ECUADOR, OFFICIALLY the Republic of Ecuador, is a representative democratic republic in South America, bordered by Colombia on the north, Peru on the east and south, and by the Pacific Ocean to the west. It is one of only two countries in South America, along with Chile, that does not have a border with Brazil. The country also includes the Galápagos Islands in the Pacific, about 1,000 kilometres (620 mls) west of the mainland.

The main spoken language in Ecuador is Spanish (94% of the population). Languages of official use in native communities include Quechua, Shuar and 11 other languages. Ecuador has an area of 258,238 sq km (99,706 sq mls). Its capital city is Quito, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the 1970s for having the best preserved and least altered historic centre in Latin America. The country’s largest city is Guayaquil. With its international port and tuna fishing industry, Manta is the third most important city in the country economically. The historic centre of Cuenca, the third largest city in the country, was also declared a World Heritage Site in 1999, for being an outstanding example of a planned inland Spanish style colonial city in the Americas.

Ecuador is also home to a great variety of species, many of them endemic, like those of the Galápagos Islands. This species diversity makes Ecuador one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world. The new constitution of 2008 is the first in the world to recognize legally enforceable Rights of Nature, or ecosystem rights.

Ecuador is a presidential republic and became independent in 1830, after having been part of the Spanish colonial empire and, for a much shorter time, of the republic of Gran Colombia.
What it means to be a missionary in Ecuador

Hello, my name is Chandra Smith. I am a missionary currently serving with APWM and SIM in Ecuador. I have been a missionary in Ecuador for close to eight years. I would love to thank you all for your faithful support of me and the ministries God has here in Ecuador. It was suggested that I share with you about my work, what it entails and how things are progressing. Well I have to admit, if I did share all this, my article would fill numerous books. So I hope the following will give you some idea of what my life is here in Ecuador and why I chose to follow God to this small country in South America.

I LIVE in a valley approximately 2000 metres about sea level in the town of Gonzanamá, which has approximately 2000 people living in it. We, another missionary and I, work in this community and the outlying communities.

When I first arrived in Gonzanamá, foreigners were people to fear and not trust so it was difficult to make contacts, but with the help of local believers I started to make friends. One ministry which I have been running since my second year in Ecuador is the Diet Club for Women. This ministry was set up because Tania, one of the local believers, wanted to lose weight because she had noticed that I had lost weight. I agreed to do something with her. The day arrived that we agreed to meet and talk about diet and exercise. Tania arrived with five other ladies who were not believers but they were friends of Tania who all wanted to lose weight. So I realized God had opened the door for me to get to know these women and to allow the local believers to show the community that they were normal people.

My goals for the Diet Club were, and still are, to help the women get physically and spiritually healthy, to provide a non-hostile environment where they can hear God’s Word and ask questions, and a place where the local believers can make friendships with the women in community.

From then on, each week the women would come to be weighed and to talk about nutrition and listen to a Bible message. I would teach them low-fat, low-sugar recipes. Then we would exercise and they could taste the recipes.

I am pleased to say that we now have thirty women coming weekly, and over the last six years, as a result of the Diet Club, there have been exciting discussions about God, women coming to study the Bible of whom a few have become believers. Also, a lot of women have lost weight.

The Diet Club is not the only ministry in which I am involved. One of my favorite ministries is teaching the Bible and helping people read the Bible for themselves. For many years, people here were too scared to read the Bible. They were told only the priests and nuns were chosen by God to read and interpret the Bible.

Little by little people are coming to ask to study the Bible, and through studying the Bible themselves, more people are becoming believers.

Over the past seven years I have been involved in the following ministries: Bible teaching in Portete, Gonzanamá, Mollepamba and El Fundo; youth ministry mainly in Portete; Craft Club for women in Portete and Gonzanamá; teaching First Aid in local primary and high schools and in small communities which have no medical presence; teaching the Bible in the local Christian church in Gonzanamá (I am grateful this is no longer my responsibility as we have a local pastor appointed); discipleship of new believers; medical caravans; and continued running of the medical project in Gonzanamá.

I am happy to share stories about my life here with any of you. Just email me at chandra.smith@sim.org.

Thank you again.
**Chandra’s Story**

by Pam Smith

In recent months my husband, Darryl, and I have been living and working at South Toowoomba Presbyterian Church on behalf of our daughter, Chandra Schache, who serves in Ecuador, and is known to quite a number of people. We decided to tell the congregation about how Chandra came into our lives and how God’s hand was in all that has happened.

Thank you for inviting me to retell the story for New Directions.

For anyone who does not know Chandra – she is Sri Lankan by birth and we are not.

For me, the story began when I was a small child. Ipestered my mother for a black doll. I don’t even remember this and in those days you couldn’t buy coloured dolls (in Australia anyway) and the best poor mum could do was get me a Goldilocks (not considered politically incorrect in those days). So it was no surprise to my mum when I announced we were going to adopt a child of a different race.

At the time of our marriage the Vietnam war was in full swing and Darryl was called up for National Service. His NS had been deferred while he finished an apprenticeship, and we were married, but it didn’t make any difference – he still had to do ‘his time’.

Of course the TV news showed Vietnam every night and the plight of orphaned children was heart breaking. I wanted to gather them all up and give them a home.

We thought we should start a family first before considering adoption and our first son was born. If quoting other people’s work, that work should be acknowledged in your article.

Our goal is to leave for Vanuatu in March 2013. To date we have reached 26% of our $44,000 target pledged. Thank you to the churches and individuals who have pledged to partner with us in this journey.

This means that we need pledges totalling $29,000 before we can leave. We need further pledges of $2,367 per month. That’s 24 people pledging $200 per week.

If you’d like to join our team then please contact Australian Presbyterian World Mission finance@apwm.org.au

Andrew and Marilyn Schache

rvntv99@gmail.com

Andrew and Marilyn Schache

Are we there yet?

How often have we asked the question “Are we there yet?”

Every journey has a beginning and an end. Sometimes they are short, easy trips. Others are long and arduous.

For Marilyn and me, that “journey” started about two years ago, when we both realised that God was calling us back to mission work.

This time it would be to Vanuatu, specifically in Maintenance and Administration roles at the Talua Presbyterian Church.

It’s been a great journey so far, and as we pass milestones, we realise how perfectly God leads and directs.

Andrew and Marilyn Schache

Queensland Presbyterian Church Buildings

Wavell Heights

Our eldest daughter came along fairly quick after our first son was born. We thought we should start a family first before considering adoption and our first son was born.

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NEW DIRECTIONS

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Pam and Darryl Smith (Stanthorpe) with John and Anna Strachan at St John’s Toowoomba

PHOTO: Frances Tiley

PHOTO: Frances Tiley
St Paul's Presbyterian Church, 43 St Paul's Terrace, Spring Hill invites one and all to these coming events, as part of their 150th year celebrations

**DATE CLAIMER**

**ORCHESTRAL AND CHORAL CONCERT "In Glorious Company"**

This joint venture will be a wonderful choral and orchestral delight in association with 4MBS Festival of Classics. The program will feature the vibrant Dettingen Te Deum by Handel performed at St Paul's in October 1934 and much more.

**Auction**

If you have something novel that is taking up space, bring an item for sale and we will auction it at half-time break.

