



## Pastor Connect

**15th September, 2009**

### The Uniqueness of MCC

I have just returned from Melbourne where I was representing MCC Sydney at the ordination of Rev Joy Etwell and her induction as Pastor of MCC Melbourne. It was a fantastic weekend of fellowship with people from all over Australia and New Zealand, from MCC and other Churches.



The induction was wonderful, with many saying that they hadn't seen the place where it was held looking so good! Lots of rainbow fabric and fabric hangings made this a truly MCC occasion. What I think also made it a distinctly MCC occasion was that there was a marvellous atmosphere and spirit at both the services. There were the solemn times and the happy times, with liturgy, song and sacrament that brought everyone in the worship space together.

I was pondering how this comes about. How does MCC do it? How does it bring everyone together so well in a lifting up spirit of worship? Liturgically there is not much different from many other churches, apart from the all-welcoming communion. So to me it has to come down to the people that attend and their attitudes and expectations. For really, no matter how much the Pastor does, so much of the atmosphere and joy of a church will come through the entire body of the church. And in MCC we come together with different expectations and attitudes from many other churches. From the moment that anyone walks through the door of an MCC, it is an open-arm place of welcome. Can you remember the first time you attended an MCC? It might have been scary, terrifying, happy, joyous, and a whole other range of emotions. But I would be sure that rejection was not one of them. In a world that puts people on pedestals just to cut them viciously down, MCC is a place where the task of building up is taken very seriously.

People come to MCC with and to be met by an attitude of welcome and inclusiveness. There is also that expectation in MCC that church can be different, but in a good way! And part of this challenge of being inclusive is bringing many backgrounds together, and successfully. I again had a clergyperson from another denomination ask me on the weekend how MCC manages to work! I think sometimes it really is a miracle but again, it comes back to the attitude of welcome and inclusiveness. For if we say we welcome all, then we must truly mean it, and be prepared to lay aside some of what we may individually want, to make some room for another.

There are so many advantages. We have such an amazing opportunity in this denomination to learn from one another. This is such a special gift that it should never be taken for granted. Believe me, there are many churches who wish that they could do what we do here at MCC.

So pray for Rev Joy and MCC Melbourne as they start their journey together. And pray for MCC

and the saints that worship within its walls, that our differences may makes us stronger, and that all who step foot for the first time within an MCC Church will find a joyous welcome into the house of God.

Rev Gavin Ward  
*Pastor*

#### Announcements:

##### Sleaze Ball

**\*\*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\*\*** If you are interested in being a Sleaze ball cloakroom volunteer and you haven't put your name down, please contact the office or myself ASAP. Time is running out to register! Each shift is 3 hours long and you get a pass into the party. So contact [office@mccsydney.org](mailto:office@mccsydney.org) or [pastor@mccsydney.org](mailto:pastor@mccsydney.org) to register.

##### Rev John Fowler visiting

This week we have a special guest visiting and bringing us the message at both Sunday services. Rev John Fowler has had several different roles in MCC, including district co-ordinator and Pastor of MCC Melbourne. He now takes up a new role, having just been elected as the MCC Asia/Pacific Cluster Team Leader. In this role John will be working with the Churches in the Asia/Pacific region to help provide care, connection and communication within Churches and within the region.

##### Website

The website is constantly being updated. You can now download the weekly announcements, the order of service from the morning service and the Pastor Connect emails from the site. New videos are also being added from current services and from our archive.

##### Annual General Meeting

The MCC Sydney AGM will be held on 20th November at 7pm in the worship space. Those members interested in board positions please contact the office for more information. In addition to the email sent out last week, all current and newly elected board members will be required to attend a governance training session the following Saturday, 28th November from 9am to 4pm.

##### Services This Week

10am Service - Traditional

All are welcome at our 10am traditional service. Rev John Fowler will be preaching.

6:30pm Service - Crave

All are welcome at our Contemporary service. This week Rev John Fowler will be preaching and the theme is Theology exploration.

#### Forward email

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