



UNITING CHURCH IN
AUSTRALIA
**BREMER
BRISBANE
PRESBYTERY**

P O Box 70 Booval Fair 4304
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*If you have something you would
like to share in the February
'BB Connex', please e-mail –
We would love to hear from you.
admin@bremerbrisbane.org.au*

[http://bremerbrisbane.org.au
/bb-connex/](http://bremerbrisbane.org.au/bb-connex/)

Presbytery Dates 2016

- 8th March – Standing
Committee - 4.30pm
- 8th March – PRC - 7pm
- 18th & 19th March –
MSM Introduction
- Good Friday 25 March –
Easter Monday 28 March
2016 – Easter Madness

Bremer Brisbane Presbytery office hours

Monday 9.30am – 2.30pm
Tuesday 9.30am – 2.30pm
Thursday – 9.30am – 11.30am
Friday 9.30am – 2.30pm

BB CONNEX

No. 5

February 2016

Brian's Buzz

There are some great things happening around our church at the moment. As I move around and hear, I am proud of the work that our church and the passion and compassion that people demonstrate in living out their faith.

Several churches have taken seriously the issue of becoming a sanctuary if required. This has not been an easy decision and thank you for the leadership being offered in this area. The Queensland Community Alliance has gathered and held both local and state government to account around issues related to access to health, particularly mental health services and creating a safer city by revitalizing the CBD. Once again many of our church people were leaders in this event. It is inspiring to see churches standing up and being counted to build stronger communities.

There is also great work being done in congregations with people who are disadvantaged, who are marginalized, who are struggling with life issues. Once again churches are taking the lead in supporting their communities.

As we think about mission, ministry and discipleship, can I encourage you to think about the *Mission Shaped Ministry Course* being run this year, building on last years successful course. The taster weekend, the trial period is on **18-19 March**. Its a great course and well worth committing to. It helps individuals and congregations think about how they engage their community using a Fresh Expressions style model. This six month course is being subsidized to encourage this training and resourcing. There is lots more to share about how good our church take the time, have a look and be thankful.

Brian

Tables & Chairs Needed

Pastor John Braithwaite – Flinders & Harrisville UC are in need of 50 chairs and 6 tables. Can you help ? If so, please contact John on
M: 0423 503 012

Rev Tino Scanlan retires

A Service at Inala UC on 31st January marked the retirement of Rev Tino Scanlan and the conclusion of his placement there. A minister of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, Tino has been at Inala since September 2008. He also led Samoan language combined services with the *falefa* (involving four UC groups) and later *faleono* (six groups). He was elected Chairperson of the UCA Samoan National Conference in 2011 and took up the role in 2014.



Photo right Rev Tino Scanlan at his conclusion service with Bremer-Brisbane Presbytery Minister, Rev Brian Hoole

Rev Tino Scanlan was born in Samoa 27/03/1955; migrated to New Zealand in 1973! Married to high school sweetheart Aliitasi in 1976 and blessed with two beautiful children: Dempsey Malcolm (son), and Dorian Falo (daughter). Both of Tino's children are married with a child each. He has two beautiful grandchildren (grandson 9 yrs old; and grand-daughter 10mths old). Tino was employed by the Government Valuation Department straight after high school, a job that lasted 15 long years. He spent last three years before entering the Ministry Training College working for the Department of Maori and Island Affairs in Auckland. He got accepted into ministry training (Knox Theological College, Dunedin NZ, administered by the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand or "PCANZ" in 1992.

After three years, he graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Theology Degree (B.Theol) from Otago University, a Diploma in Ministry (Dip. Min) from Knox Theological College. Tino's first ministerial call straight out of Knox Theological College in January 1995 was to "St Andrews Presbyterian Church" in Henderson, West Auckland. It was during his ministry with St Andrews Presbyterian, that he decided to study part time at the "Bible College of New Zealand" Henderson and graduated in 1996 with a "Post Graduate Diploma in Ministry (PG Dip Min)". After eight years with St Andrews Presbyterian, he was called to his second placement with St Pauls Presbyterian Church Manurewa, South Auckland, which lasted seven years.

