



# flourish

  
adm  
anglican deaconess ministries





Tjulpun Tjulpunpa (Desert Wildflowers)  
by Imiyari (Yilpi) Adamson

Anglican Deaconess Ministries acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land where our head office is located, the Gadigal peoples of the Eora Nation. ADM pays respect to elders past, present, and future. ADM also acknowledges the over 300 nations of Aboriginal peoples and the Torres Strait Islander peoples of these lands now called Australia.



## *Dear Champion of Women,*

For more than 125 years, ADM has raised up women who have been flourishing in Kingdom work, equipped to commend this life in Jesus to others. God's grace, expressed through the commitment of people like you, has enabled and supported this work.

We measure our success as an organisation only when we stay attentive and devoted to what God is doing in and through women in his Church. In 1891, Canon Mervyn Archdall co-founded ADM alongside his wife, Martha. Not long after, he told a church congress that all national institutions needed the pioneering efforts of women if society was to be helped.

The examples he gave included hospitals, prisons and schools. He saw the need for Christian women to be present in society's institutions that provided care for the vulnerable – including those whom society had cast out, those with mental illness, the dying, even children – and laid the foundation for our organisational work today.

God uses such men and women who have flourished as a display of his truth, beauty and goodness before our neighbours, near and far (Isaiah 61:11). We know God calls us and plants us in hard places, yet there is no doubt of the significant cultural impact when a woman flourishes. Now with a sceptical and hurting world looking on, the potential of her witness has never been stronger. Our role, then, as a Christian women's foundation is to support her discipleship

and amplify her voice and actions through specific, pioneering and meaningful opportunities.

This year, for instance, ADM has celebrated a series of firsts, as well as anniversaries, in seeing more and more women flourish in Kingdom work. We have had the privilege of welcoming the first Aboriginal woman (Brooke Prentis) as an ADM Fellow while supporting a number of new initiatives including a Northern Territory Traineeship Track, in partnership with the Diocese of the Northern Territory. This year also marked the 30th anniversary of the ordination of female deacons in the Sydney Diocese of the Anglican Church, in which half of the ordinands were deaconesses. We celebrated their commitment to serve Jesus and his Church and we learned from the testimony of their lives of God's power and peace.

Seeing Christian women break new ground, sowing righteousness and reaping love has to be one of life's great joys. As a team, we have learned so much from the many women involved in ADM over the past year. I want to say thank you to each member of the ADM staff and to our volunteers for the privilege of working and learning with you.

Yours sincerely,

*Kate*

Dr Kate Harrison Brennan  
CEO, ADM





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2019  
SCHOOL OF  
THEOLOGY,  
CULTURE &  
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.

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FOR AS THE SOIL  
MAKES THE SPROUT  
COME UP AND A GARDEN  
CAUSES SEEDS TO GROW,  
SO THE SOVEREIGN  
LORD WILL MAKE  
RIGHTEOUSNESS AND  
PRAISE SPRING UP  
BEFORE ALL NATIONS.

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### Anglican Deaconess Ministries, 2019

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Our vision is to  
see women,  
from generation  
to generation,  
flourishing in  
Kingdom work

At the heart of our vision  
is to see women from  
generation to generation  
flourishing in Kingdom work.

She is someone whose  
delight is in the Lord.

She is like a well-watered  
garden, like a spring whose  
waters never fail.

She believes that the Lord  
will fulfil his promises to her,  
and hope anchors her soul.

She trusts that God has not  
given her a spirit of fear, but  
of power and love.

She is clothed with strength  
and dignity and laughs  
without fear of the future.

*she flourishes*

She is a co-labourer with  
Christ in the Kingdom, walking  
by faith and not by sight.

She proclaims the word and  
speaks truth in love.

She acts justly, loves mercy  
and walks humbly with her  
God, crossing to the other side  
of the street when needed.

She loves her neighbours,  
just as Jesus loves her.

She lives a life that trusts  
fully in Jesus, carries her  
cross and is devoted to lead  
people in the same way.

She passes the baton of faith  
to the next generation of  
women and girls.



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



**REV. JENNI STODDART,  
CHAIR**

School Chaplain  
BA BD DipMin  
Director since 3 April 2017  
Chair of the Constitutional  
Review Committee  
Theological Principles  
Committee

## WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PIONEERS

This year our world recognised the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, an extraordinary pioneering moment made more extraordinary when one of the astronauts took communion whilst quietly reading these words:

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

For many in 1969, that space mission became the epitome of the pioneering spirit. Yet while Buzz captured the imagination of the world, another pioneering work was happening in inner-city Sydney. That same year, Mary Andrews led Deaconess House; her faith in the Lord had inspired her to take one ‘small step’ for Jesus to China, then to India and finally to lead and train other women to do the same.

Her commitment to ‘abiding in Jesus’ and bearing fruit in his name shaped her pioneering spirit and marked her legacy long after she left this Earth.

Today, the ADM board encourages the continuation of such pioneering work through good governance. I wish to extend my deep thanks to each of the ADM board members who gives generously of their time and skills with a deep and personal commitment to honouring Jesus.

This year it is important to note the particular contribution of Mr Robert Lee who after 13 years of service decided it was time to step down as Director. Rob’s skills and commitment to the Investment Committee have been invaluable and yet more than this, his understanding of the importance of enabling change and thoughtful faithfulness to Christ has impacted every board meeting. His servant heart is seen in his commitment to remain as a non-Director member of the Investment Committee. Thank you.

## I BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING PAGES WILL GIVE YOU A GLIMPSE OF THE PIONEERING WORK OF THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN ADM SUPPORTS

It is my privilege as Chair to support the work of our CEO Kate Harrison Brennan and our ADM team as they encourage and support women pioneering in serving Christ and his Church. I regularly pray for ADM using the words of John 15, asking that the women who make up the ADM community would abide in Jesus through his Word and Spirit. Please join me in doing the same.

Just as people in 1969 glimpsed on television that pioneering moon walk, I believe the following pages will give you a glimpse of the pioneering work of the Christian women ADM supports. May we thank God for such faithfulness and courage.

*Jenni*

Rev. Jenni Stoddart  
Chair, ADM

## Our Board of Directors



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GAICD  
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10 February 2011  
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Committee  
Audit Committee



**STUART DYSON**

Financial Controller  
BEc MAppFin ACA  
Financial Controller  
Director since  
14 June 2018  
Chair of the Audit Committee



# BRINGING FAITH AND IDEAS TOGETHER

## ADM'S SECOND ANNUAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, CULTURE & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

By Jo Kadlecek

As summer holidays ended in January, almost 300 people exchanged beach reads for notebooks and BBQs for lectures on topics as diverse as literature, leadership and liberalism.

They were part of ADM's second annual School of Theology, Culture & Public Engagement (STCPE): participants and lecturers who gathered from across Australia, the UK and the US, to pursue deeper theological engagement with a range of ideas. With 18 masterclasses, four satellite events and countless conversations over three days (22-24 January 2019), the summer school offered a curated learning program for Christians to 'go deeper.'

"I know of no other organisation like ADM in the world, so it's worth coming halfway around the world to be here," said Rev. Canon Dr Alison Milbank, who travelled from the University of Nottingham in England for her first trip to Australia. Dr Milbank spoke at a plenary event about the importance of literature and imagination for engaging our culture with the gospel, and also taught a two-part masterclass on literature and theology.

"We need to find ways to awaken people from the trappings of self; the enchantment must be broken," said Dr Milbank. "Imaginative apologetics is when we stand aside from ourselves and receive our faith afresh. I'm suggesting we make

our faith truly 'strange' to gain new attention." (For more on Dr Milbank's talk see page 10).

Katelyn Beaty, *Christianity Today's* first and youngest female managing editor and the author of *A Woman's Place*, led two sold-out masterclasses on writing, editing and publishing.

"If you're writing, you're doing public engagement," Beaty said. "Our role as writers is to participate well in our culture, to translate theological principles and to serve as ambassadors in challenging stereotypes of evangelicals."

Rev. Dr Brian Rosner, Principal of Ridley College, Melbourne, and Rev. Dr Bill Salier, Principal of Youthworks College, Sydney, explored the theology of personal identity and character formation respectively. Natasha Moore and Justine Toh, both senior research fellows at the Centre for Public Christianity, offered workshops on writing for the public sphere.

**"WE WANT TO CREATE SPACE IN A BUSY CITY FOR THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON THE IDEAS SHAPING OUR CULTURE."**

Dr Annette Pierdziwol

"As emotional, created beings we also want to be happy," said Rev. Dr Kirsten Birkett, an ADM 2018 Senior Research Fellow and lecturer at Oak Hill Theological College, London, who joined Dr Milbank and Beaty in teaching 46 teenagers in ADM's inaugural Girls Do Theology event, and then for a two part masterclass. "The Bible speaks about joy and rejoicing repeatedly, but is that the same as being happy?" asked Dr Birkett. (For more on Dr Birkett's talk see page 42).

With other masterclass topics including astrophysics, music and palliative care, communicating the gospel, Aboriginal history and the church, hermeneutics, maturity for leadership and sensory experiences in Scripture, participants gained new insights and developed practical skills for enhancing their public witness.

ADM CEO Dr Kate Harrison Brennan chaired a sold out panel discussion on developing a Christian vision for politics. Beaty, who has written on US politics for *The Washington Post*, and Professor John Milbank, a leading theologian from the UK who also taught a two part masterclass on political theology and post-liberalism, joined Harrison Brennan for the discussion.



Katelyn Beaty, STCPE speaker.



STCPE evening satellite event, 'Why Get Involved in Politics?'

**"SPENDING A WEEK WITH ADM WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY WHOLE CAREER. WHAT ADM IS DOING TO EMPOWER CHRISTIAN WOMEN FOR PUBLIC VOCATION IS UNPARALLELED."**

Katelyn Beaty

"We're seeing a younger generation trying to reconcile religion and faith with what they see in leadership, in particular with the moral character of leaders," said Harrison Brennan. "The question becomes how can we move beyond identity politics to build more respectful conversations and engagement?"

Both Beaty and Milbank agreed that the responsibility falls to the church to build bridges. "There's much more to fulfilling our cultural mandate than which political party we support. Ours is a prophetic role and we need to link politics with ecclesiology," Milbank said.

Links to Christian faith in a variety of fields were consistent themes throughout the three-day school.

Thirty six percent of those surveyed said it was their first ADM event, while 92 percent rated the STCPE as "excellent".

Dr Annette Pierdziwol, ADM Director of Public Engagement, who oversees the summer school, sees the positive response as testimony to the event's effectiveness.

"We want to create space in a busy city for theological reflection on the ideas shaping our culture, to host a materially and intellectually hospitable space that brings together people from a variety of backgrounds," she said. "It was wonderful to see so many attendees

staying back even after classes had finished, completely immersed in discussion with one another."

The conversations also continued on social media. John Milbank tweeted, "STCPE reflected impressive standards of thought, reflection and serious commitment amongst Christians of all varieties in this country. Excellent workshops on Church, politics and culture at the remarkable ADM next to the Anglican Cathedral. Then a great public discussion on same later."



# APOLOGETICS AND THE IMAGINATION

Breaking the Spell of Secularism

Rev. Canon Dr  
Alison Milbank

The following excerpt is from the Rev. Canon Dr Alison Milbank's opening keynote lecture at the 2019 School of Theology, Culture & Public Engagement. She is Associate Professor of Literature and Theology at the University of Nottingham, in the UK, and a leading thinker on imaginative apologetics. Watch her entire talk at: [deaconessministries.org.au/AlisonMilbank](http://deaconessministries.org.au/AlisonMilbank)

This century has been a hard one for people of faith, for we are accused of all the sins of the past, sometimes with good reason and at other times not. Moreover, we are accused of ties with the past, with tradition itself, now seen as wholly maligned in a kind of new Enlightenment, in which the dearth of actual political radicalism which might address our environmental and economic ills is masked by a mode of social progressivism in which any change is to be valued as good in itself.

“Works of the imagination, just like Jesus’ parables, are proposals of a way of seeing reality”

We live in societies in denial about their reliance on the values of Christianity, in which people live in what philosopher Charles Taylor describes in *A Secular Age* as a ‘buffered’ state, self-sufficient within their own individualist castle of subjectivity, protected like a dodgem car with its rubber carapace from outside influences . . . What it means to be human has completely changed.

Appealing therefore to a shared understanding of reason in the mode of traditional Christian apologetics is really difficult to such an audience as this. Instead, we need to offer our faith as compelling, and itself questioning the master-discourses of its age . . . We need to find some way to awaken people from this fatalistic, passive acceptance of the limits of the self and the secular before we can reveal to them the depths of reality. The enchantment must first be broken.

By imaginative I am not trying to bypass the rational but to extend it and reveal its dependence on imagination to work. My own interest in all this comes from my Christian and priestly duty to preach the gospel. How am I to reach and even propose the truth of Christ in this complicated situation? What treasures old and new can I draw out to help me?

Works of the imagination, just like Jesus’ parables, are proposals of a way of seeing reality. They are performances of an argument, and the really helpful thing about them is that they can take you behind your experience to see things differently.

(So) I am suggesting that we make our faith truly strange first to ourselves, and then to those we hope to attract. If someone lives a buffered existence within the fortress of materialism, we have to help them question those limits to experience and the real so that we may show them Christ in his true depth and *strangeness*.

There are a thousand ways to engender this longing for something we had forgotten we even wanted, this homesickness for the truth, to use the arts to break the spell that keeps people imagining that the physical is the limit of their experience, that they are alone, locked in their buffered castles. To awaken the religious sense is to bring them into relation with the desire for love and participation in God and the cosmos, to give them a taste of the kingdom.



Stephanie Dunk, Coordinator of The Hub

## EXPLORING INNOVATION AT ADM

Stephanie Dunk is the new Coordinator of ADM’s incubator program and assists with the Annual Funding Event. Because she brings expertise in organisational strategy and entrepreneurship, we asked her about innovation at ADM.

