

Pres Life

MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND



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same magazine**

Bringing news, views and inspiration to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland as well as seeking to bring Glory to God and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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Pres Life

Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

CONTRIBUTIONS of stories, ideas and images are welcome. Stories and advertising should be sent to the editor.

Photographs should be saved in JPEG or TIFF format and must be high resolution (300dpi). Written permission also needs to be given to reprint the photographs.

If quoting other people's work in your article that should be acknowledged in the article. Please limit articles to **460 words or less**.

To view the online publication go to www.pcq.org.au.

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For full details on advertising please contact the editor.

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From the Editor



with Michelle Martin

Dear Readers

Welcome back to the latest issue of *Pres Life*. Yes, the name has changed from *New Directions* to *Pres Life* but it's still the same magazine.

Our State Assembly is about to commence or is already finished depending on when you read this. There will be a special edition coming out in August about what happened at Assembly.

State of Origin kicked-off in June. Go Queensland!

There's a few big events happening in July for people to attend. I urge people to take part in Fire on the Mountain, TGC Australia launch and listen to Don Carson speak at the Queensland Theological College, so be sure to register!

Check out pages 6-9 for news from different churches around the State. Also check out the mission work being done overseas and around Australia on pages 11-21.

Term 3 is almost over, kids and teachers will be on holidays; enjoy your much earned break and stay safe!

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What's On



Fire on the Mountain: a Biblical worldview teaching weekend, invites you to join us for our 20th Annual Conference, 24-26 July.

Speakers: Dr Douglas J. Green, originally from Sydney, has been a Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary (WTS) since 1992 (PhD, Yale University). Doug will be speaking on 'The One True Human: Old Testament Perspectives on the Humanity of Jesus.'

Dr Ed Welch serves on the faculty of the Christian Counselling and Educational Foundation, Philadelphia, and lectures in practical theology at WTS. Ed is the author of numerous books and articles on Biblical counselling. His professional expertise lies in the areas of addiction and depression. Ed holds an MDiv from Biblical Theological Seminary and a PhD

in Counselling Psychology with a Neuropsychology specialty. Ed's sessions will be on, 'A Little Lower Than the Angels: Being Human.'

Fire on the Mountain is held on Tamborine Mountain in the beautiful Gold Coast hinterland. Catered meals, accommodation at Camp Tamborine, good fellowship and excellent biblical teaching are all part of the weekend. Come join us!

For further info and registration email us:
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or visit our website:
www.fireonthemountain.org.au

Briefly

MODERATOR-GENERAL

Did you know that the Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, Rt Rev David Cook has a blog? Check it out each fortnight at www.presbyterian.org.au

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WE CAN TURN YOUR USED STAMPS INTO MISSION SUPPORT

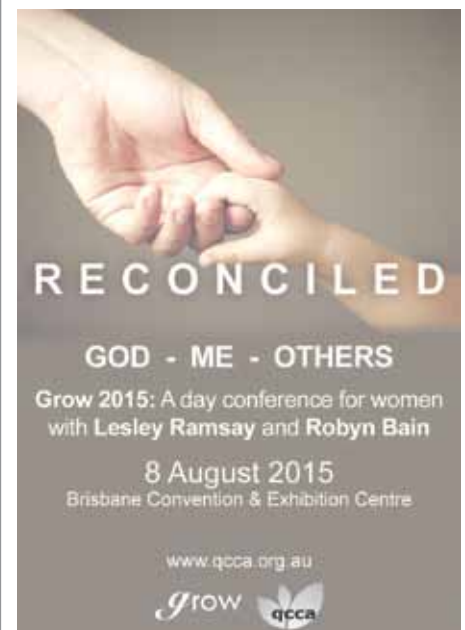
The Presbyterian Womens' Missionary Union (P.W.M.U) is collecting stamps to support our missionaries. Stamps can be left at Church Offices, Level 4, 19 Lang Parade, Milton Qld 4064 or call Carole on 07 3324 9309 or Margaret on 07 3285 6146 for other options or more details.

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GRASS-ROOTS REFLECTIONS

Amazing Grace: More Than a Hymn!



by Roland Lowther

On 21 March 1748, a belligerent John Newton encountered the grace of God for the first time. In reflecting on his impassioned plea to God in the midst of a violent North Atlantic storm, Newton first expressed the well-known words, 'How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.' However, it would take a further 25 years before those initial reflections took final form.

In 1773, as an ordained minister of the Gospel, Newton was preparing his New Year's sermon as he poured over the text of 1 Chronicles 17:16,17 with keen interest. The scripture revealed King David's meditations on God's favour, and in those words Newton found voice for his own expression of gratitude.

The converted slave-trader believed that unless a Christian is bestowed with a thankful heart in view of God's mercies, then any comfort gained from the Lord might be lost; and in reflecting on David's words wrote, 'They lead us to a consideration of past mercies and future hopes and intimate the frame of mind which becomes us when we contemplate what the Lord has done for us'. It was this contemplation that manifested itself as the hymn Amazing Grace!

Before his death in 1807, Newton composed his own epitaph. It read, 'John Newton, Clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he long laboured to destroy.' The epitaph bears witness to the power of the divine grace, that had; delivered him

from certain death; emancipated him from the bondage of a profane life; transformed him into an agent of mercy; and above all redeemed him from eternal condemnation. Any discerning reader would have little difficulty in ascertaining the powerful effect God's grace had on him.

However, unlike many Christians who misinterpret God's abundant grace as a pretext for a life free of obligation (moral or otherwise), John Newton was possessed by a view of grace that compelled authentic loving devotion. The grace that had saved 'a wretch like him', arrested his whole life, inspiring him to 'pay it forward' as a: loving husband, devoted friend, caring pastor, faithful preacher, concerned writer, passionate hymn writer, and indefatigable advocate of human rights.

It shouldn't surprise us then, that grace was so powerfully expounded in the words of a former slave-trader; given that the Apostle Paul employs the metaphor of slavery to describe God's grace to us.

The Apostle doesn't view grace as a gratuitous action of God that merely finds expression in personal assurance, but also affirms it as a 'new state' in which believers now stand (Romans 5:1-2).

For Paul, grace is more than an 'attitude or action' of God, it is an entirely new 'dominion' that God establishes. God's grace doesn't just free us to live as we want (Romans 6:1-2), but establishes a divine sovereignty that implores loving devotion. Having been freed from the realm of slavery and established in the realm of God's favour 'in Christ', through dying 'with Christ' (Romans 6:6), we are no longer 'slaves' to the mastery of sin and its power (Romans 6:6). Now, raised 'with Christ' we enter this new domain, free from, the bondage of sin, the condemnation of the Law, and the fear of death. Within this dominion of grace, the Christian

is freed to be a 'slave of righteousness' (Romans 6:18). This is not an administration of fearful duty, but a state in which the love of God compels joyful submission to Christ's lordship. Such submission invariably bears out the fruit of holiness and the assurance of eternal life (Romans 6:22).

Therefore, having been transferred from slavery to sonship, the Christian is no longer controlled by fear and guilt, but compelled by a grace-conditioned love.

Furthermore, within this 'new' dominion of divine favour, the authentic believer is free to live a life that pleases God—'in the Spirit' (Romans 8:3-12). If we can grasp this, then I suspect we are well on the way to understanding the motivating force behind John Newton's comprehension of grace. God's grace is amazing, but understanding this grace goes well beyond contemplating the 'ideas' sentimentally enshrined in the world's most famous hymn.

In fact, the hymn writer's greatest appreciation of grace was powerfully revealed in his life; a life that knew the bitterness of slavery to sin and then the joy of 'liberty' 'in Christ'. His was a life immersed in God's divine grace, which bountifully overflowed in loving service to others.

For John Newton, the wonder of grace was not something only to be admired, but a 'state of being' to be embraced and lived out; a truth not limited to the lines of a beautiful hymn, but manifest in the story of a beautiful life. Such a life is not extraordinary—it is the norm!



Pray, Live, Serve...but what about our gifts?

by Naomi Reed

Often, we think that if someone is really gifted, they should make good use of those gifts... and we're tempted to prescribe what that might be.

Last year, Darren and I visited a homeless centre in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and the manager of the centre was a young local man with a degree in music.

Every day that the centre opened, the homeless were fed and cared for AND this man sat down at the piano to play in Russian, pouring out his soul and degree in music, for the most degraded people in the city. He played worship songs.

The day we were there, the homeless crept into the building, one by one, with their black eyes and swollen hands and missing fingers... and they heard the music and they joined in, singing... because the young man's soul was pouring out of his hands.

It reminded me that it's not our place to prescribe what's a good use of someone's gifts, or even to attempt to make that judgment—it's our place to honour God, with the gifts he's given us.

Naomi Reed is a speaker and writer who lives with her family in the Blue Mountains. For more information go to www.NaomiReed.Info

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Don Carson | 20-22 July | Biblical Theology



Over this 3-day conference being held at the Brisbane Convention Centre, Dr Carson will be sharing some rich insights into the history and nature of Biblical Theology.

23 July | TGC Australia Launch



Dr Carson will be joined by Peter Jensen, Peter Adam and Gary Millar at the launch of The Gospel Coalition Australia. Don't miss this landmark event being held at Brisbane City Hall

31 July | Dr Ed Welch Conference



Dr Ed Welch, an experienced teacher, counsellor and author, will speak on how the gospel informs the way we do friendship and everyday counsel in the church.

8 October | Prof Douglas Moo



Professor Douglas Moo will be teaching an intensive on Galatians from November 2-6 and the first day will be open to the public.

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Not a Farewell

by Marjorie Stuart



... the LORD will watch over your coming
and going both now and forevermore.
Psalm 121:8

How could we say farewell to a couple who have been an integral part of our fellowship for nearly 50 years? We couldn't, so on Saturday 14 March approximately 80 people gathered at Camp Tinaroo to say, "See you later" to Don and Grace Nicholson who were leaving Atherton to take up residence in Warner on the outskirts of Brisbane.

Those in attendance were mostly from the Cairns and Tablelands Presbyterian Churches, all sad to see their friends leave but thankful to the Lord for His servants, Don and Grace.

The afternoon began with the unveiling of a sign: Nicholson Avenue—the new name for a stand of Bunya Pines at the Camp, which honours Don's knowledge and love of trees, and the many years he served on the Camp Tinaroo Committee.



L-R: Allan Johnson, Jim Blandford, Don Blandford, Grace and Don Nicholson and Kirk Farquharson

Then followed a time of praise, with Grace at her familiar place at the keyboard, while those gathered joyously sang favourite hymns and choruses.

Despite the Nicholsons' humility, and reluctance to draw attention to themselves, there were brief speeches which tried to express what was in the hearts of those who were gathered.

Sue Farquharson of Cairns spoke on behalf of the Presbyterian Women's Association (PWA) ladies, and fondly recalled the fun and fellowship of PWA camps and concerts in which Grace's musical skill, dramatic flair and sense of humour often featured. Alan Johnson, Session Clerk at Tablelands Presbyterian Church (TPC), honoured Don and Grace as stalwarts of the congregation at TPC.

He described them as being consistently God fearing, God loving and committed to His service. Don served as an elder, Session Clerk, Sunday School superintendent, teacher and Treasurer of the Committee of Management as well as being involved in the Camp Tinaroo Committee.

