhelpful & what are helpful?**

Responses from people:

- 1 We have a go at answering them all. It has been a good idea because it has brought the congregation closer together.
- 2 Wording used can sometimes be too long or too obscure.
- 3 If one person will open up then that helps others to open up too.
- 4 Personalities sometimes reject the personal nature of approach & inhibit others from sharing
- 5 Ros from Bogan Gate shared about the worship space. Making a U shape of the furniture makes it friendly and can see each other during discussion time which can be helpful. Also making a place for the children in this space is good to help them feel included.
- 6 Some congregations only answer 1 or 2 questions, they run out of time.
- 7 Suggestion made that people over 60 not be asked questions if they are unwilling to respond.
- 8 It was stressed that at all times people are to be respected for who they are & to remember that church is about transformation & reconciliation (and should always be a safe place)

There is flexibility in the questions. Congregations may change the questions to be more applicable to their situation. Think about them & what might be relevant to your own situation.

Another way of encouraging participation in the discussion time is to give the questions to different people in the congregation earlier in the week before the service & ask them to think about it & share that during question time. Having them on the notice sheet, if you have one, is helpful for people to think about them more later on.

If the discussion questions are too long people will switch off.

Questions need to be such that they require more than just a yes or no answer.

PR gives a broad spectrum of preachers – more than a congregation with one minister. Good to hear a number of theological points of view, you don't have to agree. This often stimulates good discussion as people discuss why they don't agree.

The fullness of God comes out of the Body, and not one person up the front giving a message.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> question is inviting you to think about when you have experienced the theme in your own life.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> question is inviting you to think about how we grow the Body of Christ (church community), how do we grow the individuals and their particular gifts, how do we grow in faith, in witness, in discipleship.

How often do you tell the other members of your congregation what their gifts are?

The 4<sup>th</sup> question is inviting you to think about: "How are you giving the witness of the message today to your community?"

Not being critical, just wanting you to keep thinking about missional activities. Eventually at some time something will happen.

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### **Bron & Lindsay - Worship**

Worship is more than one hour a week. It is all the week. To not appreciate that will mean that you miss mission opportunities that God gives to you during the rest of the week.

Lindsay talked about the Isaiah 35 reading – God saying there is a desert in the way but it is not a desert to Me. We will get there.

Is worship always exciting for us? Someone said if someone else is doing it, it was!!

Like the people - look forward to seeing them.

Central to the worship act is connecting with the people

PR is opportunity to get to know them – what their struggles & joys are

Discussion time with PR helps people to connect on some of the deep issues of life.

Worship is about God. – connect with Him

There is a corporate nature of worship. At the end of worship He wants you to take it "out there"

Giving of ourselves to God & others. Time in the building is time in which we are empowered to do life the rest of the week.

Ian Tanner has a book on Elders.

Don't feel bad if worship is not exciting in dry times – just coming to be there before God is valuable

You stay because you have chosen to commit even when times are hard.

**Rev Niall Reid comment:** Worship is cumulative, building on each week.

**Bron:** What is it?

People need to be left with the sense of this as a sacred space.

The purpose of the leader in worship is a servant role – facilitating this group of people to have a connection with God today to build them up for the week.

Leading worship is not about what you do, it is about the journey of the Body. If you are worried about how you perform, the focus is on the wrong purpose. Our thinking should be "this is how I am serving God today" whether you are up front, playing, reading the bible etc, it is a gift that you give. Get yourself out of the way, do the role you have to do, you are the mediator, to help people focus on God, not your nervousness or inadequacy.

Really prepare well but it's not about me doing something to impress people, shouldn't be worried that we won't do it well enough. Balance is needed. When things go wrong, that's ok. People need to have grace with one another.

Liturgy means the work of the people, to create and explore our worship together.

Take a slight step back & imagine God's arms enveloping around you & then come forward to lead the people. God is here, He will help you.

It is always safe with God but not always comfortable. If they don't hear what you have to say then they go away hungry this week.

Sound technician is a very worthwhile investment. Consider training someone. Good to have someone focussing on the sound works. Practise with the microphone.

UIW 2 "Ordered Liberty" - read it. Very worthwhile. An online copy can be viewed at:  
[http://www.christologia.net/ddl101/UiW2\\_ordered\\_liberty.pdf](http://www.christologia.net/ddl101/UiW2_ordered_liberty.pdf)

Inheritance is something passed on to you & it is yours. How do you treat it?? Succession planning - opens up the way we may think about worship. How do we treasure & respect it, make it life giving for our children??