**AN APRIL AFTERNOON CRAFT FAIR**

Craft stalls, demonstrations, 'Make and Take' crafts

Entry fee includes afternoon tea and your choice of 3 Make and Take items - all materials supplied. Help will be on hand at each work table. Adults $20 Children $10

**FOCUS ON THE HEART SEMINARS AT VIRGINIA/BANOYO**

By Noel Liddell, Session Clerk

The course was facilitated by Miranda Nakhla, who has presented the same course overseas - in the Philippines and Fiji.

"Becoming a Godly Woman" is the first of five courses that are offered by “Focus on the Heart” ministry. Its goal is to multiply the number of spiritually mature women as mandated in Titus 2:3-5.

Women from many parts of the world were blessed by this simple, down-to-earth practical ministry. We are pleased that this course is the first to take place in Australia and praying for the spread of this ministry in Australia and all over the world.

The goal of this ministry is for women to grow in their relationship with God and with their family, church family and the community around.

Also, the course aims towards multiplication; where the women who go through the course and sense God’s calling to share it with others, can themselves facilitate the course.

The second course of this series called “ABC of Care Giving” is currently being presented at Banyo Presbyterian Church during the Ladies’ Bible Study that takes place twice a month. Its goal is to help women learn more about effective ways of helping others and how to deal with issues in life such as forgiveness, fear and anger.

For more information about running one of these courses for women in your church, please contact Miranda Nakhla on 0439 704 047.

At the end of the last session, a small celebration was held over lunch. The church Pastor, Andrew Bigg, and Mr. Noel Liddell, Session Clerk, handed out certificates of completion to all participants.

"BECOMING A Godly Woman" is a course for women that took place at Virginia Presbyterian Church over the month of September 2012.

Ten women from three different churches - Virginia, Banyo and Nundah - participated in that course. The course ran over five Saturdays from 9-12 noon.

Sessions were interactive, in a small setting, where women were able to learn from the Bible, discuss, share, open up and clarify issues in life.

The course covers down-to-earth applications based on the Biblical passage in Titus 2:3-5.

One participant commented, “This course shows a clear picture of what a godly woman is and how to become a godly woman. The Bible verses that I studied during the course were very helpful to me in my life as a mum and a wife”.

Close friends at a happy farewell luncheon for Elder Harley and Flora Robinson (centre sitting) who, after many years of tireless work in a number of Presbyterian congregations, have retired from Caloundra, to Forest View Retirement Village in Childers, where they will be near their family. While they will be much missed, our prayers are that they will soon settle into their new home and enjoy their new adventure.
COME TO the waters, CONSIDER Christ and CHOOSE life!

WE TOOK the kids to the zoo during the holidays and, as usual, we stared at their faces. Each one had eyes that were wide open in marvel at the extravagance detail – the grey beard at the incredible design and theistes, that was just the beginning!

By Noel Liddell, Session Clerk

That was why they were designed to be as green as possible. When we needed the help of a plant, we could rely on the Chamaeleon. It has eyes that can move independently of each other, so they can see what's going on in front of them at the same time he blended in with the glass wall in front of us, but at the same time we could see things that were happening outside, like a chameleon act that maybe I need to perform better too.

Richard Schumack, Sam McGeown and Tim Hill on the Thai-Burma border

DOUGING BULLETS and praying for peace is part and parcel of life for Karen refugees on the Thai-Burma border, where a CMS team recently trained local church leaders.

For the past three years CMS Queensland with Northern NSW has provided trainers to the School of Biblical Training (SBT) to equip local leaders of the Karen people to handle the Bible with care and preach well.

Sam McGeown, CMS Church Liaison and Missionary Development Officer, led the training team and attends Carina Creek Road Presbyterian Church. He said that “the pastures lead the members of a church that the world has largely forgotten about.”

For 25 years the Karen people have been dodging bullets from the Burmese army, living in jungles and refugee camps, waiting and praying for peace and the chance to return to their homes and villages.

Last year’s training brought together 25 pastors, Bible College students, children’s and youth workers, and mothers’ ministry leaders from refugee camps and outlying villages. They gathered for six days for teaching on Isaiah and basic Bible study tools from Sam McGeown, Rev. Richard Shumack and Tim Hill. The CMS team worked alongside the participants from 9 am to 9 pm most nights, as the group wanted to get the most out of their time together.

The thanks expressed by one of the pastors sums up the impact of the training: “We would never have the opportunity to access the material that we have received this week. The training has increased our competency and confidence in preaching from the Old Testament, especially to the Karen.”

Thank you. When you come back again next year could we continue looking at the Old Testament?

Seeing the impact the training is having over repeated years is a great blessing to Sam. This was his third time there, and he plans to return in 2013.

Each time I have returned there has been renewed trust built and relational bridges strengthened”, said Sam. “The Karen church leaders are taking the training on board. We saw it in the seminars – the staff from the Karen churches were so impressed in their growing ability and delight to handle God’s word, not just with care but with delight. We saw it in the rhetoric and rich language used. We saw it in their wholehearted commitment to the gospel. There was a sense that the trainers were, after several years, not only getting the training but were using it to greater effect.

Emphasising the role of partnership in mission, Sam said that he and his team were not on the Thai-Burma border to ‘give’ but to work together with the local church which is half of ‘givers’ like a young woman named Brickie.

“Brickie is a 28-year-old Karen university graduate from Burma who came to the training. She intentionally travelled across the border into Thailand in order to serve her people. She works in one of the six boarding houses run by the church.

The house owner is also one of those given training. He got sick and after being admitted to hospital indefinitely, he gave the church the right of use of his house as a sanctuary for kids who have had to flee their homes in Burma”, Sam said.

Now 24 children from the ages of 5 to 14 live in his house. Brickie is their mother. Being a parent for four kids of my own is hard work. How Brickie wakes up every morning at 5:30, cooks breakfast, gets kids ready for school, cleans the house, cooks lunch and dinner, washes clothes, picks up kids from school, cares for them all over the day, and then does homework, tells a Bible story, puts them to bed, 24/7 for 300/month is way beyond my comprehension.

Many of church leaders have lived in refugee camps for 25 years and have few opportunities for ongoing training. The CMS training equips them to better serve their communities, while more teachers like Sam appreciated learning from the local church leaders.

It was exciting to see how the leaders have been putting into practice what they have been learning over the last three years”, Sam said. “The Karen leaders ended up teaching the trainers some valuable lessons in humility, sacrifice, commitment, contentment and hospitality.”

If you want to learn more about the work of the CMS church leaders throughout the world, then visit www.cms.org.au or phone 07 3121 6530.

Training ‘forgotten’ church leaders on the Thai-Burma border

Karen church leaders

Pray, Live, Serve .... but what about the chameleon?

by Naomi Reed

The display of beautiful quilts was a real treat and great inspiration as we worked on our individual projects.

We were able to place bids in the Silent Auction during Saturday afternoon. The women from the Dorcas Centre had sent out some of their work and many campers supplied handmade bags for Wycliffe Bible Society to sell.

We run our send over $4200 to the Dorcas Centre to encourage their valuable work amongst women challenged by life.

We put our hands together to say hello, we handled money with our right hand only, we conjugated our behaviour. Often, serving as cross-cultural workers, we found ourselves blending in the local ways – or we tried to!