Grace taught Sunday School, was involved in the PWA, played piano for innumerable worship services, funerals, services in aged homes and Sunday School, as well as engaging in Cherish Life and other community activities.

Both Don and Grace were 'always there' members of the congregation at worship, Bible study, prayer meetings, Vacation Bible Schools, concerts and family occasions such as birthday celebrations, fellowship lunches, day trips and picnics. Their love and concern for others, and their willingness to help never faltered. They've made themselves available to God—for His glory.

Don and Grace expressed their thanks, cut the decorated cake and received the gift that had been prepared for them—a book of photographic memories of the past 50 years.

A delicious afternoon tea and a time of loving fellowship followed, with time for personal words, shared memories, hugs and handshakes.

The next day Don and Grace joined the congregation at TPC in worship, as usual, except it was for the last time. They will be missed so much! But praise God members of His Family are never really separated. Don and Grace will continue to serve God—just in a different location.

Jottings from Maleny Presbyterian Church

by Margaret Hunter

The Maleny Presbyterian Church has recently celebrated the 80th Birthdays of two of our long serving ladies. Mrs Allen-Waters has attended the church since the 1960s and took on the role of Superintendent of the Sunday School at various times; Secretary for the Committee of Management and Leader of the Ladies Group for some years as well as leading a large KYB group for a long time.

Mrs Hunter has also taken Sunday School when there were children attending. She also took on the role of Treasurer twenty years ago and now leads the Care & Share Ladies Group.

On April 12th there was a Special Morning Tea for the retiring Session Clerk/Secretary COM Mr G Hunter and the retiring Treasurer Mrs M Hunter.

Mr Hunter was Inducted as an Elder of the Caloundra/Maleny Charge in 2004 and when Maleny became the separate charge in 2011 he became its first Session Clerk. Both he and his wife have served on the Committee of Management in their respective positions over many years.

The new Session Clerk Mr Lawrie Matthews presented a gift of appreciation to them both on behalf of the congregation.

The large old Pulpit Bible has recently been found in a back room cupboard. Inscribed in the front of it was 'Presented to the Maleny Presbyterian Church by Mr & Mrs McKinnon and family—May 1939'. Recently one of Mr McKinnon's sons has started attending our church again. The Bible is now proudly displayed on a stand on the Communion table.

Ministry Training Institute Trainee at St Andrew's Townsville

by Hal Bubb

At the request of the Ministry Training Institute (MTI) in South Korea, St Andrew's Townsville agreed to host a trainee from MTI for a twelve month internship. This came to fruition in March 2014 when the Rev Daesung Jung arrived to join us for the year to follow.

Daesung settled very well into the life of our congregation and in no time at all felt very much a part of the Church family.

A major feature of his training in our midst was to improve his competency in communication using the English

language in Gospel ministry. St Andrew's operates English as a Second Language (ESL) classes every Tuesday so Daesung attended these classes every week and his advancement as the months went by was very noticeable.

He also shared in Bible studies, prayer meetings, and joined in the weekly meetings of the Missions Committee where he led a study segment for one period. As a guitarist he complemented the younger set of musicians who lead singing at our evening worship services.

Our visitor from Korea also accompanied our two Ministers, Revs Peter Barber and Kwangho Song, on pastoral visits throughout the year.

In February he joined Peter for his annual missionary outreach visit to the Reformed Evangelical Church of Myanmar. This was a profound experience for him and should prove beneficial in his future service for the Lord.

We were sad to bid him farewell after sharing together in a year of rich Christian fellowship.



A framed photo of St Andrew's Townsville's church building was presented to Daesung Jung by Peter Barber



L-R: Abigail Barber, Daesung Jung, Joanna den Dulk and Margaret den Dulk

What can you do in 15 minutes?

by Jeff Parry

Have you ever walked out of church on Sunday praying for opportunities to meet new people and tell them about God's miracles? If God were to answer your prayer could you keep this to less than 15 minutes?

That is the opportunity God has given the Charleville congregation. Not once, but every Sunday during the tourist season this year.

A Local Operator conducts a two hour bus tour of Charleville showcasing the impacts of floods, fire and the history of its buildings. The tour concludes across the road from the Presbyterian Church. The present congregation are usually just finishing morning tea after church as the coach pulls up across the road. A member asked, "Why don't we invite them in to join us?"

The Operator was very happy to shorten part of the tour in order to arrive for morning tea and a meet and greet with the locals. The proviso was... 15 minutes only! The tour must still finish on time!

For the congregation, Sunday worship and morning tea continue as usual but as soon as the coach pulls up a well-oiled operation swings into action. Within five minutes a very relaxed greeting is extended, everybody

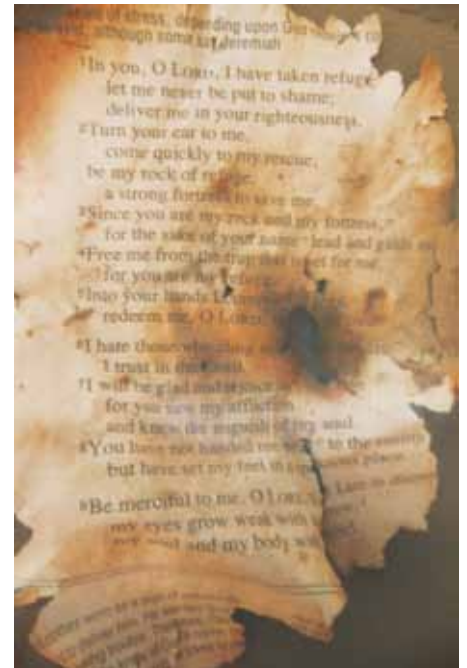
(including the driver) are provided with a cuppa and engaged in friendly country hospitality.

After eight minutes, one of the elders thanks everyone and starts to relate the story of a recent miracle that occurred just 23km south of Charleville on the main highway.

The Angellala Bridge was the scene of a large truck explosion when a road train carrying 52 tonne of mining explosives overturned, caught fire and exploded with such force the blast destroyed part of the highway and a rail bridge.

Members of the emergency services were given bravery awards for rescuing the driver who survived, despite severe burns. Pieces of the truck were located a kilometre away. During searches a scorched page from a bible was located in a tree just metres from the centre of the blast. This page comes from the centre of the driver's own NIV bible that was burnt in the cabin fire.

As people are finishing up their morning tea a photograph of the Bible page is passed around the tour group and the morning concludes with reading parts of the page which comes from Psalm 31 "I have taken refuge... come quickly to my rescue... Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge."



Fifteen minutes—people are boarding the bus to leave, and we are praying that God will continue to bring people to His refuge and save them—for Eternity.

We thank Him for the opportunities that are placed before us. Already we have met some very interesting people as a result of sharing morning tea.

What can your congregation do with fifteen minutes God has given you?

So much more than 50 Years of a Building

by Annette Moran

On 1 March Banyo Presbyterian Church saw past and present church members gather together to celebrate 50 years of their church building. It was their intention that this celebration firstly would honour God, and secondly acknowledge the work He has done in the lives of the people who have passed through this church. We desired a day that would be a celebration of God's love, and His hand upon our lives. What a wonderful time we had catching up with friends not seen for 5, 10 or 15 years.

This Church was in the area for many years before the church building was

put in place.

In 1952 people met together to consider establishing a local pres church, initially meeting in the home of Mrs L Green. It was incredibly special on that day to be joined by members of the Green family at the celebration.

The Women's Guild was established on 1 February 1953. It has been and continues to be very active at Banyo. They continue to do marvellous work and outreach, raising money for many missionary and outreach programs. These ladies make a 'hands on' difference.

The Committee of Management organised the building of the hall in 1954 complete with a stage. This decision enabled, us over the years to have fancy dress and film nights, concerts, etc. To this day the stage is an important part of our life and we wanted the celebrations to reflect this.

Testimonies were given by Michael Madden and Peter Moran. Samoan members of our congregation performed a skit and sang. Connor Hobday singing, Michael playing the ukulele and Rev Ron Clark's magic act completed the day.

Continued next page

Ladies Day Out

by Edith Clark

There was movement at the Cairns Presbyterian Church for the word had passed around that Ladies Day Out was on again for 2015. A Ladies Day has been run by the church, in a few different formats for over 10 years. For the last few years we have provided ladies of all ages, with an opportunity to be spoilt and to enjoy a time of creativity, through three sessions of workshops, and a talk with a Biblical basis. This year our theme was 'This and That'.

We had over 90 ladies attending plus one male, with the majority from outside the church. The ladies were amazed that we went to so much effort to create a special day for them. Everyone received a gift bag containing a notebook, pen and details of the various ministries at the church; along with a small gift relating to the theme.

Our new Share & Nite Church Pastor, Peter Davies (the lone male) took a group of ladies on a tasting tour of 'Coffee around the World'.

We also had a lot of creative 'This and That' with leather making, scrapbooking, cardmaking, washi tape art, decorating shopping bags, flower arranging and cupcake decorating; hand massages and finger-nail painting; plus a group who knitted, crocheted, cut and

threaded items for the shoeboxes as part of Operation Christmas Child.



Pampering



Cupcake Decorating

After consuming an abundance of food during the day, when the cupcake workshop started, it attracted 'lookers-on', like ants at a picnic. We're not sure how much was learnt as lots of 'tastings' occurred.

Our Bible focus this year was on Street Level Youth Care (SLYC) which is

overseen by the Cairns Baptist Church. SLYC reach out to youth who are living on the streets or in disadvantaged households, by providing meals, toiletries and a listening ear.

They recently extended their services from the CBD to now include the northern beach and southern suburbs. This move has been well-received with shop owners reporting a drop in crime.

Ladies could either bring items to sell on a Trading Table or donate items for SLYC and Harald's House (an offshoot of SLYC, which provides a home for the homeless youth to turn their lives around) to use. At the end of the day over \$250 was raised, along with donated food and toiletry items.

We are blessed as a church to have ladies who are willing to pass on and share their skills with others in a loving and fun way. We are thankful for those who share Gods love by inviting friends from outside the church.

Will you join us in praying for those who attended that they will come to know 'God's love'; and for those who organised the day—for wisdom and guidance as they plan next year's event.

Continued from page 8

We purchased the church building and moved it to its present position in 1954. A local builder Mr Biss added a front foyer to complete it. The official opening was held on 28 February 1965 by the Rt Rev K Roberts.

The celebrations were months in the planning. We started out to acknowledge what God had done in the lives of the people who had come and gone through Banyo; by the time we finished we realised the blessings were many. We were and are blessed to see what God is doing through the people within our church. We do indeed worship an incredible God.

Our thanks to God first for bringing together this day, to the people of our congregation, to Rev Matthew Viney, and Miranda and Michael Nakhla. We achieved what we set out to do—to

honour God and acknowledge what He has done in the lives of the people who have passed through this church. All

glory to Him. Our thanks go to everyone who pulled this day together.



Gary Millar talks about The Gospel Coalition Australia

What is The Gospel Coalition?

The Gospel Coalition (TGC), founded by Don Carson and Tim Keller ten years ago in the US, is basically a group of pastors who started to meet together to encourage one another in the Gospel, and to keep the Gospel front and centre in the church of Jesus Christ. Since then, it has grown into a huge network, which runs one of the most significant reformed evangelical websites in the world (Since 2009, 35 million people have visited the TGC website 92 million times and have viewed more than 168 million pages. The site currently contains over 80,000 audio, video, and text resources).

