

Pres Life

MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND

Why do youth ministry?

Why share scripture through stories?

6 workers for the Gospel share their story

How to build relationships that count

God's Church in Qld

Northside Townsville
Coorparoo

The Gospel and Environment

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.

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CAMPS & CONFERENCES

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YNET is an initiative of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland

Propel	18-22 January	Darling Downs, Youth Children's Leaders
Kickstart Training	13 February	Darling Downs, Children
Kids Weekender DD	11-13 March	South Brisbane, Children
Kids Weekender South	18 - 20 March	NQ, Youth, Leaders in Training
NQ Launch	4 - 8 April	Central QLD, Youth
CQ Alive	8 - 10 April	North Brisbane, Children
Kids Weekender North	15 - 17 April	Leaders
YNET Conference	29 April - 2 May	SQ, Youth, Leaders in Training
SQ Launch	27 June - 1 July	SQ, Children
Megasportz Soccer	27 June - 1 July	SQ, Children
Megasportz Netball	4 - 8 July	SQ, Youth
Spring Camp	16 - 19 September	NQ, Youth
NQ Xtreme	24 - 29 September	SQ, Youth
Fun & Adventure	25 Sept - 1 Oct	SQ, Children
Kids Weekender	21 - 23 October	QLD, Year 12
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Reformation Thanksgiving Weekend 499th Anniversary

- Date:** 29-30 October 2016
- Venue Saturday:** Annerley Presbyterian Church, 23-33 King Street, Annerley.
- Time:** 9.00am – 2.00pm (with three lectures, morning tea, prayer and BYO lunch).
- Venue Sunday:** 9.30am Worship at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, 43 St Paul's Tce, Brisbane
2.00pm – 3.30pm (afternoon tea provided) at 23-33 King Street, Annerley.
- Theme:** 'Work Matters' (The Reformation's impact upon work)
- Speaker:** Rev Peter Hastie (Principal, Presbyterian Theological College of Victoria)
- Hosted by:** The Reformation Fellowship of Queensland.
- Contact:** Rev Martin Duffield (Chair)
P: 3391 4431
E: martin@stjohnsannerley.com.au

Fortieth Anniversary of Lindsey Timms' Ordination

In September 1977 Lindsey Timms, with Elizabeth and 15 month old Logan was appointed to Charleville Presbyterian Church for four years. On 22 November Lindsey was ordained into the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

On Sunday 27 November 2016 we are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Lindsey's ordination at Peace Presbyterian Church in Deception Bay.

So we would love to have as many as possible come and share in this special church service and light lunch to celebrate Lindsey's special anniversary with us.

- Location:** Peace Presbyterian Church, 155-157 Maine Terrace, Deception Bay
- Time:** 9.30am
- RSVP:** Elizabeth Timms
- M:** 0404 357 622
- H:** (07) 3161 4460
- E:** egtimms@gmail.com



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The Gospel and Environment

by Jeremy Wales, member of GiST Committee

What should we make of environmentalism? For many Australians, the people we love and work with, the people we want to reach with the Good News about Jesus, the most serious threat to our future is the environment. For them, the biggest problem in the world isn't sin, it's climate change. So for them, the solution they're looking for isn't Jesus, it's environmental action. How are Christians meant to respond? By rejecting environmentalism? By adopting it ourselves? Or something else? And how can we speak the good news about Jesus to people focussed on the environment?

To get answers, we need to look again at the grand storyline of the Bible. When we do, we find it traces from start to finish a three-way relationship between God, humanity and the rest of creation. The Bible begins with God creating the non-human world first (Genesis 1). Humanity is then made in God's 'image', which gives us a position of not only privilege but also responsibility.

The stated purpose of human life is to rule and care for the rest of creation, not for our own benefit, but precisely in the 'likeness' of the generous, self-giving God in whose image we're made (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15). So the world around us was created by God as a theatre in which humanity might reflect and display God's glory. It's one of our primary duties as human beings to always rule and care for the environment in a way that will glorify God.

Of course, that's not what we see happening now. Very early in humanity's story, Adam and Eve rebelled against God, rejected relationship with him, and so brought both humanity and the world around us under God's curse (Genesis 3:17-19). As the outworking of this God-rejection spread, so did the catastrophic effects on the environment e.g. the earth was flooded because of humanity's sin (Genesis 6:11-13). The root cause of environmental destruction is human sin.

But if human sin is the environment's biggest problem, then its ultimate hope is salvation from human sin. The apostle Paul says that creation's purpose has been frustrated ever since humanity broke relationship with God and that's why the creation itself longs to see the God-humanity relationship *fully restored in Jesus* (Romans 8:19-21).

Salvation by Jesus from sin is the real hope for restoring the whole God-humanity-environment relationship. That's why Paul also says that, in Jesus, God has "reconciled to himself *all things*, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross" (Colossians 1:20). Followers of Jesus are restored to relationship with God and with the environment at the same time. If we now love God because God has loved us in Jesus, we'll try to rule and care for his creation just as humanity was always made to, now in response to God's generosity in both creation and redemption.

In fact, nothing could be better for the environment than more people becoming followers of Jesus, actively and sacrificially caring for the environment out of gratitude to its Creator and Redeemer.

Gospel & Environment, the new paper from Gospel in Society Today, unpacks this Biblical story of God, humanity and the rest of creation in more depth. It goes on to tackle some of the thorny issues that Christians will face in real life, like how important is environmental action relative to evangelism, and what does this mean for Christian farmers. It even makes the bold claim that the Bible's story of God, humanity and the rest of creation, centred on Jesus, provides a far more compelling motivation to creation care than any secular worldview ever can. That claim, if true, creates a great opportunity to share the Gospel with people who care about the environment. If together we find ways to live out the Bible's vision of creation care in our own different contexts, then it's natural that we'll talk with others about *why* we do that, and the answer *is Jesus*.

If you've ever wondered what you should think about the environment, or it's a major concern for someone you know and love, download the paper from pcq.org.au/gospel-in-society-today-gist.php. Hopefully you'll find it helpful and God will be glorified by our response.

About GiST: Gospel in Society Today Committee

The 'Gospel In Society Today' (GiST) Committee hopes to equip Christians to understand and discuss key issues in society with Christ-centred theology. The Presbyterian Church of Queensland's State Assembly appointed the GiST Committee to address areas of ethics, public policy and cultural engagement that impact Queenslanders.

You can read articles written by GiST on topics such as sexuality, abortion and humanity: <http://www.pcq.org.au/gospel-in-society-today-gist.php>

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1. A masters degree in Library Science (Library Studies or Library and Information Science) would be ideal, but a first degree is acceptable;
2. A mature Christian with a solid walk with the Lord, a love for Christ and people, an interest in missions and particularly Africa and a willingness to serve the Lord in a theological seminary training setting;

3. A familiarity with theological literature, though beneficial, is not required, but can be learned on-the-job.

This is a short-term missions assignment and will require the raising of personal support or self-support.

Training of nationals will be part of the job description.

This position can be filled by a recent Library Science graduate or a retirement-age person or anyone in between.

