

Uniting



Presbytery of

Tasmania



<https://ucatas.org.au/>

Issue No. 173

June 2019p

From Myanmar to Ulverstone and the Uniting Church



Following the decision of the Synod Admission of Ministers Committee to accept Rev Gospel Ralte as a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church, a service for the “Admission of a Minister from Another Denomination” will be held at Ulverstone Uniting Church on **Sunday 23rd June at 5pm** with Presbytery Chairperson Rev Ann Perrin leading worship.

All are invited to help welcome Gospel and Grace to the Uniting Church.

The following reflections have been edited. To read the complete reflection go to the Presbytery website or request a copy from the UC Tasmanian Office.

Reflections from Gospel Ralte

Early years:

My father was sent to be a missionary to North Western Part of Burma 23rd February 1925 by North East India General Mission (NEIGM)...His first wife died, and he got married again. I, as a second child, was born to Rev. Dengkunga Ralte in his early 60s and Mrs. Khuangkhumi Ralte in Rih Khawdar village, near Rih Lake on the 20th of December, 1965. My father died when I was just 11 years old on 7th May 1977. My Mum raised us up in the midst of hardship. I used to help my family by working as a labourer (kuli) from my childhood. I still remember that day.

....continued on page 4

Opportunities



Next Presbytery Gathering

9.45am Saturday 1 June 2019
Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston

Code of Ethics / Safe Church

Tuesday 3 September – Longford UCA

Saturday 21 September – Glenorchy UC

Code of Ethics 9.30am-12.30pm

Safe Church 1.00pm – 4.00pm



Safe Church Training is for anyone who has not yet attended a Safe Church session or one since June 2017. All those in designated leadership positions are **required to attend** and others with Working With Vulnerable People cards / registration are **encouraged to attend**.

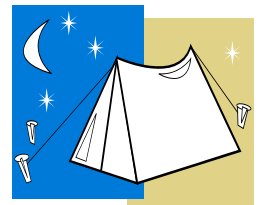


Presbytery of Tasmania Grants

Grants are available in three areas: Innovative Ministry, Education and Training and Children, Youth, Young Adults and Family Ministry. A booklet outlining the grants processes and the grants used during 2018 is available from the Tasmanian Office.

KIDS CAMPOUT 2019

28 — 29 SEPT 2019 SCOTCH OAKBURN COLLEGE
VALLEY CAMPUS,



who can come? children in grades 3 – 6

what happens? great fun and activities, games, craft, singing, stilts

“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is so high that I cannot attain it”, exclaimed the writer of Psalm 139, contemplating an all-knowing, ever present God.

Millennia later, those words are still full of meaning for us. But so much else has changed! Knowledge – or at least information – has expanded at a dizzying rate. We are left disorientated.

We – and others – can know so much about us. Our location and movements, our buying patterns and finances, our communication and relationships....

We can explore genealogy and the lives of our forebears. On Facebook we can know all kinds of trivial details about others. We can link up with friends and family who have been out of touch for decades. News assaults our eyes and ears. Horrors of war and disaster. Endless political shenanigans. Sordid details of relationships gone wrong. Graphic photos of just about anything. Too much information!

Institutions that once formed the scaffold of everyday life are tottering. What do we grab hold of to steady ourselves, our minds and our spirits?

To know is to be responsible, someone has said. But we know so much. How can we act on every need before us? We are paralysed.

“Be still and know that I am God”, says another songwriter in Psalm 46, emphasizing that God is there amid uproar and chaos.

I’m not very good at prayer. But a key part of it is taking time to listen – allowing time for the dust around us to settle, for our minds to become clear and our spirits tuned to what really matters.

Paul, in Romans 12, told his readers, *“be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God.”*

Take time out – to listen, to hear.

David Reeve, Hobart North UC

Got a good news story or a great photo?

Share your good news with the Uniting Church across Tasmania and Victoria! Send your information to tas.office@victas.uca.org.au and crosslight@victas.uca.org.au

Gospel Ralte's Reflections

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I followed adults and young people carrying goods (clothings/longyi) from Moreh (India) to Tamu (Burma) swimming across the river.