**Q:** How does ADM’s incubator program help Christian women flourish?

**A:** We’ve designed the incubator as a year-long program to build community for women leading organisations seeking to do gospel-shaped work. Even with passion to solve real problems and a great team, women who start something new can be lonely and exhausted. We connect the women with each other and with mentors in the business and not-for-profit world. We give them opportunities to reflect on their leadership and to reinvigorate their sense of God-given purpose. We enhance their work through goal-setting and leadership coaching. I’ve seen the 2019 cohort leave each of the retreats with that special mix of tiredness and renewal that follows so many transformative experiences.

**Q:** What does innovation mean to you? What obstacles might women face in this area?

**A:** Innovation means trying something new, moving beyond an idea to put something into practice. One challenge for many budding innovators is getting beyond ‘paralysis by analysis’ to start putting something in front of prospective users. But that’s not always easy for women who generally have less access to the networks that make innovation possible, and who still face negative perceptions. For instance, one study found young male entrepreneurs tend to be described as ‘promising’ while young female entrepreneurs are more likely to be described as ‘inexperienced’. Other obstacles include the expectation that innovators work long hours, which may not fit with childcare or other unpaid labour. It takes a lot of vision and support to keep going.

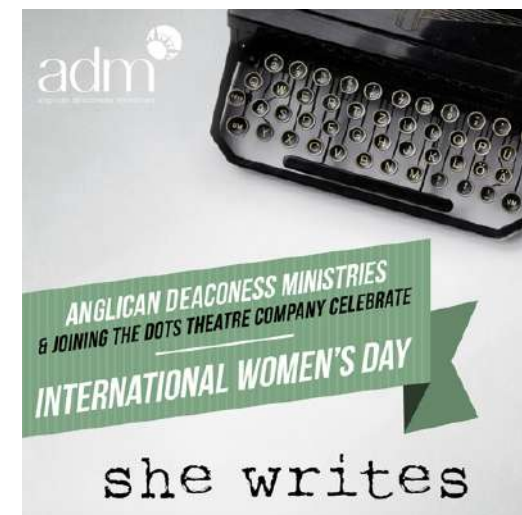
**Q:** ADM’s incubator program is about building community; what does that look like?

**A:** The community is built around the purpose that each woman in the cohort is pursuing. It looks like sitting under God’s word through the wisdom of Hub Chaplain, Rev. Jackie Stoneman. It looks like sharing successes and celebrating together, advising each other on challenges and debriefing advice from mentors.

**Q:** What makes you excited about your role?

**A:** The incubator begins from a place of acknowledging the impressive sense of purpose, vision, skills, knowledge and experience the women bring. It’s invigorating for me to encourage them and enhance the work they are already doing.

➤ Entry to ADM’s incubator program is via our Annual Funding Event. To find out more visit: [deaconessministries.org.au/annual-funding-event](http://deaconessministries.org.au/annual-funding-event)



For International Women’s Day, 8 March 2019, ADM and Joining the Dots Theatre Company launched She Writes, a new annual event celebrating written works in progress.

Over 80 people gathered for a staged reading with professional actors of “Speak . . . easy”, a new play written by Jo Kadlecsek, 2018 Summer Fellow and now ADM’s creative director.

The play explores the story of a young Sydney writer grappling with loss and inspiration as she discovers three extraordinary female writers from the 1920s, Dorothy Day, Dorothy Parker and Dorothy L. Sayers. The imagined conversation joins three ‘Dots’, prolific in their writing, stories, poetry, and essays, and whose works still enjoy an international following almost 100 years later.



The creative cast behind the production of the staged reading of “Speak . . . easy”.

“For over 15 years, I’ve been drawn to these three writers, in part because of their talents and amazing creative output, and in part because of how they lived — or chose not to live — as women in a largely male-dominated vocation,” said Jo. “I’ve often wondered what a conversation between them would have sounded like at the time — the 1920s and 1930s — when their voices came to be heard through their writings.”





**Pictured:** Ruth Lee performing at the 2019 MAC Graduation.

# Called to serve

When a woman graduates from Mary Andrews College, she's better equipped to serve others with the good news of Jesus. Where might God call her? Here are a few examples of women from our 2019 graduation.

**Wendy Allison**, *Diploma of Theology*, co-ordinates a "Jesus Club" for adults with intellectual disabilities to hear the gospel in a more accessible way.

**Helen Connell**, *Certificate in Theology/Pastoral Care Course*, works in a Christian school.

**Ann Cunningham**, *Pastoral Care Course*, responsible for pastoral care volunteers at St John's Anglican Church, Beecroft, including coordinating meal support programs.

**Serena Halliday**, *Pastoral Care Course*, leads the pastoral care team at Frenchs Forest Anglican Church.

**Natasha Hansen**, *Diploma of Theology*, is in part-time paid ministry as pastoral care assistant at Albion Park Anglican Church.

**Heather Loomes**, *Pastoral Care Course*, completing a course with Campbelltown Hospital in order to do pastoral care at Camden Hospital.

**Joanne Magee**, *Diploma of Theology*, increased confidence in teaching SRE and Bible studies.

**Jocelyn Woodford**, *Pastoral Care Course*, currently studying at MAC toward a Diploma of Theology and Ministry.

**Pictured left to right:** Helen, Serena, Ann and Jocelyn.

**Alice Miller**, *Diploma of Theology*, active member of Parish Council at Saint Aidan's Anglican Church, Exeter, and providing rector with support.

**Janet Smith**, *Diploma of Ministry/Pastoral Care Course*, increased care and support for her sister-in-law with Huntington's disease and her daughter as sole carer.

**Fiona Taylor**, *Diploma of Ministry*, part-time women's maturity pastor at Village Church, Annandale.

**Katie Thompson**, *Pastoral Care Course*, community chaplain at Good Shepherd Anglican Church, Greenacre, focusing on outreach to women and families.

**Sarah Un**, *Diploma of Theology*, co-leading 'Mercy and Justice Ministry' at Harbour City Church in Ryde.



**Lecturer Viv Cheung prays at the 2019 MAC Graduation**

"Our Father in heaven, we thank you for the abundant resources you've given us at MAC: our space, library, facilities, and mostly your people who make up this College. As the body of Christ, may we reach unity of faith in the knowledge of your Son. We pray for our lecturers as they equip your people for works of service with their teaching skills and model Christ; for our administrative staff, bless them with efficiency, perseverance and joy; for the generosity of those who give financially and for previous generations who've dedicated themselves to this work, thank you. For our principal, Jackie, we're grateful for her long-term passion and faithfulness. For ADM's board and our CEO, Kate, help us keep our eyes fixed on Christ as together we see women flourish in Kingdom work. We pray for MAC, that you will continue to honour our labours and flood our College with new enrolments so we may be used as instruments of your grace, so that our city, nation and world may bring you praise. In Jesus, we pray. Amen."

## Ruth Lee

**2018 Graduate, Diploma of Christian Studies & Certificate in Pastoral Care; Young Adults ministry leader in Wollongong.**

" I had studied childcare at TAFE, then performing arts at Uni. I was looking for work, drifting along wondering 'what to do with my life'. I volunteered at church and worked as a vocal tutor at a high school. Then my minister and I came up for a MAC open day. Honestly, I was a bit

nervous to study, afraid it'd be dry and academic and that my relationship with Jesus would be reduced to a concise and cardboard religion. From the beginning, though, I was impressed that MAC's culture promotes growth in both a head and heart knowledge of God. Even

when my world turned upside down when I was diagnosed with breast cancer, the women at ADM and MAC were a great support to me. After a long break, I finally returned and finished the last unit. So graduation was extra special. I'll miss it. MAC is awesome. It's a

place that will educate your mind, nourish your soul, expand your horizons and deepen your faith. If you have the time and you want to grow in your life knowing and serving the Lord, I can't think of a good reason *not* to study at MAC. "



# THE MEASURE OF WHAT YOU CAN DO

2019 MAC Graduation speech by Rev. Jackie Stoneman

Principal, Mary Andrews College

*“The measure of what you can do for the world will be simply what you let God do with yourself. With most of us God can do so little because we are so little between his hands. That Jesus really wants me and needs me is the wonder and strength of my life. He has met my every need and in him I am fully satisfied.”*

These words are those of Deaconess Mary Andrews, the longest serving principal of Deaconess House from 1952 to 1975. She’d been a missionary in China, and her book *Going It Alone* is an amazing read. After Mary died in 1996, the name of Deaconess House was changed to Mary Andrews College to honour her. I had the privilege of meeting Mary and visiting her just before her death, not long after the 50th anniversary of her becoming a Deaconess.

Her life was a testimony to the truth of her words: “The measure of what you can do for the world will be simply what you let God do with yourself.”

Recently, we were confronted yet again with evil and indescribable suffering following the appalling mass shooting tragedy in Christchurch. We also witnessed the exceptional leadership qualities of Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand’s Prime Minister, in her display of compassion, humility and wisdom.

As I reflect on the suffering throughout our world, I’m aware of something unique for Christians: our everyday lives can point people to Jesus, the source of all compassion, humility and wisdom.

Mary Andrews College is a ministry of Anglican Deaconess Ministries. ADM wants Christian women from generation to generation to flourish in Kingdom work. Women from all generations have a vital part to play in what God is doing.

But it is breath-taking and sometimes scary to be part of this eternal plan that God is unfolding. After Mary Andrews became a Christian at 10 years old, she wept at the injustice of Jesus’ death. She also wept realising that she, along with every other human being, was responsible for his death. Yet the joy of forgiveness and love for her Saviour led her to serve him in numerous ways throughout her life.

She became a psychiatric nurse, a Bible student, a deaconess working amongst the poor and needy, and a missionary in China. During World War II, Mary had to escape China and flee to India. There she continued



178

Student enrolments between July 2018 and June 2019



20

Diploma and Certificate graduates graduated in 2019



23

Pastoral Care Course awards were given

to care for the disadvantaged at a home for destitute women and girls. When she returned to Australia, she was appointed head deaconess in Sydney Diocese and then principal of Deaconess House. Even in her retirement she continued caring for others.

It wasn’t what she did for the Lord that was Mary’s focus, but how God worked in her. For God to use her as she served him was a privilege.

Her challenge to us now is: are we prepared to be shaped by his hands? To rely on him for every need? Her life and relationship with God challenges each of us who benefit from her legacy.

Of course, Mary would rather we focus on Jesus. So, let’s go back 2000 years ago to a synagogue in Nazareth: Jesus was beginning his public ministry. Luke wrote that Jesus spent six weeks in the desert as Satan tempted him.

But Satan failed at tempting Jesus to use his power inappropriately to meet his own physical needs, or to worship him in exchange for worldly glory. In other words, Satan failed to distract Jesus from his purpose. Jesus saw through the false enticement of worldly glory and stood firm in his identity.

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit and walked into the synagogue, as he would have done so many times over the previous 30 years. He stood up, was handed a scroll and read what Isaiah had written 600 years earlier:

“One who would proclaim good news to the poor; proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour” (Isaiah 61:1).

People have longed for these things throughout history – and still do.

The people in the synagogue that day would have been familiar with this passage, and seen it as hope for freedom from the suffering they endured under Roman rule. Surely, the Messiah spoken of in the



Old Testament, this conquering hero, one who would solve all their worldly problems, must come soon.

But here stood a man from their own town: the son of a carpenter. Yes, an amazing man who had started to perform miracles, who spoke gracious words. A man they knew – or did they?

When Jesus finished reading and handed the scroll back, he sat down. All eyes were upon him. What Jesus then said was shocking: “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:21).

Jesus was saying the Messiah had come, that he *was* the Messiah! He was the one who would accomplish the freedom they desperately needed. He spent the next three years demonstrating that he was no ordinary man, that he was – and is – the God/man who brings freedom.

Jesus, the great teacher, helped people understand the fundamental need of freedom everyone has: freedom from the consequences of a broken relationship with God, the issue at the centre of all the suffering in the world. That need wasn’t just dealing with external hardships, but was within every person crying for relief.

To have compassion, humility and wisdom does not in itself enable the sort of change needed in people’s hearts. Jesus knew only his death and resurrection could do that. He also knew that when men and women had their hearts changed because of what his death enabled, then, as they lived for him, they would be his instruments to change the world.

Yes, they would be people enabled to love; to speak against injustice; to model a new way of living; to access through prayer the power of the living God; to endure suffering knowing God would bring about a new heaven and earth; and, most importantly, to introduce others to him.

Those graduating or receiving awards have spent time learning from Jesus through his word here at Mary Andrews College. Some have done that for years.

**“IT IS MY PRAYER THAT YOU WILL SEE THE WHOLE OF YOUR LIFE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE FOR JESUS.”**

Rev. Jackie Stoneman

Above: Celebrating the MAC 2019 Graduation.

I want you to know how delighted the faculty and staff are to have journeyed with you in this season of your lives. We’ve prayed with you and for you through difficult times while you’ve studied with us. We’ve heard your vision for Christian ministry, and sometimes the frustration you’ve experienced in seeking to serve God while not encouraged to do so.

We’ve seen some of you try things you never felt you could do, and you did it, building a community of support that we hope will continue. This time of study has not ultimately been about passing assignments.

Mary said, “The measure of what you can do for the world will be simply what you let God do with yourself.” You may have completed your Diploma or Certificate, but God’s purpose for you isn’t finished.

I pray that you will see the whole of your life as an opportunity to live for Jesus; to find your satisfaction in him; to have great expectations of what he will do as you stay connected to him and his people; to flourish in Kingdom work wherever God leads you.

We hope that MAC and ADM will be a place where you encourage generations of women in your life to find inspiration, support and training. Above all we pray that you will know Jesus more and more.