For additional information or an application form please contact Dave Eby at ebuyuganda@gmail.com.



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Sharing Scripture Through Stories

by Peter O’Loghlin, member of Southside Presbyterian Church

The man sitting next to me at the bus stop was reading a newspaper, its headline announcing the latest murder.

As the bus approached and he folded the newspaper, I commented, “Another murder!” “Yes,” he replied, “there seems to be a new one every week.”

In the bus we continued our conversation:

“You wonder what the world’s coming to,” he said. “Yes, you hear of rapes and murders and the like in the news every week. Have you ever wondered where it all started?” I asked. “Yes, you wonder, don’t you?” “Can I tell you the story of the first murder in history?” “OK?” “Well one day, Adam and Eve had a baby....”

I went on to tell him the story of Cain and Abel, which led to a healthy conversation about God and our universal tendency to do wrong things, interrupted only when the bus reached the man’s destination.

On another occasion I got talking to a bored-looking security guard at a store.

After chatting to him about the job of a guard, I asked, “Did you ever read the story about the guards who were executed because they let the man they were guarding escape?”

The man looked interested: “No!” “It’s in the Bible,” I said. “Let me tell you the story ...” (You’ll find it in Acts 12.) Every day the Holy Spirit gives us opportunities to share stories from God’s Word with those who are prepared to listen.

“Bible story telling is a brilliant way for all kinds of people in all kinds of situations to share the Word of God in an enjoyable and non-threatening way,” says Rev David Jones, a former Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

After telling a Bible story, we often have the opportunity to discuss its message—either because the hearers ask a question about the story, or because they are thoughtful when we ask them what they got from it.

Most Christians could rattle off a few Bible stories from the top of their head. But to know how to introduce one in everyday conversation, tell it well, and lead a follow-up discussion, takes a bit more work.

For years Wycliffe Bible Translators, well known around the world for their Bible translation and literacy work, have been conducting workshops in Australia on how to craft and present a Bible story that is simple, accurate and memorable—SAM, to use Wycliffe’s acronym.

Veteran Wycliffe missionary Keith Benn says a billion people cannot read the Bible because it hasn’t been translated into their language—but they could hear the scriptures if someone told them a Bible story.

And millions of people in Australia are unlikely to ever read the Bible unless someone first exposes them to it, he argues.

“Through Bible storytelling I was able to share the Gospel with more people in four years than I had done in the previous 40 years, before I learned the skill of storytelling.”

As God himself tells us: *As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, ... so is my word that goes out from my mouth. It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.* Isaiah 55:10–11.

For more information on upcoming Wycliffe Bible storytelling workshops visit www.wycliffe.org.au/events

Youth Ministry (City and Country)

Interview with James Jensen and Joshua Dodd



James Jensen



Joshua Dodd

What excites you most about being a youth pastor?

James: The opportunity to engage with teenagers in their everyday lives, talk with them about Jesus and how much he loves them. Seeing the Gospel transform teenagers, and watching the joy of knowing Jesus changing them is the best!

Joshua: Seeing teenagers make decisions to live for Jesus rather than themselves.

Why did you feel called to this position?

James: I sort of fell into it from kid's ministry in Melbourne, and almost immediately fell in love with youth ministry and the teenagers I was working with. I haven't looked back since!

Joshua: There was a spot that needed to be filled, I was asked, and I had already been enjoying being a part of the leadership team for a number of years.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

James: Beyond forgiveness and freedom from guilt and shame (which is mindblowing!), almost certainly through the faithful ministry of my parents, just being dad and mum. They taught me the Gospel from day one, every way they knew how. Which perhaps most significantly, was through lives that demonstrated, and showed me what God's grace was all about. I'm so thankful for their prayers, willingness to admit their mistakes and sinfulness, and for their patience and love. It has led me to know Jesus and to want others to know his saving grace as well.

Joshua: Through my uni years God clearly pointed out the depths of my sinfulness, a point that was somewhat lost on me despite being raised by parents who taught me the Gospel. God has continued to be gracious to me in the years since, and placed me in a church family that has reflected Him. Dalby Presbyterian Church loved me where I was, but they also loved me enough to tell me I shouldn't stay there but grow up instead.

What are the challenges and joys of youth ministry?

James: Enabling the teenagers to see how the Gospel breaks down the individualistic nature of our culture is a real challenge. Because of Jesus we are part of a family, part of a

body that needs each other. So building a community around the Gospel, which is servant based, is a real challenge because culture is certainly pushing against that.

Perhaps the joy then is when breakthrough occurs. When teenagers are transformed by the Gospel to want to serve in community; to want to pray for each other, read God's word together and encourage each other. Not because they get something out of it, but because they love the community God has called them into.

Joshua: The challenges faced out here I think seems to be some level of apathy. The grace we have seen in Jesus should not produce any kind of apathy but joy. And that is what brings joy to those of us who work in youth ministry—when we see teens understand the grace they have been shown and see it shape their entire lives.

Why do you think youth ministry is important? Why do it?

James: There are a lot of reasons, but perhaps one of the most significant reasons is because this is a stage of life where lots of identity questions get asked. The Gospel changes and shapes our identity because we discover who we are in Christ. So when teenagers are asking "who am I? and what's important about me?" it's a great opportunity to tell them who they become in Jesus; to find rest and confidence in their identity grounded in Christ.

Joshua: There are lots of reasons... but I guess ultimately teenagers are called to follow Jesus just like we are as adults and they need to be reminded that God loves them and His love calls them to keep growing in Christ-likeness as well.

What are your hopes/goals for youth ministry?

James: My hope and prayer is that Elevate will become a well known youth ministry in the Northside of Brisbane. Not because we've done heaps of amazing advertising or have a giant billboard, but because teenagers are growing as followers of Jesus and telling their friends about him; because parents are growing as followers of Jesus and telling other parents about him. That Elevate becomes known because people who are experiencing transformation through the Gospel at Elevate are sharing the Gospel with those around them.

Joshua: I would love to see our youth ministry and church grow because our teens live unashamedly Christian lives in front of their families and friends, encouraging those who already know Jesus and inviting those who don't to meet him.

If someone is considering being involved in youth ministry what advice would you give them before taking that step?

James: Be prepared to work hard and invest heavily. Like all ministry it's about relationships, because the Gospel is about relationships between Christ and the church, between God and us! So be prepared to enter the lives of teenagers, ride the highs and lows of the teenage life alongside them and point them to Jesus. If you are up for that Journey, then DO IT!

Joshua: If you love Jesus, and care about teenagers following Him then talk with someone involved in youth ministry and ask what would need to happen. Lots of the 'skills' you need you can learn as you go!

Children & Youth Ministry

Relationships That Count

by Danny Mitchell, YNET Consultant

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Relationships are vital in children and youth ministry. Understanding the young people you serve and disciple makes the difference between connecting with them instead of just transferring information to them.

Sometimes the young people you meet with have been part of the group longer than you have, others are fresh without a familiar background. No matter how long they've been around, it is a great idea to stop and think about how well you know them. Below are some things to consider as you understand your group. The better we know our young people, the better we are at helping them follow and serve Jesus.