## **Worship in the UCA**

### **1. Gathering**

Welcome, call to worship reminding people why we are here & what we are doing. Invocating our awareness of the Presence of God.

Music, hymns, choruses

Prayer of Adoration -focus on God's greatness and our recognition of that.

Prayer of Confession - sets us right before God & allows the Holy Spirit to come in.

Allows God to give assurance of forgiveness. Helps us remember who we are- God's people

Not just a confession of what we have done wrong but confessing who God is. He loves me and I am accepted.

Reminding ourselves who we are & whose we are- we are God's.

Come as ourselves & be accepted & loved & encouraged & embraced.

Say the declaration of forgiveness with **confidence & conviction**.

### **2. Listening for God's Word**

Reading the bible, children's story, video clip, sermon or message. Time to listen to what God has to say to us.

### **3. Respond to God's Word**

Offering, prayers of thanksgiving, PR discussion starters – what did that mean?

Prayers for others, formal response of the creeds

Communion

Notices – can divide these if you want to, response to broader community, it creates community by saying what we are doing. You may not realise, but often notices will show how a church is in mission in its community.

Engaging with Jesus – the Living Word

Important thing is to at least think about why we do what we do.

### **4. Commissioning**

To go & do what Jesus wants us to do. We are not just going out to our own lives but that God has purpose for us.

Blessing

Ordered liberty in UIW2 this short article tells us what the essence of worship is. It is a healthy diet for ordered living. Good way to think about worship. The triangles in the order of service lets you know what is needed for a healthy diet & these are necessary for a good all round service.

Children's talk – keep it simple, down to earth, about real things, using language that people/children will understand.

Sharing by people

Hymn service

Proclamation of the gospel – how are we doing that?

Movie

Drama

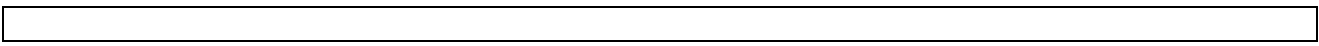
Take a risk, try something new, whatever you do get people to talk about it because that will help to bring transformation.

Adoration: these are the things we cherish about God

1. Question: Do you have to have all bible readings together?  
Reply : No. You can break it up, practise reading it out aloud; it is different to reading it in your mind. Put the reading in context, give people a bit of knowledge.
2. Sometimes the readings are not all connected, most of the time they are. The Holy Spirit will bring a connection to you, other times not.
3. Encourage people to pick up the bible for themselves & find the reading.
4. Find the psalm in a hymn.
5. Read what you need; sometimes it is good to listen to the reading, if the reading is small you can read it a couple of times & see what is highlighted for you.
6. Allow people to hear the Word even if you are not using it for your sermon, someone might benefit.
7. Sometimes it is just lovely to have a minute's silence to think about what God is saying to you.

**Intercession** – Thanksgiving prayers come here. If you are going to pray for someone by name then you need to get their verbal permission, otherwise pray generally.

**Language** - Not everything is about what we want & like. You *do* want to include people & have people feel included.



### **Production & Technology - Kingsley**

Equipment that can be used: data projector, DVD player, sound system, computer, TV

Most important thing is the sound. If you can't hear it well, it's no good.

TV – There were initial doubts about using a TV in church but it has worked out fine.

Suggestion – Put TV in a cupboard with doors; on a stand with wheels.

There is an advertisement in Insights about sound technicians. [www.inphaseav.com.au](http://www.inphaseav.com.au)

(A music shop in Orange – Landers – was mentioned for hearing aid loops but I couldn't see any reference to these on their website: [www.landermusic.com](http://www.landermusic.com))

#### **Putting the weekly DVDs together**

**Helen** takes all the orders and also attends to enquiries, emails, etc., referring any to Kingsley.

**Alistair** does editing, makes master copies, copies DVDs, prepares a new cover each week, does filming, likes to have it done 10 days before it's due to be played.  
Compiling a DVD takes about three hours' work.

**Wilbur** does proof checking, posts all DVD's out, and is the main film person.

**Mary** looks at DVD & writes the weekly sheet that comes with the DVD.

**Max** keeps treasurers records.

(All correspondence to Max to go to - 10 Noonan St Parkes NSW 2870)

**Tom** is the equipment manager – keeps it all working well - for what Alistair uses & the camera.

The camera used is of a high quality (cost \$4,000).