So then, of course, I thought about us and the reasons behind our behaviour. Often, serving as cross-cultural workers we aim to blend in. In New Zealand it might mean you dress as a Presbyterian, you don’t wear funny hats, you don’t go around wearing your own culture everyday.

We put our hands together to say hello, we handled money with our right hand only, we conjugated our behaviour. Often, serving as cross-cultural workers, we aimed to blend in. In New Zealand it might mean you dress as a Presbyterian, you don’t wear funny hats, you don’t go around wearing your own culture everyday.

Sometimes I find myself blending in so that people will like me and in so that my opinions won’t offend. And sometimes, that’s a good and appropriate thing.

In Australia too, I need to work on genuine relationships that honour God. But there are other times when I feel like I’m too busy doing the chameleon act that maybe I need to re-read Paul in Philippians, where he reminds the reader to “shine like

We were grateful for the hand embroidery expertise of two interstate tutors as well as many of our local ladies who taught a mix of workshops including acrylics and watercolour, knitting and crochet, scrapbooking and card making as well as a novel bag and a variety of patchworking techniques.

All these tutors give generously of their time in preparation throughout the year and we couldn’t have such an amazing time without them. Thank you so much!

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Carols at Caloundra

ON SUNDAY 9 December the Caloundra congregation held what must have been one of our “best ever” carols services.

During the days leading up to the carol service the outsiders of both church and hall were decorated with appropriately coloured lights.

Meanwhile, inside the hall, the stage was filled with a beautiful manger scene complete with a full size ox, donkey, sheep and a liberal scattering of hay to give the appropriate effect.

As the day came, the interiors of the church and hall were decorated, the supper was prepared, the rehearsals were completed and we were ready for our special event – the 2012 Carols Service.

Our guests this year were Jim and Grace Vine, along with their son Bill. What wonderful musical talents they all have – all the more beautiful because they have been laid at the feet of their Saviour.

Grace had prepared a beautiful overview of the Biblical narrative entitled “Do You Have Room?”, complete with a liberal sprinkling of well-loved carols, a solo by herself and another on DVD played through the digital projector.

As a result they helped about seventy people to have a good start to the year with a barbecue breakfast held on the first Saturday in January. What could be described as “the usual work crew” (all well-known and beloved in the Congregation) set up the coffee and tea, and cooked the meal, and the tables were laden with food.

The following Sunday we had a very enjoyable and worthwhile service which was attended by eighty people. But we managed to cater for eighty people. But then members and friends brought some 20 extra plates of goodies so the tables were laden with food. There was enough food to feed the proverbial army, which meant that those who attended various other occasions during the week that followed (including a Session meeting on Monday), enjoyed the sandwiches, savouries, assorted cakes and biscuits that were left over from the Sunday suppers.

One of our faithful members later observed that the Carols Service had about it such a sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit that much prayer must have been offered for the Lord’s blessing on it and on the whole evening.

That was certainly the case, for not only was in attendance the entire congregational prayer every morning at 8:00, but there must also have been much prayer in the daily devotions of many members in the quiet of their own homes.

The whole evening was a wonderful church family production, with many people joining together to participate in various ways, and the Holy Spirit adding that sense of His presence that can only increase the sense of wonder.

This not only ensured that it was successful in our eyes but that God was glorified through what was done and that the message of the gospel was presented to the community at large.

Truly, this must have been one of our “best ever” Carol Services. Thank you, Lord.

Breakfast with a Difference

A Fund Raiser for Agape Hope Orphanage, Nairobi, Kenya

TWO MEMBERS of the Caloundra Congregation, Betty Hooper and Dorothy Cochrane, had a very creative idea to raise funds for Kenya when they planned a shared breakfast for members and friends of the Caloundra Church.

As a result they helped about seventy people to have a good start to the year with a barbecue breakfast held on the first Saturday in January. What could be described as “the usual work crew” (all well-known and well-loved in the Congregation) set up pergolas and tables, prepared food, set up the coffee and tea, and cooked eggs and bacon on the barbecues provided for the occasion.

Our purpose was to raise funds for the purchase of a special kind of kitchen stove and oven that is available in Kenya and that makes efficient use of sun’s fuel.

Our target was approximately $700, with anything more being a bonus.

Well, the target was more than reached. One faithful and faith-full member said that we’d receive “double that amount” and so we did, and then some. The final total was over $1700 and our thanks go to all those members and friends of the Caloundra Congregation who gave so generously.

The seven members of the Kenya Mission Team left for Kenya on 21 January and will return home in mid-February.

We had hoped to buy just the oven/stove for the Agape Hope Children’s Centre, but thanks to those who attended we will be able to do much more to encourage our Christian brothers and sisters in Kenya. Our thanks go to Betty and Dorothy and to all who helped to make the occasion so enjoyable and worthwhile.

Meanwhile, thanks to the generosity of several members, another $1000 has been given for use as needed. As a result of the Koorong New Year sale we have been able to buy $1 000 worth of children’s Bible story books (especially the Ark, the Me Too and the Jungle Doctor series) for about $750. Hopefully we’ll also be able to receive the 10% GST refund at the airport when we leave 15th week and the unsold will also be able to receive the 10% GST refund at the airport when we leave.

Each book was covered with contact by a team of volunteers who attended a working bee especially for the purpose. The books will be donated to two schools in Nairobi (one attached to the orphanage to which the team is going; the other in a slum on the eastern side of the city) and to two congregations on the edge of the Rift Valley, about 180 kms west of Nairobi.

Our prayer is that many children will be able to benefit from reading stories from the Bible as a result of the gifts of kind people in the Caloundra congregation.

When we give to the Lord’s work not only is there blessing for the giver, but nothing is ever wasted. And when the recipients are so poor that they could not otherwise be able to see, let alone read, such books, there is blessing beyond measure.

Please pray for our team, who will be in Kenya from 21 January until they return home on 16 February. Five of our members have never been to Africa before so prayer for them will especially be appreciated.
CONSTRUCTING A hospital to help the deaf is just part of the vision of CMS missionaries Gordon and Ruth Russell, returning to Nepal after an absence of 15 years.

“Our vision is to see Nepali lives impacted by Christ’s love through the use of our engineering and medical skills,” said Ruth.

“Gordon will work with a Nepali colleague to construct a Specialist and Training Centre for Deafness. Surprisingly, moderate to severe hearing impaired people, and provide year round treatment for people with leprosy and TB”, said Gordon.

Gordon and Ruth are currently at St Andrew’s Hall, the CMS training centre in Melbourne, prior to church deputation and their departure to Nepal in March 2013.

CMS Queensland with Northern NSW has had a long-term interest in Nepal, serving disadvantaged people through health and education, and supporting the indigenous church, particularly in training young Nepali leaders. CMS missionaries Libby and Bruce Hayes have worked in Nepal for 20 years, and a number of CMS short-term volunteers work at KIC (Kanthamandu International Study Centre) where Libby is Principal.

“CMS will second us to a mission partner International Nepal Fellowship (INF) that is involved with health and development programs for marginalised communities, rehabilitation for people with disabilities, medical camps and clinics for people with leprosy and TB”, said Ruth.

She said that the centre which Gordon will help to establish will provide year round treatment for hearing impaired people, and specialist training of Nepali medical and paramedical staff. The centre will also launch community work and build up government hospital capacity.

“As Christians work there, the hearing impaired will have the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus”, Ruth said.