What should we know about them?

WHO THEY ARE

The context of a young person's life is necessary in discipling them. They each have a story, but they may not realise this. Take time to find out details about key areas like:

Family, Friends, School, Interests and Significant Life Events.

Create a mental picture of what an average day might be like for them. Learn more of the things that have shaped them— Have they moved? Faced illness or death in their family? Experienced family or friendship breakdown? The pieces won't all come together immediately, but over time a clearer picture of this young person will emerge.

WHERE THEY ARE WITH JESUS

If you have not directly talked to a young person about their relationship with Jesus, it is best not to assume where this relationship is up to, or even if there is one at all. With each young person you interact with, find out if they understand the Gospel and whether they have accepted Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. Talk about what the fruit of their faith might look like in their lives, with all the more relevance as you know

them more deeply.

How can we do this?

ASK

It is obvious, but ask questions. Be interested and engaged, clearly caring about the young person before you. They may not think it is particularly interesting that they have two brothers, a sister and live with their grandmother, or they may be hesitant to open up if they don't think they match what is 'normal'. Demonstrate that it is safe to share and that everyone's story is worth hearing.

LISTEN & LOOK

Not all things will come out of a conversation, and taking time to observe a young person will be invaluable as you understand more of their personality, character, values and maturity.

What do they talk about frequently? What topics do they avoid? How do they deal with others who are different? What is their response in adversity? Much can be learned as you share life together both in and out of group time.

While this is not comprehensive, be encouraged to pursue a whole picture of each young person outside of the few hours you may interact with them in the week.

- Show how much you value them by your interest.
- Model the depth of relationship we have in Jesus' family.
- Pray that they may understand more of what it looks like to represent Jesus, as the person they have been made to be, with the experiences they have had.
- Celebrate the story of how Jesus has shaped them and look forward to how he will shape them in the future.



YNET Conference 2016: Holding out the Gospel

by Kate Mitchell

Praise God that YNET Conference continues to grow! We rejoice in this, because it means local churches still have many opportunities to share Jesus with young people around the State. We rejoice because local churches are still sending leaders to YNET Conference to be refreshed and trained, and a new generation of leaders can be clearly seen. We rejoice because the Gospel goes forward, giving hope to all who hear, no matter their age.

And this is what this year's conference was all about—*Holding out the Gospel*, HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE. Gary Millar spoke from Acts about the spread of this powerful message of Good News and Sam McGeown reminded us of the scope and urgency of Jesus' commission to go and make disciples everywhere. It was a powerful weekend, and we pray that those who attended may continue to make Jesus' name great as they hold out this Gospel.



Launch Camp 2016

by Rosie Skerman

Each year we run two Launch camps across the State. North and South Queensland Launch exist to train teenagers to be leaders in gospel ministry—that is, to make Jesus known at church and school, and lead others in doing the same. We just wrapped up SQ Launch in the June/July holidays.

If you've never heard of Launch camp, here is a snapshot of the week gone by. Connect Groups are a major component of Launch Camp. We'll spend a time each day in these groups, studying Exegesis of Mark (1st year), Biblical Theology (2nd year), and Christian Leadership (3rd year).

Our year 10-12 students also got to study the book of Romans in their quiet times which went alongside David Mugridge's talks. Throw in a couple of strategic night activities, evangelism training, some brilliant master chef food, a whole lot of volleyball, and that's Launch Camp 2016. If you'd like to know any more information or hear some great stories from the week, give Danny Mitchell a call on 0438 468 343.

Comments

YNET Conference is a fantastic weekend to be trained, to build relationships and be encouraged by others serving in similar ministries. I cannot recommend it enough!

Meryl Webber, Children's Ministry Coordinator, Mitchelton Presbyterian Church

The challenges, discussion and information that was gained through all of the sessions and electives was great but as a team leader, the time spent growing together as a leadership team is priceless to me.

Scott Baills, Youth Coordinator, Central Church Ipswich

My highlight was seeing members of my team have 'light bulb' moments, which helped them see how valuable a role they can play.

Dan Gorton, Assistant Pastor - Oversees Children & Youth at Salt Church



CQ Alive Camp 2016

by Andrew Purcell

This year we held our CQ Youth Camp (CQ Alive) at Pelican Point. Our guest speaker was Peter Kutuzov, Youth Pastor at Mitchelton Presbyterian Church in Brisbane.

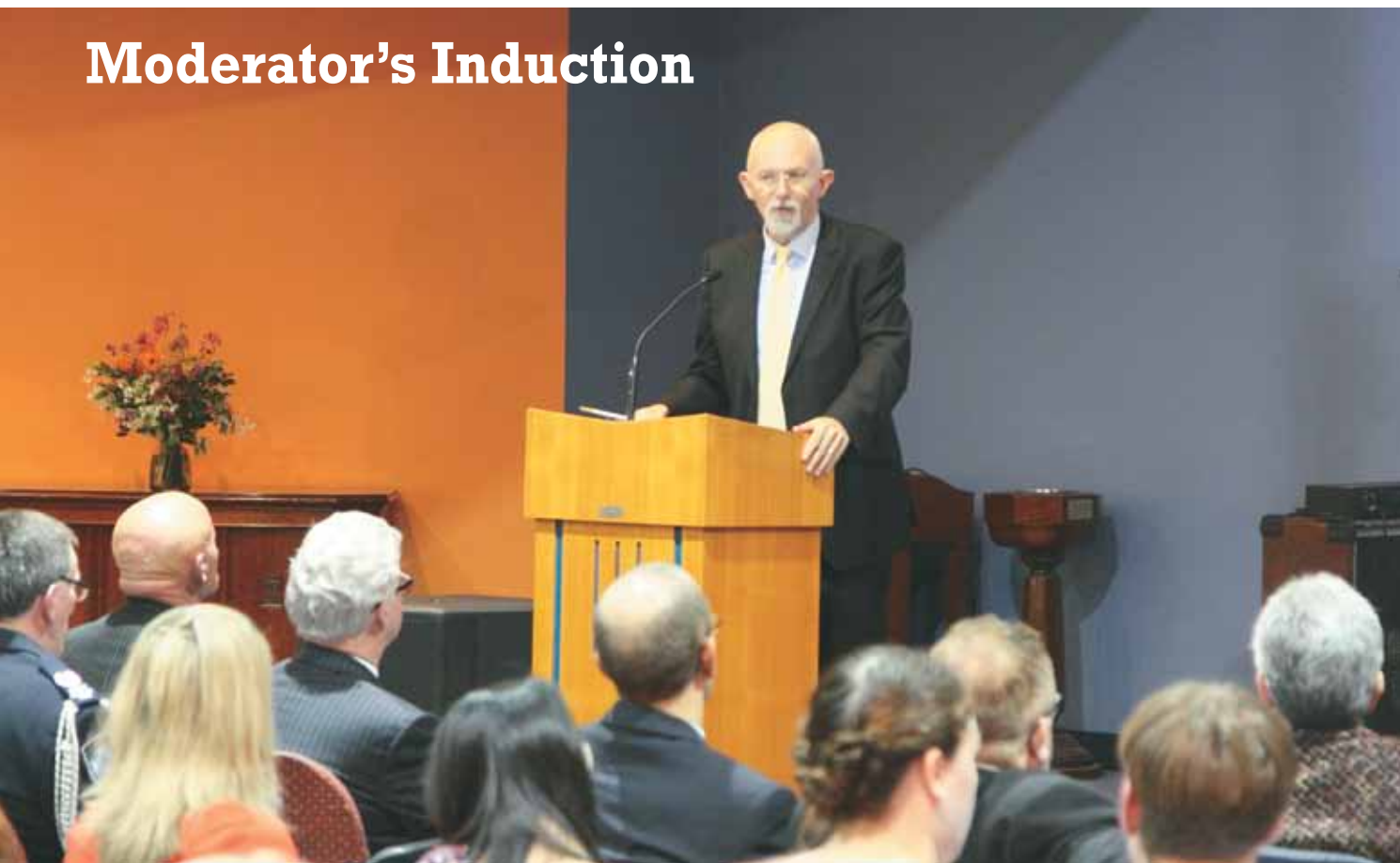
Peter gave a series of talks from the book of Romans and encouraged campers to put their faith in Jesus. The talks were followed by small group study time where campers had the opportunity to think over the talks and ask any questions they had. In addition to this, we had a great time camping, canoeing and tubing on the dam, we had a couple of night activities, great food, plus the opportunity to just chill out with friends and enjoy a fantastic part of God's creation.