Now we have an Australian version— independent from TGC in the US, but working in partnership with it. TGC Australia is a group of senior pastors and leaders who meet together to encourage Gospel centred ministry across the nation.

Why Australia?

I love the TGC website, but I became increasingly aware of the fact that our context for ministry here in Australia is radically different from that of most of the writers from the US. We also became aware that for many younger people in Australia, sites like TGC have become their 'go to' place for teaching and ideas, but weren't necessarily connected to other 'gospel-minded' people here in Australia. Add to that the fact that we haven't always played together very well as evangelicals in Australia, and the time

seemed right to launch a new Australian movement to support and encourage local churches in Gospel partnership on the ground.

What will it do for Aussie churches?

TGC Australia has already launched a new website—<http://australia.thegospelcoalition.org>—which is full of great material written by Aussies for Aussies. But our vision is much wider than a website—we exist to call people to centre everything on the Gospel, to gather evangelical Christians together for the sake of the Gospel on the ground, and to equip and resource Christians for Gospel ministry. What this looks like will vary from State to State, and region to region across Australia. And we certainly don't think we have all the answers, nor do we have a blueprint for what this looks like.

That's why we've invited over 100 leaders from across Australia to a 'National Leaders Consultation' here in Brisbane in July—we want to listen to as many people as possible as together we seek to reach every part of our great nation.

I see the National Launch of TGC Australia will take place at the City Hall in Brisbane in July—why launch it in Brisbane?

I could say it's because everyone recognises that Brisbane is the centre of Australian Christianity, but that

would be a lie! It's largely because Don Carson, one of the co-founders of TGC is visiting QTC in July, and the Council were keen that, even though we are a completely independent organisation, we acknowledge our gratitude and partnership with our brothers in the US. But it's also because we genuinely want this to be a national movement (rather than one that is dominated by, say, Sydney or Melbourne). It promises to be a great night at the launch, with Don, members of the TGC Council, Peter Jensen and hopefully 1600 Queensland Christians celebrating our partnership in the Gospel of Jesus!

What do you think is the biggest impact it (TGCA) will have?

Our prayer is that TGCA will lead to all kinds of Gospel ministry taking place on the ground all across Australia. We hope that TGCA will encourage Aussie Christians to think more Biblically, serve Christ more passionately and work together more effectively in every community, small or large, across Australia, as we unite around the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Who is on the Australian Council?

The Council is currently made up of Peter Adam, Alistair Bain, Neil Chambers, Ray Galea, Paul Harrington, Rick Lewers, David McDonald, Andrew Reid, Bill Salier, Rory Shiner, David Starling, CS Tang (and Gary Millar!).

THE GOSPEL COALITION AUSTRALIA NATIONAL LAUNCH

Special Guest Speaker
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Hosted by **QTC**

TGC AUSTRALIA

July 23, 7pm
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Register: www.qtc.edu.au

Japan: Mission Impossible?

by John Evans



According to the Joshua Project, Japan is still the second largest unreached people group in the world today. Very few people realise how unreached Japan is because it is a developed and wealthy country. Japan is rich, has very few poor people, and low unemployment. There is 100% literacy, good health care, and they have the longest life-expectancy in the world. Everything works. Japan is clean, and the service is great. But beneath the surface, Japan is hurting. With high rates of suicide and depression; family and marital breakdown and a skewed understanding of sex and sexuality, Japan has been called the super power without a moral compass. Japan's greatest need is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

August this year will mark the third anniversary of our arrival in Japan. We are church planting in Chiba City in partnership with Mission to the World (Presbyterian Church in America) and the Presbyterian Church in Japan. Over the past 20 years Mission to the World has been church planting in the suburbs of Chiba City but have prayed for a

church plant in the city centre; we are here to do that. Because the city centre is where many (particularly young) people come to work, study and play, as well as being a commuter 'feeder' city for Tokyo, it is a strategic place to plant a church. With only 8000 churches in a country of 127 million people (that's 1 church per 16,000 people—Australia has one per 2000), Japan desperately needs new churches.

After World War II, General MacArthur called for 10,000 missionaries to come to Japan but only a few thousand came. In 1983 there were 2,613 missionaries in Japan and by 2013 that number has decreased to 1,868 (a 30% loss). And the number of Japanese pastors is also rapidly decreasing. They are aging and becoming fewer in number. It is now estimated that around 30% of Japanese churches are without a pastor.

In Chiba City, we want to grow followers of Jesus. And we believe one of the most effective and efficient ways we can do this is by focusing on young people. World statistics indicate that between 60-80% of all responses to the Gospel are made by people under 21 years of age. And we believe this is even more important in Japan. We want to be a church that will help raise up the next generation of Christians and Christian leaders for the church in Japan.

So how can you partner with the work of the Gospel in Japan? Give financially. Mission work in Japan is expensive and

we are keen to offer and fund ministry internships for future Japanese national Gospel workers. Pray. Pray that God would change hearts and raise up more Gospel workers for the church in Japan. Come. We are in need of more families and individuals to come and join the work in Japan. We are particularly in need of Church planters, University workers, psychologists, counsellors, youth workers and family workers. We are also in desperate need of teachers for our mission school (which is what keeps many of the mission families on the field).

In Mark 1:17, Jesus said "Follow me!" ... two very simple but profound words that change everything. Two words that sum up our call in life; to follow Jesus and see other people follow Him as well. We believe God is Great. God is Glorious. God is Good. God is Gracious. And God is building his church. This isn't 'Mission Impossible', but 'Mission Possible' when God's people follow Jesus.

Please e-mail us if you are interested in partnering with us for the sake of the gospel in Japan:

theevansseven@gmail.com

(The Evans family will be in Australia on Home Assignment from September 2015 until March 2016)



**'In Chiba City,
we want to
grow followers
of Jesus.'**

An Incredible Journey

by Jared Adamo



In March, I journeyed to the heart of Asia to witness something truly amazing!

Thirty two young people, mostly from 18-24 years of age sacrifice a month of their lives to give their people something so important they postpone schooling and work to translate God's Word into their own languages.

One 22 year old lab technician had to resign her position after her Muslim boss flatly refused to allow her to go. Her family supported her decision, despite relying heavily on her income.

Another young university student risked not being able to pass his semester exams, choosing to attend the workshop rather than study for his degree.

At each workshop the translators take one subject in the Serampore College (India) Diploma of Bible Translation. This was the College William Carey set up in 1818—where he had 35 Bible translation projects under way.

They also write stories in their own language, then translate them into the national language and English. This gives them a natural opportunity to practice their translation skills and learn English.

To become competent Bible translators they must master English since all the exegetical aides require English.

The English staff are a vital part of each Translation Workshop. This time we had one English staff member who came from the USA (a real estate agent), one from New Zealand (pastor's wife), and two from Australia (an engineer and his wife, who is a nurse).

The mother tongue translators also learn about computers. Our computer staff member was a retired lab technician from Brisbane.

Three more staff members came from India, the USA and the Philippines specifically to check the translation completed by the Mother tongue translators over the past four months. Alongside them were three locals who acted as interpreters.

Not all the translators are Christian. There are also Hindus and Buddhists taking the training. Every day they are learning from the Bible, memorizing Scripture, retelling it in their own language and discussing its implications. In many ways a Translation Workshop is like an interactive Bible study.



I could not have imagined such an undertaking had I not seen it.

What really impressed me was their commitment. Would I be willing to resign from my paid employment to translate God's Word into my language?

Would I be willing to tell Bible stories to my Muslim friends, and brave constant persecution?

Would I have the support of my spouse to go three times each year for four weeks at a time (as one lady is planning to do) until the Scriptures are translated?

And what about you? Would you be willing to go and help at a Workshop? I made videos to show people like you what these translators are working to accomplish. Send me an email and I will send you the online link. Please consider how you can help them.

***Jared Adamo**
(jared.c.adamo@gmail.com)
is a member of the Eatons Hill
Presbyterian Church in Brisbane



The Team



I am the Way, the Truth and the Life

Kitchen Building in Kenya

by Ian Mclver

Members and friends of the Caloundra Presbyterian Church have visited Kenya twice in 2014. A team of nine visited the Agape Hope Children's Centre on the western side of Nairobi in February 2014.

In November 2014 another team, led by members of the Caloundra congregation made a second visit. The team consisted of Josh Shanahan, Margaret Kennedy, Ian and Norma Mclver and Don and Dawn Wallace.

Our February visit led to a concern that our next project at Agape Hope (Agape is pronounced 'Agahpay', and is the Greek word for God's love) should be a complete rebuilding of the kitchen. It was a case of "if you can't stand the heat (and the smoke) then DON'T get out of the kitchen", instead tear down the old kitchen and completely rebuild it from the ground up. So that's what we did for two weeks in November.

Grace and Mary (two young women in their mid-twenties, both scarred by broken marriages and raising children as sole parents) provide three meals a day for the 100+ orphans and vulnerable children, as well as lunch for 300+ children in the primary school on school days. The kitchen serves a vital role in both the orphanage and school.

But the kitchen in which they worked was basic and something needed to be done urgently, for the sake of their health.

Generous donations from members of the Caloundra congregation, Presbyterian Women's Association and others meant that a total in excess of \$6000 was donated for Agape Hope, along with \$2500 for two other ministries in slum areas on the eastern side of Nairobi.

Josh and Don are both experienced carpenters. Josh has completed ten visits to Vanuatu as a member of Australian Presbyterian World Mission (APWM) work parties. In fact he's keen to see similar APWM work parties set up for visits to Kenya and elsewhere in Africa. Even more than that Josh exhibits the kind of commitment to the Lord's work that means he would like to make this kind of ministry his life's calling. As a carpenter he's eager to follow in his Saviour's footsteps. We're hoping to set up a support network to help finance his ministry. Over many years Don has had a wealth of experience as property manager for a Christian Youth Camp in Waiholo in the South Island of New Zealand. They made a very good team.

During the two weeks that we were able to spend at the orphanage, Don and Josh removed all the internal walls but the roof and its supports were left in place to provide a platform from which the new roof could be constructed. Equivalent African structures are much less substantial and one Kenyan observer, who was very impressed, expressed the conviction that the new

kitchen would last a thousand years! It will certainly last a long time.

In the meantime the kitchen continued to function while our two carpenters, their young assistants from the orphanage and various tradesmen worked around Grace and Mary as they continued with their daily preparation of meals.

Once the new roof was in place and the old one removed, work began on the kitchen area itself. A proper food storage area was provided along with food preparation benches, a special new feature of a double serving counter with tubs immediately underneath for washing up dishes and cups.

The team hopes that Grace and Mary are enjoying their new kitchen. We are already thinking our next project, sometime during 2015, will be to provide them and their young families with improved sleeping quarters to call home. Readers would struggle to believe it if you could see the small, damp and dark room these two young women share with their own children and fourteen infant orphans.

So much more needs to be done, and this is only one orphanage. But with one step at a time we can help improve the lot of those who live at Agape Hope Children's Centre. We hope we can also exhibit the love of the Saviour for the children and for those who care for them.



Before



After

Partnership



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

2015 #2

www.apwm.org.au • 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134 • (02) 8073 7490 • national@apwm.org.au

The Australian Presbyterian World Mission exists to glorify God by facilitating the spread of the gospel to people overseas and Aborigines within Australia.