Ruth and Gordon worked in Nepal for over a decade until the mid 1990s, and are very excited about the opportunity to return. They will be based in Pokhara, the third largest city. Ruth, a palliative care specialist who worked with The Prince Charles Palliative Care Service in recent years, is keen to use her skills there, as very little palliative care is available outside the capital city, Kathmandu.

The church in Nepal is growing rapidly, from no Christians in 1950 when this small Hindu mountain kingdom opened its borders to the outside world, to now approximately a million Christians. The indigenous church continues to reach out to remote parts of this land. There are many opportunities for mentoring and encouraging young Christian potential leaders in the maturing Nepali church.

Nepal has seen huge changes over recent decades. Formerly ruled by a king venerated as a god with absolute power, democratic change came in 1990. Maoist uprising followed by a decade of civil war with over 40,000 killed has left this beautiful mountainous land with many challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, significant poverty and unstable government.

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To support the work of CMS or to learn more about mission opportunities, go to www.CMS.org.au by telephone 07 3112 6300.

They have been part of the start of season Backpacker Dinner. Helpers were from 11 to over 80 years old. They (and others) provided food that fed 220 backpackers a three course meal of soup, meat and pasta dishes, vegetables and salads followed by fresh fruit salad, ice cream and apple crumble.

Some young people were able to have seconds of the desserts and some asked for the recipe for apple crumble.

Before we all left, our pastor, Greg Fraser, prayed giving thanks that the Lord did stretch the food so that all ate well.

About 200 pieces of Christian literature were taken.

What a blessing and a privilege to serve in this way!

What will God do with this act of service in the lives of these young people?

We pray and trust you will too, that they will be convicted of their need of a Saviour, turn to Jesus and return home a new creation.

NEW DIRECTIONS, February/March 2013 - Page 7

NEED TO UNWIND FOR A FEW DAYS?

Backpackers queuing

Feeding the (Not Quite) 5000 - Stanthorpe Style

Ruth and Gordon Russell, CMS missionaries returning to Nepal in March 2013

Backpackers queuing

Some Asian guests wanted a photo of helpers

Serving the international guests

TABLES AND chairs are ready, plates, serviettes and silver ready, barbecue plate hot and filled with sausages, other food hot (or cold as required), helpers (from Stanthorpe Presbyterian and other denominations) armed with serving spoons and ready for action.

“As we look out into the hall at 6.30 pm, there do not seem to be many there.

Do we have too much food? Will they come?

This is the question we ask each time we hold a free dinner for the backpackers who arrive in Stanthorpe each fruit picking season to help bring in the ‘harvest’.

Advertising brochures had been delivered to numerous sites around the district.

We usually cater for 120 young people from all around the world. We planned for the same number this time.

A quick check outside to see; now there are backpackers and backpackers queuing to be admitted; diminutive Taiwanese and lanky Germans dominating the crowd this year.

We never know just how many will come, so with ‘doubting hearts’ we prayed. Will there be enough food?

Please, Lord, we do not want to turn anyone away with an empty stomach. More backpackers than we had soup for.

They are seated, a quick survey of the guests, countries represented among our guests, a blessing is said for the food being provided, and they are filing past the table where little portions and trays are available in different languages, and then past the tables where they are served food.

More backpackers arrive. “How did you hear about this?” we enquired. "Facebook" was the reply. More chairs found. Some panic in the kitchen as more keep arriving.

Do we have too much food? Will they come?

Another 8.30 pm, the cleaning up is being done, rubbish thrown out, the hall (courtesy of the Anglican Parish) returned to the condition we found it in, and many helpers are taking their leave. They are leaving feeling tired, exhilarated and very blessed.

Feeding the (Not Quite) 5000 - Stanthorpe Style

Backpackers queuing

Ruth and Gordon Russell, CMS missionaries returning to Nepal in March 2013

Backpackers queuing

Serving the international guests

NEED TO UNWIND FOR A FEW DAYS?

Backpackers queuing

Some Asian guests wanted a photo of helpers

Serving the international guests

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NEED TO UNWIND FOR A FEW DAYS?
HOW THE WEST CAN AGAIN BE WON!

by Dr Marshall Foster

WESTERN MISSIONARIES continue to carry the teachings of Jesus to the nations as they have done for more than two centuries. Christianity is flourishing in many of those nations while at the same time, the Christian West (Europe, America, Australia, New Zealand) has been drifting from Christianity. During the last 100 years, Western missionaries turned Africa from a continent of 9 million in 1900 to 400 million Christians today; this amounts to 75% of the population. On the other hand, in the 18 years since 1990, Christianity has decreased in America from a nation in which over 80% identified themselves as Christian to below 75% today. Why is Christianity growing in many nations America helped disciple while she herself is declining?

For many Western Christians it has become more important to be American, or Australian than Christian. Some for instance have absorbed the culture of tolerance. I am talking about the new tolerance that requires all ideas to be considered of equal value. But to be Christian is to understand that Jesus, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (John 1:3; Hebrews 1:3), has the only ideas that will stand the test of time and eternity (Matthew 24:35).

Consider the difference between Post Modern tolerance and Christ’s Great Commission. Jesus told his followers to be about the business of getting other people, whole nations in fact, to obey his ideas! “teaching them to obey all the things I have commanded.” Christ is very clear about the idea that non-Christian ideas are as good as Christian ideas. Rather we Christians should help non-Christians junk their non-Christian ideas and replace them with Christian ideas and beliefs.

When it comes to non-Christian ideas Paul speaks in violent terms of warfare. He said we should “pull down strongholds,” and “cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,” and bring “every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:4-6). This sort of thing is very un-Western, very politically incorrect!

When Paul spoke this way, he was not talking about his internal struggle as a believer. He was saying the job of ministers and of Christians is to pull down non-Christian ideas because they exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. The Christian worldview alone conforms to the real world of sin and redemption; this is the only world there is!

The Christian Worldview alone tells of creation out of nothing, of the fall of the human race into sin, and of Christ the only remedy for sin. These things are not just ideas, they are the realities of planet earth. Anyone who seeks to live life outside this Christian worldview lives in a fantasy world! In addition, to the degree the Christian conscientiously and unconsciously adapts to the non-believer’s ideas, he himself is living partially in unreality.

The Bible and Christian doctrine apply to all people, to Adam’s entire race. Those who are not conforming to Christian doctrine are living in lies, they live a fantasy! It is for this reason Paul exhorts us to “…not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2).

So why is the West declining? When Jesus directed, “teaching them to observe everything I have commanded,” He used a Greek word that comes from the same Greek root translated “doctrine.” The Third World is growing in Christianity while the Christian West slides away for this very reason – doctrine is little esteemed in the West, and in fact is commonly despised.

It is not uncommon to hear a Christian say something like, “I do not like doctrine. Doctrine divides people.” Yet it is Christian teaching (doctrine) that defines the world as it really is. The Christian must be filled with Christian doctrine to understand the world, life, love, sin, death, eternity and everything else.

REAL WORLD VS. DREAM WORLDS

Contrary to the Post Modern claim that all ideas are of equal value, there are ideas that conform to reality and many that do not. Ideas that do not conform to reality are lies and fantasies. Jesus came to redeem us from the Lie. Jesus spoke doctrine to people as a means to that end. He said to his listeners, “My doctrine is not Mine, but He who sent Me. If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority” (John 7:16-17).