After years of challenge but a thriving ministry to four different ethnic groups at St Pauls Presbyterian, his wife finally lost her battle with cancer. She passed away in April 2007. The pain of her passing was the main reason for him to look elsewhere to begin a new ministry. And after months of praying and meditation, especially the pain of losing someone very special, a devout Christian who always put God first, his beautiful wife and soul mate for over 35 long years, a call finally came from the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia to be a minister of the "Inala Uniting Church", here in Brisbane Queensland. Tino was elected in 2011, started 2014 as Chairperson of the Samoan National Conference in the Uniting Church in Australia. Unfortunately, after seven and a half years of ministry and a series of heart attacks and ongoing pain, Tino's ministry in Inala has finally come to an abrupt ending. His ill health does not allow him to continue. He has been advised to take early retirement. Sunday 31st of January was his farewell service at the Inala Uniting Church. After 21 years of serving God through God's Ministry, Tino will always give glory and praises to God Almighty for the opportunity, and for His unconditional love and faithfulness. He will always be grateful and indebted to the "Uniting Church in Australia", particularly to the Queensland Synod for the opportunity and the privilege to serve God under its guidance and wisdom.

Amen!!!

Easter Madness – 25th to 28th March

Easter Madness is the state-wide camp for youth (Grades 7-12) and young adults. The purpose of the camp is to bring together young people from across the state to grow together in what it means to be followers of Jesus. Taking place over the Easter long weekend gives us a chance to look at why Easter is really the **Main Event** and what this means for us as today, regardless of where we live. Give young adults like Katelyn (14 years) from Chinchilla UC and Nick (12 years) from Emerald Fernlees UC the same opportunities as their friends in the South East corner, to benefit from a life-changing experience to walk through the Easter journey. Every donation will subsidise registration and accommodation fees (\$340 per attendee) for young people from rural and remote Queensland to attend the 2016 Easter Madness camp and carry on the baton of the Christian faith in the Uniting Church. Donate online at missionpossible.ucaql.com.au or give by cheque/money order or over the phone with your credit card on (07) 3377 9777. Thank you for your support!

HELP YOUNG PEOPLE IN RURAL QLD GROW IN FAITH!



Growing Ministry training days

Save the dates !

Growing Ministry training days



To grow the ministry with Children and Young People in the Moreton Rivers Presbytery .

Dates: Tuesday 15th March
Thursday 2nd June
Tuesday 23rd August

Where: Moreton Rivers Presbytery , 22 Ashgrove Av, Ashgrove

For further information: www.moretonriverspresbytery.org.au or
Jill Bow : adminsupport@moretonriverspresbytery.org.au
Ph: (07) 3366 0236



Moreton Rivers Presbytery

Alison Cox, Peter Armstrong and Rob McFarlane have been working to develop some ministry training opportunities specifically designed with our youth, children's and families pastors in mind. These days have a specific youth and children's and families ministry focus. A significant part of each day is also some time deliberately set aside for relationship building, sharing and networking.

We would also welcome any others who are interested to the first part of the morning ie 9-12pm. We have designed the 12 – 2.30pm time to be about the Pastors only.

Growing Ministry training days



***Purpose:** To grow the ministry with Children and Young People in the Moreton Rivers Presbytery through leadership-existing ministry staff development, encouraging and equipping next generation of ministry staff.*

What the Growing Ministry Training Days will look like:	
9.00 am—12.00 pm	Training (2 options, open to all)
12.00 pm—12.30 pm	Y & C ministry staff only
12.00 pm	Lunch
1.00 pm	Process training... So what ? What if
1.45 pm	Networking + sharing
2.30 pm	Finish



Moreton Rivers Presbytery

Power Weekend in Boonah 16th April

SATURDAY CONFERENCE (9.00am - 3.00pm)

SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOPS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Scott Stephens (Editor ABC Religion and Ethic website, radio presenter, specialist commentator on radio and television, and author)



SATURDAY EVENING MEAL (5.30 for 6.00pm) Mark Gladman

SUNDAY INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH SERVICE 8.45AM

Rev David Baker

SATURDAY PROGRAM, MORNING TEA AND LUNCH \$25.00

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (before 16th March) \$20.00

ON SITE REGISTRATION \$30.00

SATURDAY NIGHT MEAL \$20.00p.p.

REGISTRATION

Heather 5463 5091 OR Niels 0407 122 110

www.fassifernuca.org.au/

A message from Phillip Walker (pictured right)

"I believe that the whole church needs to see that the Bible is true, just as it is written, and God rewards those who are prepared to take it that way and claim the promises for themselves. I believe that the Bible is a personal love letter to each and every one of us individually and should be read in the personal tense as being directly to us personally".



Here's my testimony.

Thursday 12th February, I experienced abdominal pain but didn't think much about it. I came out in a cold clammy sweat which also passed. I told Jan, my wife. I had my breakfast and didn't feel too bad so I expected it to pass. Jan went out and by the time she came home I had severe chest pain and so she took me to the doctor. Apparently it didn't register that I had chest pain and I was waiting in the waiting room for half an hour, until one of the receptionists noticed that I was turning grey. I eventually reached Greenslopes at about 6.30pm.

