One hundred and fifty years is a fairly long period in the history of a nation, a church, or even a family. During that period of time there have been seven generations in my family. The changes that have taken place within society over that time are incredible, for they are so diversified, and beneficial in how they make life more efficient and comfortable.

There have been good advances in education, very huge advances in technology and communication, big advances in machinery, great advances in medicine and surgery, big advances in transport, and vast changes in the social life of a community.

Changes can also take place that are not for the improvement or good of society, but rather the downgrade of it. Just think about the wars, the immorality, the huge disrespect for the laws of the land, the vast disrespect for the need of belief in God and salvation and the need to do it ‘my way’ so that many sins have become respectable and no longer considered as sins. All that has taken place in the last fifty years.
Being thankful for the struggles of our forefathers

by Very Rev. Dr K. J. Gardner

You would have to conclude that the world is in a big mess because it is worshiping gods of their own creation rather than worshiping and following the will of the one true and living God.

When society shows little or no respect for the first two commandments— "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image" (Exodus 20:1-4)—it follows that they will have little or no respect for the remaining commandments.

It is very easy to take things for granted, for they are there all the time for us. For example, the thumb is a very important part of the hand and our civilization rests largely upon man’s ability to reach across with his thumb, making it possible for him to grasp the tools to build, to farm, to cook, and a host of other things too numerous to mention. But have you ever thanked God for His many blessings, but also our numerous to mention? But have you grasped the tools to build, to farm, to cook, and a host of other things too numerous to mention. But have you ever thanked God for sanity?

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...
New Directions, April/May 2014 - Page 3

QTC welcomes new lecturers to staff

Old Testament lecturer new to QTC

IN 2014 Tony Pyles will join the staff at QTC as an Old Testament lecturer for a period of 18 months. Tony and his family will be moving here from Canada where he has been completing his PhD at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario. Originally from the United States, Tony will bring with him his wife, Rose, and their four children, Josiah (6), Charity (5), Amos (3), and Ezra (9 months). Tony is a candidate for gospel workers in the Eastern Canada Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America and has previously served the youth and young adults of Wynndale Presbyterian Church in Terry, Mississippi.

We chatted to Tony about his move to Australia.

QN: Will this be your first time to Australia? How are you and the family feeling about the move?

TP: First time. We are very excited about the move, though also intimidated. We moved over 1,000 miles when we came to Canada for our doctoral program—now that is starting to sound small!

QN: What are you looking forward to about working at QTC?

TP: I think I am most looking forward to passing on my love for the Old Testament to the students.

QN: What do you most enjoy teaching, and what areas/subjects do you most enjoy teaching, and what are you dreading teaching?

TP: I don't think I dread teaching at all. I love the gospel, the church, and the life of the mind. QTC brings these three loves together. I look forward to the daily mental and spiritual stimulation. I also look forward to training the next generation of gospel workers!

QN: What are you looking forward to about teaching?

TP: The OT is huge, so that is a very big question! I think I love most watching/reading the way the history of redemption unfolds across countless generations.

QN: Do you think you will enjoy teaching at QTC?

TP: The OT is huge, so that is a very big question! I think I love most watching/reading the way the history of redemption unfolds across countless generations.

QN: What do you like to do in your spare time? Is there anything in Australia you’re looking forward to seeing or doing?

TP: Of course! I like to read science fiction and build things together with my wife (we're very sad to leave behind our power tools). We look forward to exploring the area around Brisbane, seeing the wildlife, experiencing Christmas in summertime, etc.

QN: What’s the best Christian book you read in 2013? What’s the best fiction book you read?

TP: (I assume books for my studies are off limits.) The best Christian book I read in 2013 was probably Joseph Alleine's An Alarm to the Unconverted (also published as A Sure Guide to Heaven). The best fiction book I (re)read was Frank Herbert's Dune.

NEW DIRECTIONS

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O'Donnells to migrate south next winter

AFTER VISITING QTC in 2013, Doug and Emily O'Donnell will be making the move to Australia permanently in mid-2014 so Doug can join the staff at QTC as the sixth lecturer.