**Pictured:** Rev. Jackie Stoneman with staff and students from Mary Andrews College and ADM.

## farewell

After 25 years on the faculty at MAC, including 12 years as Principal, Rev. Jackie Stoneman will retire at the end of 2019. Anglican Deaconess Ministries is grateful for Jackie's faithful "labour in the Lord".

Her godly example is one which we at Anglican Deaconess Ministries will always value, especially as we celebrate the great work she has helped establish at MAC in equipping women to serve Christ throughout the world.

# FROM Generation to Generation

*2018 was an exciting year for the Whale family – Wendy, 72, and her daughter-in-law Kim, 38, each completed their Diplomas of Theology at Mary Andrews College.*

No stranger to equipping generations of women for ministry, MAC has been working at this since 1891.

Likewise, the Whale family has been passing on their faith to each new family member for generations.

"My mother showed God's love to me," Wendy said. "Now as I try to emulate Jesus, I have the joy of seeing my family all love and serve him. That warms my heart."

With three children and five grandchildren, Wendy, a retired nurse and midwife, said her Bible college plans were confirmed in a "light bulb moment" at a Christian bookstore. Her eyes landed on some brochures from Mary Andrews College and "that's when I heard God say he wanted me to go there."

Studying at MAC has given Wendy a deeper hunger for reading and sharing from God's word. Though she had previously studied counselling, MAC equipped her for pastoral care, mentoring younger women and prayer.

"It's enhanced my skills for ministries that I enjoy, and I feel more confident in speaking and praying with people," she said. "Understanding why people do what they do helps me as I listen, a skill that my subjects enhanced and that helped me be more effective with the women I counselled."

Wendy was also amazed to study at the same time as her daughter-in-law, Kim. A busy mum of two working in administration, Kim was initially reluctant when her minister suggested college training to deepen her work as a youth leader.

**"It's enhanced my skills for ministries that I enjoy, and I feel more confident in speaking and praying with people."**

But she relented, in part because of the support of her husband, Rhys (Wendy's son) and her mother-in-law. Though their studies and units rarely overlapped, Wendy and Kim shared a common passion for studying.

Kim was able to complete her studies because MAC's timetable fitted well with her working and family life. "The staff were very supportive and helpful," she said. "The lecturers were really

knowledgeable and wonderful, wise women to learn from."

Kim now works as a school chaplain in Merrylands and can't imagine doing anything else. Her MAC studies "absolutely" prepared her for the role. The pastoral care units that she did "were so incredibly beneficial," she said. "The teaching was practical and self-reflective, helping me realise how my experiences have shaped who I am and how I can care."

Her personal faith — passed down from her own grandmother — and understanding of it has "definitely deepened", Kim said, thanks to her studies in church history. It has also armed her for fielding questions from today's young people as she tries to break new ground sharing her faith with the next generation at church, those she meets through chaplaincy and, of course, her own sons.

Both Wendy and Kim are considering further study, which will undoubtedly continue to influence generations to come.

**Pictured:** Kim and Wendy celebrate graduation with their family.







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*Celebrating history in the making*

In 1989 Sydney's first female Deacons were ordained at St Andrew's Cathedral.  
Janis Donohoo — now an ADM board member — [celebrates her historic view.](#)



## Celebrating history in the making

Thirty years ago as Queen Elizabeth graced the front page of *The London Times*, 14 Anglican women from Australia made their own headlines seven pages later in the same edition. The reason? They were the first women ordained in the Sydney diaconate.

On 24 May 2019, over 200 ministers and friends gathered in St Andrew's Cathedral to celebrate the 30th anniversary of that historic ordination in 1989, which also included 14 men. Rev. Jackie Stoneman, Principal of Mary Andrews College, Rev. Jacinth Myles, ADM Chaplain to the Deaconesses and Retired Deacons, and Rev. Janis Donohoo, ADM board member, as well as Rev. Dr Keith Condie, Co-Director of the Mental Health and Pastoral Care Institute, all ordinands in 1989, took part in the anniversary service.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the significance of this event in the Sydney Diocese in terms of recognising the ministry of women," said Rev. Stoneman. "Here was an acknowledgement of the diaconal ministry that women were already doing."

Rev. Dr Condie considered it a great honour to be ordained alongside the history-making women.

"The ordination service acknowledged that these women already had significant ministries which we men hadn't had because we were just starting out," he said. "Many have continued to make extraordinary contributions in a range of contexts since that time, which has been inspiring to see."

Dean of the Cathedral, Kanishka Raffel, led the 30th anniversary service, and Rev. Di Nicolios, the first Archdeacon for Women in the Sydney Diocese, preached on 2 Timothy 4:1-8. The current Archdeacon for Women's Ministry, the Ven. Kara Hartley, then interviewed two women and Archbishop Glenn Davies offered closing remarks. Following the service, ADM hosted a dinner for the original female deacons and those who'd come to celebrate. "This is one way we could honour the many women who have become deacons in the Anglican church in Sydney," said Rev. Stoneman. "God has indeed been faithful and continues to equip women, both ordained and lay, to serve him to his glory."



**Pictured below:**  
Rev. Chris Jones, Rev. Patsy Dahl, Rev. Dr Keith Condie, Rev. Irene Mok, Rev. Di Nicolios, Rev. Robyn Fry, Rev. Sandra Salmon, Archbishop Glenn Davies, Rev. Narelle Jarrett, Rev. Jackie Stoneman, Rev. Jacinth Myles, Rev. Janis Donohoo, Rev. Michael Palmer, Rev. Clare Percival and Amanda Garlato (representing her husband Marco Garlato who was ordained but has passed away).



**Above:** Rev. Di Nicolios preaches at the celebration.  
**Below left:** Rev. Di Nicolios, Mrs Pam Goodhew, Rev. Dr Evonne Paddison, Archbishop Harry Goodhew.

**Below right:** Col Cable-Jones, Penny Shield, Rev. Jacinth Myles, Leonie deGroen, Rev. Narelle Jarrett and Janis Stewart-Moore (seated).



### WHAT'S A DEACON?

A man or woman who is ordained as part of the threefold order of clergy — deacon, priest, bishop — in the Anglican Church. (In Sydney, women may be ordained as deacons; in other parts of Australia and the world, women may also be ordained as priest and bishop.)



ADM was honoured to hold a dinner in celebration of the historic event.



# LIVES OF SERVICE

*We honour the faithful work of these deaconesses, who have recently gone home to be with the Lord.*



## JEAN STANDFIELD

3 September 1925 – 3 April 2019

Born 3 September 1925, Jean Denise Standfield grew up in Kyogle, NSW, with three sisters and one brother. After their family moved to Sydney, she attended churches in Mascot and Eastlakes.

When she was a child in confirmation classes, she made a life-changing decision. She listened carefully to the minister visiting her church as he explained how to be a Christian.

“He was the sort who used language about believing and accepting Jesus. And that’s what I did,” she said. “The Lord’s been faithful to me ever since.”

Since that first encounter, Jean grew in her faith and eventually became a deaconess serving in churches across Sydney. Jean died on 3 April 2019, at 93 years old, leaving a legacy of faithful and servant-hearted ministry.

“Jean was a lovely faithful soul,” said one friend. “I always found her kind, treating me well throughout my life.” Another remembered her as a “steady, reliable, godly woman.”

That character formation began a year after finishing school when she enrolled at Deaconess House. Commissioned and ordained as an Anglican Deaconess on 3 March 1951, she served at St David’s in Surry Hills. In 1955, Jean moved to Holy Trinity in Panania, then to St Luke’s, Thornleigh, before becoming a chaplain at Chesalon Homes from 1968 to 1985. For over 30 years, she lived in Redfern with fellow deaconess and friend Lynn Gigg in a unit for women working in the inner-city.

Jean became the last head deaconess of Sydney Diocese until 1989, when she retired. Jean’s ministry included preaching and leading services at churches in East Hills and Milperra. “Little churches,” Jean would say, “but I loved it. If I hadn’t led the service, they might not have had a service.”

“Jean was a dear friend to many and our leader for several years, a model of kindness and faithfulness,” said Rev. Jacinth Myles, Chaplain to Deaconesses and Retired Female Deacons. “Now she’s home with the Lord.”



## JEAN HUGHES

6 August 1926 – 11 October 2018

Jean Lucile Hughes was a small, elegant woman, but beneath her pearls and neatly permed hair was a motivated, caring person driven by a deep Christian faith.

Throughout her life, Jean loved many things: her family, bright flowers, watching the ballet at the Opera House and going to the movies at Roseville. But her greatest love was for Jesus, and she spent her life serving those whom he had placed in her care.

Growing up in Wollongong and Sydney, Jean was a strong student and debating star during her time at Fort Street Girls School. She studied arts at Sydney University and then completed a Diploma of Social Work.

She then worked for several years as a social worker before the Dean of Sydney asked her to start the Anglican Marriage Guidance Centre, a remarkable position for a 23-year-old single woman.

Jean married a young medical student, Wal Hughes, and they eventually settled with their children in Turramurra and joined St James Anglican church. Once her children started school, Jean became restless, so she retrained as a high school teacher, teaching at Abbotsleigh School and Roseville College.

In 1986 she enrolled at Deaconess House. At the age of 64, she was the oldest student ever to graduate from the college, and she admitted that she found studying Greek in her sixties very hard. She was the second-to-last person to be ordained as a Deaconess.

Work was often hard to find for a woman of her age, but Jean was appointed Parish Assistant at All Saints Anglican Church in Waitara. There she started an ESL class for new migrants as well as a playgroup for local families.

After the death of her husband, Jean moved into UPA Redleaf apartments in Wahroonga, where staff noted her kindness to other residents and her loyalty to her Christian faith. As Jean’s health weakened, her heart remained rooted in God’s word. Jean continued to attend Bible studies even in the last few weeks before her death on 11 October 2018, reflecting her lifelong commitment to faithful service.



## VALDA POWELL

11 September 1930 – 9 April 2019

*“Buried with Christ and raised with him too. What is left for me to do? Simply to cease from struggling and strife, Simply to walk in newness of life.”*

These lines from a hymn were a favourite with Valda Powell. They also reflect both her deeply held belief that because of Jesus’ death and resurrection there was simply nothing left for her to do, and her long life of service, walking with Jesus.

Born in 1930 and raised in the suburbs of western Sydney, Valda’s childhood was influenced by the Great Depression and World War II, in which her father served. Giving her life to Jesus during her teenage years at a Mission Crusade, Valda signed a Pledge of Christian Endeavour on 19 March 1947:

*“Trusting in the Lord Jesus for strength, I promise him that I will strive to do whatever he would have me do, that I will make it a rule of my life to pray, to read the Bible every day, to support the work and worship of my own church in every possible way, and so far as I know how, throughout my whole life, I will endeavour to lead a Christian life.”*

This faith and desire to “lead a Christian life” moved Valda to begin a lifetime of ministry. Called by God to theological studies at Deaconess House, she was ordained as a deaconess in 1953 and began parish work in West Ryde and then at St Luke’s, Liverpool.

As she ministered at St Luke’s and in the surrounding district, she met her future husband, Ralph Powell, and they married

in 1958. They went on to have four children and moved to Coolah in country NSW. Although she had left the place where she had trained and begun her ministry, Valda always believed in the importance of sharing Jesus’ message of salvation and continued to serve Christ in Coolah: teaching scripture classes, becoming superintendent of the local Sunday school, running Bible studies, missions and camps and serving as a Deaconess and pastoral assistant in her local parish.

When her husband died, and with her children grown and far away in Sydney, Valda learnt to drive for the first time at age 53. She continued to work full-time while also running the Sunday School and the weekly church service in the outlying villages of the parish around Coolah.

Following a heart-attack at 58, Valda stopped her paid work and moved to the Blue Mountains, closer to family. Now a retiree and grandmother, Valda’s service to Christ remained unchanged. She continued to run Bible study classes and to teach Scripture in schools. She trusted in God’s plans for her and surrendered to his purpose, regardless of her own concerns.

As age and ill-health necessitated a move to a nursing home, she declared, “I’ll keep going until I go no more. I don’t want to go to the nursing home, but if God has a purpose for me over there, then I’ll go”.

Faithful until the end to the pledge she made early in her life, Valda is remembered as a woman who worked for Christ, served his church and trusted the Lord all her days.

At the service of thanksgiving for Valda, Rev. David Doran urged the congregation to remember the source of Valda’s passion and strength: the Lord Jesus Christ, and to follow her example in pursuing knowing Jesus “with everything you have”.

## “HEAVEN IS MY HOME AND THAT IS MY JOY!”

Deaconess Valda Powell



### WHAT’S A DEACONESS?

A lay woman who has been ‘set apart’ for life-long ministry, especially to women and children, the poor and afflicted in church service. In the Sydney Diocese no one has been set apart as a Deaconess since 1991.



Miriam Numamurdird is the first local Christian leader in the Northern Territory to participate in a unique pilot program.

An ADM Mercy & Justice Grant is providing Miriam with a two-year paid traineeship in Bible translation & leadership development. She is working in partnership with Rev. Kate Beer, CMS Ministry Development Officer for the Diocese.

## My story

By Miriam Numamurdird

Well, in 2009, I changed my life [understood to mean 'to follow Jesus']. My husband and I went fishing one Saturday and caught a lot of fish and turtle. While I was fishing, I heard a voice in my ear singing. I told my husband that I could hear Randall's voice singing in my ear<sup>1</sup>. It was so amazing to me.

Then we were walking back to our house and I was still hearing Randall singing that song in my ear.

When we got back home we were sitting around the fire at home and I was still hearing it. People were having Christian fellowship (singing and prayer time) outside [my neighbour] Hanna's house. Well, my kids went to fellowship to dance to the action songs. Well, I got up and I walked with my kids. I told them I would wait for them at their grandmother's house. But I didn't go there, I went to fellowship!

And Sunday night, I decided to give my life [to Jesus], there and then.

In 2010, I went to Nungalinya College<sup>2</sup> to do some study. I did the Foundation course [in English literacy and numeracy] and in 2013-2015 I did the Certificate III in Theology. In 2016-2017 I did the Certificate IV in Theology.