DREAMS BECOME REALITY

It's a hot and sticky morning in Dili, the capital of Timor Leste, but that can't wipe the joy from people's faces. Today the Dili church building of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste is being opened. This seven-year old denomination has many church buildings scattered across this infant nation but to date has not had a visible building in Dili. In this culture to have a building is to have 'legitimacy' in the eyes of the general public. It is indeed a landmark day.

For many years the congregation had met under a blue tarpaulin in the home of a local church member. The Rev Daniel Marcal, Moderator of the Church, says "We had dreamed of a day like today but we thought



ROB DUNCANSON PRESENTS THE CONGREGATION WITH AN ENGLISH BIBLE

it would be just a dream. Today it is real!" The bulk of the money for the land came from a PresAID appeal, with the remainder being supplied by the Presbyterian Church of Brazil. This is reflected in the opening ceremony as APWM's Kevin Murray, and a Timor Leste Government representative both cut the ribbon at the official opening of the building's front doors. The three buildings that make up the complex were paid for by the Government of Timor Leste and are of an exceptional finish.



DILI CONGREGATION TARPAULIN

The opening of these buildings represents a significant step forward. Not only is there a building in which the congregation will meet but there is also a Synod office building with an area to hold training seminars as well as a building to host overseas guests and other visitors.

Rob Duncanson presents the Pastor of the congregation, the Rev Carlos Marcal, with an English Bible and says "This is the foundation of our partnership. The Word of God presents the Lord Jesus whom we both love."

The day is filled with much singing and includes a magnificent Indonesian choir from Kumpang. Kevin Murray preaches on the kingship of the Lord Jesus from Psalm 2 and this is immediately followed with the choir singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus with its triumphant declaration:

'The kingdom of this world



Is become the kingdom of our Lord, And of His Christ, and of His Christ; And He shall reign for ever and ever, For ever and ever, forever and ever.'

The combination of the sermon and the Hallelujah Chorus is totally unplanned, but wonderfully providential.

Together with our brothers and sisters from Timor Leste we look forward to the day when we will visibly see that the Kingdom of Christ will last forever and ever.



Meal for Mission

Each year we encourage congregations to hold an annual 'Meal for Mission' as a way of raising awareness about overseas cross-cultural mission and as a means of providing financial support for APWM's overseas projects. We encourage you to choose a country from the list that can be found at www.apwm.org.au/partner-churches/ There you can download information sheets about each of our Partner Churches. Please encourage those in the congregation to give the cost of one meal toward the work of overseas mission.



“

AFTER THIS I LOOKED AND THERE BEFORE ME WAS A GREAT MULTITUDE THAT NO ONE COULD COUNT, FROM EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE, STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE AND IN FRONT OF THE LAMB. (REVELATION 7:9)

”

Vanuatu: We Stand Ready to Help!

1 Corinthians 12:26 tells us "If one part [of the body] suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it." Through the effects of Cyclone Pam our brothers and sisters in Vanuatu have experienced a great time of trial. What a joy it has been to be able to extend to them the generosity of their brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian Church of Australia in this difficult hour.

Over the weekend 14-15th March Vanuatu was struck by Cyclone Pam, whose intensity exceeded the normal range for a category 5 cyclone. Such was the intensity of the



A CHURCH BUILDING IN A VILLAGE OUTSIDE EFATE, THE CAPITAL

cyclone that authorities are now considering introducing a category 6 rating. Vanuatu is a chain of 83 islands where transport and communication can be difficult on the best of days. Cyclone Pam not only destroyed buildings but also knocked out many of the telecommunication towers upon which Vanuatu relies.

As evidence of God's common grace, the Australian Government and many non-Government organisations such as the Red Cross, quickly put their standing



THE PRINCIPAL OF VILA NORTH SCHOOL OUTSIDE A BUILDING THAT HAS LOST ITS ROOF

disaster relief plans into effect. This met the immediate need for food, water and shelter. When we run out of food in Australia we can easily go to the



SOUTHERN ISLANDS PRESBYTERY BIBLE COLLEGE BUILT BY APWM WORKPARTIES

supermarket to re-stock. Many people in Vanuatu, however, rely upon their personal garden for their food, and Cyclone Pam destroyed many of these gardens. This means that people will be reliant upon outside food aid for 3-4 months until their gardens are replenished.

In response to Cyclone Pam, Australian Presbyterian World Mission sent Glen Connor to Vanuatu to make an



GLEN CONNOR assessment of the situation and hold talks with the leadership of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. Glen, who has recently returned from serving at that Talua Ministry Training Centre, knows the language, the people and the cultural context. He was an ideal person for such a task and we thank he and his wife Rachael for his willingness to serve in this way. The Talua Ministry Training Centre was unaffected but lost telephone and internet communication for many days. At the time of writing the Moderator General's Appeal for Vanuatu had raised \$245,255.

Based on discussions with the leadership of the Church in Vanuatu we will be sending this money to assist in areas such as the repair or rebuilding of

Church property throughout Vanuatu, the repair of Church schools, the reprinting of over 30,000 New Testaments and 10,000 whole Bibles in Bislama (the national language of Vanuatu) and the restocking of Pastor's libraries. Any further donations will be used to assist with the rebuilding of Church property.

Just prior the arrival of Cyclone Pam I wrote to the Clerk of the Church in Vanuatu and said "I want to assure you of the prayers of the members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia for



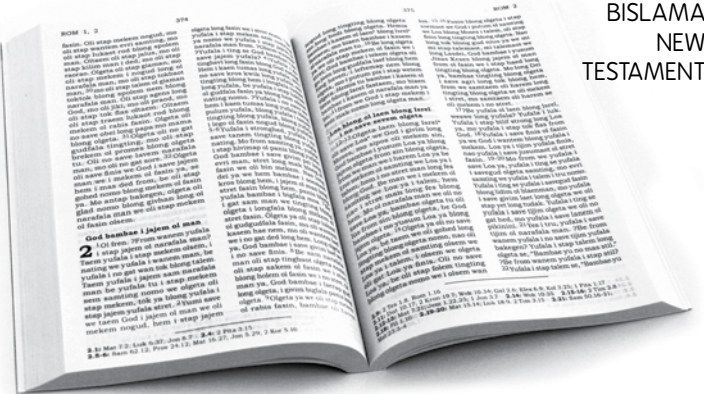
A PASTOR'S LIBRARY DRYING OUT

Vanuatu at this time. We stand ready to help where we can." It has been a privilege, through your generosity, to see those words come to life as we have reached out to help our brothers and sisters. Thank you!

Kevin Murray



ETON VILLAGE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION BUILDING



BISLAMA NEW TESTAMENT

LAUREN, BOUND FOR TIMOR LESTE

Lauren Crase, from Browns Plains Presbyterian Church (Queensland), is our newest Partner Church missionary. She is currently preparing to serve in a remote village in Timor Leste.

How many times have you been to Timor Leste?

I've been three times — 2012, 2013 and 2014.

What do you hope to do in Timor Leste?

I've seen a real need among the people of Timor Leste for the gospel. There's a lot of worship of Mary plus the occult plus animism. I hope to be able to share the good news of Christ. As part of that I hope to be able to support their livelihood and give them the opportunity to have better employment choices. That will mean teaching English to children and adults. They are in desperate need of good healthcare and as a nurse and midwife I hope to be able to help.

You've previously lived in a village in Timor Leste for extended periods. Have you delivered any babies?

Yes. I've actually lost count. I think there are three girls called 'Lauren' and one or two boys called 'Lorenzo' which is the male equivalent. I've also assisted in a number of emergency caesarians but I've lost count of the number of babies I've delivered.

Please tell us about some of the relationships you've experienced with people in the village in which you have lived.

One village woman took me under her wing during my first week. I complimented her on the sari-style dress that she had around her waist. Even though she had absolutely nothing to her name she gave me that sari. Ever since then we've forged a 'mother-daughter' relationship that has been absolutely beautiful. She bakes bread for me whenever I am there. I've also made so many beautiful relationships with the women through spending 8 hours, 12 hours or 24 hours with them in labour, helping them at their most vulnerable time.

What was it like going back the second time compared to your first trip?

I think on my first trip I definitely had rose-coloured glasses. Everything was wonderful and I couldn't say a bad thing about Timor.



When I went back a year later, the rose-coloured glasses came off a bit. The water to our home was cut and so my Australian colleagues and I had to pump water twice a day. It was incredibly hot and there was a monsoon and everything flooded. It was much more difficult for the Timor Christians. People in the village told the Christians that if they attended the church services then their homes would be burnt. But despite that, it was still very clear that in the peaks and troughs, God still needs people there.

So, why do you want to go?

Before I went in 2012 I really loved Timor Leste. I hadn't even seen it. My love was confirmed when I went and I saw the need. Child mortality in the village among children under 5 years old was 75%. Through my colleague who has now been there for 10 years there are almost now no deaths associated with childbirth. There is a great need and hunger there. There is a searching for the gospel truth. They are trapped in their situation. They have children, they become farmers and they grow up. They have such a poor education that they are trapped in their village.

How is living in the village different to living in Australia?

The village has no electricity. It has no clean drinking water. It has no flushing toilets. From time to time I do miss a hot shower!

What do your nursing work colleagues think of your plans?

They often say "You're such a better person than me." I can't understand why they would say that. I just tell them "This is what God has called me to do and He is the one who deserves the glory, not me. He is worthy of praise for giving me the desire to

go over." They are all very excited for me and they want to come and visit.

Lauren is currently undertaking theological study and is seeking to develop her partnership support with a view to commencing service in Timor Leste in early 2016.

If you would like to join Lauren's support team please use the form on the last page of this newsletter or contact the APWM National office.

Evans Eight Update



God is good to us as always - thank you for your prayers, letters and Christmas greetings! We are planning the year ahead, starting to get excited about the changes afoot, and have a renewed sense of forward movement toward the goal of a church plant in the Chiba city centre. The children, meanwhile, are eagerly waiting for it to snow so they can miss school for a day or two, although it has been warm and sunny the last few days (4 -11 degrees)! Just a few lonely snowflakes at 11am last Friday. The Japanese school year finishes at the end of March, which will mark yet another time of transition for us.

On the work front, things are really taking off here in Chiba City. We feel like we've made some big leaps in developing relationships and our team-mates the Chase family will arrive this week. John will finish language school at the end of March and we will officially begin the 'groundwork' phase of our church plant. We have also found a potential space to rent hourly for events. Please pray urgently for housing for the Chases!

PRAYER AND FINANCE Response Form

Please send to: **APWM**
81 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood NSW 2134

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Church _____

I would like to support the following:

Missionary's Name _____

Please send me the missionary's prayer letter.

APWM ministry in a particular country _____

Please indicate an amount

\$20 \$50 \$100 other \$ _____

Please indicate frequency of payment:

one-off monthly quarterly

half-yearly yearly

Four Ways to Give

1 Cheque (*made out to 'Australian Presbyterian World Mission'*)

2 Credit card Visa Mastercard

Name on card: _____

Expires: ____/____

Signature: _____

Date of first payment _____

3 Direct debit

Your account name(s): _____

Signature _____

BSB _____

Account number _____

Bank name _____

Date of first payment _____

4 Direct deposit

Account: **Australian Presbyterian World Mission** BSB: 032-260

Account number: 151207

Please write your name and the surname of the missionary you are supporting in the description box.