Special thanks go to this year's camp cooks Pete and Deanne Whittle who travelled all the way from Toowoomba to cook for us. Also thanks to Zac Hopper, Youth Pastor at Mackay who travelled down to be our MC for the weekend. Another special thanks goes to all those who worked hard behind the scenes leading up to, and during the weekend to make sure the camp was a success.

We had a great weekend with our youth and hope that we can continue to serve the youth of Central QLD in this ministry in coming years.

State Assembly 2016

Moderator's Induction



Phil Campbell (Moderator) and wife Louise Campbell with their family and His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC (Governor of Queensland) (centre)

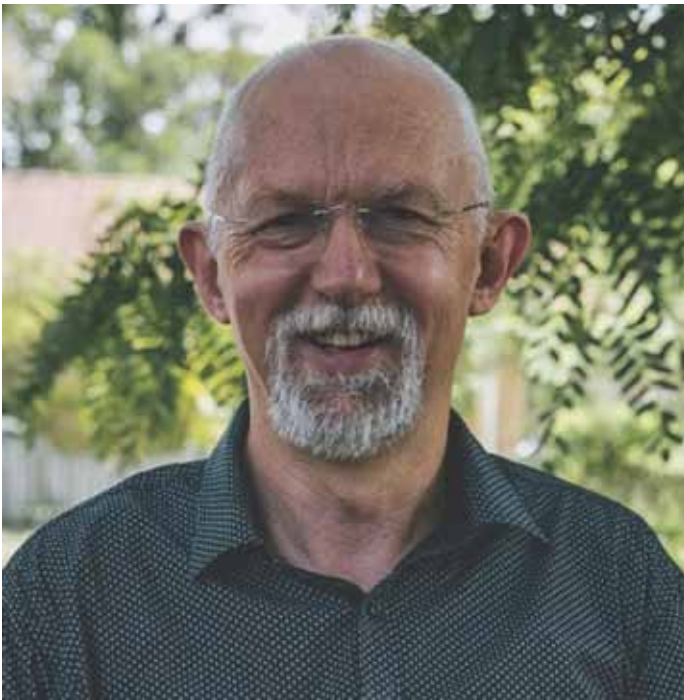
by Mike O'Connor, Moderator's Chaplain

On Sunday 19 June, the heavens opened at Mitchelton Presbyterian Church for the induction of the Rev Phil Campbell as Moderator of this year's State Assembly. Only it wasn't a voice that spoke from heaven but the descending deluge of rain, sadly preventing many from witnessing a great and encouraging night.

The welcome from MPC's Late Church was warm and inviting, as was the music which blended the classic with the contemporary. Prayers gave thanks to God for his Gospel and the unity which comes from being together in Christ. It was a

privilege to have the Governor of Queensland and members of State Parliament present to hear God's Word proclaimed clearly and faithfully. The newly inducted Moderator took us to Philippians, urging us to continue the work of preaching Christ and being partners together in the Gospel.

The Moderator indicated the focus of his ministry will be to encourage gospel partnerships between our churches, like the partnerships that have recently seen new churches planted in Bargara and Emerald.



Phil Campbell

Wife: Louise

Children: Nathan, Jo, Maddie and Susie

Position: State Moderator and Senior Minister at Mitchelton

What is your new appointment?

I wish I knew! They tell me I'm the 'Moderator', but what that actually means keeps catching me by surprise. Urgent calls to drive to Church Office to sign important papers weren't mentioned in the job description... I guess by the time I get it figured out it will be time for the next moderator.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

That's a tough question, but I think God has progressively knocked some hard edges off my personality. As CS Lewis (roughly) said, "If you think I'm hard to get on with now, just imagine how awful I would have been if the Holy Spirit hadn't improved me."

What were you doing prior to becoming a minister?

Before ministry I was working as an Electrical Engineer with the NSW Main Roads Department looking after traffic signals and traffic flow systems on the Sydney Harbour Bridge—not bad fun!

When are you happiest?

I'm probably happiest playing my guitar and playing with my grandkids. The two often combine quite well—ask me to play *Little Red Caboose* for you sometime. Also, I genuinely love getting together with my church family on a Sunday.

Why did you feel called to become the State Moderator?

Why? Because Ron Clark tapped me on the shoulder and spoke persuasively into my ear. It wasn't mystical. It was relentless. But seriously, I count it as a privilege, and I'm happy to use my gifts to serve this denomination.

What are your aims for the year and what do you hope to achieve?

My aims are fairly modest. Firstly I survived Assembly week. Secondly, keep prioritising ministry at MPC. I think Moderators have to be careful not to drop the ball in their home church. Thirdly, really work hard at encouraging people around the

State to think 'Partnership in the Gospel', especially as we work together to support new works and church revitalisations. I'm hoping to focus my energies there.

What are the main issues you see Christians facing in Queensland?

I think we're facing difficult times. It's easy to panic, and operate out of a sense of fear and threat. The challenge will be to remain gracious, and keep the Gospel central, when we face threats to things we've long taken for granted, like marriage and religious instruction in schools.

What do you see as the most important things the Presbyterian Church of Queensland needs to do to share the Gospel with non-believers and nurture/grow followers of Jesus?

In the past there's been the idea that church can either feed the mature Christians, or engage non-Christian guests. It's an unfortunate 'either or', because I think when Bible Teachers work hard at teaching God's word clearly, so that anyone can understand, then all kinds of people actually hear and comprehend the Gospel for the first time. They may have been coming to church for years, or it might be the first time they've walked in the door. The Gospel, graciously delivered, is powerful news.