One of the doctrines Jesus taught is that the Old Testament is God’s Word, saying “…the Word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). Jesus endorsed the entire Old Testament as the Word of God. Jesus told His Apostles that the Spirit of God would come and lead them into all the truth.

We believe just as the OT prophets were directed by God to write what God wanted written, so also were the New Testament writers directed. Made in His image and molded by the Bible. From the Bible we derive Christian doctrine which is doctrine in conformity with the teaching of God and this is always in agreement with the entire Bible. It is Christian doctrine from the OT and NT that enables us to live in the real world. It is by Christian doctrine that we are delivered from the Lie.

Consider this – Australia and the West are in a life and death struggle. Vishal Mangalwadi recently observed that the sun is setting on the west. But, says he, and I believe it, the West can be turned around. We need to pray that God will pour out His Spirit in revival and restoration, and that Christians may see a new Great Awakening which God in His mercy could very well send in this generation.

By knowing the only True God and Jesus Christ whom He sent we know ourselves and also the world around us, God who made the universe is the starting place and ending place for thinking. Thinking not in conformity to God’s thoughts is mistaken thinking, sinful thinking!

God made reality and we cannot re-make it other than it is. I do not mean we are unable to change things on planet earth; there are many things we can change. However, we cannot change the reality of gravity, nor can we change the standard right and wrong, nor judgment for sin. We cannot change the fact that this is a fallen world, that sin is pervasive in the human soul, and that the only answer to this devastation is Jesus.

Adam and Eve chose not to live in God’s reality. They chose to attempt to live in a world not real. The devil said, “You will not surely die! Now they certainly knew that God who created the Forbidden Tree and also created ourselves could accurately tell them whether or not eating such a tree would cause death. Yet they chose to believe the Lie! They rejected the reality God made and accepted the Devil’s suggestion that the penalty of death would not come. Death came!

[Dr Marshall Foster is the President of the World History Institute, which has been set up to help Christians in their quest to understand the world and its meaning in the light of Biblical teaching.]
A Children’s Ministry Event to ‘Ignite’ your year

by Hannah Bailey

ARE YOU looking for fantastic resources for your church’s kids club or Sunday school?  Are you interested in training with excited and passionate children’s ministry leaders and learning from expert keynote-speakers?  Do you want to spend a day with delegates from 20 different Christian ministry leaders and learning from excited and passionate children’s workers?

The Ignite Children’s Ministry Conference and Expo, is a State-wide, day-long event designed to kick start your year, providing everything you need in one location.

Held on the first Saturday of March every year since 2005, Ignite is a project of the Queensland Children’s Ministry Network that has been created to provide training, resources, encouragement and inspiration for children’s ministry workers.

Children’s ministry specialist for Scripture Union, Terry Williams, puts it this way, ‘Ignite is not owned by anyone – it’s owned by everyone. The conference began from a blank sheet of paper with each denomination contributing their ideas, trainers and expertise.

“We are able to tap into the best trainers from all denominations across the country to serve the conference.”

Held at Mueller College Performing Arts Centre on the northside of Brisbane, this year’s keynote-speakers will be Tammy Tolman and Peter Lusk - two long-term Aussie children’s pastors.

They will be joined on stage by visiting entertainer Stephen Shearsby.

A constantly expanding event, Ignite has now grown to around 1000 people and will include two levels of exhibition stalls with more than 40 resource displays.

Choose from one, two or three electives from the schedule of 70 topics on offer covering every aspect of children’s ministry.

A State-wide event, Ignite aims to encourage people from across Queensland to attend, so it is free for country delegates plus a travel subsidy is available for those who are more remote.

Senior Pastors and Junior Leaders still enrolled at school are also given free registrations.

Faith Giacos, the Ignite Event Co-ordinator from Cairns Northern Beaches Baptist, said that generosity has always been a core value of the conference.

“We also give away a Ministry Grant valued at $5000. Delegates are asked to submit their dreams for ministry that has been restricted because of a lack of funds and we announce the successful recipient on the day”, she said.

Ignite is a one-stop shop for training, resources, inspiration and encouragement, united by different denominations gathered to learn, teach and experience an amazing partnership with other churches.

Paul Clark, Senior Minister at Redeem, Unitting, said, “I love it because it’s about working together. This is about celebrating the Kingdom; it’s about networking and partnership. That is what it celebrates.

“There is no separation, there is such a lovely buzz on the day because we celebrate all we have in common”, he said.

Tom Fittell, Creek Road Presbyterian Children’s Pastor, said, “We want children and families to come and know the hope that only Jesus provides. That’s what motivates us. That’s what unites us, because we want to get out there and take that good news through appropriate and resourced strategies.”

Ignite’s Children’s Ministry Conference and Expo will be held on Saturday, 2 March 2013, at Mueller College, 75 Morris Road, Rothwell.

Are you ready to ignite?  For registration and more information: www.igniteexpo.org.au
The Lord provides a new home for the Darling Downs Easter Convention in Warwick

DURING THE early part of the new millennium, Darling Downs Easter Convention Committee was advised that the property in Warwick where they had met for Easter for the past 50 years known as ‘Kingwood Camp’ was to be sold because of financial reasons. It was a time of upheaval and sadness for the Convention organisation. What to do? Where to go? Did the Lord want the Convention to continue? Was the season finished?

The Lord was very clear that He desired for it to continue and that He would provide a new home for the Convention. Over the next few months, the Lord raised up people to carry out the task and also provided the Senior Citizens rooms in the centre of Warwick CBD as the new meeting place.

For the next few years this venue was to be a blessing and people came and praised along with youth activities was to be a blessing and people came and praised along with youth activities, and the Convention Committee was advised that the Board of the Anglican Diocese of Warwick was looking for a larger home for the Convention to be the new venue. The Lord then began encouraging the committee to take the next step in the journey for a larger home for the Convention.

In 2011 it was brought to the committee’s attention that the Warwick Christian School Board was interested in purchasing the Anglican Slade School property which had everything we needed: dormitories, industrial kitchen, large dining hall, plenty of meeting rooms for all our requirements as well as sporting fields etc.

Thus the negotiations began to see if the journey for DDEC was to move to this new site. Over the past year we have seen the Lord working out the details and putting into place all the requirements for the move to Slade Campus in Warwick.

Our new home is at Warwick Christian School Slade Campus, 70 Horsman Road, Warwick.

Please come and join us as we celebrate Christ and His faithfulness to us over the Easter break in March 2013. For more details, look on our website www.ddec.net.au

What is Estate Planning?

A SIGNIFICANT number of Australians have never heard of an estate plan. Up to 40% of Australians do not have a valid will and even fewer have an estate plan.

But what actually is an estate plan and why do people need one?

According to Richard Galvin, from The Trust Company: “An estate plan is more than just a Will and Enduring Power of Attorney, it encompasses your superannuation, life insurance, an Advanced Health Directive and provides strategies to help you in later life.

In short it is a comprehensive plan detailing your future wishes.”

And unfortunately the consequences of getting it wrong can be very serious. The reality is that a Will can be contested and without a properly worded Will and thorough estate plan your intended beneficiaries may not end up with what you wished. Other considerations include: the leave a bequest to an organisation which is close to your heart and having a Binding Death Benefit Nomination with your Superannuation Trustee.