Please also email finance@apwm.org.au telling us that you have made a deposit and provide the name of the missionary that you are supporting.

Enquiries

finance@apwm.org.au • (02) 8073 7490
www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance

BRIEF UPDATES

John & Kara Dekker have commenced serving at the Talua Ministry Training Centre in Vanuatu. Their departure was delayed by the sudden death of John's mother in Tasmania and the arrival of Cyclone Pam. We praise God that their support level is now at 100%.



Ian & Pat Hart from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland will be serving at the Talua Ministry Training Centre in Vanuatu for six months commencing in early July 2015. Ian is a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Northern Ireland and was previously the minister of Great Victoria Presbyterian Church, Belfast. He also served for many years as the minister of Katong Presbyterian Church, Singapore, has been involved in theological teaching in Northern Ireland and Singapore and



served for a period in French speaking Africa. He is married to Pat and they have adult children.



Adam & Helene Ramsay (Christ Church Robina, QLD, CMS, Japan). Adam & Helene have recently been accepted as APWM Missionaries serving with CMS. They will be part of the church planting team to which John and Rose Evans belong. Their focus will be on music evangelism, and ministry to children, youth and young adults. They are currently building partnership support and can be contacted at ahramsay@cms.org.au



Rick Manton At the time of writing, Rick was scheduled for heart surgery to repair or replace a heart valve on 27th April. The anticipated recovery time is three weeks. Rick and Kayleen would like to thank those who have been praying for them. Please keep this important ministry in your prayers.

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

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FROM SURENDRA WESLEY... MINISTRY BEGINS

Dear friends and supporters,

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May, Gabriella, our little one to come and I as a family thank God for bringing us to Mt. Magnet and the Mid West PIM Patrol, conducted with the generous support of the APWM.

We arrived in Sydney in mid January 2015. The Rev. Dr Peter Barnes had organised for us to stay with Mr. Franco Sullau, a member of the Revesby Presbyterian Church. Franco and his daughter Rachel were wonderful hosts, we got along so

well with them that our supposed one week stay with them extended for the whole three weeks at their request to Dr. Barnes! Thank you Franco and Rachel!

While in Sydney we visited the congregations at Revesby, Ashfield and Peshurst. During the worship services, I was given the opportunity to share about the ministry at Mt. Magnet and the Mid West Patrol. I showed photos of Mt. Magnet and distributed many of the prayer cards which had been prepared for us by the Rev. Kevin Murray, the National Director of the APWM. People were very friendly in each of these churches and spoke with us at the end of each service and expressed great support for our work. We were also able to attend a PWA meeting where we were also very warmly received. The Rev. Rick and Mrs Kayleen Manton gave us invaluable insights into

Indigenous peoples, cultures, and languages. Our time with the Manton's was complemented when we met with the Rev. Cliff Letcher, who has worked for many years with the Australian Indigenous Ministries.

At the start of February we flew to Perth on the 6th of February and our preparation for PIM continued in earnest. Among the first people we met were Mr. Clive and Mrs. Doreen Griffiths who have done so much work in recent times at Mt. Magnet in anticipation of our arrival. I completed a St. John's course in 'Remote First Aid' and RAC courses dealing with operating and maintaining a 4WD vehicle.

We thank you all for your warm welcome and wonderful support and making us feel part of work and ministry of the PIM and the APWM. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE CENTENARY VOLUME STILL AVAILABLE

To commemorate the founding of AIM in 1912, Stephen Dyer was commissioned by the PIM to bring together a collection of historical and contemporary photographs in a large format full-colour book entitled VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE. Stephen was selected because of his photographic skills and his personal commitment to the PIM. Over the years he has visited sites of historical significance to the PIM as well as travelling through various Patrol areas.

Stephen currently serves as an elder of the Kerang Presbyterian Church.

In addition to the magnificent photographs, VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE contains an historical account of the work of the AIM and the PIM written by Stuart Bonnington. Stuart has done research in church history, with a special focus on the place of the Presbyterians in the Australian story. Stuart combines being the



Superintendent of PIM with ministry at the Scots Church in Fremantle.

All profits from the sale VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE will go to support the PIM. For bulk orders please contact the PIM Office.

THANK YOU CLIVE AND DOREEN VOLUNTEERS RETIRE (AGAIN)

From May to December 2014, keen PIM supporters Clive and Doreen Griffiths from the Fremantle congregation 'filled in' at Mt. Magnet. As in previous times of voluntary service, they did an outstanding job in the congregation and in various maintenance projects for which the PIM Executive is very thankful. This included a major project – the construction of a new toilet/shower block which has greatly enhanced the utility of the property.

Clive and Doreen write... 'With our arrival at Mt. Magnet, we resolved that our first duty would be to sustain morning Worship every Sunday. A small regular congregation regularly gathered. With numbers ranging from 2 to 9, but typically – with visitors – about 7. Via notices in shop windows and notice boards, we invited visitors passing through the town to drop in for a 'cuppa' during the week and worship with us on Sundays. We met and offered hospitality to many interesting people (the visitor's book contains 45 names for the period, 41 of whom shared meals with us), especially during the winter 'tourist' months. Although even later, in early December, Ron and Jean knocked on the door one Thursday afternoon, announcing that they were "Presbyterians from Cairns". They

stayed for the evening meal and parked their van overnight. Next morning they announced they would stay until the Sunday Service and help finish off the building project in the meantime. The 'finishing off' took a little longer and they left just before lunch on the Monday. With fairly regular visitors on a Sunday, Doreen established the pattern of preparing a cooked lunch (for up to 8) to be shared at midday each Sunday. Regular members were also invited so we had 'guests' every Sunday. From July we set up for Sunday School in the 'shed', setting the table for a 'fellowship meal' (breakfast) from 8.10am each Sunday. We had a small group whose attendance was spasmodic. However we persevered, setting up, each week often to no avail. Potential exists, but will develop slowly.

Our second objective was to do some work on the property.

Some of that list has been accomplished.

- reticulation has been updated (extra solenoid) and arranged so that sprinklers do not need to be shifted during or after each watering cycle.
- a new clothes hoist has been donated and erected.
- the sagging cornice in the 'child's'

bedroom has been repaired; walls painted; donated furniture and effects added.

- garden beds reorganised.
- new rear fence erected. Since its 40m length makes it exposed to wind damage, two intermediate 'struts' have been added.
- multiple holes drilled in the floor of the Church with white corks in them (from white ant treatment) have been painted over.
- a new donated sink cupboard with a second-hand sink has been erected in what was the vestry. This area (with a functioning air conditioner) can now be used for morning tea after the Sunday Service, especially in the hotter weather.
- The local sewage contractor has generously pumped out the septic tank as a donation to the Church.
- A major activity, in the last 3 months was the planning and construction of the toilet, shower and basin room adjacent to the side door of the Church. This facility needed to satisfy the current standards for use by disabled persons, which increased the cost over that of a similar facility that could have been built several years ago.

MEEKATHARRA COMMUNITY CENTRE TRANSFORMING A CHURCH IN RUINS TO CONTEMPORARY USEFULNESS

Meekatharra is a town in the Mid West region of Western Australia and derives its name from the Aboriginal word of the Yamatji peoples. It means 'place of little water'. Any visitor to the town would quickly agree it's very aptly named.

Meekatharra is located 764 km north-east of Perth and may be reached by the Great Northern Highway. It is a major supply



centre for the pastoral and mining area in the Murchison region of WA, it is a centre for sheep and cattle transport and it is a regional home to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the School of the Air.

Although the mining boom of the 1980s has passed, a small but strong community still exists. The population presently numbers 812. Of that number, 47.0% are of Aboriginal descent.

In February 2015, the APWM and the PIM sent Surendra and Mayan Wesley to work in Mt Magnet. Prior to their arrival the PIM invested thousands of dollars to establish a functional community centre that could be used for a range of community engagements as well as Sunday services. Already, this addition to the town has been well received. In Mt



Magnet, what was once a disheveled church building now is operational, functional and holds community value. Part of the vision for sending the Wesleys to labor in this area was the opportunities that exist in Meekatharra, 200 kms to the north of Mt Magnet.

This same vision of the APWM and the PIM to establish a community centre from the crumbling church building at Meekatharra is now before the whole church. Once again, with the use of volunteer labor and the generous gifts of God's people we are seeking to establish a community centre that will serve as a place for ministry and outreach in this outback town of WA.

A costing submission to complete the work has been submitted by Mark Jellis from the Melton Presbyterian Church in Victoria. As well as repairing the building which includes a new roof, gutters, downpipes, roof battens, and fascia boards, the intent is also to construct a new toilet block and shower facility. If additional funds are available, an internal kitchen will be installed.

It is the prayer of the APWM and the PIM that re-engagement in the area with a profiled ministry presence and intentional objectives will bring the gospel message

to bear to both the local aboriginal community and the townsfolk of Meekatharra and its surrounds.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ILLUSTRATED

www.fionapfennigwerth.info/fiona@fionapfennigwerth.info

Fiona Pfennigwerth has produced a coffee-table sized book which contains the text of the Gospel of John (ESV), beautifully illustrated by her drawings of the Australian outback. Fiona's artistic talent is clearly evident on just about every page, as is her love for the story of Jesus as recounted by His friend and disciple John. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ILLUSTRATED is a book to be cherished and if given to others, will be received as a most attractive gift.



JOHN FLYNN PATROL (SA) THE MCDONALDS....

We had a fantastic time of encouragement and support at a PIM support meeting held at Terry and Judy Sadler's place at Narrabri. 45 people attended the function. The following day we went to church and shared in the worship service. The congregation is very aware of the PIM due to the Sadler's past service in PIM...We ask for prayer for our Beltana Outreach at Easter time, we have a number of keen workers for the harvest coming to join us...Following an tour of our supporting congregations, (including Wollongbar, Ballina, Evans Head, Bangalow, Lismore, East Lismore, Southern Cross, Arimdale, Inverell, Glen Innes and Narrabri) we have appreciated greatly reconnecting with our brothers and sisters who have been long term supporters of our patrol work...

LEICHHARDT PATROL (QLD) THE PEAKES...

Gwen and I have been working the Leichhardt Patrol now for about 13 years, We still feel we are only just getting to know people. One man has always kept us at arms length till now. But this year he has grown Leucaena for the first time and treated me like a long lost friend as we discussed the success of his planting. He knows I grow about 600 acres of Leucaena and was keen to compare notes. On a previous visit, his wife invited us in for a cuppa for the first time. I also gave him a

copy of LeTourneau's book MOVER OF MEN AND MOUNTAINS. We have brought 50 copies and are distributing them to the men of our patrol with some good feedback so far...We visited one property where 'R' was just getting out of bed at 9:00 am. He had been feeling a bit down he said. He mentioned that he liked reading about his future in the columns on the stars, for he found that they are mostly encouraging predictions. In due course I asked him if it wouldn't be better to read what the Maker of the stars has to say about his future. It slowly developed into a full blown opportunity to point the way to a living relationship with the Lord...

MUNGO PATROL (NSW) THE MORROWS...

We patrolled closer to Mildura for some days before travelling to Deniliquin and Hay. When doing this we came across quite a number of smaller properties within less than 100 kms of Mildura. In the course of one day, we shared the gospel with 5 people all on different properties and one chap gave us a water melon and a pumpkin to say thanks for coming...

