

From Liz Stone – Associate Interim General Secretary

St Michael and All Angels – 29 September 2014

Whilst some churches marked a day in the liturgical calendar for the Archangels – Michael, Gabriel and Raphael - on 29 September, the Orthodox churches will honour them on 8 November.

In the spirit of 'receptive ecumenism' we share a theological explanation on the place of angels in the Greek Orthodox tradition by Philip Kariatlis, Academic Secretary and Associate Lecturer at **St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College**

http://www.greekorthodox.org.au/general/resources/publications/article/details.php?page=187&article_id=10



News today is that cuts to Australia's foreign aid budget will pay for the costs of military involvement in Iraq and national security. The Syrian refugee crisis is the biggest humanitarian challenge in the world. Community leaders and Christian leaders are requesting us "to aid the victims, not aid the militants".

Most of those seeking refuge and protection from Syria and Iraq are being assisted by villagers and communities in schools, homes and hospitals who are sharing their food, clothing and shelter. Host communities in Turkey and Lebanon are bearing a great load and Australia can do more to assist the food and shelter programs across the region.

Reducing foreign aid will cost more lives and the 10 million refugees and displaced of Syria and Iraq have already suffered much. Winter is coming. It is only months away.

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you?" (Matthew 25: 37-38)

To support Act for Peace's Emergency Appeal for Iraq go to
<http://www.actforpeace.org.au/Get-Involved/Our-latest-appeals/Iraq-Crisis-Appeal>

Raise your voice against the Cambodian solution for refugees

The Uniting Church is asking you to **raise your voice against the Cambodian solution for refugees**. Over recent months the Australian Government has been negotiating with Cambodia to resettle refugees in that country. Major concerns about this proposal, include the recently documented breaches of human rights, the extreme poverty experienced by many Cambodians, and the inability of either the Australian or the Cambodian government to guarantee the safety of the refugees.



Members of Parliament will not challenge government policies until they hear the voices loudly and clearly of those who are opposed to what is being done in our name. **Add your voice and email Minister Scott Morrison to express your concern about the proposal to send refugees to Cambodia.** Make a copy and send it to your local MP.

Visit **ACT NOW** at <http://ucaqld.com.au/act-now/> or

contact Sue Hutchinson or Bruce Mullan from the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod on 07 3377 9777 or email help@ucaqld.com.au.

Events / Seminars & Forums

Fourth National Conference on the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees 1-3 October 2014
The conference is run by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference through the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office. The Fourth National Conference is designed to explore all aspects of movement under the theme **"Towards a Better World"**. To register please go to https://www.ors.net.au/ACMRO_NationalConference2014.html

Thank you to Fr Shenouda Mansour and the NSW Ecumenical Council for organising a visit from **Ms Arda Arghazarian** on the 30 September 2014. For those interested in her advocacy for justice and peace in the Holy Land listen at

<http://www.sbs.com.au/podcasts/Podcasts/armenian/episode/364142/Interview-with-Arda-Aghazarian-30-9-2014> or to see other guest speaking times go to: <http://pien.org.au/arda-aghazarian-australia/>.



Reach out to the Muslim community, we're all Aussies together

Denis Hart, The Australian September 26, 2014 12:00AM

Denis Hart is Archbishop of Melbourne and president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

"BRUTAL attacks by the forces of Islamic State on Christian, Yazidi, Muslim and other religious and ethnic minorities in northern Iraq continue to be a deep concern. We can feel so remote from the conflict it is hard to know how to help. But we can act in our own country to promote peace.....

The next time you see someone of Muslim background say hello, smile and start a conversation. We need to talk to each other to find the common values we share. We are all part of the same community, and we have to learn to understand each other and get on.

One of Australia's strengths historically has been our ability to welcome people into our community, whatever their racial, ethnic or religious background." To read more go to: www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/.../story-e6frg6zo-1227070739622

Arms Trade Treaty to become International Law

Act for Peace celebrates a historic moment as the 50th ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty triggers a 90-day countdown for the treaty to enter into force – and become international law.

Act for Peace comments that the ATT will help control the trade of dangerous arms around the world and allow for investigation into the supply of arms including to Islamic State (IS) fighters.

"The first 50 states to ratify the ATT, including Australia, have shown political leadership and strength in ensuring the treaty will enter into force on December 24 2014 – only 18 months since it first opened for signature, in June 2013."

The ATT is the first global agreement to regulate the



\$85bn annual trade in arms and ammunition. "Every day, up 2,000 people are killed by armed violence and millions more live in fear of rape, assault and displacement caused by weapons getting into the wrong hands," said Mr Gee.

Act for peace also comments that heavy scrutiny will now be placed on the source of weapons being used in conflicts around the

globe, for example in South Sudan, Syria, Iraq and Israel/Palestine.

Once the treaty enters into force, the next major challenge will be ensure the treaty – which sets new international law – is implemented robustly.

See more at: http://www.actforpeace.org.au/www_AFP/media/act-for-peace/media/media-release/2014/act-for-peace-media-release-ATT-ratification-sep-2014.pdf

Act for Peace worked tirelessly in the pursuit of this treaty with other NGO's and the UN.

Nuclear Weapons Ban

Join Act for Peace and the 84% of Australians that support a ban on Nuclear weapons. For more information or to sign the petition, go to www.icanw.org.au.



The 2014 Sydney Peace Prize

Will be awarded to **Julian Burnside AO QC**, Barrister and human rights and refugee advocate at Sydney. Julian is known for his staunch opposition to the mandatory detention of asylum seekers. Hear Julian Burnside speak about his work and passion for peace with justice and witness **Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser AC CH GCL** present him with the Prize—at the *City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture*. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 concession. Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start.

Religious Programming on the ABC



Those who attended the Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) conference this year heard a wide-ranging and entertaining speech from Mark Scott at the Awards Dinner about the changing nature of the media and broadcasting landscape, and also John Cleary and Jane Jeffes at the Sunday anniversary lunch, who spoke particularly about the role of ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) in religious broadcasting, outlining the range of their programmes and services, take a look at: <http://www.abc.net.au/religion/>

Positions Vacant

NCCA - Safe Church Training Agreement National Coordinator - 3 days per week

NSW – Sydney CBD or Melbourne CBD

Written applications should include:

- a covering letter addressing the selection criteria in the position description;
- your resume; and
- 2 Referees with their daytime contact details.

Applications will be accepted by email personnel@ncca.org.au. Applications close: Friday, 3rd October 2014. Please call Daphne Siva if you have any queries on (02) 82590 802

NCCA General Secretary – Full time

NSW – Sydney Region

- Strengthening relationships between churches in Australia
- Dialogue, leadership and initiative
- Strategy, policy and projects

To discuss this role or before forwarding your resume, please ring Peter Kaye or Alexander Bailey, in confidence, at Consultgroup on 02 8577 5000, afterhours on 0418 617 357 or email peter@consultgroup.net.au or alexander@concsultgroup.net.au.