Two significant changes in the retirement space are making the need for a comprehensive estate plan even more pressing. The first is that we are living longer – retirement is now at least a two staged process with early retirees enjoying the traditional retirement – actives such as trips abroad. The second stage, the one that we wish to think less about, is the later stages when we are slowing down and need help.

“To ensure your later years are comfortable and how you wish them to be there are plans you should put in place now, such as an Enduring Power of Attorney. This document enables you to nominate who you wish to manage your financial affairs when you are no longer able to.

“Whoever you nominate under the Power of Attorney must be somebody you trust and have confidence that they will have the ability and willingness to step into your financial shoes. Another option is to engage a trusted organisation specialising in this service. Many clients of The Trust Company use the Lifestyle Assist service to help them in managing their day-to-day financial affairs.

“Our clients find that this assistance helps them obtain peace of mind and retain their independence for as long as possible. We find that families value this service too as it enables them to focus their time and energy on their relationship with their loved ones rather than getting bogged down in administrative work. In many cases, the burden of managing their parents’ affairs usually rests with one sibling or the parent does not want the family to know how much money they have and try to go it alone.

“As the financial management is handled by an independent party there are no conflicts of interest, you can be sure you won’t outlive your nominated attorney and everything is accounted for.

“The second biggest change to the estate planning industry has seen over the past twenty years is the rise in blended families. With a third of all marriages ending in divorce the reality is that provisions need to be built into an estate plan. While most people won’t face the legal complexities of Peter Brock’s estate or the Kineharts’, deaths, births, marriages and divorces all have a major impact on estate plans. Again, seeking the appropriate advice is essential to ensure your intended beneficiaries are looked after according to your wishes.”

The Moderator, Rt Rev. David Niven, attended a farewell function for Dr Sue Farley, the Principal of Grace College, on 2 December. David is pictured with Sue and the Moderator of the Uniting Church, Queensland Synod, Rev Kaye Ronalds. David was able to speak at the function and express the gratitude of the PCQ to Sue for her commitment and dedication over the years during which she has held that position, and to wish her well in her retirement. She has done a wonderful job. David and Diane took the opportunity to have a holiday during January and the Moderator’s Update will be back next edition.
WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH BREEANA HOPPER
AND JESSICA HOPPER ABOUT FAMILIES, FINISHING SCHOOL, FUTURE PLANS AND FAITH

Wendy: Welcome Breeana and Jessica, it’s the first of January for 2013. Let’s start by talking about families. You both have the same surname, but are not sisters… so how are you related to one another, Breeana?

Breeana: Our dads are brothers, so that makes us cousins.

Wendy: And you don’t live in the same place, do you? Tell us about that, Jessica.

Jessica: Well, actually, we do officially now because we have moved from Townsville to the Gold Coast, where Breeana lives.

Wendy: But you both finished Year 12 this past year. And is there another family member that has done the same name? Who is that and where does she live?

Jessica: So Nicole, our “second cousin” (well that’s what we call her), has the same surname, but are not related. She lives about an hour away and (our new friend) is close enough to visit.

Wendy: And what did you think, Breeana?

Breeana: Nicole was a time I could catch up with many friends I met that year and meet new ones. It was a time I could listen to God’s Word through Daily Mitchel and relax with Jess.

Wendy: Why should every Year 12 student consider going to JumpStart instead of “schoolies” at Surfers?

Breeana: Having a week you can remember with friends you’ll keep!

B: It’s a time when you can get some friends together and chill on the beach and do the pay-as-you-go activities - you can choose to do some activities and not do others.

Wendy: “Pay-as-you-go”? What kind of activities are there?

B: These included sea-kayaking, surfing, golf, sand boarding and much more.

W: Sounds wonderful! I believe you have been to several other camps run by the Presbyterian Church. What were they like and what challenges did they provide for you, Breeana?

B: NET, it was good for learning how to help in Kid’s Church and Youth Group. LAUNCH was another great camp where we learnt to talk about God and Christianity.

W: And while we’re reflecting, can you share a bit about what it’s like to be a Christian teenager among so many others who are not? How hard is it to share your faith with them… Breeana?

B: Really hard! Going through school, not everyone knew I was a Christian, and it was very easy to let the “what-do-you-do-on-the-weekend” question slip by instead of using it as an opportunity. But it was really encouraging going to youth group and having people who were just like and what challenges did you face in Kid’s Church and Youth Group?

B: Pray for those who are graduating from school and going on to further education or starting work, for women entering a new relationship or grieving the loss of a loved one.

W: Also pray that we might show compassion to women worldwide who are abused through sex trafficking and forced prostitution, gender-based violence (like honour killings and mass rape), and for those who are destined to become statistics in the maternal mortality rate (one woman per minute). Ask God to give us strength to challenge these injustices in appropriate ways, and at the same time acknowledge that domestic violence and sex trafficking are occurring even in our own neighbourhoods!

W: Pray for women in ministry as they work alongside men as part of God’s plan to reach all the nations with the gospel message of hope and forgiveness through Jesus.

W: Keep them on praying for the WMPCQ committee in 2013 as we face the challenges of reflecting on and rejuvenating our work with the women of Queensland. Pray that God will give us teaching power for ministry to other women and that they will express an interest in wanting to be part of this important work (see contact email below). Pray that God might grant us all the strength and courage to use our gifts to grow His Kingdom according to His plan and for His glory.

Water is so hard! What are your plans, Breeana?

B: Yeah, definitely waiting, but it would be better if we had some knowledge on this whole new thing worked because we are the first kids in our immediate family to go through this process.

W: So with what is left of your holidays, how do you intend to relax and/or prepare for the year ahead?

Jessica: Working to earn a bit of money and head out to our grandparents’ farm with all the family for Christmas. Yeah, Christmas with the family will be a really Grandmas cooking. Then relaxing and taking it easy.

W: Thanks, girls, for sharing about this exciting time in your lives. We pray that God will bless you with His grace and encouragement today and every other day. We pray that God will give you a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Judy and Breeana Hopper

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PRAYER POINTS FOR WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

“Be strong and courageous, ... The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

Deuteronomy 31:8

• As we take up our respective responsibilities in this new year, pray for strength and courage to face the challenges of life at all its levels.

• Pray for little girls beginning school for the first time, for students at high schools wanting to share their faith in Christ with their friends, for others who are graduating from school and going on to further education or starting work, for women entering a new season in their lives as wives, mothers, grandmothers, and for those who are longing for those seasons to begin.

• Pray for women who are facing new and unexpected situations (or perhaps continuing ones) like unemployment, financial difficulties, broken relationships, coping as a single parent or a working mum, caring for an aged parent, managing a serious illness, or grieving the loss of a loved one.

• Thank God that He has promised in His Word that He will be with us always and never leave us or forsake us.

• Pray for those who we know (and others that we don’t) who do not yet know Jesus as Lord and Saviour that their words do not have the hope of the promises He gives. Pray for opportunities to share our testimonies with them, read the Word with them and encourage them to trust their lives to the One who can rescue them from the darkness of life without Him.

• Pray for God’s relative safety and security we enjoy, living in a country like Australia. Pray for our governments, as they make decisions affecting our personal welfare and the way we, as a nation, assist those in and from other countries. Give thanks that workers from diverse origins are now our allies in the workplace.