The editing equipment cost about \$7,000

Tom asked if we could pray for the other places using PR that day as well as Project Reconnect itself –

- to be able to maintain the equipment.
- to keep up with the technology in order to produce the best quality.
- for the people who are "techno savvy" to produce as the need arises.
- for others to come on board to support & learn the jobs that are currently in place so that there is opportunity for respite if needed or to step into those roles when necessary.
- When ordering at Christmas & Easter time keep in mind it can take a bit longer than usual to get through the post.
- We like to allow two weeks or more notice of an order.
- Close to 50 places receive PR on a regular basis.

If you need to cancel an order, they need three weeks' notice.

You can email orders: The email address is on the back of the DVD- [project.reconnect@uniting.com.au](mailto:project.reconnect@uniting.com.au)

- Funding – from grants from SMRF; payment for DVDs helps a lot.  
(Kingsley's wage though is covered by a SMRF grant for 3 years.)
- The DVD can be used ecumenically, not just for UC. Anyone can buy them.

There is a management team; Ross Neville, Jenny Webb, Max Pearson, Tom Stuart, Kingsley Murphy, Bill Shallvey and Alison Westcott. This team helps with the direction of PR.

It was the management team that wanted to have the conference through the suggestion of Ross Neville.

### **Muswellbrook experience of a large church using PR:**

They break up at discussion time into small groups – everyone knows where they are going & it is working well for them.

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### **SMRF - Adele Smith**

SMRF supports things that are specifically mission and help people be at mission.

Purpose:      1. Renew or revitalise existing congregations  
                  2. Encourage development of new congregations

Looking for passionate engagement - not just an idea - something that is already happening in a congregation with a plan in place & being worked on. Good thinking has been done about appropriate ways to start.

- What is the common vision among the congregation?
- Does everybody know what you are doing?  
The mission not dependent on a paid person but many people owning the vision. Part of the role of a paid person though would be to empower others.
- Has money been put aside for gift development?
- Who else is going to learn to run your equipment & program?
- Is there a sense of something new going to come out of this?
- How can we help people find the leadership needed?

SMRF grants have supported PR. Midnight Cafe in Dubbo. Forbes - Church in the School Yard. Funding is for 3-5 years.

### **New Missional Gathering Seed Fund Grants:**

Small one-off grants up to \$5,000. Awarded 4 times a year.

Examples: Outreach to Year 7s, resources for Sacred Space, contribution to street pastors training; Forbes Central for family outreach; research for MLMA for Kingsley's position.

Money to help it grow. What can we be doing that we could use funding for?

Allowances have now been made to use sales proceeds for missional activity to increase the capacity of the congregation to engage in community mission.

SMRF website [www.missionresource.nsw.uca.org.au/](http://www.missionresource.nsw.uca.org.au/)

Adele will advise as you do applications, or Bron.

Those involved in PR are in a similar place as those in city who are doing new emerging church - how can we stay fresh, vital & alive.

SMRF will fund up to 75% of an application. Presbytery will fund 25%.

Macquarie Darling Presbytery also has a fund to help with technical equipment.

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### **MUSIC**

Kingsley talked about a new recording that was made with Amelia's group, Mixed Blessings, at Strathfield UC. This will add 33 songs to the list available to be used on the DVDs. More are planned.

Some mentioned Willow Connection CD, As One Voice can be purchased from [www.ichristian.com.au/](http://www.ichristian.com.au/) Other CDs available from there as well.

Assembly website -- song writing competition - songs available soon to download & use free of copyright:

<http://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/songcompetition.html>

The following site has links to music resources:

<http://assembly.uca.org.au/worship/links/55-musiclinks.html>

### Greg Wright – SA

- As we speak or sing we affirm what is in our heads.
- Use music as a powerful force, find ways to get it out there into your community.
- Put aside your personal preference & find what will reach your community. The words & the way we sing needs to be relevant to our community. The message doesn't change but the method does need to change.
- Check out Christian movies that talk to young people – Fruit Cake & Ice Cream, Beyond the Sky, The Note, The Perfect Stranger.
- Type in “free worship music downloads” into the Google search engine & all sorts of options come up.
- Use Itunes; Utube has slides with words.
- Craig Taylor Software – midi files – Australian Hymn Book <http://www.ctsoftware.com.au/>