NORTH PATROL (QLD) THE CRANES

As we become more well known in our patrol area we are finding that more significant conversations seem to be "just happening". This has allowed us to challenge people as to what the Gospel is all about and what their relationship with Jesus. We still encounter people like 'H',

who invite us in for a cuppa but who insists that this Jesus Christ business is a load of rubbish! We need Godly wisdom, pray for us!..

PWA 2015 MARKET SAT-PHONES FOR PADRES

The PIM is delighted to have been chosen by the PWA in NSW to be the recipient of the proceeds of the 2015 PWA Market.

The funds raised will be used to provide the PIM patrol padres with Satellite phones and call plans. Due to the advance of technology and in order to maximise safety, the PIM has resolved to replace the HF radios the PIM patrol Padres are currently equipped with, with Satellite phones (Sat-phones). Sat-phones will be provided to maintain communication in emergency situations and would only be used when a conventional phone or mobile phone service is not available. The Sat-phones would be portable hand-held model. A Sat-phone is a type of mobile phone that connects to orbiting satellites instead of terrestrial coverage. A satellite must be in range for satellite phone communication. Sat-phones cost approximately \$1,500.00 to purchase with an additional cost of approximately \$500.00 for a Satellite Call plan per year. Following extensive investigations, the Sat-phone the PIM would like to purchase is the Iridium 9555, along with the Pivitol Iridium Call Plan (Pivot 45). The PIM is very thankful to the PWA for its long standing support and this latest expression of gospel partnership.

NT PRESBYTERIANS

“THE DESERT SHALL REJOICE AND BLOSSOM”



Alice Springs:

Sunday 10am 20 Parke Crescent, The Gap
Keith Bell 08 8953 7748

Darwin:

Sunday 10am Kormilda College, Berrimah
Rob Duncanson 08 8945 7878

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Generation Next

Ministry to the #hashtag Generation



by Josh Mansfield

'Kids these days...' Ever found yourself uttering these words? I have, and I have four kids. Well, my wife and I do. That's two each (just kidding). That means our house is busy; full of laughter, noise, fun and iPads.

To anyone I've never met, my name is Josh Mansfield and I'm a 32-year-old teacher, father, husband, follower of Jesus and fascinated observer of the next generation. You may have read my contributions over the years in *New Directions* on Generation Z and the issues that they face. I thought it might be time to revisit some of those ideas; to see whether the world is still moving at a billion miles an hour towards technological oblivion, and how, in amongst the call for two-year-olds to have iPads and schools introducing BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policies, we can still teach today's children the wondrous glories of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and keep them in church.

'The Kids', known as Generation Z, have been given different names including the '#hashtag generation' and the 'iGeneration'. The iGeneration is an interesting way to define Generation Z. The definition looks like this:

The iGeneration is all about communication and its varied manifestations; speech seems no longer important in a world where emails can be sent at the touch of a button and status updates can publish mood, feeling and current status. The iGeneration is conscious of its knowledge... It is vital to remember that the iGeneration actively and naturally engages with technology...

uses technology as an extension of the body through which to be increasingly productive. Technology enables the iGeneration to self-publicise and to be exposed in a way which may seem attractive to potential employers or even to friends and colleagues.

Me? Well I'm a millennial (Generation Y) and we're not much better.

Researcher Kristine Dinh states in no uncertain terms—"Millennials are lazy and self-absorbed, often found taking selfies, telling the world every detail of what they're doing and feeling, hyper-aware of Facebook 'likes', and piling up hashtags in tweets. In short, they're obsessed. With themselves."

Ok, so how does a self-absorbed generation like mine help the iGeneration not only survive but thrive, especially within our churches? Give them iPads!!

Brian Orme on ChurchLeaders.com says, "The iPad opens the door for new means of interaction during sermons or Bible studies using Twitter or Facebook. Churchgoers can change from listeners to contributors, offering comments or asking questions via hashtags for interaction during the teaching or post-service follow-up. We already see this happening in learning environments such as conferences and classrooms, so it seems to make sense for churches, too."

My two-year-old knows how to manipulate an iPad. She has to if she wants to be able to watch her Wiggles episodes. And we've all seen iPads being used at church to keep the kids quiet. So perhaps this is the solution! I'm not quite sure that's out of any Parenting 101 books, but it certainly isn't unusual now.

Anyone who has a child from the iGeneration has seen the advice below before. Schools send it home in newsletters and friends post it on Facebook all the time.

Advice For Parents

Put the computer or iPad in a family area of the home—the living room, rather than a bedroom

Get to know the technologies they are using, and know what children are doing online; Discuss the risks and agree on rules for internet use; Make sure children know not to share personal information or photos.

I've heard this so much I could quote them in my sleep. So perhaps I could finish with an attempt to put together a similar one, but relating it to church, based on things that I've seen and things that I think might be helpful.

Advice For Churches/Church Goers

Don't stop handing out 'real' Bibles at the front door of your church and keep encouraging people to open them up during the service. You can't check your FB messages if your phone is OFF and in your pocket.

Don't stare at the mum who has given her kids an iPad to play with, on silent, during the sermon. She's just trying to keep them quiet so that they don't distract you. Thank her, and offer to look after the kids for a couple of hours later that week.

Ensure that your church has open communication about social media addiction and the dangers of technology. This includes the danger of finding your identity in your screen, rather than in your Saviour. Put it in your sermon applications, kid's talks and Sunday School lessons, and challenge those who seem to be glued to their screens, to ensure they are being good and helpful examples to the kids.

That'll do for now; because all four of those ideas relate directly to me, and my family. That'll give me something to work on.

YNET Conference 2015

Around 200 children, high school and young adult leaders from churches around the State descended on Mt Tamborine for the annual YNET Conference held on 24-26 April.

It was a great opportunity for leadership teams to be taught, equipped and encouraged to serve their local churches in ministry to young people. The Presbyterian Church of Queensland (PCQ) is blessed to have so many servant-hearted leaders, taking seriously the call to disciple young people.

As usual, the conference was jam packed full. Peter Oates opened up the book of Daniel, providing talks that also shared some of his extensive experience in children's ministry. Electives provided training in areas such as 'Having the Hard Conversations', 'Loving Your Team' and 'Youth Ministry in an iWorld'.

Saturday evening saw Dr Patricia Weerakoon lead a seminar on 'Young People In a Sexualised World', taking on the very real pressures young people face in relationships.

One of the best parts of YNET Conference continues to be how leaders can connect with each other, and share the joys and struggles of ministry. From Dalby to Cairns, Biloela and the Gold Coast (with even a few from the North Coast NSW who snuck in), from small teams to large teams, leaders face the same challenges as they pass on the Gospel to the next generation.

YNET Conference provides a place for them to be united in this task and refreshed once more by the Gospel we hold out to young people. This is what lies at the heart of YNET, a ministry network that is local churches

connecting and supporting each other.

If you'd like more information about YNET or YNET Conference you can go to www.ynet.org.au

Comments

"A great conference to take leaders to—my team felt like they gained more knowledge and skills to be better equipped leaders."

"[My highlight was] Connecting with people from other churches and learning how they do things differently. I also loved the opportunity to spend time with my team and think through what we are doing and how we can improve."

"I can't wait to come again next year!"



Kids Weekender South

There's nothing like a party, right? How about the greatest party of all? Kids Weekender South was all party, party, party this year as 40 campers and almost as many leaders descended on Camp Moogerah (or Party Central!) for a party that lasted all weekend!

Arriving to some party games, balloons, lots of colour and laughs, campers were able to meet other campers, and have a fun afternoon/evening settling in. The games and activities had a distinct party feel—fairy floss, dressups, clowning, water slide, outdoor activities, pass the parcel and more.

You see, Kids Weekender just keeps rolling around. It almost seems like we just finished the last one and here we are again. These weekends are an amazing opportunity for children's workers and volunteers to bring children from their church to build on the relationship they already have with them, and then return

to the week-to-week of Sunday School/Kids Church with renewed enthusiasm for modelling and teaching the love of Jesus to these children.

On this particular camp, Central Church was able to send along a dozen young leaders, and a dozen kids to take part in the camp. It's been great to hear of the relationships that were built and now continue to grow week-to-week.

How wonderful... how marvelous... to see children growing in their love for Jesus being spurred on by older (but still young!) people who love Jesus as well.

If you want help to see your children's ministry grow, why not consider sending some leaders and kids to the Great Jungle bungle at Kids Weekender 2 from 23-25 October 2015.

The Bible talks, run by Rosie Skerman and the gang from Central were themed around the idea of the Greatest Party of

all—Heaven. We looked at the parable of the Lost Coin/Sheep and the Prodigal Son. It was exciting to see 'lightbulb' moments, especially from kids who have been to many Kids Weekender camps as they start to really comprehend how much God loves them, and what's at stake as they live for Him.

A huge thank you to the leaders, cooks and helpers for another wonderful camp. And thanks to all the parents who entrust their kids to us, knowing that we are doing our utmost to show them God's love and teach them God's word.

Oh, and did we mention we had a jumping castle. Who doesn't love a jumping castle?

Checkout the Kids Weekender Facebook page for photos and stories and 'like' it for future information.



Kids Weekender North

A fantastic time was had at Kids Weekender North as kids gathered from the north side of Brisbane to camp at Moogerah Dam on the last weekend in March. 59 kids from Eatons Hill, Mitchelton, Wavell Heights, and Wilston churches and their friends had fun, learning about Jesus, as well as making many new friends.

Over the weekend the kids explored Luke 15 and learned what it means

to reject the Father, as well as being reminded that he loves and forgives us more than we can imagine.

We also managed to squeeze in some fun playing wet and messy games, canoeing, sliding down a giant waterslide and sharing around the bonfire. It was very encouraging hearing the kids share their highlights of the day as well as praying and thanking God for what they had learnt.

Praise God for such a fun and safe weekend. Please continue to pray for these kids, that they will continue to grow in their love and knowledge of Jesus, for in 10 years' time, these children will be the young adults in our churches.

Inductions

Rev Teddy Woo

Virginia/Banyo

There were 85 people in attendance when the Presbytery of Brisbane inducted the Rev Teddy Woo into the Charge of Virginia/Banyo on Thursday 16 April 2015.

It was a joyous occasion. Our prayers were answered very dearly and we look forward to great things happening in the coming days. Virginia/Banyo has been an Appointment Charge since 2009 and we now return to a full appointment as a Calling Charge. We welcome Teddy, his wife Sungha and son Joshua.

A presentation was made to the Rev Matt Viney, who has been Interim Moderator for the past four years.

We are currently undertaking renovations to the Manse in preparation for Teddy and his family to take up residence.



Rev Peter Man Kyu Min

Brisbane Korean Charge

The Presbytery of Mowbray inducted the Rev Peter Man Kyu Min on Sunday 7 June 2015 into the Brisbane Korean Charge. The service was led by Rev Dr Matthew Kim and the sermon given by Rt Rev Phil Case.

Photo: Peter and Sarah (center) with elders of the church



In Memory of Joan Pigram 29 April 1925 – 19 May 2015

A Thanksgiving Service celebrating the life of Joan was held in Ann Street Presbyterian Church on 27 May.

Joan will be remembered as a talented Christian lady, a friend to many, and one who faithfully served her Lord in a variety of roles—all done with graciousness, kindness and an intense dedication.

Joan served the Presbyterian Church throughout her lifetime and was an

active member of the Ann Street congregation where over many years she was editor for Notes and News; served on the Committee of Management; played the pipe organ; and conducted choirs.