The Call:

...I received God's special call again through a series of Bible Studies held during the Holy Week of 1978, after accepting Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour, I dedicated my life to God on Easter Sunday. Since then I had a great passion to study the Bible and serve God. Mum said that as a small boy whenever people asked me what I would like to become when I grew old, I used to answer, "Pastor."

Early ministry and theological education:

After my confirmation, I straightway involved in ministry of Children Sunday School, Youth Departments and Ethnic Community Social Movement. I took part in gospel outreach programs and other evangelistic Preaching tours.

While working as a District Clerk in Tamu District Office of the Methodist Church, my Mum prayed for me and I left my home town in pursuit of theological education. I took any available jobs given by the College. By God's gracious provision I successfully completed two degree courses, B.Th., and M.Min, from Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Asia Evangelical College and Seminary in India. I attended a Discipleship Training School (DTS) of Youth with a Mission. Went back home to Burma and got married with Grace Dengthangi Ralte (Mya Yee) in 1995, and now we are blessed with two children, Gloria Lalrawngbawli Ralte and Ebenezer Vanlalzirsangliana Ralte.

Evangelist, Theological Educator and Pastor:

Soon after getting home, I worked as itinerant evangelist, Bible teacher, and we run a discipleship training for local young people. Since 1997, Grace, B.Th., B.D., M.Div, and I started teaching career at Myanmar Theological College in Mandalay...

Refugee Minister and Minister in refuge:

For almost two year I served the Lord as a refugee minister among Burmese (chin ethnic) refugees and migrant workers in Malaysia.... The persecution and discrimination based on our faith and race I have been experiencing since my childhood was still smoothly running upfront on the soil of military-backed Buddhist majority country. Using slogan of "one religion, one race, one nation," the then Burmese military government introduced 'no conversion law,' which had



extremely strengthened the existing nationalism that turned towards our ministry. Due to baptismal and matrimonial service I conducted between a Buddhist young man and a Christian girl, I had to flee the country for security, thus becoming a refugee myself. Leaving our children behind, we came to Australia in December 2014.

Life in Australia:

No permit to do any paid job, no Centrelink support, no Medicare and life was so tough without the support and care from the church, Red Cross and community we received for about two years. Mulgrave Uniting Church became our mother church. We had a place to stay. But in those times I volunteered myself for the service of other refugees and asylum seekers. When we had permission to work, we took any available job, from gardening, picking, packing, cleaning, interpreting and translation.

Later, by God's guidance, I could connect with Uniting Church to serve God. I used to answer, "I feel more than at Home" to the question, "Do you feel at home" in Australia, because I have never experienced such freedom, love and care.

I did supplied ministry at Noble Park UC for three months. And I have completed my first year of full time placement in Ulverstone- Sprent Parish. I have learned so much, and I have many more things to learn to serve Him effectively in this contemporary societies. God is good all the times.

The ACC invites all interested people to:

The Bible and the Basis

Date: Saturday 29 June

Venue: Ulverstone Uniting Church

Time: 10 am for 10.30 -12.30

Morning tea supplied BYO lunch

Participants will be asked to prepare for the event beforehand by reading the Basis of Union and doing the Quiz 'How Biblical is the Basis'. See <https://confessingschooloffaith.com> then click on Basis of Union at bottom of home page, and select Basis of Union Quiz in the side panel. We will share our answers at the event.

Please contact Walter Abetz at <wkabetz2@bigpond.com> if you wish to participate in the teaching event at Ulverstone by ZOOM.



Strathdevon Extension and Renovation

Non-profit aged care provider Uniting AgeWell is delighted to share its new-look Latrobe Community, Strathdevon with the community. A \$10 million extension and renovation of the residence enabled it to expand from 37 to 67 beds and introduce a state-of-the-art kitchen, new community areas and stunning landscaped gardens.

