



March 2008
For immediate release

EASTER MESSAGE 2008

Rev. Gregor Henderson, President, Uniting Church in Australia

EASTER IMPACTS ON PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS... AND OF NONE

Despite walking this earth 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ continues to make more impact for good on people in the world today than any other human being.

This Easter it is worth noting that the stresses that can occur between those of different religions are generated by a very few people. The far more common story is the good relationships that are being nurtured by the vast majority of people of faith.

In the Indian city of Machilipatnam, thousands of Hindus and Muslims come to the city cathedral every Christmas Eve to pray, in respect for the Christian faith. Their offerings that day make up more than 10% of the cathedral's annual budget.

In Jerusalem last year, a new *Council for Religious Institutions* was established, with members from Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths, to work on the long-term future status of Jerusalem.

In Australia the leaders of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths are planning a joint visit to Israel and Palestine in 2009, to consider how faith leaders may contribute to peace in the region.

None of these things would be happening were it not for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to live and teach God's love for the whole world, not just for his particular followers.

This Easter we encourage you to give thanks for Jesus; a man who promoted peace and advocated for justice for *all* humans; and the man whom we Christians worship as Son of God and Saviour of the world.