• Give thanks for Christian homes, families, churches and schools in Australia, where girls have opportunities to grow, learn and develop as young women, within a framework of Biblical values. Pray for little girls in other parts of the world who are treated badly simply because they are girls and nor given opportunities for education, health care, or to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

• Also pray that we might show compassion on women worldwide who are abused through sex trafficking and forced prostitution, gender-based violence (like honour killings and mass rape), and for those who are destined to become statistics in the maternal mortality rate (one woman per minute). Ask God to give us strength to challenge these injustices in appropriate ways, and at the same time acknowledge that domestic violence and sex trafficking are occurring even in our own neighbourhoods!

• Pray for our student girls as they stand against actions that are not God-honouring, in ways that are helpful and not merely empty words.

• Pray for women in ministry as they work alongside men as part of God’s plan to reach all the nations with the gospel message of hope and forgiveness through Jesus.

• Keep them on praying for the WMPCQ committee in 2013 as we face the challenges of reflecting on and rejuvenating our work with the women of Queensland. Pray that God will give us teaching power for ministry to other women and that they will express an interest in wanting to be part of this important work (see contact email below). Pray that God might grant us all the strength and courage to use our gifts to grow His Kingdom according to His plan and for His glory.

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Wendy Henry

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JumpStart Schoolies

Jessica and Breeana Hopper
Worksheet 1: Kids: Shoving the Gospel down Gen-Z’s Throats

Chapter 11: But I’ll be gone in a little while, right?

The rest of all evil is not money, it’s boredom.

Paris Hilton

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Congratulations! You’ve managed to wade through the entire text and you’ve made it to the last line! Please note that the section (either that you cheated or skipped straight to the chapter) is ‘Concluding reflection’. In this section, you will be asked to think about the ‘message of self-control’ and how it applies to your own life. To explain the relevance of this, the author provides a comparison to the message of self-control in the book of Genesis. Here, the message of self-control is presented as a principle that guides our lives and helps us to make wise decisions. Additionally, the author emphasizes the importance of understanding the message of self-control in order to live a fulfilling and meaningful life.

“While seeking guidance from the Bible, especially in the context of our life today, it is crucial to recognize the message of self-control. This message serves as a reminder to us that we need to be mindful of our words and actions and to consider the potential consequences of our choices. By following the message of self-control, we can avoid being caught up in potentially harmful situations and make decisions that are in line with our values and principles.”

The final section of the text concludes by encouraging the reader to apply the message of self-control in their daily lives. The author reminds us that we have the power to make decisions that reflect our values and principles. By doing so, we can live a fulfilling and meaningful life, guided by the principles of the Bible.”

Worksheet 2: Kids: Shoving the Gospel down Gen-Z’s Throats

Chapter 12: Shoving the Gospel down Gen-Z’s Throats

Section 1: Kids need gospel relationships

One of the first things we need to consider is the importance of gospel relationships. In the past, when we were growing up, we often had relationships with people who had a strong faith. These relationships were built on a foundation of trust and mutual respect, and they helped us to grow spiritually. However, in today’s world, it can be difficult to find people who share our beliefs and values.

In order to establish gospel relationships, we need to be proactive and seek out opportunities to connect with others who share our faith. This might involve attending church events, participating in Bible study groups, or volunteering at community service projects. Once we have established these relationships, we can begin to share our faith with others and help them to understand the message of the gospel.

Worksheet 3: Kids: Shoving the Gospel down Gen-Z’s Throats

Chapter 13: Shoving the Gospel down Gen-Z’s Throats

Section 2: Kids need to be engaged

Engagement is another critical aspect of sharing the gospel with kids. If we are not active and engaged in the lives of the kids we are trying to reach, they are unlikely to take our message seriously. This can be a challenging task, as kids today are often busy with their own activities and may not have time for us.

In order to engage kids, we need to be creative and find ways to capture their attention. This might involve using social media, creating videos, or even simply spending time in positive conversation with them. By building relationships and engaging with kids, we can begin to share our faith in a way that resonates with their lives.

Worksheet 4: Kids: Shoving the Gospel down Gen-Z’s Throats

Chapter 14: Shoving the Gospel down Gen-Z’s Throats

Section 3: Kids need creativity

Another key aspect of sharing the gospel with kids is creativity. Kids today are often used to being entertained, and they are unlikely to take our message seriously if it is presented in a boring or predictable way.

To create an effective message, we need to be creative and find ways to engage kids’ imaginations. This might involve using storytelling, music, or even visual art to communicate the message of the gospel. By being creative, we can make our message more exciting and memorable for kids.

Worksheet 5: Kids: Shoving the Gospel down Gen-Z’s Throats

Chapter 15: Shoving the Gospel down Gen-Z’s Throats

Section 4: Kids need technology

Technology is another important factor to consider when sharing the gospel with kids. In today’s world, kids are often exposed to a wide variety of digital media, and they are likely to be more interested in this than in traditional methods of sharing the gospel.

In order to be effective, we need to be familiar with the different types of digital media available and find ways to use them to our advantage. This might involve creating videos, podcasts, or even simply using social media to share our message. By using technology, we can reach kids in a way that resonates with their lives.

Worksheet 6: Kids: Shoving the Gospel down Gen-Z’s Throats

Chapter 16: Shoving the Gospel down Gen-Z’s Throats

Section 5: Kids need time

Finally, we need to consider the importance of giving kids the time they need to hear and understand the message of the gospel. In today’s world, kids are often busy with their own activities and may not have time to listen to our message.

In order to be effective, we need to be understanding and patient, and we need to be willing to spend the time necessary to share our message with kids. This might involve spending time in positive conversation with them, or even simply being there for them when they need someone to talk to. By being patient and understanding, we can begin to share our faith in a way that resonates with their lives.
engagement can be as simple as...
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CEO celebrates 10 years

New Day Therapy Centre officially opened

PreScare’s CEO, Greg Skelton, celebrated 10 years of service in November at a special morning tea at Corporate Office. He began working for PreScare as Chief Financial Officer in 2002, taking over as CEO in February 2010. Greg has been instrumental in leading the organisation through the development and opening of Vela, its new residential aged care facility at Carina, and the approval of the redevelopment of Hopetoun. Pictured here with Kristine Wolcke, Jody Spurrier and Vicki Mannion who have shared his 10 year journey.

LAKE SHERRIN has a new meeting place, just for blokes, with the opening of a new Men’s Shed.

The Men’s Shed program is a modern version of the backyard shed where men get together to create and build – and to connect with other men.

Quickly becoming a national phenomenon, the number of Men’s Sheds has doubled from 400 to 860 since 2010.

Lake Sherrin resident Bill Wilson is the heart behind the Thornland-based Men’s Shed. A man with a strong community spirit, Bill is passionate about people and finding ways to bring them together.

Bill said the Shed is a way to get men together to talk. “If a man has problems at home, he can come here to talk with other men. If he has medical problems he can’t talk to a woman about, he can come here.”

The Lake Sherrin Men’s Shed meets every Wednesday morning for a cuppa and to work on various projects.

Bill said the projects they work on vary depending on people’s skills. “Some people can use a lathe or make toys; projects are worked on in their own time in their ownpace,” he said.

“We can make things for people in the community; they just need to ask.”