Assembly Week



This was perhaps my fifth Assembly, and I've got to say the most encouraging one I've been part of! Why? Here's a few reasons. Firstly, we had our brothers from South Australia with us. They spoke of the challenges that their small number of churches face to bring the Gospel to their neighbourhoods and cities. But to think we can stand with them and support them was a really great part of the week we had together.

Secondly, as an Assembly we were able to talk through what it will mean for our denomination to be biblically faithful, gracious and gospel-centred as we see shifts in our society in the areas of gender, sexuality and marriage.

Thirdly, the 2016 Assembly made decisions to introduce a new governance structure for Queensland Theological College (QTC). The college is going from strength to strength in terms of student numbers, the recruitment of quality lecturing and administration staff, and in its growing reputation within the landscape of theological colleges in Australia.

On the QTC front, it was great to hear an update on preparations for what will be the new home for QTC at Spring Hill, close to the CBD. I look forward to seeing QTC make the move into their new facilities sometime in 2017.

State Assembly 2016

As a final comment, each of the Presbyteries presented a picture of what the various churches are doing across the State. Whilst I don't think we were left in any doubt of the great challenges we face to engage our towns and communities, I was also reminded that the Gospel is the power to save and there are many men and women within the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (PCQ), faithful in the cause to reach as many people as we can with the life changing message of Jesus.

Garnet Swann, Minister at Eatons Hill

While I've been to far fewer Assemblies than a lot of the members of PCQ, the 2016 Assembly was by far the most encouraging. There is an evident desire among the churches to do the best job they can in connecting the community with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Two things stood out for me in this regard: the work that GiST are doing (and being backed by the Assembly) on how to put the Gospel at the heart of our engagement in the public sphere, and the way some of the Presbyteries are reassessing their resources and strategies to be less 'territorial' and more gospel partners in proclaiming Christ to the people in their regions.

My prayer is that we'd continue to reassess what we're doing and saying as a denomination, and as churches within it, to ensure we continue to make disciples as we go.

Jason Smart, Minister at Willows (Townsville)

Country pastors face considerable obstacles going to Assembly. We have to quickly learn how to speak faster and use lines other than, "How much rain do you get?" to start conversations. This is a big ask!

Seriously though, in most ways there's little difference between a country and city pastor attending Assembly. One significant difference is distance from home. While many city pastors 'live in' for Assembly too, country pastors' families are often many hours away.

Catching up with colleagues is a highlight for country pastors. There are only a handful of ministers on the Darling Downs. So, breaks are times to hear how others are going, and feel like we're part of a bigger push for the sake of Jesus.

Most of our churches on the Downs are in decline, and the ministers moderate multiple charges. In general, our charges have struggled to contextualise the Gospel and connect with the changing community around them. Perhaps that's no different to the city.

As a Presbytery, I feel we're still catching up with shifts in our denomination. One that stands out is having more direct responsibility for appointment charges rather than the old Home Missions department. More local involvement is a good thing. However, we've struggled to know how to manage that responsibility with our already stretched resources. A recent consultancy has been a great help developing a plan to move forward.

So, our Presbytery has a big task ahead to revitalise the Downs for the Gospel. Hearing stories at Assembly about Biloela and Central Queensland Presbytery supporting a young church planter in Emerald is very encouraging news. Likewise, the way our church is supporting our brothers in South Australia brought tears to the eye.

We'd appreciate your prayers as we do ministry over great distances with stretched resources. Pray for our mission of reaching country Queenslanders for Jesus.

Peter Evans, Minister at Dalby

APWM: Dinner A Resounding Success

During the evening we capitalised on what one may well call 'our front line', namely the missionaries themselves. The evening was well attended and highly successful.

Robert Handicott (Bingham Academy in Ethiopia) and Paul Rayner (Hope International School) spoke about the need for Missionary Kids to be able to be educated by schools such as theirs so that missionaries can be about their evangelistic work and the unique opportunity that comes from access to influential parents of those countries who send their children for a 'Western' education.

Keith Benn shared details of his work in training native speaking Bible translation teams in Bangladesh, and with the Proshikkon teams from Australia who teach English there on short term tours.

Nathan and Tomoko Stewart presented their call to work with the Presbyterian Church of Japan in Osaka. They are more than halfway to meeting their target but further partnership support is needed. Please contact APWM Queensland if you wish to support them financially and/or in prayer.

Women's Activities



Presbyterian Women's Association (Qld Unit) held their 43rd Annual Conference during Assembly week, with the theme *The Power of Prayer*.

Guest speakers at the conference included Amy Sullivan who spoke about her work with the orphanages in Cambodia and the response to children at risk. Ann and Peter Brown spoke about their work with the refugees in Brisbane, while the Immediate Past Moderator, Elder Greg Rodgers and Rev Matt Viney also took part in the conference.

The Sunshine Coast Choir performed a choral item in keeping with the theme of prayer.

Each year PWA Branches donate money for our Burning Bush Project. This year \$1,900 was given to Presbyterian Inland Mission in Queensland. Next year's Burning Bush Project is Camp Tinaroo.

The ladies also enjoyed an outing to beautiful Ormiston House with its memories of yesteryear and a delicious Devonshire Tea on the veranda overlooking the bay.

The conference was held at Ann Street Presbyterian Church in Brisbane and the PWA extends their thanks to the Session of Ann Street for their assistance in preparing for the conference.

Please continue to pray for the ministry of the PWA.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Ministry Appointments



Philip van't Spyker

Wife: Jessica

Children: Jasper, Tabitha, Otto, Corin

Position: Families Pastor at Central Church Ipswich

What excites you most about your new appointment?

The way that Central Church is so big on families ministry, the role of parents in discipling their children, and that the elders have built the ministry with this in mind.

Why did you feel called to this position?

I heard about the great things that God was doing in Queensland through YNET. I thought that with my gifting I could serve the people and be useful for the Lord.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

Showed me the extent of His grace to me in Jesus and how eternity will be almost enough time to comprehend His glory.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

Working as a consultant to small sandwich businesses.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The plight of asylum seekers and current government policies to deal with this complicated issue.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

Joseph - Acts 4, the apostles called him Barnabas, which means son of encouragement. When the scary Paul comes along, he is the first to greet him as a brother.

When are you happiest?

At home in the kitchen baking along side my kids and attempting YouTube karaoke with some 80s rock ballad playing in the background.

What book changed you?

Philippians by the apostle Paul and *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* by J I Packer

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Jesus is Lord! I would say this many, many times, in many, many ways and spell out the many implications for my life.

Scott Kroeger

Wife: Nancy

Children: Joshua (Partner: Tori), Jessica (Husband: Alex), Joanna (Husband: Hayden)

Position: Pastor at Maleny

What excites you most about your new appointment?

A touristy small country town church in the heart of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland—what's not to like?

Why did you feel called to this position?

It was a Macedonian Call that I finally listened to the second time around. Could have been a year earlier.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

In order: salvation, wife, sanctification, calling to the ministry, horses, motorcycles.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

Running a corporate network somewhere, or a rock star, or having people pay me for giving them wise advice as a professional sophist.