I graduated and I finished all the study I was doing. In 2017, I called Kate Beer in the Diocesan Office for help. I wanted to hold Bible studies throughout the Easter week. It was the first time for my husband and I to have Easter in my community of Urapunga.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, we had Bible studies about Easter. People came and we sat talking together and everyone liked [the studies]. Those people were really hungry for God's word! But on Thursday, we followed the story of Jesus' death and the last supper Jesus had with his disciples. We went hunting and caught barramundi and a buffalo and cooked it all for dinner for everyone. They enjoyed it and they were singing and doing action songs and everyone was really happy.

We did it [again] last year in 2018. And this year a lot of people asked about coming to us at St Philip's Urapunga [for Easter]. We welcome all people who come and have Easter with us. You are welcome!

1. Randall Carew is a Roper Valley singer/songwriter of the Rembarrnga and Ngalakan people.

2. An Indigenous Christian College in Darwin.

Miriam's story in her native language Kriol:

Wal, langa 2009, aibin tjenjim main laif. Mi en main husband minbala bin go, imbin Satedei wikend minbala bin go langa riba fishing en minbala bin gajim big mob fish en shot nek tertel. Brom deya aibin stat irrim det bois langa main irriwoll singsingbat. Aibin dalim main husben mi irrimbat Randall bois singsingbat langa main irriwoll. Imbin brabli amazingwan blanga main.

En brom deya minbala bin wokwokbat bek langa kemp en aibin kipgon irrim det song wen Randall bin singsingbat langa main irriwoll.

Wen minbala bin la kemp minbala jidan langa fiya en aibin stil lisen wen aibin langa kemp. Olabat bin abumbat feloship langa Hanna kemp autsaid. Wal, main biginini mob bin go langa feloship blanga ekshan. Wal, aibin gidap en wok garra main biginini. Aibin dalim olabat ai garra wait blanga yumob langa yumob abuji kemp. Bat najing. Ai nomo bin langa olabat abuji kemp, aibin go garram olabat langa feloship!

En Sandei nait aibin jinggibat blaga gibit main laif deya na.

Langa 2010, aibin go langa Nungalinya koledj blanga dum stadi. Aibin dum foundashan, en 2013-2015 aibin dum sertifikat 3 thioloji, en 2016-2017 aibin dum sertifikat 4 thioloji.

Aibin gradyait en aibin binij deya na ol detlot stadi weya aibin dum. 2017, aibin kol en askim Kate Beer langa diocese ofis blanga album mi. Dumaji, aibin wandi abum Baibul stadi thru langa det ista wik. Imbin fes taim blanga mi en main husben bla abum ista deya langa Urapunga, main komyuniti.

Wal Mandei en Tyusdei en Wensdei melabat bin abum stadi blanga det ista na.

Pipul bin kaman en melabat bin jidan gija en toktokgija en ebriwan bin laigim. Det mob bin hanggriwan blanga det wed nomo lilbit. Bat Thesdei melabat bin bulurum det stori blanga Jisas wen dei bin kilim im dead en det laswan sapa na, Jisas bin abum garram im wekinmenmob. En blanga tharran na melabat bin dum. Melabat bin go hanting en mela bin gaji barramundi en bulogi, en kukimbat supa blanga holot. Dei bin rili gudbinji, en ebriwan bin singsingbat en gudbinji.

Melabat bin dum las yiya, 2018. En bigmob pipul bin askim blanga kaman disyia langa melabat deya la Urapunga — St Filip tjetj. Melabat welkam ola pipul blanga kaman en abum ista garram melabat. Yumob welkam na!





# helping a friend

WITH MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES



**By Sarah Condie**  
Co-director, Mental Health & Pastoral Care Institute (MHPCI)

The text I received from Ella\* was bleak. She couldn't sleep, hadn't eaten for ages, was angry with God and other Christians, and had had enough of feeling so dark.

I'm not a trained mental health professional. I have neither the ability nor the responsibility to 'fix' Ella. But as a sister in Christ, I want to "weep with those who weep" and help bear the burden of another.

What can we do to offer Christian care to those like Ella? With mental health challenges on the rise — whether depression, loneliness or more difficult illnesses — Christian leaders are increasingly faced with questions of caring for those in our midst. We don't have to shy away from such issues nor stigmatise friends experiencing mental health problems. Some will require professional support. But we can help with practical and biblical responses.

After asking God for guidance and seeking wisdom from others, I responded to Ella in several small but effective ways:

**1 I asked how Ella was feeling and I listened.**

When we met together, I gave her time to answer. I put my phone in my bag and used non-verbal cues to show I was fully present. Then I let Ella tell me how she was feeling. A tap had been turned on and she needed to talk. All I did was listen but when she stopped, she told me I'd been helpful, though I hadn't said much.

Listening is an act of love because it focuses on the other. James commands us to be quick to listen and slow to speak. Or as the wise counsel of God puts it, "To answer before listening, that is folly and shame" (Proverbs 18:13). When interacting with those struggling with mental health, listening can be a first step in moving forward.

**2 I let Ella choose what she shared.**

I didn't push or probe. I knew Ella needed courage to talk, to feel safe. But such trust is earned through gentleness and kindness. When I felt it was appropriate, I asked Ella if she had seen her doctor recently, and offered to take her. I could listen, but I knew too that if I felt out of my depth, I'd ask for help.

**3 I asked the question that's so hard to ask.**

"Are you thinking about taking your life?" She promised me she wasn't. Professionals suggest it's better to ask this question because it shows you care and will decrease the risk. If she'd said "yes", I would have encouraged her to call a suicide helpline, and not left her alone until she was in a safe place. We then made plans to meet again regularly over the following weeks. She seemed genuinely thankful and agreed.

**4 I asked Ella if I could read God's word to her and pray.**

This was what Ella longed for. It was too hard going to church but her soul was hungry. She needed to be reminded that in God she had hope, even though she had many questions, and felt like God had abandoned her.

I turned to the Psalms. David's struggles help us with our own and remind us of the truth about God. It reminds us not what we have to do for God, but that God is for us. His eyes are on his children, and he hears our silent groans.



Photo by Priscilla Du Preez on Unsplash

**5 I asked Ella about her wellbeing.**

Over time, I asked other questions: about sleep, exercise, diet. I gave her a small blank book and encouraged her to jot down three things she could thank God for each day. I asked if she would meet me before church and offered to sit with her. I encouraged her to connect with her friends.

Of course, every person is unique. Mental health difficulties range from the mild to the severe. But Christ-centred care does make a difference. I watched Ella make small improvements. Once, she texted me and asked if she could write down more than three things to be thankful for! She began to volunteer at church. Yes, she continued to wrestle with questions and faith. But she moved forward.

Not everyone responds the same. But Christians are called to love others as Jesus loves us. As God's people, we can offer light and life to those in the darkness of mental health challenges. We don't need to be a professional to care for them.

\*Ella is a pseudonym.

This article was first published through an ADM partnership with Propel Sophia.

## RAISING RESILIENT Parents

New mums find help through supportive programs.

Does bringing first-time mums together make a difference? That question has been part of a 12-month research project for Raising Resilient Parents program founders, ADM's Sarah Condie, Lyn Worsley of the Resilience Centre and research assistant Emma Yin.

Thanks to a scholarship from Fuller Seminary in the US, six local churches were able to offer the program. This provided the research leaders with an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the program for first-time parents transitioning during this time.

Lyn conducted online intensive training for facilitators from each church. Facilitators were equipped to offer first-time mums the opportunity to attend a monthly support group, and then to take part in a four week intensive course with their husband on resilience, once their baby is about nine months old.

As new mums connected with other first time mums, they were encouraged to share the challenges they're experiencing of life with a baby while learning from each other. They also received instruction in areas such as vision setting for a family, building optimistic thinking and developing resilience in a time of transition.

"We're interested to see which part of this program is most beneficial for parents to feel more confident, positive and connected," Sarah said. "Is it the monthly support group, the four week intensive or the combination that helps these first time parents? When we know that, we can create a more effective program for developing resilient parents."



**Pictured (top):** A group of facilitators meet for 'Raising Resilient Parents' training at the ADM offices in November 2018.

Sarah Condie, Co-Director, and Emma Yin, Researcher, from ADM's Mental Health & Pastoral Care Institute.



THE  
greenhouse

GROWING  
COMMUNITY  
FOR CHRISTIAN  
WOMEN

It's been another year of growing community for Christian women at ADM. We've loved seeing our 'garden in the city' take shape as women from a variety of backgrounds come together to spur one another on in serving Christ.

Thanks to an old server room in our office going 'to the cloud', we renovated and expanded our 'Garden Room' in January. This once cluttered computer room is now a welcome space for hosting events in the evening, as well as allowing us the opportunity to launch a dedicated coworking space for Christian women during the weekdays.

Our commitment to provide hospitality, space and community for Christian women has a long history at ADM. Martha Archdall and her husband Rev. Mervyn Archdall started ADM in 1891 because they wanted to see Christian women active in public life. Martha gathered people into her drawing room in the City of Sydney and built community through and around the work she did.

We want Christian women to think of our Garden Room in the same way: as a 'drawing room' of sorts, where those who still need a home base and community can find refreshment before going back out into the world to serve Jesus in their respective fields.

That's why we're excited about the 'ministry of space' we're able to offer at ADM today in the heart of Sydney's CBD through our coworking space.

Alongside our coworking space, the Greenhouse also provides generous seed funding and mentoring support through our Annual Funding Event (see page 31)

and Incubator Program (see page 11).

Our Engage program has also been growing strong with our masterclasses, providing integrated theological and professional development opportunities for Christian women.

This past year we've run masterclasses on "Presenting with impact" with a voice and dialect coach, and "Innovation 101", a hands-on entrepreneurship workshop to give women the tools to imagine, design and validate ventures.

Rev. Dr Michael Jensen spoke to an Engage dinner on "Finding your voice for public engagement", and ADM Visiting Fellow Katelyn Beaty discussed Christian vision and calling — issues she explores in her book *A Woman's Place* — with over 50 women.

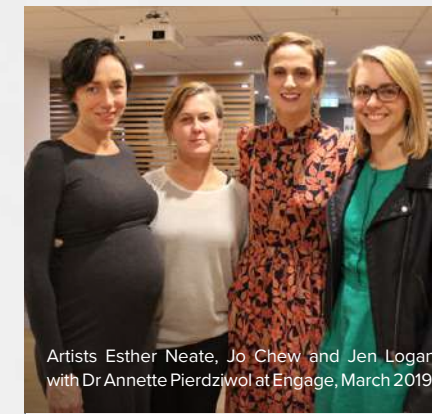
We've loved sharing our 'garden in the city' and hope more Christian women will come join us as we grow together!

— Dr Annette Pierdziwol & Stephanie Dunk



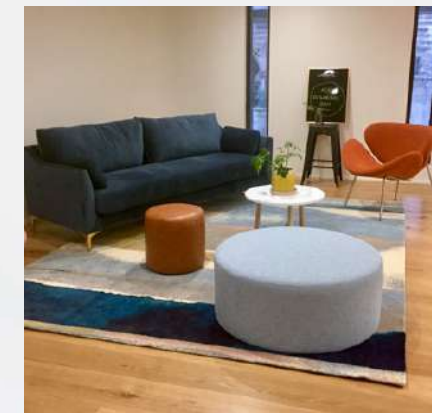
CO  
WORKING  
space

ENGAGE  
community



ENGAGE EVENING  
SESSIONS

Our monthly evening sessions have evolved into an Engage favourite over the past year. Taking place on the first Thursday of the month, the evening sessions take the form of works-in-progress over a dinner party as three Christian women from diverse fields share their stories and current projects. We've heard from women in ministry, artists, archivists, those working in aid and development, business, healthcare, and many more. It's been a great way to network and be inspired to serve Christ in our various spheres!



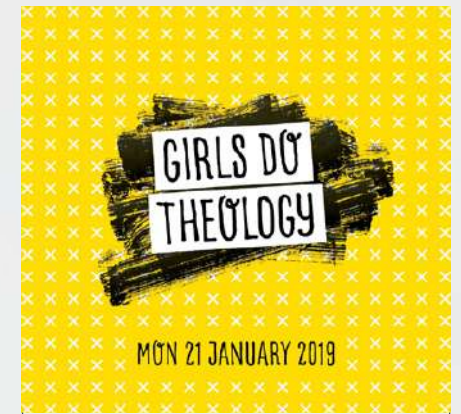
COWORKING SPACE

Our newly opened Greenhouse coworking space is perfect for freelancers, entrepreneurs, writers and anyone needing an inspiring and comfortable space to work. Based on a growing movement of individuals working alongside each other, the coworking model engages people from different organisations and industries. We're proud to offer subsidised rates for Christian women needing a space in Sydney's CBD. Bookings will be available soon on the ADM website.

ANNUAL  
funding  
EVENT

Find out more  
about Our Annual  
Funding Event  
on Page 31.

Find out more about The Greenhouse:  
[deaconessministries.org.au/the-greenhouse](http://deaconessministries.org.au/the-greenhouse)



GIRLS DO THEOLOGY

During their summer holidays, 46 girls in Years 10-12 came from across Sydney to attend ADM's inaugural "Girls Do Theology" event. The goal? To explore how God connects to life, literature and the world as they heard from speakers Katelyn Beaty, Dr Kirsten Birkett and Rev. Canon Dr Alison Milbank.

Dr Milbank, Associate Professor of Literature and Theology at the University of Nottingham, invited the girls to look at "fantasy and gothic literature through a theological lens, that theology is the lens through which we should study everything!"

Dr Birkett, 2018 ADM Senior Research Fellow, helped the girls think about the "primary source of joy and happiness coming from a relationship with God".

Beaty, the youngest managing editor of *Christianity Today* magazine and author of *A Woman's Place*, challenged the girls to discover their "deep gladness" in serving the world.