### Alternate Uses of PR

1. Bible study groups
2. Shut ins
3. Retirement homes
4. Other small churches
5. Work places
6. In bigger congregations the children's address can be used
7. Isolated families
8. Aboriginal communities
9. Grey nomads

### Long Term Challenges in Sustaining PR

What do you see as a possible future of PR? Responses:

1. Expanded number of congregations using PR.
2. For even those that do, to use it more.
3. Need to increase the customer base.
4. Share its benefits with other people & congregations.
5. Succession planning for the volunteers.
6. Can't improve it, it's that good.
7. Made decision for themselves that they are determined to keep it going.
8. Sense of demand for the challenge to keep on
9. Taking hold of their responsibility both corporately & privately to share & develop their faith journey.

How is that sustainable?

1. Keeping up with the technology would be a must.
2. Finding someone to fill Tom's role when he moves on.
3. Look at employing someone half-time to fill the role as a missional role in MLMA.
4. To keep oversight & keep it together, keep looking for volunteers.
5. Prayer by all the congregations for God to raise up others to share the load -- for people who are “techno savvy” – (young people??).

Kingsley reported that some people have stopped using PR because they now have people who are willing to step up & have a go at preaching & preparing the Sunday service. PR has done its work of revitalising & re-energising them and giving them confidence.

- The product is evolving over time.
- Possibility of two messages - one for the older generation & one for the younger generation, although this would create a lot of extra work for the volunteers.

### *(General Comment:*

*Getting non-church people to come to church mostly works if you go to their space. Ask local musicians if they want to practice by playing at church.*

*You need to love them, don't self-serve, be interested in who they are as people.)*

- Don't want PR to become so professional that it is not real. You want authenticity & genuineness.

The future –

- It needs to stay in MLMA or at least the Macquarie Darling Presbytery.
- PR is a pioneering work.
- An increase in price discussed - possibility of it going to [say] \$20 +GST.

#### **Responses from people who haven't been to a PR service before**

1. Really enjoyed the service.
2. Loved the informality & companionship & fellowship together.
3. Gave the example of what to do & what to expect.
4. Made very welcome.
5. Rather amazing, excellent presentation, people responded well. Spirit was good, very informal but serious. Very satisfying.
6. Found it helpful to see the questions beforehand.
7. Very much at home.

#### **From Tom**

- In the early years, when he had to do so much travel on a tight schedule, he hardly knew his people.
- When PR began, Tom would still go to the services & sit in the congregation while the people did the service. This allowed him to see the strengths & weaknesses & he then knew how to minister to their needs.

**Eugowra** - they don't use the hymns on the DVD. They use different ones.

#### **Cookamidgera**

- They tried different seating, more informal.
- Suggestion to put the questions on the notice sheet so they were in front of you.
- Question time took up most of the service.

#### **Gunningbland**

- Great experience – more listening & talking.
- Liked the friendliness, caring, and the ideas that came to reach out to young people.
- Suggestion to invite them to share your Christian life after having their physical needs met.

#### **Prayer for each congregation represented**

Tullibigeal - their struggle with discussion.

Condobolin - struggle with questions about entering the community in mission.

Gunningbland - declining numbers.

Cookamidgera – declining numbers, the health of an ageing population.

Cobar – struggle to change.

Wakool – the way to proceed with a home congregation & integrate with the community.

Ardlethan - all of the above, struggle with leadership.

Kangarilla, SA - difficulty finding ways to be at mission in the community, building relations with the community.

Savernake - the transition from lay pastor to looking after things for ourselves – with possibility of PR

The conference was closed in prayer, and the following quote:

**“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.  
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.  
It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.  
We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?  
Actually, who are you *not* to be? You are a child of God.  
Your playing small does not serve the world.  
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do.  
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.  
It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.  
And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.  
As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”**

by Marianne Williamson from *A Return To Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles* Harper Collins, 1992. From Chapter 7, Section 3 (Pg. 190-191).

As the sessions were recorded, copies of the audio files can be ordered. Please contact Kingsley via email [kingsley.murphy@bigpond.com](mailto:kingsley.murphy@bigpond.com) to order copies. A small fee will apply to cover costs.

### **Thankyous...**

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Notes on the First MLMA Project Reconnect National Conference – May 2010 [Parkes NSW : 23 June 2010]

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