What social issue concerns you the most?

I was going to say the lack of an NBN in my neighbourhood, but probably abortion is more important.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

It's a duo really...Priscilla and Aquila who introduced the paradigm shift of using your vocation as a tool to further the Kingdom of God by church planting with the Apostle Paul.

When are you happiest?

With my wife, or on a motorcycle run, or talking theology to those with questions.

What book changed you?

Outside the obvious Scriptures; Alan Hirsch & Michael Frost's *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st Century Church*

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Ask older wiser people to help advise you on your future—they know stuff.

Ministry Appointments



André Schwartz

Wife: Ronel

Children: Wian, Jako, Janél, Johann, Liesl, Madri, Annalize and Marguerite

Position: Senior Minister at Browns Plains

What excites you most about your new appointment?

I am excited and humbled about the fact that God is willing to use ordinary people to do extraordinary things even here at Browns Plains. It excites me to be here at this time and be a part of that.

Why did you feel called to this position?

God, over many years has opened and closed doors, tested me and my family, and I do not 'feel' called to this position, but I am convinced that this is where God wants to use me at the moment.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

Except for the great change when you come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, I would have to say the amazing journey that God used to bring me here. I started as a chemical engineer, but even back then I felt the calling into ministry. I tried the Jonah evasion tactics and entered into Christian education, hoping that this would be enough. But God changed my whole life (and my family's) when all came to a dead end, and there was no way out but to heed His calling.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

I love problem solving and mental challenges, but also people... I would probably still be busy either with some form of engineering or with teaching how to approach problems.

What social issue concerns you the most?

Probably the total attack on the core of all social order; the family, from marriage all the way to our children's education. We as a church must surely proclaim the Gospel clearly so that lives will be changed, and in this way we could reclaim this God ordained institution.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

This is a hard one—there are so many godly but ordinary humans in the Bible... As a scientist I can surely identify with Thomas who wanted proof, but who was so overwhelmed by the grace shown by Christ when he provided undeniable proof

that he had to proclaim: "My Lord and my God." But Elijah, with his boldness, doubts, depression and great faith must also be up there.

When are you happiest?

When I am with God's people either feeding on God's Word or just having a good meal and fellowship.

What book changed you?

Obviously it's the Bible! But besides that... *The Election* by a South African minister Rev SJ Marais. It changed my life, opening up my understanding of God's grace and sovereignty, and the great security I can have as God's child.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Do not be serious! I think Ecclesiastes 11:9 would sum it up well: "*Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.*" (ESV)



Samuel Chidamber

Wife: Susan

Children: Steve and Sharon

Position: Associate Minister at Gateway (Ascot & Nundah)

What excites you most about your new appointment?

The Reformed Tradition and to see God's kingdom impacting on ordinary lives.

Why did you feel called to this position?

God opened this door while closing other doors. I was given clear guidance from God to take this position.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

Becoming a Christian has been the most significant change God has done in my life.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

Not sure as I have always had an interest for pastoral calling.

What social issue concerns you the most?

Equal opportunity for all and the misuse of tolerance in the Western societies.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

David in the Old Testament and Paul in the New Testament, and the portrayal of human elements such as failures and successes so wonderfully represented.

What book changed you?

Of course the Bible and biographies of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Chuck Swindoll and John Stott.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Listen more speak less.



Rudi Schwartz

Wife: Heila

Position: Pastor at Hervey Bay

What excites you most about your new appointment?

The Hervey Bay congregation consists of mainly older children of God, who are most willing to be involved in the work of the Gospel, and are willing to look at new strategies for nurture, evangelism and mission.

Why did you feel called to this position?

The Lord called us to minister to His people. That He would still use me after all the times I disappointed Him, is nothing but grace. He who saved me also gifted me with skills and experience to minister to His people with the specific demographic; and if it's His will, we will build on the foundation already laid down by previous pastors, and further venture out on different fields of outreach to our community.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me..." Of course experience added the ability to adapt, to be more considerate, have better discernment—and hopefully, more humility. He also helped me speak and understand (Australian) English better!

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

I love cars. I always dreamed of becoming a car salesman.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The whole marriage debate with all other issues attached to it. Poor understanding of what marriage and family life should be is not limited to the world around us; many churchgoers do not know how to defend and apply Biblical principles in this regard.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

King David; he is both a type of Christ, and a perfect example of why Christ had to come into the world. He knew the victories of faith, but also stumbled badly in sin.

When are you happiest?

In ministry: when someone comes to faith in the Lord. In every day life: when Heila and I have the children and grandchildren around us (and then again when they go home!)

What book changed you?

The Bible and biographies. I found the stories of John Paton, Henry Martin and Dietrich Bonhoeffer extremely inspiring. But I find myself reading *Holiness* by JC Ryle all over again.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

God saved me at the age of fourteen, and called me to ministry soon after. So the words of Paul at the end of 1 Corinthians 15 comes to mind: *"Stand firm, let nothing move you, your labour in the Lord is never in vain."*



Greg Atkin

Wife: Suzi

Children: Mia, Ava and Tom

Position: Pastor at Salt Church (Gold Coast)

What excites you most about your new appointment?

My first role after theological college. Love getting to know the congregation.

Why did you feel called to this position?

We wanted to serve where there was a need and Mudgeeraba was a church that had no dedicated minister.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

Moving from a life without Jesus serving myself and my career, and yet finding no happiness to a life serving Him and finding happiness and fulfillment.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

Either still working in the Finance industry or as a musician.

What social issue concerns you the most?

All of them. They all stem from not knowing Jesus' love.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

Job, because whenever I feel like life is tough I just read Job.

When are you happiest?

Apart from being with family and church, riding anything with two wheels (bicycles, motorbikes)

What book changed you?

Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper (because I had wasted so much of mine)

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Greg, get to know Jesus as your Lord now. And don't waste the next 16 years chasing shallow idols.

God's Church in Queensland

Northside Presbyterian Church

Location

We meet on the north side of Townsville in the suburb of Deeragun. Although last year we bought a block of land in the nearby suburb of North Shore, and we hope to build on that land and begin meeting there soon.

The Ministry Team

Andrew Millsom (Minister), David Cumberbeach (Man Friday). However we like to think that everyone at Northside is on the ministry team!

Demographic

We have been blessed with a very even spread of ages, from babies to retirees.

Prayer Points

We would love people to pray that we would get better at being used by God to see people put their trust in Jesus for the first time. We would also ask for prayer that our proposed building project would come to fruition in the second half of this year.

What is the church excited about doing to make followers of Jesus?

Building bridges and reaching out to more people in the area where we started a new work five and a half years ago.



Meet the People



John Rathbone

How long have you been attending Northside?

Three years.

What do you do during the week?

I'm a paramedic but I'm also a clinical toxicologist, researcher, and study and treat snakebite victims in PNG and Africa. I'm also a full time husband and father to five teenage children, hence the grey balding hair!

What is the best thing about being at Northside?

Apart from seeing our minister wearing different hats/costumes from his role play cupboard, it's great to catch up with friendly people and have a chat over a coffee.