The girls then asked the speakers questions and interacted over lunch with new friends and mentors.

"It was a delight for ADM to host these young women and emerging theologians," said Dr Annette Pierdziwol, who oversaw the event.







ANNUAL  
funding  
EVENT

# investing IN BIG DREAMS

## ADM AWARDED OVER \$60,000 TO AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE IN ITS THIRD ANNUAL FUNDING EVENT

Selected women from four states across Australia, as well as Australians living in Norway, Papua New Guinea and the UK received funding for a variety of unique Christian initiatives and ministries at ADM's third Annual Funding Event in September, 2018. Aligning with ADM's 127 year old commitment to theological formation, mercy and justice and public engagement, this year's 17 applicants presented projects within the categories of *Ideas*, *Form*, *Do* and *Engage*. Applicants offered five-minute pitches in front of expert panellists and an audience of over 80 guests including church ministers, business women, creatives and lay leaders.

"We want to affirm the innovative ideas and excellent work of Australian Christian women, and our Funding Event is one way we do that," said ADM Director of Public Engagement Dr Annette Pierdziwol, who oversees the event. "ADM's Annual Funding Event provides a unique forum for entrepreneurial Christian women to bring their ideas and initiatives before a panel and pitch for up to \$25,000 in no-strings attached funding. It's inspiring to see the breadth and depth of creative ways that women are using their gifts to serve God and their neighbours."

**"We want to affirm the innovative ideas and excellent work of Australian Christian women, and our Funding Event is one way we do that"**

Dr Annette Pierdziwol

After the pitches were considered, Dr Kate Harrison Brennan, CEO of ADM, and Rev. Jenni Stoddart, ADM's Board Chair, presented the winners in each category. Capturing the overall award of \$25,000 of the day, and winner of the *Engage* category, was Jen Logan, Director of Fer, an international visual arts initiative based in the UK. (Read a Q&A with Jen on page 32).



**Pitchers:** Susan Sohn, Co-founder of Ministry of Sex (MOS); Anna Weir, Founder and Leader of The Fireplace; and Jade-Tanya Worsley, program coordinator at The Sago Network.

**Bernadette Black**, CEO & Founding Director of the Brave Foundation, an effort that assists teen parents, won \$12,500 in the *Do* category.

**Anna McGahan**, Founder and Leader of The Fireplace, a Christ-centred gathering for professional and emerging artists in the entertainment industries, won \$12,500 in the category of *Form*.

The People's Choice award of \$2,000 went to **Sono Leone**, Founder and Director of Strong Women Talking, a ministry that addresses domestic violence within Indigenous communities. All of the other women who pitched during the day also received \$1,000.

In addition to cash prizes, the three category winners were invited to join the 2019 cohort of the Hub. The Hub is a unique, one-year mentoring program designed to support participants to take their initiatives to the next level.

"ADM is thrilled to support Christian women who are creative, innovative and passionate about serving the good of the world," said Dr Kate Harrison Brennan, CEO of ADM. "It's our privilege to come alongside faithful women leaders in promoting theological formation as they engage with the public and do mercy and justice work, all in the name of Jesus."

> Find out more about our Annual Funding Event at: [deaconessministries.org.au/annual-funding-event](https://deaconessministries.org.au/annual-funding-event)



# Q&A

WITH  
**JEN LOGAN**  
WINNER OF  
ADM'S 2018  
ANNUAL  
FUNDING  
EVENT

Jen Logan founded and leads **Fer**, an arts organisation in the UK that produces creative and theologically inspired projects reflecting the Christian narrative. Because Fer is Latin for 'that which carries', Jen sees her work as a collaborative way to 'carry' the Christian story through culturally relevant forms such as video, fashion design, performance and the written word.

come to flesh, who established the prophetic tradition of performed signs, who established the church as a relational art form and instituted the sacraments as artistic rituals (as one way of understanding them), then it's true to the message itself to communicate it creatively.

2. It's true to the whole person. We are not just rational beings. Art moves us. We are emotional, sensory people with souls and spirits that run deeper than our mental faculties.

Jen's faith and vision have been formed through family, church experiences and conversations with leaders like John Dickson. After training and working in social work in Sydney, Jen moved to the UK and studied at the London School of Theology and at Kings College London, earning a MA in Christianity and the Arts. While she was in Sydney on a family visit, she spoke at ADM's March Engage session. We caught up with her then for a Q&A, from which the following is an excerpt:

**Q** Your mum trained and worked at Deaconess House. Tell us about the impact it had.

**A** She worked as assistant to the principal, Margaret Rodgers, in charge of housekeeping. Her studies there gave her an incredible knowledge of the Bible and when she tells a Bible story you feel like she really knows the characters, which has been great since she's worked in children's ministry for 50 years. I'd love to collaborate with her on something someday.

**Q** Why do we need creative expressions of Christian faith?

**A** Two reasons: 1. It's true to the whole message of Christianity. If our story is about the God who made creation, in a creative speech act, who creates and recreates endlessly, who made word

## CREATIVITY, GOSPEL TRUTH AND THE DIGNITY OF MAKING ART

Because Christianity is all encompassing, we can use any artefact in culture, any moment in history, any cultural conversation as our entry point for engagement. The engagement might start with a sitcom about London flatmates, or a debate about domestic spatial design, or how self-sacrifice rather than self-preservation could be the rewarding actions within contemporary video game design. The earth is the Lord's and everything in it so all roads can naturally lead back to him and to the gospel, but even before they do, these things have value in showing Christianity to be relevant to, and have voice and application for, all areas of life and culture. Ours is not just an abstract faith expressed through an abstract message.

**Q** What pops into your mind when you hear the words:

**A Curiosity:** It's a form of love, especially when GPs and consultants show professional curiosity to find out what's wrong with people. It shows care.

**Creativity:** Everything done well, whatever it is, is creativity.

**Compassion:** My hope for who my children will be.

**Abundance:** A hard truth to believe in because, like the Israelites, we fall into 'scarcity mentality' by default, not 'abundance mentality' as we should.

**Imagination:** Someone told me people who are 'good' at prayer are often people who engage their imaginations as they are praying.

**Q** How do you think works of art might intrinsically reflect the work of God?

**A** Such a great question because I think artists have thought "OK, so this work of art isn't saving the world, it's not fundraising, it's not explicitly sharing the gospel so what is its value?" How art reflects the work of God is ironically by asserting its value apart from any kind of work. An artwork itself often isn't doing anything. And in its boldness in just being and not doing, it speaks of a God of being not just doing: a God who works, but also rests.

Art is also powerful and effective; it changes people, it changes culture. And if it tells truth, if it's beautiful or brings delight to the viewer, if it contributes to a cultural conversation, asks

**"BECAUSE CHRISTIANITY IS ALL ENCOMPASSING, WE CAN USE ANY ARTEFACT IN CULTURE, ANY MOMENT IN HISTORY, ANY CULTURAL CONVERSATION AS OUR ENTRY POINT FOR ENGAGEMENT."**

Jen Logan

helpful questions, does the soul good or does good for humanity (even if it's through a disruptive or provocative work), it participates in the life and work of God. Even if it's just enjoyment or experimentation or therapy, it's valuable because art is one of God's gifts for just that.

**Q** What's happening in your ministry and artistic relationships that's encouraging you?

**A** I love the process of collaborating with non-Christians. Recently I worked with a film director who is not a Christian. As we worked together on a short theological film, we had to have theological conversations in order to do the work. The film was then used as part of a new ritual design to help young adult Christians transition from study into full-time work. She then came with me to the event and said she wished she could have had a 'right of passage' ritual like that for herself at that age. It's moments like that which make collaborating on Christian projects with non-Christians so wonderful.

> For the entire Q&A, see: [deaconessministries.org.au/jenlogan](http://deaconessministries.org.au/jenlogan)



Pictured: Jen Logan and her husband, David.



# MENTAL HEALTH: WHAT CHRISTIAN FAITH CAN OFFER

**By Rev. Dr Keith Condie**  
Co-director, Mental Health & Pastoral Care Institute (MHPCI)



Like every aspect of our lives, our minds suffer the ill-effects of living in a fallen, broken world. All of us experience challenges to our mental health; nearly one in two of us will suffer a diagnosable mental health disorder at some stage in our lives. Increasingly, our society is recognising these concerns and talking about them, as professionals learn more about the nature of these struggles and how to treat them.

Even with such advances, I believe Christian faith offers something unique. Most mental health professionals acknowledge the complex factors that impinge upon our wellbeing. They affirm that we are bio-psycho-social beings: influenced by our biological and genetic makeup, our past experiences and patterns of thinking, and our networks of relationships. Yet they also recognise a spiritual dimension to life, one where questions of meaning and purpose influence us for good or ill.

New research shows that some of the attitudes and behaviours I would characterise as the Christian walk actually do us good. For example, gratitude positively shapes neural pathways. Being warm-hearted towards others — showing kindness and forgiveness — builds our resilience.

In particular, I believe that two aspects of Christian faith and experience offer enormous potential for benefitting people's lives. Firstly, faith in Jesus Christ draws us into a bigger story with significant implications for our self-understanding

and destiny. We are gifted with an identity as God's beloved children, with nothing to prove and a sense of worth that doesn't depend upon how well we perform. Yet this God who made all things and is restoring all things through Christ invites us to work with him in fulfilling his great plans and purposes! Scripture reminds us that our future rests secure in his faithful hands. These truths are psychologically freeing. We can find joy, even on bad days, when these truths are woven deeply into our hearts.

Secondly, faith in Christ also draws us into a community — the church. Relating face-to-face is one of the deepest wellsprings of human happiness, and the relationships found in our churches can enrich and fulfil our lives. We make a real difference when we take seriously Jesus' words that we are family (Mark 3:31-35), when we welcome and love each other, including those struggling with their mental health.

In our new mental health short courses, we've explored these ideas and more. We've helped participants to understand the mental health landscape and the theological principles that undergird a Christian perspective. My hope and prayer is that those who are in pastoral ministry as well as those who are members of a local church will catch a vision of the difference they can make, so that church communities become places of light and love for all.

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**“Faith in Jesus Christ draws us into a bigger story with significant implications for our self-understanding and destiny. We are gifted with an identity as God’s beloved children, with nothing to prove and a sense of worth that doesn’t depend upon how well we perform.”**

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Rev. Dr Keith Condie



# New short courses equip leaders in mental health

## Teaming up:

A joint initiative between Mary Andrews College and the Mental Health & Pastoral Care Institute

When friends confide about their mental health struggles, it's not always easy for Christians to know how to respond. What practical help can they offer?

Considering almost half of all Australians experience a mental illness in their lives, the question is both timely and relevant, reflecting an ever-growing need for Christians to have biblical and practical ways to address such challenges.

This year, ADM's Mental Health and Pastoral Care Institute (MHPCI) and Mary Andrews College (MAC) teamed up to create a series of short courses which equip church members, ministry staff and leaders to care for those in their congregations facing mental health challenges. In April and May, Mental Health 101 and Mental Health Masterclass were offered at the ADM office, each fully booked with about 30 students each, including clergy, pastoral care workers and church members.

"There is great encouragement when like-minded people gather around a topic that is significant for them," said Rev. Kerrie Newmarch, ADM Director of Church Engagement and Training who helped develop the new initiative. "These new courses provide a great opportunity to be informed and equipped in our understanding and compassion of areas for wellbeing, which can be difficult."

The MHPCI takes a holistic approach to addressing mental illness, combining pastoral care with current research. Mental Health 101, for instance, provides participants with an overview of common mental health disorders, the role of the church and how to respond to a crisis.

"In developing resources for churches, we draw on the wisdom and guidance in the Bible, combined with the best psychological and medical research", said Rev. Dr Keith Condie,



**"I'M SO PLEASED THAT CHURCH WORKERS HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING. I THINK IT IS WONDERFUL THAT A COURSE LIKE THIS IS BEING RUN."**

Hannah Kim, psychologist, pictured above with Rev. Dr Keith Condie

co-director of the MHPCI who created and taught the courses. "We want these resources to make a lasting impact upon the mental and spiritual wellbeing of many in our churches and communities."

Alongside Rev. Jackie Stoneman, Principal of MAC, Dr Condie also taught a Mental Health Masterclass for ministry staff and pastoral care workers.

"Our starting point is God's loving concern for the spiritual, mental, emotional, physical and social wellbeing of all," said Condie. "We are convinced that the gospel of Jesus Christ speaks into all life contexts to provide grace and encouragement, and to alleviate distress."

Each short course — as well as new ones planned on topics such as anxiety and stress, understanding depression, and building resilience — will be offered throughout the year at both the ADM office and at churches wishing to host such a short course.

The goal is to provide thoughtful, biblical and current training that educates and equips participants in caring for those who are hurting. Short courses also bring ministry staff and church members together for mutual encouragement and networking as they learn to care for those facing mental health challenges.

"Our hope is that these courses help to create healthy and positive relationships with people in all of our communities," Rev. Stoneman said.

> Find out more about short courses: [mentalhealthinstitute.org.au/shortcourses](https://mentalhealthinstitute.org.au/shortcourses)

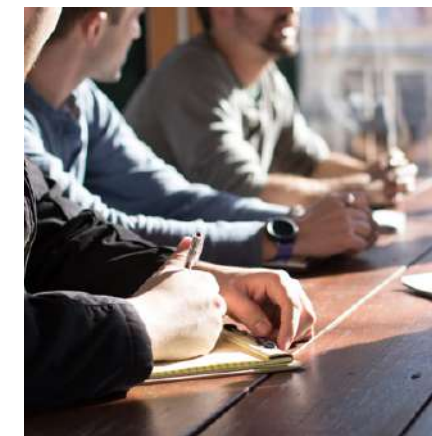


**Picture:** Rev. Dr Keith Condie teaches the Mental Health Masterclass at ADM.



## MENTAL HEALTH 101

From anxiety to personality disorders, Mental Health 101 provides an overview of common mental health challenges, the mental health system and how the church can best respond. Topics explored include mental health as a continuum, an overview of mental health disorders, a Christian perspective on mental health, managing suicide risk, understanding and engaging with Australia's mental health system, and the role of the church regarding mental health.