Residential Services Manager Suezanne Horder said the residence had already been inundated with enquiries from members of the community who



had seen the building develop and were keen to tour the inside. “We’ve received really positive feedback from the community and people have told us the building and garden is very impressive,” she said. Uniting AgeWell aimed to create a modern and vibrant community for its residents, with a new community café, chapel, gym, hair salon, a state-of-the-art

‘cook fresh’ kitchen, multipurpose room with cinema-like capabilities and activity areas for residents to spend time with family and friends. “There are expansive open areas where we can come together as a whole residence or large group, as well as discrete and private nooks where people can have a small group or one-on-one gathering,” she said. The new residential wing includes premium rooms, each with an ensuite and view of the gardens, and several rooms designed to meet the needs of the indigenous community.



Uniting AgeWell CEO Andrew Kinnerly said the major upgrade of Strathdevon demonstrated the organisation’s ongoing commitment to providing high quality care to older people on the North West coast, particularly in the Latrobe area. “Uniting AgeWell is absolutely committed to supporting people in this region as they age,” he said.

This 'n That

■ **JIM** (Justice & International Mission) News. See: [https:// www.victas.uca.org.au/getinvolved/ Social-Justice/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.victas.uca.org.au/getinvolved/Social-Justice/Pages/default.aspx)

■ **Assembly National Update** available at <https://assembly.uca.org.au/>

■ **Presbytery Tasmania website:** <https://ucatas.org.au/>

- Chris Barnett's **Tasmania Children and Families update** by email contact Chris.Barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au
- **Local congregation leaders** – in June **Check items in your Essential Health and Safety Log Book and then send Log Book to UCA Tas Office
- Read about the role of **Bush Chaplain** Rev John Dihm when a Tom Price local disappears at <https://frontierservices.org/2019/05/>
- **Song Writers** – find out more about the Word Song Writing Showcase at <http://www.wordsong.live/get-involved/songwriters/>

Praying for the Presbytery

This month please remember
in your prayers:

- For **Hoon You, Hee-Seung (Hannah) Kook, Joon, Sarah and Issac** as they prepare to move to Tasmania to live and work amongst us.
- For **Gospel Ralte** and **Ann Perrin** as they prepare for the service to accept Gospel as a Minister of the Word in the UCA. For **Gospel's family** and the **people of Ulverstone UCA**.
- For the **Synod staff** preparing for the Synod meeting in July and **Synod members** from all presbyteries as they p[repare to gather (and read many reportds and proposals) and discern together.

what's On

June

Sat 1	9.45am	Presbytery Gathering, Scotch Oakburn College, Lton
Tue 20	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Mon 24	11.00am	Resource & Development Committee
Tue 25	9.30am	Pastoral Relations Committee

July

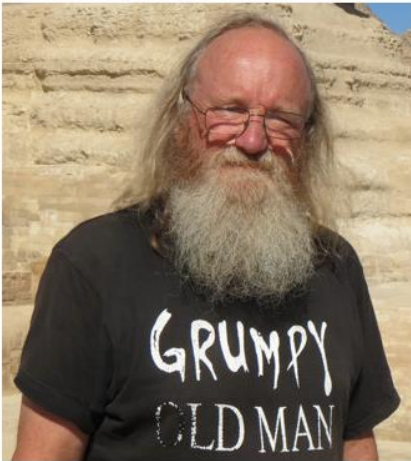
Fri 5 to Tues 9		Synod Meeting, Melbourne
Mon 22	11.00am	Resource & Development Committee
Tue 23	9.30am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Thur 25	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee

Please check our Presbytery Calendar of events on the [Presbytery website](#)

Safe Church Project Officer

Graham Booth

Graham.Booth@victas.uca.org.au
or message at Tas Office: 03 6331 9784



- Child Safe Project Officer (Tasmania)
- Until end of December 2019
- **Assistance negotiating Safe Church processes**
- From Longford
- Lay Preacher, Editor of Uniting Tasmania

If you have any questions regarding the Safe Church processes and reporting on these feel free to contact me, preferably before my time runs out... I promise not to be too grumpy.

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Presbytery of Tasmania website: <https://ucatas.org.au>

The map of Tasmania including King and Flinders Islands has been adapted from a Creative Commons file https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_Tasmania_location_map_blank.svg