Vincent Wharton

How long have you been attending Northside?

Since 2010.

What do you do during the week?

My wife (Christine) and I are partners and operators of Townsville Lawn Care, a lawn-mowing and garden maintenance business.

What is the best thing about being at Northside?

Being part of a small church has allowed relationships to flourish; developing long-term relationships both within and outside the church has always been a 'key' in the beliefs underpinning the Northside philosophy. The ability to be able to chat and talk with nearly everyone at church brings its own rewards as trust and respect continues to grow.



Heidi Bokma

How long have you been attending Northside?

Since 2010.

What do you do during the week?

I am currently unemployed, and am looking for a graduate position in Mechanical Engineering.

What is the best thing about being at Northside?

I am greatly encouraged by the friendliness and genuine care of the congregation, as well as the faithful preaching of God's word.

Coorparoo Presbyterian Church

Location

Corner Emlyn Street and Letchworth Road, Coorparoo in Brisbane.

The Ministry Team

Phil Case (Minister), Robert Thompson, John Giles, Andrew Bain and Max Clark (Elders), Thom Lowther (Children's Worker)

Demographic

Ages range from infants to some in their 90s. We have a good mix of married and singles.

Prayer Points

Succession of leadership among the Elders and Committee of Management. Continued growth in knowledge and love of Christ among us all at Coorparoo. That we would hear the Gospel, live the Gospel and share the Gospel.

What is the church excited about doing to make followers of Jesus?

What excites me is seeing the Word of God impacting people's lives so that they live more and more for the things above and hold to the things below much more loosely. It is exciting to see the people growing in their knowledge of and faith in Christ over the years.



Meet the People



Gerhard Schöning

How long have you been attending Coorparoo?

My wife (Jenni) and I have been attending for almost two and a half years.

What do you do during the week?

I am a hydrogeologist with the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment. My day to day work revolves around the assessment and prediction of impacts related to CSG water extraction.

What is the best thing about being at Coorparoo?

The opportunity to be discipled and be actively involved in the discipleship of others. This creates community and a dynamic where the people are actively participating in the building of God's kingdom while they themselves are being transformed to be more like Jesus.



Laura Hopper

How long have you been attending Coorparoo?

Three and a half years

What do you do during the week?

I'm an education student and a Piano Teacher

What is the best thing about being at Coorparoo?

Being surrounded by fellow Christians who encourage and challenge me to grow in my faith. The morning tea is pretty delicious as well!



Rosalie McKee

How long have you been attending Coorparoo?

13 months

What do you do during the week?

I'm retired. I do outreach to neighbours and friends in the community.

What is the best thing about being at Coorparoo?

Worshiping God and fellowship with other believers.

News from around the State

Southern Downs Churches' Vision to Reach Growing Community

The Warwick and Yangan churches are responding to the population growth in the Southern Downs by expanding their ministry.

The Churches are in the process of implementing an action plan for reaching the local community. Key elements include relocating the ministry in a new location in Warwick and running an exciting outreach program by the ChristLife Toowoomba team.

With increasing attendance at their weekly services and additional new housing areas proposed for Warwick, the Churches are looking for Christians to help build their ministry.

According to Elder John Bohm, Warwick is a great place to 'live, work and play', offering a mix of country and city living, backed by genuine friendliness and charm.

"There's an array of social, cultural and sporting groups where everyone from children to seniors can be involved.

"Warwick is also a great place to worship and serve God and we urgently need people to join us in promoting the Gospel of Christ."

For further information and enquiries, contact John on (07) 4661 1423.

Central Church Ipswich celebrated their 150th

Central Church Ipswich celebrated 150 years of the St Stephen's Heritage Building earlier this year.

More than 150 years ago those who planted the church believed Jesus was worth knowing and nothing has changed. The emphasis for the weekend was to make Jesus' name known in our community.

Our city embraced the Festive Markets on Saturday which included face painting, vintage cars, and fair-trade stalls. A highlight of the day was the tours of the heritage listed building. Guides highlighted the history, the architecture and presented threads of the Gospel along the way.

Celebrations continued on Sunday with the Moderator-General, Right Reverend David Cook preaching at all services. A special celebration service in the afternoon included a call for us to honour those who went before us by believing

the Gospel they believed. We enjoyed the company of the Governor for Queensland, His Excellency The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC and Mrs Kaye de Jersey, together with other dignitaries. The service celebrated our past, present and diversity, with people from nine different languages reading from Psalm 145.

After the service, His Excellency cut the cake made for the event by Mrs Jeanette Johanson—a detailed replica of the building. While people were understandably anxious to cut such a masterpiece, the creator commented, "It's not an idol to be worshiped! Worship Jesus!" So we ate the cake with thankfulness.

We pray that we will remain committed to our mission of making followers of Jesus by being followers of Jesus and that the Gospel will continue to reach generations, for generations to come.





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

Australian Presbyterian World Mission

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

THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD THE GOSPEL

Nathan & Tomoko Stewart are preparing to serve in Japan as APWM missionaries serving with the Osaka Christian Church (Presbyterian).



Why are there so few Japanese Christians?

They haven't heard the gospel. People often think "missionaries have been in Japan for a long time" but the reality is that there are 125 million people and nearly all of them have never heard the gospel. The closest they've come to gospel is a very strange distortion of the gospel.

The Japanese are an unreached people. To top that off, because of the vast gap between the number of Christians and the number of non-Christians it's improbable that they will meet Christians. Only 1.54% of the Japanese are Christians.

It's a major task. It's the largest unreached people group in the developed world. A lot of western Christians just don't realise how untouched Japan is by the gospel.

What are some of the barriers to the gospel?

Many people are unfamiliar with Christianity. They don't think about God and the fact they have sinned against him. Many people think that sin equals committing a crime and so they don't see themselves as being guilty before God and in need of a saviour.

What will be your ministry in Osaka look like?

We want to help the Osaka Presbyterian

Church build relationships with Japanese people through the church. We'll be helping the congregation engage with the community through English conversation clubs. As foreigners we'll be a drawcard as English-speaking people and we can help build bridges between the church and the surrounding community.

Japanese Christians don't have the habit of sharing their testimony of how they came to Christ, with other Japanese people. Tomoko was born in Osaka and plays a key role in this area. She has had a foot in both worlds.

Why can't the Japanese Church do this?

The Japanese Church can do this but they need help. That's why we're pleased to work with the Osaka Presbyterian Church. The ministry that we'll be doing was their idea and that really encourages us!

One of their elders is a professor of linguistics at a Japanese university. Some of the church members have lived overseas and have good English. We want to use English clubs as a way of making contact with people and because we're from Australia we're a big drawcard. The Osaka congregation has asked us to help them strategise and think through how to make contact with the community. Unlike the church in Australia they don't have the luxury of the resources that we have in Australia.

Why is this ministry important?

People need to put their faith in Christ or they will go to hell. We have to take seriously the fact that we have been charged with the responsibility of taking the gospel into all the world. If we look at Japan we've barely scratched the surface and this is a matter of eternity.