## MENTAL HEALTH MASTERCLASS

The Mental Health Masterclass provides a theological and practical framework for ministry staff seeking to serve those within their congregations struggling with mental health issues while sustaining other essential ministries. The course explores biblical and practical approaches to understanding mental health issues, how the church can help, the limits of a church worker's role, and when and how to seek support from mental health professionals.



## RELATING ACROSS CULTURES

This unique, practical course, developed in partnership with CMS Australia, aims to equip church members to relate in helpful and meaningful ways with friends and neighbours from other cultures. It provides an overview of the range and depth of cultural differences, a deepened understanding of their own worldviews and cultural preferences, and an improved cross-cultural competence in sharing the Bible as they engage with friends in their community.



# CHRISTIAN WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE

ADM Fellowships



**4** books published by ADM Fellows

**7** new positions offered to ADM Fellows

**90** public events and media engagements

**By Dr Annette Pierdziwol**  
Director of Public Engagement

**When ADM began its Fellowships Program in 2017, we could only dream about the impact it would have in raising up Christian women for public engagement. Now, as we welcome our third cohort of Fellows in 2019, our alumni already have some remarkable stories to share.**

Pictured above are the year-long 2019 ADM Fellows. From left to right, they are: **Rev. Dani Treweek**, whose Fellowship project focuses on developing a theologically and pastorally integrated account of singleness, addressing questions of identity, purpose and belonging for the unmarried Christian. **Dr Roberta Kwan**, a scholar of Shakespeare who is completing her first book on Shakespeare and Protestant Hermeneutics, is also beginning research for a

new project on Shakespeare's theological ethic of neighbourly love. **Brooke Prentis**, an Aboriginal Christian leader from the Waka Waka peoples, is working on a project aimed at resourcing the Australian church to engage, build and deepen relationships with Aboriginal peoples. Lastly, our Creative Fellow **Emma Pitman** is developing a series of lyric essays which she hopes will give readers the tools to understand complex questions about women and power in today's society.

Our 2019 Fellows have already been busy in public engagement. Brooke has appeared three times on ABC TV's *The Drum*, Emma has had one of her essays published in the print edition of *Meanjin*, while Roberta has relished her recent opportunity to visit the Shakespeare Folger Library's vast collection

of primary sources in Washington, D.C. to further her new book project, and Dani has lectured at Sydney Missionary and Bible College's 'Hot Topics' series. We can't wait to see how God will continue leading these women as they engage a sceptical and hurting world with the good news of Jesus.

It has also been a great delight to see the remarkable fruit the Fellowships program has produced, under God, in just two short years. We're still pinching ourselves that 2017 Fellow Meredith Lake is now the host of *Soul Search* on ABC's Radio National, leading national discussions around questions of religious faith and life (see page 46). We're excited that 2019 Summer Fellow Grace Lung is now the Director of Asian Contextual Engagement with RICE Movement

(see page 56). We've cheered the recent publication of 2017 Fellow Dr. Louise Gosbell's first book (see page 56), the creative works of Jo Chew's recent art exhibit at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, and Jo Kadlecek's play "Speak . . . easy" in the 2019 Sydney Fringe Festival. We also eagerly await a new book on a theological approach to happiness from 2018 Fellow Kirsten Birkett (see page 40).

It's such a joy to see the public sphere being filled with the voices of theologically-grounded, mature and generous Christian women, as they serve in our communities, nation and world.

> To read more about where our alumni are now, visit: [deaconessministries.org.au/fellowships](http://deaconessministries.org.au/fellowships)

**Pictured:** ADM 2019 Fellows Rev. Dani Treweek, Dr Roberta Kwan, Brooke Prentis and Emma Pitman.



# HAPPINESS

## is happiness biblical?

When Christians find out I am researching happiness, one of the common questions is, “Does God want us to be happy?” It’s difficult to answer, since there’s so much assumed in it: What do you mean by ‘happy’?



By Dr Kirsten Birkett  
2018 ADM Senior  
Research Fellow

In the academic literature on happiness, there is a level of greater clarity, but there is still a range of definitions psychologists and philosophers mean by ‘happiness’.

The ‘eudaimonic’ definition of happiness, a Greek word usually translated into English as ‘happiness’, is common. Plato thinks it’s found in philosophical contemplation. Aristotle writes of the life of balanced virtue. It’s essentially to do with a life ‘lived well’ – the best kind of life, the life that most fulfils human potential and judged to be a good life. This is considered the happy life.

‘Eudaimonic’ was imported into modern psychology to capture an idea that happiness is not just about inner feeling, but something more than that. Not everyone agrees – a great many psychological researchers still concentrate on happiness as positive inner experience.

Some prefer a definition that has an objective component, more likely to be found from, for instance, economists or policy researchers looking for

what makes a happy society, or what social priorities should be embedded into public policy to ensure the population is happy (rather than, say, wealthy). Bhutan, noted for its emphasis on national happiness, is concerned not just with people’s internal emotions (considered a ‘western’ idea), but how people thrive generally.

For this definition to have some shape, it must be decided what contributes to a thriving life. The content as to what makes for a life well lived varies greatly, depending to a large extent on the values of the person defining it. Aristotle, with his idea that the essence of being human is to be rational, thought that a rationally worked out ethical life was best. Some modern writers agree the best life is moral, but their definition of moral behaviour might be very different from Aristotle. Others suggest life is about fulfilling human potential, however that is defined; this itself is often celebrated as the ‘meaning’ of life.

### What about the Bible?

The word eudaimonia does not appear in the New Testament. If we look beyond the word to the concept itself, we see the Bible teaches us about a flourishing life, even in terms that secular writers on eudaimonic happiness might recognise.

Aristotle wrote of the virtuous person leading a flourishing life, an idea we find in the Bible. “Blessed is the man,” Psalm 1 tells us, “whose delight is in the law of the Lord.” This is not Aristotle’s ethics, not something we work out from rational principles; rather the biblical idea is a life of living righteously – a life which God gives us – which cannot be separated from the covenants God makes with his people.

Other ideas found in the modern definition of happiness also appear in the Bible: it is good. God blesses his people with food and provisions. The new creation is described in terms of plenty; many metaphors for heaven suggest feasting. It is good to have relationships, part of what God expects of us. Jesus

summarises the law as loving our neighbour as well as ourselves. Much follows from that to do with family, community, even politics. The Bible commends education and thinking, truth and knowing. A godly life is a thriving life, in many of the same terms as described by eudaimonic happiness researchers. This is hardly surprising: God created the people studied by those very researchers.

The Bible also talks about living as humans in a much bigger world than most researchers contemplate. We know we are not just living for this creation, but for the next. So when Jesus talks about the ‘blessed’ person, he puts it in very different terms. Blessed are those who are poor, he says; those who mourn, the meek, those who are hungry, who weep, who are reviled or excluded. This is the thriving life, in his terms – very different from what researchers tend to emphasise! Jesus deliberately turns upside-down what it is to be blessed.

### So is happiness in the Bible?

Eudaimonia may not be, but the Bible tells us how to live well, how to live the best life. The content of that life sometimes overlaps with what researchers tell us, but the Bible also tells us how to live well now, in this creation and in light of the next. That is the truly flourishing life.

Adapted from an essay Kirsten wrote from her talks at the 2019 School of Theology, Culture and Public Engagement for *Eternity News*.



Photo by Trevor Gerzen on Unsplash





## MEET LIBBY SANDERS

ADM's new program manager for Mercy and Justice. Libby has worked with World Vision and Baptist World Aid Australia in youth engagement, church engagement, fundraising and advocacy. Prior to her appointment with ADM in March 2019, Libby was the project lead on the Ethical Fashion Guide in Baptist World Aid's advocacy team. She's passionate about seeing the church engaged and resourced to respond to local and global issues of injustice.

Having experience in youth ministry and working in youth engagement with World Vision Australia, Libby adores and is deeply inspired by young people. She is committed to empowering teenagers and young adults in our churches, and particularly encouraging their leadership in the church's response to areas of justice. Libby will be studying postgraduate communications at UTS this year, is married to Scott and together they attend Northside Baptist Church.

Her work at ADM will range across research, political engagement and campaign development in areas such as Indigenous justice, domestic violence and community development. Ultimately, Libby's role seeks to find ways that ADM can continue to engage and equip Australian Christian women to take up works of mercy and justice.

## ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By Amelia Schwarze  
Domestic Violence Area  
Specialist and Program Officer



In 2017, I began with the first cohort of ADM Fellows where I was given time to explore in breadth and depth the relationship between domestic violence and the church. My interest in understanding domestic violence began more than a decade ago — yes, it was a personal interest. Ever since, I've been learning and writing about the impact that domestic violence has had on the church and the forces that have caused it to be such a significant problem within both church communities and society.

The Fellowship gave me the freedom to explore domestic violence from theological,

historical and psychological perspectives. And, of course, this research has necessarily involved discovering many tales of heartbreak, where the Church has sometimes responded very poorly, yet sometimes quite effectively.

I have also stumbled across some largely forgotten heroes and advocates in the plight of abused women, men and children among Anglicans, including such notables as Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in the 16th century. I was encouraged that the very architects of the Anglican Church intended Christian marriage and churches to be places where domestic violence was not tolerated, and that they wanted church law to include adequate remedies (including divorce) for abused spouses. This plan was only abandoned after Cranmer and its other instigators were martyred.

I am passionate about helping those affected by domestic abuse experience God's love for them and to remain connected members of their church. Now I have the opportunity to build on the work of my Fellowship: earlier this year, I was given the privilege of joining the beautiful team of women and men at ADM as the Domestic Violence Area Specialist for ADM's Mercy and Justice ministry. My role now includes grounding my research in resources and courses that can assist today's church in caring for those in their midst emerging from the terrors of domestic violence.

I am grateful for the investment ADM has made in me over the last two years and pray that God will continue to use my work to help Christian women flourish in his Kingdom!

### Understanding the Need

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness

Eight women a day are hospitalised as a result of domestic violence

One woman a week is killed as a result of domestic violence

The Victorian Royal Commission into Domestic and Family Violence, recommended "that faith leaders and communities establish processes for examining the ways in which they currently respond to family violence".



## BRINGING CHURCH TO CANBERRA

Against the backdrop of Australia's overseas aid at the lowest levels ever, and 102 children detained on Nauru, Dr Kate Harrison Brennan travelled to Canberra in September 2018, at the end of the Parliamentary sitting week.

She was part of a Micah Australia delegation of female Christian leaders that included leaders representing a range of Christian communities, from Hillsong Church to the Salvation Army and others. Their purpose? In a word: mercy.

The leaders represented the 15 percent of Australians who attend a church service (more in number than those who gather in stadiums across the country during footy season). And the majority (60 percent) of those who attend church in Australia, as the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) in 2016 has shown, are women. The group met with MPs and senators in government and in opposition to discuss a range of biblical issues.

"I found their openness and interest to hear why we were united in our concern for the moral future of our country refreshing," Harrison Brennan said. "Particularly as it is expressed in Australia's commitment to foreign aid and in response to humanitarian crises such as the one on Nauru. They also seemed keen to hear how we managed questions in our own church communities about whether simply to look after our own or how to look after someone in need beyond our church doors."

**"ADM is an incredible ministry, blessing generation to generation of women flourishing for Kingdom work. And really blessing the entire church."**

Matt Darvas, Micah Australia

**WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU? TO ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.**

MICAH 6:8



## AUSTRALIA: THE GOOD GLOBAL NEIGHBOUR?

**In a time of global suffering and political unrest, how can Australia best serve its global neighbours? And how can Christians think biblically about engagement in politics?**

ADM and Micah Australia teamed up in March to explore these questions in an evening of public discussion on the topic "Australia: The Good Neighbour, A Conversation on Our Foreign Policy Trajectory" with Christian thought-leaders and elected representatives. These included Rev. Dr John Dickson, an author, speaker, theologian and the founding director of the Centre for Public Christianity, Senator Jenny McAllister, an Australian Labor Party Senator for New South Wales and the Shadow Assistant Minister for Families and Communities, and ADM CEO Dr Kate Harrison Brennan, a former Advisor to Prime Minister Julia Gillard. (A representative from the Liberal party was invited to participate but sent their apology).

"We have an incredible opportunity to be a nation known for compassion and leadership as a good global neighbour," said Libby Sanders, ADM's Program Manager for Mercy and Justice. "As Christians, this should excite and compel us to participate prayerfully in discussions such as this."

Nearly 75 people attended the evening event, which took place on 27 March 2019, at the ADM offices.

**Pictured:** Matt Darvas, Campaign Director for Micah Australia, Rev. Dr John Dickson, Senator Jenny McAllister and Dr Kate Harrison Brennan, CEO of Anglican Deaconess Ministries.



# CONNECTING BEYOND THE TABLE

by Stephanie Dunk, Coordinator of The Hub

When Rachel Golding pitched her social enterprise, Dinner on the Table, at ADM's 2017 Annual Funding Event, she couldn't have known how many ADM programs it would connect her to in just a few years.

A meal delivery and corporate catering company, Dinner on the Table prepares home-style meals for busy families. But it's more than a go-to meal service: proceeds from every meal help provide meals for families made vulnerable by disability.

"My research in disability studies convinced me that household-level support is one of the most meaningful ways to positively impact a family's wellbeing," says Rachel. "Dinner on the Table uses the power of the marketplace to fund a social mission."