All of the tests showed that there was a major blockage in one or more arteries around the heart. The doctor came around 9.00am and told me that he needed to do an angiogram to be sure what was going on, but because I had a leaky heart valve, I would need to have open heart surgery, to replace the valve, before he could fix the blockage. I just said I would agree to the angiogram. I know a far greater healer than the medical profession so I began to talk to Him.

I spoke Isaiah 53:5 over myself, in the personal tense, **"But He was wounded for my transgressions, He was bruised for my iniquities; The chastisement for my peace was upon Him, and by His stripes I am healed."** In the name of Jesus I commanded every artery, vein and capillary in my body to open to their fullest extent, and every blockage anywhere in my body to dissolve and be gone. I also commanded my blood pressure to return to normal levels. Next time this was taken, it was at normal levels 125/49 and remained there! Then I began to thank Jesus for his mighty healing power. Eventually I went in for the angiogram. Again the doctor was talking about open heart surgery because of the massive blockage he expected to find, which he couldn't remove before the heart valve was replaced.

I heard him say, 'I can't understand this'. Then he said to me, "You can go home after 6.00pm. Although all the tests were showing a blocked artery, there are only a couple of very minor blockages with complete and proper blood flow past them." I believe that I don't have any blockages anywhere now. I also believe that Jesus has also replaced that leaking heart valve. Philippians 1: **6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in me will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;** (NKJV). While I have to take it easy for a couple of weeks while the artery that they cut, to do the angiogram heals properly, I'm well otherwise.

Our attitude right across the church should be, "God said it, I believe it, thank you Lord for bringing it to pass."

- Phillip Walker, Fassifern Church Boonah.

PICKWICK Publications
An imprint of WIPF and STOCK Publishers

199 West 8th Avenue, Suite 3, Eugene, OR 97401
Tel. (541) 344-1528 • Fax (541) 344-1506
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Describing the Hand of God

Divine Agency and Augustinian Obstacles to the Dialogue between Theology and Science

Robert Brennan



ISBN: 978-1-62564-913-3 | 304 pp. | \$33 | paper

"Robert Brennan has made a significant contribution to the theology-science debate with his proposal for a more incarnationally shaped understanding of divine agency in human beings. This comprehensive work, canvassing the ideas of a broad range of Christian thinkers throughout history—church fathers such as Tertullian and Augustine, Newton, Darwin, Huxley, and Barth among them—demonstrates both insight and scholarly integrity."

—David Rankin

Minister, Holland Park Uniting Churches, Brisbane

"Brennan's thesis is very wide-ranging; it draws on a vast range of primary and secondary literature across all eras of Christian theology and it traverses the disciplines of philosophy, theology, and history. Familiar texts are given original interpretations. Unexpected historical connections are illuminated. It is unusual to read a work that engages on so many fronts while sustaining an original argument. Both theologians and historians of science will profit from it."

—Geoff Thompson, Co-ordinator of Studies in Systematic Theology, Pilgrim Theological College

Describing the Hand of God

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CHRISTIANITY HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED that God's interaction with people is personal. The question of how this Divine Agency works in the world remains one important unresolved underlying obstacle in the dialogue between theology and science. Modern notions of divine agency are shown to have developed out of the interaction of three factors in early modernity. Two are well known: late medieval perfect-being theology and the early modern application of the notion of the two books of God's revelation to the understanding of the natural order. It is argued the third is the early modern appropriation of the Augustinian doctrine of inspiration. This assumes the soul's existence and a particular description of divine agency in humans, which became more generally applied to divine agency in nature.

Whereas Newton explicitly draws the parallel between divine agency in humans and that in nature, Darwin rejects its supposed perfection and Huxley raises serious questions regarding the traditional understanding of the soul. This book offers an alternative incarnational description of divine agency, freeing consideration of divine agency from being dependent on resolving the complex issues of perfect-being theology and the existence of the soul. In conversation with Barth's pneumatology, this proposal is shown to remain theologically coherent and plausible while resolving or avoiding a range of known difficulties in the science-theology dialogue.

The Atheist and the Bear

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods. 'What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!', he said to himself. As he continued walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes. Turning to look, he saw a 7 foot grizzly charging towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. Looking over his shoulder he saw that the bear was closing in on him. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear raising his paw to take a swipe at him. At that instant the atheist cried out: 'Oh my God!...' Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent.

It was then that a bright light shone upon the man and a voice came out of the sky saying: 'You deny my existence for all of these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?' The atheist looked directly into the light. 'It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps, could you make the BEAR a Christian?' 'Very well,' said the voice. The light went out, and the sounds of the forest resumed. Then the bear lowered his paw, bowed his head and spoke: 'Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive and for which I am truly thankful, Amen.'

