



PURE LAND LEARNING COLLEGE ASSOCIATION INC.

MULTI-FAITH MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

EVERYONE MATTERS - TOOWOOMBA, A MODEL CITY OF PEACE & HARMONY



Aug 2016, Issue 55

Interfaith Forums

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David organized their first International Forum for Multi-Faith and Culture Harmony on 6 July 2016. Keynote speakers included Professor Medwin Hughes, Venerable Master Chin Kung AM, and The Right Rev'd Wyn Evans. This was followed by a panel discussion with several faith representatives on 'Journeying Together to Enrich Community – A Faith Perspective'.

As this was the first symposium that promoted interfaith dialogue at the university, the audience strongly felt that the forum should be held on a yearly basis with more faiths invited to participate.



Pure Land Learning College Association was also invited to present at the Sixth World Youth Buddhist Symposium, held at Chiang Mai at the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University of Thailand from 12–15 July 2016.

Venerable Wu Shin gave a keynote address on 'The Promotion of World Peace: The Role of Ethics, Morality and Religion', while Imam Abdul Kader and Sarwan Narayan, presented on 'The Way of Peace' from the Islamic and Hindu perspectives. Muhammed Haniff and Meiling Chow spoke on 'The Toowoomba Model of Peace and Harmony'.



- Venerable Khenpo Sodargye (third from right) with the delegates from Toowoomba -



All for Peace - Toowoomba Standing Together

A wonderful sign of loving presence in the midst of our troubled world was the All for Peace gathering at St Luke's this July. It came about at the request of our Iraqi Muslim community who asked if we would host something to acknowledge the pain of Iraq and the wider world. Muslims asking Christians to host a joint event – in a church building -for peace: imagine that in many parts of our world! What a lovely expression of the model of supportive diverse community for which so many parts of our city of Toowoomba have been working and praying so hard. It was certainly a moving occasion, with a nearly full St Luke's, and with contributors including our Mayor Paul Antonio, Federal MP Dr John McVeigh, District Police Inspector Steve Angus, Mr Haniff, faith leaders, St Saviours school children, and many more! We reflected together on the violent acts, which had recently taken place in France, Germany, Turkey, the USA, Sudan and elsewhere. We lit candles. We placed flowers outside in a public witness. We recommitted ourselves together to help make Toowoomba even more of 'model city of peace and harmony'. For one good model or example can be like the one candle which dispels the darkness which can seem so threatening. Each of us, in the vulnerable but real strength of true peace, can be that candle for our own fears and violence, signs of divine love for everyone, lightening up our world.

Contributed by Rev. Jonathan Inkipin
Chair of Goodwill Committee Toowoomba

Check out more photos on mmc.Toowoomba

For upcoming activities and programs, please visit www.interfaith-harmony.org

call us at (07) 4659 8054, or email us mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com

- Abdulla Abdulla, a member of the Toowoomba Iraqi Community giving an address (left) and members of the Toowoomba community lighting candles on 23 July 2016-

TOOWOOMBA STANDING TOGETHER
Community Affirmation in the Face of Disaster and Emergency
(from the Toowoomba Goodwill Committee)

We meet today to affirm and support each other.
We acknowledge the first peoples of this land
and their continued gifts among us.
We welcome all who join us in our shared journey of peace and harmony.
May we always celebrate our diversity
as central to our common life and fruitfulness.
We stand with one another – Toowoomba Together

We meet today to share and honour our pain and sadness.
We hold with tenderness all that is hurting among us
and in our broken world.
We offer up our sorrow, heartache and compassion.
May our tears and grief be transformed into healing and renewal.
We stand with one another – Toowoomba Together

We meet today to strengthen hope and solidarity,
We pledge ourselves to rebuild with love and courage.
We seek to do all we can to rejuvenate what has been destroyed.
May our hearts and hands always reach out to those in need,
wherever they may be.
We stand with one another – Toowoomba Together:
Many Outlooks. Many Cultures – One Community.