



# UCA News from around YP

## October, 2025

An Initiative of the Yorke Peninsula Regional Mission Council

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### Our Vision

Reaching the whole community with the abundant love of Christ.

### Our Mission

Reflecting the hope we have in God's love and compassion, by engaging with the people in the community.

### 1Peter 3:15

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you.

To give the reason for the hope you have

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I have often used the term, "being Jesus with skin on", most often in prayers of intercession. It's a term I first heard some years ago as part of a talk at a Walk to Emmaus. The speaker's topic was "The Body of Christ" and the story went like this:

After having tucked her young daughter in bed for the night and said a prayer with her, a young mother turned off the bedroom light and closed the door. It was a stormy night and the wind howled ferociously against the little girl's bedroom window. She called out for her mother, who dutifully came and reassured her that it was just the wind, and she was quite safe. A few minutes later, the same thing happened, and yet again, a few minutes after that. On her fourth visit to her daughter's bedroom, the mother spoke reassuringly yet again, this time adding, "and Jesus is with you!" Close to tears, the little girl replied, "but I need Jesus with skin on! Please stay with me mummy!"

There are times for all of us when we need "Jesus with skin on". Prayers help, phone calls and letters may help, but sometimes it is the personal visit, the actual presence of another person with their caring smile, listening ears and gentle approach that really lets us know that God loves and cares for us so very, very much. Perhaps one of the ways we can all put into practice the Mission Statement above is to be "Jesus with skin on" to one another.

May the Lord bless you today and everyday as you practice being Jesus with skin on.

Rev. Jane McDonald

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Just a thought: What would you do if Jesus came to your church next Sunday?

This question was put to a congregation by their minister one Sunday, to get them thinking of what they would do differently if Jesus was actually there in person. One young fellow smiled and said, "I would give him a copy of the Bible and say, "This is Your Life!" Another said, "I would put him in the local footy team at full back because he is a Great Defender!"

Seriously though, what would you do?

## Around our Congregations

**MOONTA:** Yummy Tummy Friday will take place in the Hall, the first Friday in each month. If anyone has, (or can obtain), medium- sized cardboard boxes, could you please either leave them in the Church Hall or pass them on to people connected with the Food Pantry: Chris Thornton, Rachael Gray or Ingrid Seacombe. They will be used to pack donated food for distribution to those in need on that day.

**MAITLAND:** The weekend of October 10th-12th was a multi-faceted celebration of our 150th birthday. Our new electronic sign is in place on the northern corner of our property and our new kitchen is now complete and up and running. A family quiz night on Friday 10th had 64 contestants vying for top brain-power honours and \$1000 was raised to assist the 'Friends of Maitland Hospital' team. The car boot sale on Saturday was a bit quiet, but the Lions Club sausage sizzle van managed to sell out. On Sunday, the Moderator, Rev Peter Morel, preached an inspiring message to an full church. Peter then officially opened the new kitchen and a very satisfying lunch was enjoyed by all.

Still on M's....

Margaret DeGill would love to share her story of resilience and God's care as an encouragement to others facing unexpected challenges. You can contact her at: [bestnanna10@gmail.com](mailto:bestnanna10@gmail.com)

## And FYI

### CWCI (Christian Women Communicating International) Australia

"From Drought to Blessing—Naomi's Story" is the title of sessions being held by CWCI next week across YP.

Dates & venues are: Tuesday, Oct 21st, 1.30 -3.00pm, Yorketown Lutheran Church;

Wednesday, Oct 22nd, 1.00 -2.30pm, Maitland Uniting Church;

Thursday, Oct 23rd, 7.30—9.00pm, Kadina Church of Christ;

Friday, Oct 24th, 10.00—11.30am, Copper Coast Baptist Church, Wallaroo.

Contact Karen Moore for further information: [safarisrb1@gmail.com](mailto:safarisrb1@gmail.com), (mob) 0402 927 986.

### UCA Lectionary Calendar for Year A 2025-26

This is now available to be downloaded via the UCA Synod of SA website, or via UCA SA E-news.

### New and Renewing Ministry

If you are unable to attend the Synod resourcing event "Renew" this coming weekend, Rev Sandy suggests checking out the Synod of VicTas website for some interesting information on Rev Mat Harry and his approach to mission. It begins with an interesting statement for us to ponder: "If Jesus wrote a Mission Plan". The website is <https://victas.uca.org.au/new-renewing-ministry>.

### Franciscan Theology

St. Francis of Assisi (1182–1226) began his community with the clear intention that: "The Rule and the life of the Friars Minor is to simply live the gospel." The first Rule (the guide for the community's way of life) that he started writing around 1209 was little more than a collection of New Testament passages.

When Francis sent it off to Rome, the pope looked at it and said, "This is no Rule. This is just the gospel."

You can just hear Francis saying, "Yes, and that is *exactly* the point!

We don't need any other Rule except the gospel!"

To be a Franciscan is nothing other than always searching for "the marrow of the gospel" as he called it.

Francis believed the purpose and goal of our life is to live the marrow, or core, of the gospel.

Honestly, the core is so simple; it's the living it out that is difficult.

As a result, Franciscan spirituality has always been grounded in Jesus' specific instructions to his disciples, not ideology or denominational certitudes. Francis' living of the gospel was just that: a simple lifestyle. It was the incarnation of Jesus Christ continuing in space and time. It was the presence of the Spirit taken as if it were true. It was *being* Jesus more than just worshipping Jesus.

Francis didn't want his friars to *preach* salvation (although they did that, too) as much as he wanted them to *be* salvation. He wanted them to model and mirror the life of Jesus in the world, with all of the vulnerability that would entail. That is why many people often attribute the saying "preach the gospel at all times, and when absolutely necessary use words" to describe Francis' desire to live the gospel in every moment.

(One could say, Francis believed in being 'Jesus with skin on')

Adapted from "Francis and the Gospel" in Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations, on the Centre for Action and Contemplation website.