In the wider church, she was a Deputy Principal at Somerville House for three years; was involved in the library development at the Theological Hall for twenty-five years; served as an archivist at the Presbyterian Church of Queensland and Ann Street archives,

where she pioneered the classification, storage, preservation and system development of historical church records; and more recently was an excellent, reliable and encouraging proof reader for *New Directions*.

One legacy she leaves is her book on the history of the work of Presbyterian Women in both the Presbyterian Women's Association and the Presbyterian Women's Mission Union, which was published in 1992.

***Photo:** Joan on front cover of magazine

Chaplaincy Pastoral Support and Social Isolation

by Wayne Knapp

Over the next 30 years, the Australian population is set to undertake considerable change as the population ages. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the 2015 Intergenerational Report, the older proportion of the population will increase to nearly 20 per cent by 2031 and 24.5 per cent by 2061. In 2014 persons over 65 years represented 14.7 per cent of the population.

It should be noted these projections have varied considerably between reports. The first Intergenerational Report in 2002 reported persons over 65 years comprised 12.7 per cent of the population with projections of 14.4 per cent by 2012 and 18.5 per cent by 2022. This report also revealed 25 per cent of people over 85 years resided in a residential aged care facility whilst 50 per cent received home based care. This report also predicted this population group to quadruple by 2042.

Whichever statistical projections are accepted, the rapidly aging population will bring challenges and opportunities as we look for ways to care for these members of the community.

The Presbyterian Church of Queensland has already exceeded the demographic shift predicted by 2022 in the majority of its congregations. Most large congregations already report 25 per cent of their membership is aged over 65 years. Smaller congregations, and those located in regional centres, report membership being almost exclusively retired.

What does this mean?

One of the major impacts of an ageing population is an increased reliance on care in the home and an increased potential for social isolation. This is already being experienced by PresCare clients and by congregations throughout Queensland, as 93% of older persons reside independently in the community.

Following extensive consultation with congregational leaders throughout Queensland and analysis of the future direction of PresCare in addressing the needs of existing and future clients, a paper was developed for the

consideration of the PresCare Board at their annual Board retreat. This paper sought to develop a model to engage congregations in the changing face of ageing and equip members to provide a ministry to the community. In particular, the paper sought to provide a mechanism to equip the older members of congregations in ministry and also to assist congregational leaders in ministering to older members.

Also of interest are studies into the spirituality concerns of older people undertaken by Pastoral and Spiritual Care of Older People (PASCOP) and the ministry model of the London City Mission—'The same person to the same people, regularly, to be their friend for Jesus' sake', and how this organisation engages in ministry with congregations.

A focus of discussions with congregational leaders throughout Queensland is how members of the Church can provide a ministry through friendship to PresCare clients who are experiencing social isolation.

This ministry is especially relevant where PresCare provides services and has congregations located close by. It has become evident the PresCare Chaplaincy and Volunteer Program can be a conduit for equipping and coordinating congregational members to maintain contact with clients and provide support through friendship.

An unintended consequence of these discussions has been the identification of social isolation of older members within congregations. This isolation could be described as disengagement and appears to commence on retirement, particularly in the baby boomer generation. It is exacerbated not only by illness but by this age group visiting and caring for elderly parents, babysitting grandchildren and travel. A number of congregational leaders have commenced developing strategies to address these issues.

Compounding this issue are the congregations who comprise mainly of older members who have difficulty in reaching out to the community. They are now faced with declining membership and an ageing population, with limited long term prospect of

supporting a Minister or connecting with the community.

Research commissioned by PresCare into social isolation with the Central Queensland University is revealing a preparedness of older persons to accept isolation, even though there are numerous activities available for the population to attend. The research is showing that long term commitment and persistence is required to move people from the isolation of their homes back to the community. Surprisingly, this is the norm for some of our congregation members and community care clients. Tenacity will be required by individuals to instil a sense of belonging, and their own value to society.

So what are we planning to do?

There is an untapped capacity of older members of congregations to contribute to ministry and address social isolation through pre-evangelism activities (simple friendship). The key to this will be motivating, equipping and coordinating contact and activities throughout the community, facilities or congregations. A number of congregations have already expressed an interest to be actively involved in PresCare's ministry and also in furthering ministry to older persons.

The Presbyterian Church and PresCare have commenced a number of projects which aims for the two organisations to work more closely, both at a State and congregational level. These include joint administrative and IT arrangements and areas of ministry involving Christians against Poverty and a ministry to Refugees.

Going forward, four distinct trials are proposed to be developed jointly by PresCare and the Presbyterian Church and implemented across Queensland:

Residential Aged Care - A new model for residential aged chaplaincy in Townsville based on the equipping and coordination of congregations' members.

Palliative Care - A trial model for home based palliative care in Rockhampton with an emphasis on pastoral support for the client and their family.

continued from page 26

Respite Care - A model for respite and community care in Cairns involving the coordination of volunteers from the local congregations interacting with clients, providing friendship and following up on needs.

Social Isolation - A new model for ministry in the Darling Downs Presbytery operating from Dalby involving the equipping of congregational members to provide a ministry to older persons in the community and church.

For more information on how this program works, please contact Wayne Knapp, General Manager Internal Relations, PresCare on 07 3223 4444.

Local Chaplain awarded



The dedication of PresCare's Chaplain to the Redlands, Graeme McKay was awarded last week as Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) recognised him in the 2015 ACSA Queensland Aged Care Employee Award category.

Graeme received a highly commended award based on his nomination for the outstanding contribution he makes to residents, their families and the staff of Lake Sherrin residential aged care facility, the independent living community and the wider Redlands community.

The ACSA Employee Award recognises the dedication and contribution of an individual aged care professional in the delivery of services to older people and people with a disability.

Book Review

by Michael Madden

Edward Irving Reconsidered: the man, his controversies, and the Pentecostal Movement. David Malcolm Bennett. WIPF and Stock, 2014.

David Bennett's book is a carefully researched and well written biography of a remarkable Presbyterian minister. Edward Irving was strongly influenced by romantic ideas of heroism, and these ideas took their toll on his life and work. Born a tanner's son in Annan, Scotland in 1792, Irving longed for a more adventurous form of Christianity than that which he saw in the Church of Scotland. Indeed, that church needed—but resisted—change. Irving's vision for change, however, was naive and idiosyncratic rather than solidly grounded in the Scriptures.

Irving was physically and intellectually impressive. He was large-hearted and generous to friend and foe, but his calling to the Christian ministry was not recognised by all. After he was licensed to preach, Irving waited years before receiving a call from a church. While he waited, he worked as a school teacher, and then as an assistant to the Rev Thomas Chalmers in Glasgow. Finally, Irving was called by a Presbyterian congregation in London. There, he soon became a celebrity, with Lords, Ladies and national leaders attending his church. This stellar popularity would be short-lived, however, due to the turn his preaching took.

Irving's unorthodox teachings included the following: that Christ's return was imminent (the last days have come); that the sinless Lord Jesus had to struggle against his own sinful flesh; and that new manifestations of the Spirit (authoritative prophecy) were to be expected, encouraged and obeyed.

It was Irving's statements about Christ's 'sinful flesh' and his promotion of Pentecostal manifestations that caused his downfall. The Church of Scotland called him to account, contrasting his public teaching to his ordination vow to assert, maintain and defend the teaching of the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF). Irving appealed from the Confession to his own understanding of the Scriptures and declared the Church to be out of step with the Word of God.

Irving's defence was actually an admission that he had departed from his ordination vows. He was a free man when he originally subscribed to the WCF. If he had changed his mind (as he obviously had), he was still free either to promote Confessional change through the courts of the church, or he was free to leave that church for other fields of service. What he was not free to do was to abandon the Confession's teachings and remain a minister of the Church of Scotland.

The Presbytery of Annan expelled him from the ministry, and Irving became an 'angel'—a message giver—within the new church that was formed by part of his old congregation. Here, Irving found himself under the command of the so-called 'gifted ones' whose prophecies dominated the remodelled worship services. Irving died at the age of 42, worn out by battles, grief and illness.

Nevertheless, as Robert Murray McCheyne wrote on hearing of Irving's death, he was 'a holy man, in spite of all his delusions and errors. He is now with his God and Saviour, whom he wronged so much, yet, I am persuaded, loved so sincerely.'

David Bennett's book is well worth reading.

'a holy man, in spite of all his delusions and errors. He is now with his God and Saviour, whom he wronged so much, yet, I am persuaded, loved so sincerely.'

PresCare

more connected

Raising money with pizzazz!

On Saturday 9 May, more than 300 guests dressed to the nines, came together for PresCare's first Black and White Masquerade Ball.



Many guests wore their own exotic masks on the night

The evening began with a glass of champagne in the lobby where shortly after 7pm, the curtains parted to reveal the spectacular room with Luke Kennedy, from the Voice Australia performing on stage.



Entertainer Luke Kennedy

Hosts, Sofie Formica and Kylie Lang kept the crowd engaged with a performance by Soul Mystique and a live auction run by local real estate agent of Ray White Ascot, Dwight Ferguson.

Throughout the night, a silent auction was featured on the big screen, which created some friendly rivalry between bidders. In total, the auctions raised \$20,000 for social isolation initiatives for PresCare and *beyondblue*.

Masks sold on the night were a ticket to the main prize draw of a diamond pendant worth over \$8,000 by John McMahon Jeweller. The pendant was worn by Miss World Australia Courtney Thorpe before it was placed around the neck of the winner. It was great to see one of our generous sponsors win the pendant on the night.

Guests enjoyed a three course dinner with wines by Sirromet Winery.

Next year's date has already been set, so mark it in your calendars for the second PresCare Black and White Masquerade Ball on Saturday 14 May 2016—we hope to see you there!

For information or to see more photos of the ball, head to blackwhitemasquerade.com.au

Walk on Wheels

Mobility assistance products store Walk on Wheels is helping give people back their independence.

The Australian family-owned store has been improving the lives of people who have trouble getting about for more than 15 years. The organisation has stores across South-East Queensland and will soon be expanding into Townsville.

"We're set up to help individuals, not just the big guys like hospitals. We have stores you can visit, with items on display for you to try," sales manager Craig Sayers said.

"We have household and travel aids as well as a large range of mobility equipment."

By sourcing equipment directly from the manufacturers, Walk on Wheels can offer customers a number of advantages, including warehouse-direct pricing.

"That means we do our own warranties but we can also pass those warehouse cost savings on," Mr Sayers said.

Walk on Wheels was recently acquired by PresCare, ensuring the growth of the organisation will continue with new opportunities and access to new markets.

Walk on Wheels offers home demonstrations of their products and hires equipment.

For a full range of mobility and assistive equipment, visit walkonwheels.com.au or phone 1300 766 266.



Walk on Wheels store in Victoria Point

Chaplains' Appeal 2015

Last year PresCare launched their Chaplains' Appeal as part of an end-of-financial-year drive to raise monies for the valuable service and activities their chaplains perform each and every day to help keep clients socially connected.

PresCare chaplains and pastoral carers are a valuable part of the PresCare community who provide care, strength and support. They reach out to clients, providing comfort and guidance in times of need. They join in communal activities and make time to visit one-on-one.