Members of Men’s Sheds come from all walks of life - the bond that unites them is that they are men with time on their hands and they would like something meaningful to do with that time.

Bill said there is no age limit for members. “We welcome all men with all skill levels. The Men’s Shed is a place for men to spend time together, keep busy and know they have somewhere they can talk and be heard,” he said.

The Lake Sherrin Men’s Shed currently has an application with the Federal Government to secure funds to purchase more equipment for the Shed.

“We have bought some equipment from the money raised at BBQs held at the local Buttings (we have three more in December); we need to raise $3,000 to put power on in the big shed,” Bill said.

Welcome to new volunteers

PresCare’s CEO, Greg Skelton, celebrated 10 years of service in November at a special morning tea at Corporate Office. He began working for PreScare as Chief Financial Officer in 2002, taking over as CEO in February 2010. Greg has been instrumental in leading the organisation through the development and opening of Vela, its new residential aged care facility at Carina, and the approval of the redevelopment of Hopetoun. Pictured here with Kristine Wolcke, Jody Spurrier and Vicki Mannion who have shared his 10 year journey.

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What’s on ...

briefly

INVITATION TO MODERATOR

If you are holding an important event in your church this year and wish to invite Mr Niven as Moderator, contact details are email: david.r.niven@optusnet.com.au (preferred); phone: 07 3851 0815 (home); Mob: 0407 488 701.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

Any changes wishing to make changes to their entry in the White Pages should contact Church Office on 3251 4100 or email churchoffice@pcq.org.au

HELP FOR ARCHIVES

Since the refurbishment of Church Office the books kept by archives are needing to be sorted into order. If anyone has library experience and would be willing to help catalogue these books, could they please email Dianne Parker on archives@pcq.org.au or contact Church Office on 3252 4173.

INVITATION TO MODERATOR-ELECT

Mr Greg Rodgers will be inducted as Moderator at the upcoming Assembly in June. His chaplains will be Revs Garnet Swann and Matt Viney. If your church is wanting to invite Mr Rodgers to an event, please contact Rev. Matt Viney at pcq2013@gmail.com or mobile 0411 462 734.

UNIT TO LET

CALOUNDRA, beachside units, from $400/week. For details contact Ray on 0427 990 161/ rayandjean@hotmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

The Beginning and End of Wisdom
Preaching Week 2013
March 12-14
Getting Messy with Messy Church

COME AND meet Lucy Moore, founder of Messy Church UK, as she presents ‘Messy Church Explained’ workshops in four centres across Queensland in 2013.

“God’s the wave under the surfboard and most of the time we’re just hanging on for dear life wondering where he’s going to hurl us next!” comments Lucy Moore about God’s part in the UK-founded Messy Church phenomenon she leads.

Lucy began exploring the idea of making a deliberate mess of church in 2004. The ‘mess’ was an attempt to engage children and their families, together, in church services.

When we started Messy Church, it was obvious that not only was this going to be messy with glue and paint - it was reaching the messy edges of our community and people whose lives are in a mess”, Lucy reflects.

Lucy is returning to Australia in February 2013 as part of a national tour sponsored by the Uniting Church in WA, SA and Queensland and in partnership with the Queensland Children’s Ministry Network. Messy Church, in essence, is a multi-age congregational planting strategy that focuses on reaching out with ‘unchurched’ children and their families.

With over 1,400 registered Messy Church expressions around the world this ministry strategy is making genuine and lasting connections with local communities.

The 70+ registered Messy Church expressions in Australia are expected to grow rapidly as a consequence of Lucy’s visits in 2012 and 2013.

A typical Messy Church takes place monthly at a time and place chosen intentionally to encourage local community participation.

All are welcome - single, widowed, childless, divorced. Church is inclusive, not exclusive.

Messy Church invites people into an experience of Christian community, helping people of all ages to feel that they belong in church and to each other, and introducing them to Jesus through hospitality, friendship, stories and worship.

A Messy Church expression could be a great way for your community to engage with the children and their families in your local community.

Come and meet Lucy, be warmed by her enthusiasm and passion and benefit from her down to earth wealth of knowledge about the church and families.

‘Messy Church Explained’ workshops will be held in the regional centres below.

Each participating church will receive a FREE copy of Lucy’s book Messy Church.

Cost $20 pp or $85 pp with a booking of 3 or more from the same church (discount provided).

Register online at www.event ngừaregister.сом.au / messychurchqld2013

Jumpstart Schoolies 2012

All I sit here pondering the end of 2012 and the start of 2013. It is the time of the year that I remember just how great Jumpstart Schoolies was this year.

With the mad dash and chaos that comes with the close of a school year, and the beautiful Stradbroke Island with four dozen excited and relieved school leavers is about as good as it gets.

You see, these school leavers are young adults who have already made a great start to adulthood by electing to bypass the Schoolies traditions at the Gold Coast and spend a week celebrating around good food, new friends and the Word of God. These are the young people who will lead our churches in the future and it’s great to spend time with them at this special time of their life.

Sure, it’s nice to sit and chat to them, but it’s even better to do this while flying down sandhills at night, sea kayaking through the mangroves, face-planting on a surfboard, enjoying delicious salads, and playing a game of pool or two. Of course, this year, Zac Brown managed to do all of this the best, winning all the Jumpstart Schoolies trophies. But, let’s not tell him that or he will think it was us!

Although it’s ‘tough work’ for the leaders, no doubt it is the most relaxing week of their year, their contribution was valuable and important. The role of camp leader on Jumpstart is really a mentoring role, as the young adults that attend are looking for advice and reassurance for the years ahead. Whether the schools are planning to attend uni or heading into the workforce, the leaders are able to offer advice and support. Of course the incredible food simply adds to the vibe of the week, so to all of our leaders and caterers we say THANKS!

This year, Danny Mitchell (Arundel Presbyterian Church) took us all through the idea of REST in Scripture. A very apt theme for the week. We basically took a tour of the Bible, looking at this theme that starts on the seventh day of creation and climaxers in the book of Hebrews, and concludes in Revelation.

It was a great balanced set of talks that spoke the gospel clearly to any new Christians, and yet challenged those who have known Christ for a while to re-think this idea. So Danny, thanks mate! Some great electives were offered on Christian Manhood/Womanhood and life at Uni/Work from a Christian perspective were also provided.

To those who are heading into their final year of schooling, can I encourage you to take a Jumpstart into your future by electing to come along to Jumpstart Schoolies 2013. You won’t regret it, that’s for sure!

Here is what one parent said after her daughter returned from Jumpstart Schoolies:

Hi Schoolies Leaders,

Thanks so much for organising such a fantastic week of activities, fun and fabulous Christian messages for our graduating Seniors. My daughter has been able to give me lots of stories of some of the highlights filled with squeals of delight (if you know her at all you know what I mean). She also passed on a quick summary of the Christian messages that were covered by the Guest Speaker from Brisbane and remembered their reference points in the Bible. I could not be happier with this positive alternative to Schoolies for our precious young people.

Thanks also for organising the Funport ... Thanks again for the tremendous week my daughter experienced.

Wishing you the Lord’s richest blessing from a grateful mum.

Thanks heaps.

Be sure to register early and secure your place at Jumpstart Schoolies 2013. Places are limited.

John Mansfield
Schoolies Coordinator