Though Dinner on the Table didn't receive funding, ADM has since partnered with Rachel's organisation to cater over 15 Engage evening sessions. Attendees for the monthly Engage gatherings — which bring together Christian women for professional support, fellowship and hospitality — enjoy a two-course meal as they listen to three female Christian speakers from a variety of fields share about their work. They also learn about Dinner on the Table's mission, how it's served 5,330 meals overall since they began in 2015, gifting 1,550 meals to families living with disability and producing 408 kilograms of veggie scraps as compost for a local school's kitchen garden (as of May 2019).

Dinner on the Table has now also catered larger ADM events like the School of Theology, Culture and Public Engagement held each January, as well as the launch of ADM's Marriage Course, and other special functions.

"Catering for ADM events has given us a platform to talk about our social mission with a larger audience," says Rachel. "As a result, people have



**15**

Engage Evening Sessions fed.



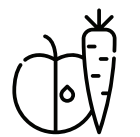
**5330**

Meals served in total since Dinner on the Table began in 2015.



**1550**

Meals gifted to families living with disability.



**408**

Kilograms of veggie scraps given as compost for a local school's kitchen garden.



"Catering for ADM events has given us a platform to talk about our social mission with a larger audience."

Rachel Golding

asked us to cater their functions. This has then led to invitations to speak at functions we've catered. It's been exciting to see the connections built through each opportunity!"

Because of her visionary work, Rachel was invited to join the 2019 cohort of ADM's the Hub, which includes Jen Logan, an Australian artist living in London whose projects present theology through art; Bernadette Black, CEO and Founder of Brave Foundation for expecting and parenting teens; and Anna McGahan, an actor and writer with a ministry to Christians in the arts. Each participant in The Hub is matched with a mentor for the year, and meets for quarterly retreats designed to help them flourish personally and professionally as they grow their ventures.

"ADM has brought together carefully curated content and presenters at the top of their fields to support the Hub participants," Rachel said. "All those engaged with the Hub, and the team at ADM, are living examples of working out your faith in ministry outside the church walls. This is perhaps the biggest challenge, and greatest blessing, of all."

> For more about Dinner on the Table visit: [dinneronthetable.com.au](http://dinneronthetable.com.au)



Pictured: Rachel catering for the 2018 Annual Funding Event



# BEAUTIFUL LIES?

## HISTORY, RELIGION AND OUR COMMON LIFE

At ADM's 2018 Annual Public Lecture Meredith Lake confronted 'beautiful lies' with the power of story.

"I'm sure when you saw the topic of tonight's address, that like me, many of you thought it was both timely and pertinent. And perhaps you thought as well — I'm sure you did if you've read Meredith's book, *The Bible in Australia* — that you could hardly find a better person to expound the topic: an historian, a student of Christianity in Australia, and a person of deep Christian conviction herself. What a great delight to have her unfold for us an answer to the question: What kind of stories might enrich our common life? Thank you, Meredith, for such stunning insight. What a treat!"

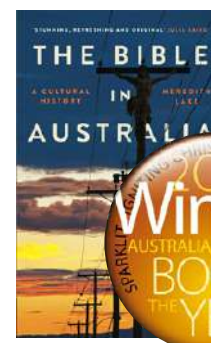
Rev. Kanishka Raffel, Dean of Sydney

**I**n a society that seems increasingly polarised, can understanding history play a role in shaping our future? Which stories from our shared past could enhance our current civic discourse?

These questions comprised the focus of ADM's 2018 Annual Public Lecture, "Beautiful Lies? History, Religion and Our Common Life" delivered by historian and 2017 ADM Senior Research Fellow Dr Meredith Lake. Over 200 people gathered for Lake's lecture on Thursday, 8 November 2018 at St Andrew's Cathedral as she explored how stories from our history can help us reimagine Australia today.

Meredith drew in part from the award winning book she completed during her ADM Fellowship, *The Bible in Australia: A Cultural History* (NewSouth Books: 2018) as she discussed the power of stories in this era of 'fake' news and tribal politics.

"I've been concerned lately about the way our public conversations have been happening," she said. "We're facing enormous issues, from the future of our common home to the way we do family life and the ways we deal with political and cultural differences."



"What often happens when these issues are debated is that people in their outrage don't listen to each other. We need a language and a sense of stories to address these issues as neighbours that can bring us together."

Just a month after the public lecture, Meredith was appointed as the host of *Soul Search* on ABC Radio National — a new show about the lived experience of religion.

**"ADM's Annual Public Lecture provides a platform for Christian women who demonstrate outstanding achievement in their field, and who model a distinctive approach to Christian public engagement."**

Dr Annette Pierdziwol

The show is a natural extension of her research interest in the social and cultural aspects of religion. Meredith is also an Honorary Associate of the Department of History at the University of Sydney, where she completed her PhD. The unifying thread of her books and public engagement is her commitment to telling true stories about history, faith and culture.

Meredith's Public Lecture reinforced ADM's commitment to fostering rigorous and thoughtful discussion of Christianity in the public square, and was proudly supported by the Centre for Public Christianity.

"In past years we've hosted international speakers," said Dr Annette Pierdziwol, who oversees the lecture, "but in 2018 we were delighted to have one of our own Fellowships alumni give the lecture and explore such a crucial topic for us today."

> To watch Meredith's lecture visit: [deaconessministries.org.au/annual-public-lecture](http://deaconessministries.org.au/annual-public-lecture)

**Pictured:** Dr Meredith Lake and Rev. Kanishka Raffel; Meredith hosting her ABC RN show *Soul Search*; and attendees of ADM's Annual Public Lecture at St Andrew's Cathedral.







# NEW COURSE STRENGTHENS MARRIAGES

By Susan Milne



## “Overwhelmingly positive.”

That’s how Kate Pearse described the feedback from the 15 couples who attended ADM’s new marriage enrichment course, which Kate facilitated at St Jude’s, Bowral in April.

“One participant said that the course saved her marriage,” Kate said. “She was ready to leave her husband, taking their three children. She saw our marriage course banner and decided to give the relationship one last go. Afterwards she told me the course had brought about a new commitment to saving their marriage and they’re now in counselling. It’s a wonderful result, so encouraging.”

St Jude’s, where Kate is community engagement co-ordinator, and Church by the Bridge at Kirribilli, are among a number of churches to run the five part video course *Building a Safe and Strong Marriage*. The course which Sarah and Rev. Dr Keith Condie, Co-directors of the Mental Health & Pastoral Care Institute, created, was launched in February 2019.

“The course works beautifully because it combines the latest research on marriage with biblical principles,” Kate said. “Five engaged couples attended at St Jude’s and felt it equipped them with great skills, while older couples said it helped them look at their long marriages with fresh eyes.”

One of those engaged couples, Alexander Flegg and Bec Williams, wanted “to give ourselves the best chance of making our marriage a good one,” Flegg said. “Problems we can see arising in any marriage – dealing with money, handling conflict, arguments over technology – were all addressed and useful strategies suggested.”

David and Romyne Hayman, also from St Jude’s, have been married for 41 years, but were motivated to do the course because of David’s imminent retirement.

“We hoped the course would help us navigate this big change in our lives and we believe the skills we learned will help us through the transition,” says Romyne. “After more than 40 years together, our relationship needed refreshing and revitalising. We were reminded

**Pictured left:** Linda and Ian Campbell who were interviewed throughout the video course. **Pictured right:** Keith and Sarah Condie present the course.

not to take for granted what the other partner is thinking and to show genuine affection every day.”

Rebecca and Colin Lee from Church by the Bridge were engaged at the start of the course and married by the end, five weeks later.

“As we embark on our journey as a married couple, we wanted to be well prepared,” said Rebecca. “Now that we are a few weeks into our marriage I reflect on the course as issues arise, such as dealing with disputes and on sexuality.”

The course provides tools and practical models to communicate and manage relationships in more effective ways. “The suggestions are Christian-based but are relevant to most married couples,” said Rebecca.

For Sydney couple Ruth and Mike Winram, married for three years with a one-year-old daughter, the course provided the annual marriage check-up they pledged when they wed.

“The course was informative and provided a safe environment for us to discuss things that were working and things that we wanted to change within the marriage,” Ruth said. “We would recommend it for anyone wanting to improve their marriage.”

**“The course works beautifully because it combines the latest research on marriage with biblical principles.”**

**IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS SINCE THE COURSE WAS LAUNCHED:**



**187**  
Courses were purchased



**434**  
Participant Workbooks were sold



> To find out more visit: [www.buildingmarriage.com.au](http://www.buildingmarriage.com.au)



# SUSTAINABILITY: HOW WE STEWARD OUR RESOURCES

The role of ADM's Board of Directors is to ensure the ADM endowment fund fulfils our vision of women flourishing in Kingdom work through our various ministries. We consider it a profound privilege to serve as stewards of God's resources and take seriously our financial responsibilities with the gifts he has provided.



**AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER, AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE.**

1 Peter 4:10

## What is our objective with the Endowment Trust Fund?

ADM's Endowment Trust Fund was established in 2009 following the sale of our hospitals and associated properties. We recognise this as an extraordinary provision from God that we guard with both responsibility and gratitude. In stewarding this fund we aim to generate stable and reasonable returns within a moderate risk profile so as to ensure that the ministries of ADM grow and, ultimately, help women flourish. Our investments are therefore diversified across various asset classes, individual fund managers and securities.

As stewards of a financial endowment, we also believe it is necessary to measure the value and outcomes of our programs against our vision and mission. That's why, in 2019, ADM introduced a portfolio approach to give rigour to the selection, evaluation and implementation of programs and to continue building a culture of innovation within the ADM team. All new projects and programs are now created, developed and evaluated within the portfolio approach, further enhancing our vision while advancing our impact for God's Kingdom.

## What were our financial results?

In FY19, the ADM Endowment Trust Fund achieved a total investment income of \$2.8 million (compared to \$4.6 million in FY18). This total comprises of interest income, dividends (franked and unfranked) and franking credits. The reduction in income between FY18 and FY19 was due to the realisation of substantial capital gains from one fund in FY18 which did not occur in FY19.

The ADM Endowment Trust Fund reported a net gain on financial assets of \$410,000 (compared to a gain of \$300,000 in FY18). Continued uncertainty and volatility of equity markets and returns makes it difficult to predict investment returns from year to year for budgeting purposes. Yet in each area of investment within ADM's ministries, we acknowledge God's unchanging faithfulness and his provision of wisdom and resources for this work.

## Income & Expenditure

	FY2019	FY2018*
<b>INCOME</b>		
Investment Income	\$2,819,351	\$4,616,989
Fees and Other Incomes	\$403,109	\$674,164
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,222,460</b>	<b>\$5,291,153</b>
Net Gain on Financial Assets*	\$410,462	\$300,918
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Mercy & Justice	\$57,324	\$115,970
Mental Health & Pastoral Care	\$148,494	\$218,709
Public Engagement	\$360,869	\$353,258
Annual Funding Event	\$106,334	\$41,758
Mary Andrews College	\$364,558	\$389,751
Traineeships	\$12,435	\$129,503
External Funding	\$249,846	\$433,159
Ministry Administration and Overheads	\$2,498,804	\$2,056,959
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$3,798,664</b>	<b>\$3,739,067</b>
<b>(Loss)/Profit for the year</b>	<b>(\$165,742)</b>	<b>\$1,853,004</b>

\* FY2018 figures restated to include net gain arising on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss. Change on valuation arising from implementation of AASB 9.





**“I know of no other organisation like ADM anywhere, so it’s worth coming halfway around the world to be here!”**

Rev. Canon Dr Alison Milbank



**Clockwise from top:** Bernadette Black, Anna McGahan and Sono Leone, three of the awardees at our 2018 Annual Funding Event (AFE); the 2018 Hub cohort and 2018 Fellows celebrate their time at ADM; attendees engage with the topic of mercy and justice at ‘Australia: The Good Global Neighbour?’, attendees at the 2019 School of Theology, Culture & Public Engagement; some of the women who joined us for our March 2019 Engage Evening Session.

# GIVING FOR THE FUTURE, *building on the past*

**The Deaconess  
23 January, 1918**

“Those who have any responsibility in our deaconess work must be very thankful to God for his continued mercies to us as we enter the new year. Money has come in without any special effort on our part, with the exception of our annual sale, which was a record this year.

But we must keep in mind that our deaconess work stands for spirituality. It is not enough to have a good financial position. We must seek to be true witnesses of our Master – we must win souls for God, we must care for the wayward, the weak, the tempted; we must teach the great truths of the inspired Word of God; we must ever go forth with the spirit of self-sacrifice and loving service for others.”

books, flower pots, fowls, grapes, melons and squash. Others report financial donations “large and small”: interest from investments, estate bequests and church offerings. Some people gave 1000 pounds each, others two. Every gift was received with gratitude.

Such giving has continued for over a century. Whether gathering support for hospitals, palliative care homes or even Deaconess House, ADM’s pioneers prayed and asked God for funding, and then invited others to join them by investing whatever they could in the ministry.

In that same spirit, ADM prayerfully continues these pioneering partnerships, trusting that we can do even more in the future as God provides. We acknowledge that because of the great privilege we currently have to fund Christian women for fellowships, specific projects or new ministries each year, it might be easy to forget the fund is relatively small in the broader Australian context.

While we’re no longer expecting donors to give linen or grapes, we invite you to consider how God might be leading you to partner with us. Perhaps you could consider a bequest to MAC or a designated gift to ADM in your financial planning? We would count it a privilege to talk with you about such giving, and to include you in our future as we draw from our past, *“going forth with the spirit of self-sacrifice and loving service for others.”*

Partner with us in supporting Christian women for God’s Kingdom.

**F**rom our early days, ADM has been dedicated to Christian service and giving, a testament to God’s provision of grace, and consequently to our founders’ vision for nurturing a spirit of generosity. Long before the term ‘philanthropic partners’ appeared in corporate language, ADM’s early leaders and deaconesses established an ethos of generous partnerships and fundraising for women involved in ministry.