PresCare Chaplain Graeme McKay loves a good chat with residents

From Cairns to the Gold Coast, the work that PresCare's chaplains and pastoral carers do is quite diverse. On any given day they may organise a Friendship Group or a morning tea or Bible study group at a residential or community site, visit clients in their homes, host an outing, or provide counselling or a friendly ear to someone in need.

Chaplain to the Redlands, Graeme Mckay also regularly takes independent living clients out for the day in the PresCare bus, travelling to places like Tweed Heads and Samford Valley.

Monies raised through appeals and events help PresCare research and develop innovative initiatives to assist older Queenslanders at risk of social isolation and its associated consequences of loneliness and depression.

e: donations@prescare.org.au
w: www.prescare.org.au/giving/donations.

Safety and quality front of mind at Kingsford Terrace

Grindley Constructions have been around for more than 25 years, creating innovative projects in a broad range of sectors including aged care and retirement, and making them the perfect team to build the first phase of PresCare's premium retirement living development in Corinda-Kingsford Terrace.

Designed to accommodate the way senior Australians want to live, with spacious apartments, community areas and a focus on connecting health, wellbeing and lifestyle, Kingsford Terrace will be home to around 300 people in 209 apartments when completed.

More than 80 people work on the Litchfield building on any given day, so the Grindley construction site is always on the go. Formworkers, plasterers, plumbers and electricians are all working towards the same common goal of completing phase one on time, and safely.



Grindley Constructions' Site Manager, Gordon Relph is very passionate about safety.

"Good communication is the key to a safe site," says Gordon. "Whether through the safety notice board or via tool box safety meetings, we keep our communication consistent so everyone is on the same page with happenings on site.

Gordon explains that, like safety, you need to keep discussions open, question everything and be a good listener. "From Grindley site management through to the different contractors and tradespeople, everyone is involved with quality sign-off before moving forward

on any facet of the build.

"I want nothing more than to have everyone go home the same way they came to work in the morning," says Gordon.

Grindley is also committed to delivering a quality product—not just for PresCare, but for the residents who will one day call Kingsford Terrace home.

Retirees looking for a village that offers more than just a place to live should be pleased to know that it's not too late for their chance to call Kingsford Terrace home.

Large, light-filled one and two bedroom apartments are still available in Litchfield. A display apartment will be available for appointment-only inspection from the first weekend in July.

With the first residents due to move into the village in late October 2015, you too could call Kingsford Terrace home by Christmas.

Call the sales team today on 1300 287 672, to secure your appointment or to find out more.



Grindley Construction Site Manager Gordon Relph

Involving your children in Church

by Elissa Moss

The seat digs into the back of your knees. Your feet are dangling a mile from the floor. Your older brother crouches below you, colouring a picture. That baby is still hogging your mum's lap, your legs ache and everything is boring and your brother's head is right by your foot.

You kick him.

Suddenly everything gets a lot more interesting. Your brother howls. Your parents begin sizzling like the cat did when you bit his tail and you know they're trying to yell at you but for some silly reason they're doing it in whispers.

Actually, your brother has the right idea; what this place needs is a bit more noise. Joining in the screams will liven things up; the baby joins in the cacophony. You hit the baby because his racket is hurting your ears, give your brother another kick for good measure and he whacks you. And it's right about then that you are seized by a pair of giant hands, the floor drops away, and the world rushes by you at a gallop as dad takes you out for a consequence you hadn't expected...

I have fond memories of being taken out of church as a toddler. Actually, my mother took me across the grass and down a hill and taught me in rather tangible terms that my behaviour was 'Not On'. The difficulty was, of course, that my parents wanted to listen—and I was bored, hungry and wriggly. When every Sunday is like this it can become an ordeal that makes everyone cross by lunchtime.

However, there are strategies that can help and persevering can pay dividends. My four children all coped differently with church in the toddler stages; our four-year-old in particular has used church time to display his worst behaviour. But being in a church that welcomes children and actively involves them has been an enormous encouragement.

Some ideas to try (pick one or two—don't get overwhelmed by the list):

Bring food for very young children. Not treats, but food that takes a long time to

eat—veggie sticks, bread, crackers etc.

Most people hear only their own child's noise. Assume no one has even noticed yours.

Take advantage of the crèche if one is offered.

Encourage your child to make friends with your own friends at church. You can then have a break while your friend takes them out. Occasionally one of our children has sat on a friend's lap instead of mine through church: special for everyone.

Take a turn at helping with Sunday School—your children will see you are interested in them and what they are learning.

Collect whatever craft your children produce at Sunday school and discuss it over dinner that evening.

Talk with your children about your expectations of them before arriving at church.

Set up a reward system.

Lift up your child for the standing/singing times so they can see over the crowd. Kids pick up songs very quickly; sing them with your child during the week.

Bring colouring-in books and pencils—many free Bible story colouring sheets are available online.

Keep a 'Church-only' bag of quiet toys.

Spread a picnic rug at the back of the church and bring a handful of books—tiny board books of Bible stories are available at your local Christian bookstore.

Allocate a nice boring 'time-out' spot and use it.

Learn the Sunday school's memory verse with your child through the week.

Praise and encourage your child for good behaviour.

Be prepared to drop one strategy and try another!

And finally, ask people to pray for your family. The toddler years are not easy despite being wonderfully rewarding

and exciting. If 'it takes a village to raise a child,' then it also takes a whole church family to raise a child to know and love Jesus.



Elissa Moss is a member of the MOPS Australia writing team.

MOPS Australia is a national organisation that partners with local churches to support mothers of young children. A MOPS group is a safe, accepting place where young mums can make friends, enjoy time out from kids, have fun, gain confidence in mothering and be gently encouraged to consider the hope that comes through knowing Jesus. MOPS provides a connection point between church and community. There are 108 MOPS groups in Australia and New Zealand—and always need for more! mops.org.au

Jesus is Better

by Melissa Kruger

The writer of the book of Hebrews aims to convince his Jewish audience of one paramount truth: Jesus is better. He is better than the angels. He's better than the prophets. He's better than Moses. His priesthood is better than Aaron's. His new covenant is better than the old covenant they could never fulfill. His blood is better than the blood of bulls and goats. In every way and at every turn, Jesus is better.

It isn't that the treasures of the Jewish faith were in and of themselves detrimental; it's simply that they were insufficient. The blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin. Jesus' blood atoned for sin once for all. The old covenant was written on stone tablets. The new covenant is written on our hearts. The high priest entered into an earthly place of worship to intercede for the people once a year. Jesus entered heaven itself, into the very presence of God, and forever intercedes on our behalf.

Though the Jews were richly blessed with God's favor through the ministry of prophets, priests, and kings, it would be foolish for them to continue living in shadows once the substance of their faith had been fulfilled in the person of Christ. Why continue to live on crumbs when invited to a feast?

Two thousand years later, we share in our ancestors' propensity to miss the greater by clutching onto the lesser. Our modern American culture daily entices us with temporal blessings as if they are superior to the riches found in Christ. Perhaps we need a modern-day apologetic to answer our culture's questions: Is Jesus better than material wealth? Is he better than the relationships we yearn for? Is he better than our sexual freedom? Is he better than comfort and ease? All these we may be called to sacrifice in order to follow the way of the cross. And at every turn, the Christian should be able to resound with joy: Jesus is better.

Jesus Is Better than Material Wealth

Money can seem to provide so much: vacations, security, relational peace. Yet, in truth, the love of money is dangerously corrosive to our soul. He who loves money never has enough. One can be extremely wealthy and completely miserable.

The poorest saint who has the Holy Spirit residing within her soul is far richer than the wealthiest man devoid of knowledge of God. How many have labored endlessly for money only to look back in deep regret at a wasted life? Yet those who set their hearts on pilgrimage go from strength to strength. Their hearts are wedded to Christ's kingdom in such a way that they can enjoy material blessing here, without being possessed by their possessions. To those who labor long and enjoy few material blessings, rest assured. Jesus is better.

Jesus Is Better than Relationships

We were created to be in relationship with one another. However, when we seek for another person to fill the relational void that can only be satisfied in Christ, every relationship we encounter will be lacking in some way. Our spouses can never love us enough, our friendships will be marred by insecurity, and our children will suffer from the pressure of our relational demands. Fear of losing relationships leads to anxiety and worry. Despair at what we may never have leads to bitterness and anger. In Christ alone can our relational needs be fulfilled. No other person can make the promise, "I will never leave or forsake you" Hebrews 13:5.

All other relationships suffer from the finite nature of the participants. Only an eternal God can promise that nothing will separate us from his love. Indeed, by growing in our affections for Jesus, all the other relationships we treasure are not lessened but increased. Jesus is better.

Jesus Is Better than Sexual Freedom

The world entices that sexual freedom is paramount to love. To lack the freedom to express oneself sexually is seen as repressive and, by some accounts, harmful. In truth, however, sexual immorality enslaves its victims, and the freedom promised most often results in the painful chains of regret. But Jesus breaks the chains by offering forgiveness and true freedom. "Greater love has no one than this," he says, "that someone lay down his life for his friends". John 15:13.

The call to chastity outside of marriage in no way precludes our ability to love. The greatest demonstration of love the world has ever witnessed wasn't found

in the passion of the bedroom, but in the passion of the cross. Jesus is better.

Jesus Is Better than Comfort and Ease

In the world's estimation, Christians do seemingly ridiculous things: They move their families thousands of miles away to share the Gospel. They adopt children when they already have a full house. They forfeit jobs that would require them to sacrifice their integrity. They give to others financially at cost to themselves. They are labeled as foolish and ignorant because they believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God. They get involved in messy relationships and keep pursuing peace, even when it would be much easier to let the relationship go.

Why do Christians make their lives more difficult instead of pursuing comfort and ease? They follow Jesus, who left the comforts of heaven to enter into the difficulties of this broken world. Jesus came to provide abundant life for his followers. However, the full life promised in the Gospel isn't found by making our lives easier; it's found by laying down our lives. "Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it," Jesus said. Luke 17:33. Christians don't lead safe lives. They lead joyfully purposeful ones.

Drink and Live

One who attempts to quench his thirst in seawater will only find himself thirstier still. If he keeps drinking, eventually he will die. Likewise, one who attempts to quench his spiritual thirst with temporal stuff will only find himself thirstier for more. This world's treasures simply cannot satisfy our souls. They were never intended to do so. Jesus is the only remedy for our spiritual hunger. It's the greatest kindness, then, to invite others to "taste and see that the Lord is good". Psalm 34:8.

As we share our faith, may we do so with the winsome confidence that life in Jesus is so much richer, fuller, and better than any life apart from him. The Gospel is Good News! Lives that reflect a joy deeper than circumstances lovingly bear witness to this soul-satisfying truth: Jesus is better.

This article first appeared on The Gospel Coalition (US) website on 29 January 2014. Used with permission.

Kids and Youth Camps

SPRING CAMP

2015 LENNOX HEADS



Spring Camp

18-21 September 2015

Fun and Adventure Camp

27 September-3 October 2015

NQ Extreme

28 September - 3 October 2015

Register online @ y.net.org.au once the relevant camp registration becomes active

Kids Weekender II

23 - 25 October 2015

Register online @ y.net.org.au once the relevant camp registration becomes active

Jumpstart Schoolies

23-27 November 2015

Register now @ y.net.org.au/schoolies

YNET is a network of Local Church Leadership Teams who are focussed on Ministry to Young People through teaching the Bible in Christ-centred relationships.