The pledges for Nathan and Tomoko's support are at 52% at the time of publication. A tentative commissioning date has been set for 23rd October. If you would like to join Nathan and Tomoko's support team then please contact them at nathan@stewartfamily.id.au or finance@apwm.org.au or use the form on the last page of this newsletter or contact the APWM office.

WORKPARTNERS VANUATU 2016



In early June the latest Workpartners team travelled to the Talua Theological Institute in Vanuatu to upgrade some of Talua's infrastructure.

The two items needing attention were: upgrading the solar power in one of the teaching/office blocks and the urgent replacement of ten power poles that were severely rusted and in danger of falling. The hard-working team managed to achieve all their objectives.

The next Workpartners trip will depart Brisbane on Tuesday 29 November and return to Australia on Monday 13 December 2016. The team is looking for another electrician to join them to assist with the replacement of further power poles and installing more solar power. Cost: Airfare (approximately \$600) plus team costs (approximately \$450). If you would like to join the team or if you want to know more then please contact Sheryl Sarkoezy office@apwm.org.au or (02) 8073 7490.

APWM

To support APWM missionaries financially please go to www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance

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GOOD NEWS TRAVELS

David and Gae write:

We spend much of each year travelling on our own through the remote areas of outback South Australia, meeting people and sharing the Good News of Jesus with them. At Easter each year, we put together a small team to join us in a specific Easter outreach in the Beltana and Leigh Creek area of the Northern Flinders Ranges. This year, our team was made up of seven people from Southern Cross Presbyterian Church in Lismore, NSW, and two from the central coast of NSW. Together, we had many opportunities to draw people's attention to Jesus this Easter.

We met our team in the car park at Leigh Creek School, in the Northern Flinders Ranges of South Australia. The school headmaster had enthusiastically allowed us to visit and talk to the primary kids about Easter. At the beginning we asked the kids if they knew what Easter was

about. After a long pause, the answer came that it was the time that God was born; the next answer was more on the mark; but by the end of our time there, everyone left appreciating that Easter was about Jesus, his sacrifice and new life in Him. Our presentation included a game, puppet show, song, and an animation activity sheet to complete at home. An invitation to more activities and church service was taken home, along with an Easter fridge magnet. We had never been in the school before but hopefully this will be a great beginning to a long relationship.

The team then spent Good Friday visiting people and 'getting the word out' about the upcoming movie night and the Easter church service. Saturday morning we cleaned the historic Smith of Dunesk Mission church building in Beltana in preparation for the Easter Service.

On Saturday night we set up an outdoor cinema and had a wonderful open-air movie night. Our aim was to draw local people in so we could introduce ourselves, tell them what we do and personally invite them to the Easter service the next morning, morning tea

and then a barbecue lunch.

Easter Sunday morning started with sunrise appreciation. It genuinely was awesome. Rev Stewart Playsted delivered the Easter message with gusto and most of the team was involved in the service. The service was well attended. We had a good showing from Beltana Station and some from the local township.

The BBQ lunch numbers quickly increased with 18 people from the local aboriginal community joining us. We had a fun time of fellowship and eight Bibles were given to interested people, as well as biographies and other Christian literature and fridge magnets.

We also dropped off a Bible and some devotional material for a worker at a local sheep station who had confided in us that he had back-slidden and didn't have a Bible. It was wonderful to spend some time encouraging him.

On Monday we showed the team around the area and helped them understand more of what it is like to live and work in this part of the outback.

Like many outback towns, especially those reliant on mining, Leigh Creek has had its ups and downs. In recent months, the closure of the local coal mine has left the residents living with much uncertainty. At one point, the whole town was advertised as being 'For Sale'. People in this area, like people all over the world, desperately need to know that true certainty only comes from knowing Jesus. What a great privilege we have to share Him with them, not just at Easter but right throughout the year.



The Easter outreach team at Beltana Station



FULTON PLACE BY PRESCARE OPENS IN CAIRNS

Fulton Place by PresCare, a specialised dementia care facility, is now open in Cairns.

Built at the historic home of former Cairns Mayor and Federal MP, Bill Fulton, Fulton Place by PresCare provides respite care for dementia clients of all ages, and their primary carers.

Day respite care is available for 12 dementia clients per day, and will soon take up to five overnight clients for three to 14 days at a time. It allows carers to undertake normal work or life activity, and enables in-home carers much needed flexibility with the confidence their loved one will be well cared for and safe.

PresCare Chief Executive Officer Greg Skelton said PresCare recognised a growing need for specialised dementia care in Far North Queensland, particularly with Alzheimer's Australia forecasting an increased incidence of dementia in Cairns over the next decade.

"PresCare has the resources and skills to make a difference in the lives of people living with dementia in Cairns, and Fulton Place is just one way we can help. We are looking at ways to expand our services in Far North Queensland, so we can assist more people in need," Mr Skelton said.

Carers at Fulton Place provide specialist dementia support focusing on independence and wellbeing to help reduce the barriers for people living with dementia.

For more information about Fulton Place by PresCare, please call us via 1800 773 722.

SHARPENING THE EDGE OF PASTORAL CARE

PresCare Chaplains came together in May to sharpen their minds and develop ways to bring their unique skillset to the holistic care of PresCare residential and community clients more effectively.

The conference, designed by Danny Mihailovic, the PresCare Director of Chaplaincy, focused on the difference between pastoral care and counselling.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about what pastoral carers do. Pastoral care is very much about holistic care both in times of need or in a person's everyday life. We observe, listen to, interact with, and care for a person, bringing meaning and relevance to their feelings, memories and interests.



"We can't provide a counselling service, but we can support clients in almost every other aspect of their lives," Danny said.

"The Conference was about bringing together the PresCare chaplaincy team and giving them the tools to provide pastoral care more effectively. The activities and speakers really pushed the team to look outside their own spheres, to integrate chaplaincy into the framework of the PresCare brand, meaning we can better reinforce PresCare's values," he said.

The feedback from the conference was overwhelmingly positive, with many of the team taking away important practical ways they could improve the care they and the pastoral care volunteers provide to clients.



The PresCare Pastoral Care team is available whenever they are needed; to talk to someone please contact us via 1800 773 722.



MAKING DISCIPLES ACROSS AUSTRALIA

CHURCH PASTORS PATROL WORKERS

PIM are seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified people to join us in actively taking the Gospel to the remote areas of Australia.

A range of exciting ministry opportunities exist across the continent for people who have a heart for the lost and the skills necessary for effective evangelism and discipleship in remote places.

Successful appointees can expect to be involved in a wide range of activities, including preaching and teaching in small towns, one-to-one evangelism and discipleship ministry on remote properties, pastoral care of isolated people and active involvement in local community events.

PIM Teams have a long history of rolling up their sleeves and entering into the day-to-day lives of those amongst whom they serve. Accordingly, these roles are hands on and require people who not only have suitable theological knowledge and pastoral skills, but also have a genuine willingness to get involved in people's lives in practical ways, in order to serve and to bear witness to the love of Jesus.

For more information, or to submit an expression of interest, please contact the PIM CEO, Andrew Letcher by email: ceo@pim.org.au