



Letters

Have your say! *Revive* welcomes letters to the editor of 200 words or less. Longer letters may be shortened at the editor's discretion.

Write to GPO Box M952, Perth WA 6843 or email revive@wa.uca.org.au.

Christianity a great success

Dowling's article citing research done by recognised Futurist, Keith Suter, states that "Despite the good intentions of many who try to encourage us to change our ways so we can thrive again. The truth is the church is currently heading towards a gloomy situation."

The truth is in many Westernised countries Christianity has prevailed with, I admit, a push in the back from Marxist Feminism, to bring about social, economic and health reforms that the likes of Wilberforce and Elizabeth Fry and the thousands of other modern saints worked so fastidiously towards. We are a great success!

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with the Uniting Church we just need a jolly good shake up every now and then to see its possibilities – get fast tracking lay preachers like Wesley did, get a media arm putting cryptic adds on the TV and internet. Drop the emphasis on trying to change the world for the better and turn to supporting those that are changing their world, return to the individual, their salvation, make the downtrodden reach out of the mess they are in, too many pearls have ended up in the muck.

The truth is we have a glorious past and the church is heading for a more glorious future and we need you on board for the ride of a lifetime.

Jasmine Hoansen

Time to get spirituality right

I'm extremely disappointed with the feature article *The church of the future: oh the possibilities* (December 2014) concerning the views of Dr Keith Suter.

It has been plainly evident to me for a long time that the church has lost its way spiritually.

What one person calls spirituality, others will disagree, yet it is the one thing the church must get right. Otherwise if it fails in its calling it will be eliminated and something else will arise to take its place. Dr Suter is so far off course that it is tragic as his prognosis is negative and defeatist because he sees

no future for the spiritual message to be propagated in the church (it's real purpose).

[The church needs] to focus on getting back to the real basics on the purpose and meaning of spirituality, not necessarily what comes from a Theological College or seminary. It's not up to church councils, synods or presbyteries to look outside the existing square for solutions for decline, but to get the process back to find the answers.

It is not a solution to the problem of declining church to scatter in the direction of welfare. The real job, that no other community facility can do, is get focused on its real job of spirituality. If it seems other-worldly and out of touch with normal materialism it will need to tolerate that for the greater good.

Stuart Dunstan

Is it any wonder?

After reading the interesting article written by Dr Keith Suter I feel prompted to make this comment.

Some time ago a lady wrote to *Revive* relating her experiences during Christmas preparations. When she asked the question of where the Christ child was, the reply was "This is Christmas; we don't want any religion involved."

Not one person from the clergy of church leadership wrote a letter of support for that lady. Is it any wonder people are leaving the Uniting Church in droves?

Colin Drummond

A response from the Mission Planner

When looking at Dr Keith Suter's work on *The Future of the Uniting Church in Australia*, we must understand the method of scenario planning. Keith is not favouring one scenario over another, but has laid out four possible scenarios for us to consider. Each of these scenarios are not intended to be a predicted future, but are to offer us a sense of what could happen. Keith does not provide an answer for us, but he does give us a tool to stimulate our thinking for the future.

Rev Dr David Kriel, mission planner, Uniting Church in WA

Thank God for belief, hope and faith

In December's *Revive*, Rev Tom Wilson's comments on "belief, hope and faith" left me feeling downhearted. Even his "Thank God for the ANZACs," appeared to be sarcastic.

However, having now read the rest of *Revive*, including *Bring down your walls this Christmas, A selfless gift*, thirteen new members at Swan View and Craft Church at Melville I feel in a much more positive frame of mind.

Thank God belief, hope and faith do still exist.

Julia Lacey

Facts on 'fracking'

It would be interesting to know where the Synod got its information to make its decision regarding fracking December 2014. It was obviously a false source.

These are some of the facts (*Source: Department of Mines and Petroleum, WA*).

1. Hydraulic fracture stimulation (fracking) has been around for many years. It has been applied to more than 600 wells in WA without any recorded environmental impacts.
2. Horizontal drilling is a relatively new technology which, combined with fracking, is making it more viable for recovery of natural gas, particularly offshore.
3. Hydraulic fracture stimulation in WA for normal wells use the equivalent of 2.8 olympic-size swimming pools of water. Horizontal wells require about three-times that.
4. Water used in hydraulic fracturing can include brackish, saline, or fresh water and the fluid is recycled.
5. Chemicals represent about 0.5% of the total fluid used. Most of these are thickening agents used in foods such as ice-cream, antifungal agents commonly found in household cleaning, and hydrochloric acid in similar concentrations to those found in swimming pools.
6. WA has some of the strongest regulations in Australia, and possibly the world, and robust regulatory processes ensure there is little or no contamination.

Lack of accurate information can only lead to inappropriate decisions and I suggest this has happened here.

Bill Moore

Editor's response

To download a copy of the proposal and rationale for the Synod decision regarding fracking, which includes the sources used, visit <http://revivemagazine.org.au/protection-from-the-impacts-of-unconventional-gas-exploration-and-extraction/>.