Some of our records from the early 1900’s report generous ‘in-kind’ giving such as: two dozen eggs, three quilts, seven pillow cases, ten boxes of

> Visit: [deaconessministries.org.au/give](http://deaconessministries.org.au/give) or email us at: [hello@deaconessministries.org.au](mailto:hello@deaconessministries.org.au)

Photo by Mel Poole on Unsplash







THE PROVISION OF

# christian soul care

Ministry of care is a unique calling and privilege, yet very often we can be unsure how to approach this compassionate care. With pastoral experience at a remote hospital and Bible college in Tanzania and as an Anglican chaplain in one of Sydney's top paediatric hospitals, Kate Bradford knows how important it is to work out of a steady and well-informed soul care practice.

A 2018 Senior Research Fellow at ADM and current chaplain to theological students, Kate also teaches pastoral care at Mary Andrews College and Moore College. Her postgraduate research includes mid-twentieth century practices of pastoral theology. The following is adapted from a recent talk she gave at a Presbyterian church in Melbourne.



By Kate Bradford

## *attend*

Soul care is an intentional Christian practice of attending: attending to God, attending to ourselves and attending to another person's soul. We attend to the orientation of our own soul by consciously remembering Christ in us and inhabiting our lives. We quiet our own soul's distractions, and in doing so make room for a guest.

## *listen*

Active listening is a whole-body experience, accessing all our senses. We listen not just with our ears but with our eyes catching movement and facial expressions. As we do, we might register pulse or wellness. Our skin prickles, our eyes water. Our body sympathises as we inhabit another's story. We hear words and catch their tone and process their weight.

## *respond*

When we hear and feel the weight of another's soul, of how families and faith, nurture and nature, security or tragedy, culture or creed can complicate each story, we begin to form a response. We wonder, where does this soul's story fit between the hope of Scripture and the broken patterns of our world? Soul care responds thoughtfully and applies godly wisdom to specific pastoral encounters.

## *pray*

We pray without ceasing, for Christ's wisdom, for insight, for patience and strength to resist simple resolutions. We pray to speak truths in a timely manner, to work with the real not the ideal. We pray to stay present in the encounter. We offer prayer for the other, asking what it is they desire from God. As we do, we pray that the soul care of the situation multiplies for other such moments.

While we often think of pastoral care as congregational help from vocational ministers, soul care is closer to its true meaning. And it's something every follower of Jesus can offer, regardless of calling. It's helpful, first, to understand that the innermost part of our being — our soul — is what responds to God in love, peace, worship or rejoicing as well as to indifference, bitterness, sorrow or rebellion.

We offer soul care out of our own *in-Christ-ness* as we comfort and awaken the need for Christ in another. Soul care weaves godly wisdom between the lengthwise warp of God's Word and the crosswise weft of the world. It is a ministry that faces toward the community of believers within the church but also toward the open space of the public square.

In other words, soul care encourages another person to seek the living water of our Lord through deeper roots. For those who don't yet know Christ, we want to reflect and elucidate the deeper biblical reality around us. Centred on Jesus, this reality truthfully reflects the beauty of creation, the brokenness of our world, fallenness of our humanity, and our need for restoration.

What, then, could a pattern of soul care look like? I believe four simple words can best paint this picture:



# THE BIBLE THROUGH A LENS OF DISABILITY

**The Poor, the Crippled, the Blind, and the Lame: Physical and Sensory Disability in the Gospels of the New Testament.**

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John feature numerous exchanges between Jesus and people with various physical and sensory disabilities. Yet traditional biblical scholarship hasn't seen these people as agents in their own right, but existing only to highlight the actions of Jesus as a miracle worker.

MAC Lecturer and 2018 Senior Research Fellow Dr Louise Gosbell's new book changes that. In the first major New Testament study of the interactions of the historical Jesus with people with disabilities, she uses disability as a lens through which to explore a number of these passages anew.



Dr Louise Gosbell celebrates her new book.

As a result of her research and book, Gosbell was invited to give the 2019 annual lecture at Sydney College of Divinity (SCD), where she explored how the gospel writers reinforce and reflect, as well as subvert, culturally-driven constructions of disability in the ancient world.

"What emerges (in her research) is a strikingly original and masterful study of the ministry of Jesus against the backdrop of Second Temple Judaism and the Graeco-Roman world," wrote SCD. "Louise employs the visual, literary, and documentary evidence to construct a graphic portrait of the daily life of physically and socially marginalised people in antiquity, and the radical dimension of Jesus' ministry to them."



## GOSPEL MINISTRY AMONG ASIAN AUSTRALIANS

By Hayley Lukabyo

2019 Summer Fellow Grace Lung is a second generation Australian whose parents migrated from China in the late 1980s. She grew up attending a Chinese Australian church. Since then, Grace has worked in pastoral ministry with students, young workers and women. Through these experiences, she discovered the dilemma that's guided her research.

"I saw a lot of conflict between second generation leaders of the church and the older generation church elders," Grace said. "I started to realise there are two different worldviews there; if we could understand that better, we would avoid a lot of unnecessary conflict."

**"THE ADM SUMMER FELLOWSHIP CAME AT A PERFECT TIME IN ORDER TO PROPEL AND EQUIP ME TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF PROVIDING AN ASIAN AUSTRALIAN VOICE THAT POINTS TO JESUS."**

With a Graduate Diploma of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Studies, Grace recently completed a Certificate in Asian American Contexts at Fuller Theological Seminary. Her work combines cross-cultural/racial counselling and peacemaking disciplines in the ministry context

for western Asians. But before her experience as an ADM Summer Fellow, Grace was unsure what her next step would be.

"Twelve months ago I felt pretty lost. I was unsure what God wanted me to do next," she said. "As a young woman I wasn't sure I'd be able to contribute to things that affect churches at a high level, since older male leaders mostly occupy those spaces."

Since completing her ADM Summer Fellowship, however, the number of queries and consulting opportunities for Grace has grown. Recently, she joined RICE Movement as the Director of Asian Contextual Engagement as well as Interserve CultureConnect. Her writing has appeared in Common Grace and The Gospel Coalition.

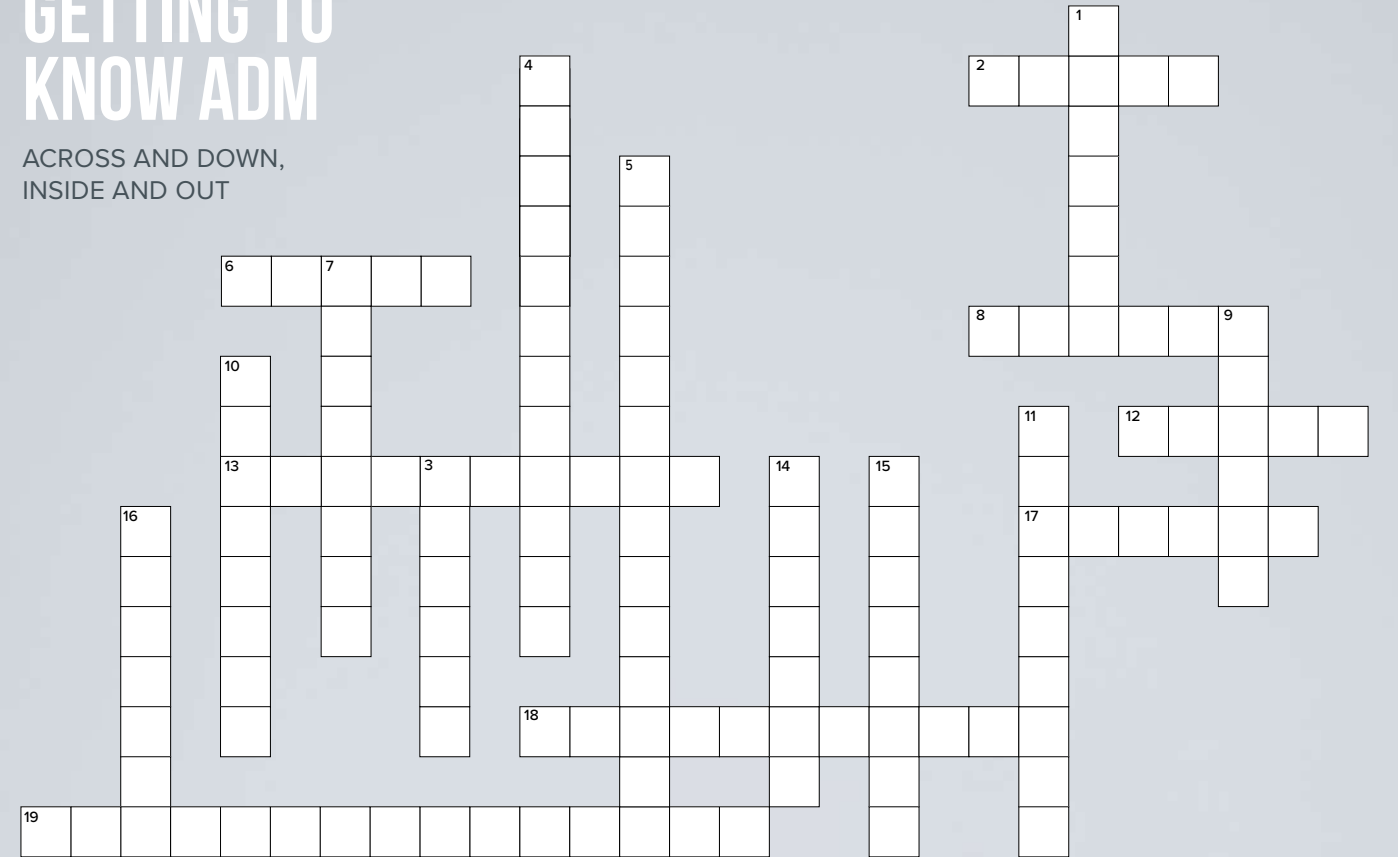
"The ADM Summer Fellowship came at a perfect time in order to propel and equip me to meet the challenges of providing an Asian Australian voice that points to Jesus", she said. "Now I feel like I'm getting a seat at the table, and gatekeepers are open to hearing that my work could help them. I'm so thankful for where God has put me now, and ADM played an instrumental role in getting me there."



Grace Lung

# GETTING TO KNOW ADM

ACROSS AND DOWN, INSIDE AND OUT



### DOWN

1. A cultural \_\_\_\_: The subtitle of Dr. Meredith Lake's award-winning book. (7)
3. Giving to the future. (6)
4. Which board member looked back at her historic view 30 years ago? (3, 7)
5. Where Christian women can come and work alongside each other. (9,5)
7. Mervyn and Martha \_\_\_\_ founded ADM in 1891. (8)
9. Sarah and Rev. Dr Keith Condie produced a video series called Building a safe and \_\_\_\_ marriage. (6)
10. What diploma did MAC grad Natasha Hansen receive? (8)
11. A lay woman 'set apart' for lifelong ministry. (9)
14. Rachel Golding's Dinner on the Table gives this to a local school. (7)
15. Number of Masterclasses at 2019 School of Theology, Culture & Public Engagement. (8)
16. Archbishop Thomas \_\_\_\_ in the sixteenth century was one of the first in the Anglican church to state domestic violence could not be tolerated. (7)

### ACROSS

2. Miriam Numamurdird's native language. (5)
6. The title of Katelyn Beaty's book A Woman's \_\_\_\_\_. (5)
8. The play 'Speak...easy' explores the three 'Dots' Dorothy Day, Dorothy Parker and Dorothy L. \_\_\_\_\_. (6)
12. What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love \_\_\_\_ and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8) (5)
13. The Greek word usually translated into English as happiness. (10)
17. The first step for Christian soul care. (6)
18. 2019 Fellow Dr Roberta Kwan is an expert in this literary figure. (11)
19. Jen Logan's mum worked for this principal at Deaconess House. (8,7)

Crossword answers: 1. history 2. Kriel 3. Invest 4. Janis Donohoo 5. coworking space 6. Place 7. Archdall 8. Sayers 9. strong 10. Theology 11. Deaconess 12. mercy 13. eudaimonic 14. compost 15. eighteen 16. Cranmer 17. attend 18. Shakespeare 19. Margaret Rodgers



# OUR TEAM

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Manager of Church Engagement and Training

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Program Manager, Mercy and Justice

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**KEN BREAKSPEAR**  
Company Secretary

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Senior Accountant



**RYAN CARTER**  
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**BONNIE ROZORIO**  
Communications Manager

**SARAH CONDIE**  
Co-Director, Mental Health & Pastoral Care Institute





Esther Neate, 'Time Lapses IV' 2014, charcoal, ink and time on BFK Rives, 13.7 x 13cm

# THANK YOU

ADM is grateful for the many friends both in Sydney and around the world who volunteer their time, support and encouragement of our ministries.

In particular we would like to thank:

John & Juanita Anderson  
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 Victoria & Brett Carroll  
 Rachel & Andrew Charleston  
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 Darling St Anglican Church  
 Rev. Dr John Dickson  
 Lauren Errington  
 Rissi & Jeremy Evans  
 Silvia & Angus Gray  
 Andy & Tori Grimes  
 Lauren & Tim Hesper  
 Rev. Dr Michael Jensen  
 Hannah Kim  
 Sam & Ada Kwok  
 Dr Meredith Lake  
 Tawanda & Shupi Masango


Adrian Mills  
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 Mike & Kate Newmarch  
 Elizabeth Oldfield  
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 St James Turramurra  
 Ed & Jane Vaughan  
 Russ & Naomi de Vries  
 Grace & Damien Wang  
 Catherine Wynn Jones  
 Ed & Bridge Yorston

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 /anglican\_deaconess\_ministries

 /anglicandeaconessministries

 @flourishADM



Jo Chew, 2017 ADM Creative Fellow, 'The Wanderer', 2018, acrylic and oil on canvas, 152 x 110cm



SEEING WOMEN FROM GENERATION  
TO GENERATION

# flourish

IN KINGDOM WORK



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The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be  
gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26