QN: You visited Australia for Preaching Conference last year, was it a case of love at first sight?

DO: Close. My wife, Emily, and I did thoroughly enjoy the Australian hospitality. We loved the city of Brisbane and the staff and students at QTC.

QN: What made you decide to make the move here?

DO: When I was invited to do the Preaching Week, I thought it would be a once-in-a-lifetime trip. When Emily and I boarded the plane to head home and read Gary Miller's letter of invitation to join the faculty, we were surprised but excited. As we thought and prayed through the invitation, we strongly sensed God's call to come. After two months, that call never subsided. The short answer is: Providence has pulled us down under.

QN: What are you looking forward to about working at QTC?

DO: I love the gospel, the church, and the life of the mind. QTC brings these three loves together. I look forward to the daily mental and spiritual stimulation. I also look forward to training the next generation of gospel workers!

QN: You're joining the team as an all-rounder, what areas/subjects do you enjoy teaching, and what are you dreading teaching?

DO: I don't think I dread teaching anything (unless the faculty is planning some secret initiation rite and sticking me with "Medieval Scholasticism" or "The Exegesis of Algebra"). I will enjoy the diversity—teaching on OT wisdom literature, the Gospels and practical ministry (worship, preaching, etc.). I'll even do British Church History if Andrew Bain gets a brain cramp.

QN: At the QTC staff and candidates vs students soccer match, when the staff were down 2-1, Gary Miller was letting everyone know that next year they would have Doug O'Donnell on the team. Do you think you can bring them home to victory next year?

DO: My father is from Ireland and my mother Scotland. That means I have European soccer experience. So, yes, I can bring home the staff victory, so long as I can play like the great German (adopted Chicagoan) Karl-Heinz Grünitz— that is, stand near the goal all game and wait for the ball to be passed to me. I'll take it from there. I give a one yellow card/two goal guarantee!

QN: What was your favourite book in 2013 and why?

DO: First of all, I checked my Merriam-Webster Dictionary (American edition) and the word “favorite” is spelled without a “u”. In service to our Savior, I look forward to bringing some color to QTC spelling. To answer your burning book (fitting to my new calling) was Charles Spurgeon's Lectures To My Students. This classic book has the rare blend of pastoral honesty, wit and timeless advice.

Tony and Rose Pyles with children Ezra, Josiah, Amos and Charity

Doug and Emily O'Donnell with their children
Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern about the issue of fatherlessness and its impact on society. As a Christian, I believe that God has called every man to fatherhood, and this is not just a responsibility, but a privilege. The impact of fatherlessness is felt in various aspects of life, including mental health, educational achievement, and social behavior.

In a recent study, it was found that children who grow up without a father are more likely to face challenges such as poverty, poor educational performance, and mental health problems. The absence of a father can lead to a lack of discipline, inadequate guidance, and a lack of a sense of purpose. As a result, many children who are fatherless are more prone to engage in criminal behavior, substance abuse, and sexual abuse.

As a parent, I believe that it is our duty to provide our children with the love and guidance they need. We should not take this responsibility lightly, and we should be grateful for the opportunity to be a father. The Bible says, “The Lord Almighty is looking for those who will worship Him as Father. He wants to be their father and give them a heart full of love.”

As a community, we should support fatherhood and encourage fathers to take their role seriously. This can be done by providing resources and support to single fathers, offering mentorship programs, and creating opportunities for father-children interactions. We should also recognize the importance of fatherhood and celebrate the contributions of fathers in our society.

Yours sincerely,
Rowland Lowther
Pray, Live, Serve .... but where do I belong?

A YEAR ago there was an article in the Sydney Morning Herald on 'expatriate stress'.

It quoted official studies, saying that foreigners (in any country) were more vulnerable to stress and more prone to mental ailments than the rest of the population.

Various descriptions followed and most of them were linked to a loss of social networks, loved ones or a sense of belonging.

A Sydney-based psychologist said that expatriate stress should be elevated to an official psychological syndrome because it is so common and its negative impact can be so severe.

I'd have to agree with her. Having lived long-term in Nepal - a country which was not our passport country - I know that it is physically exhausting and chronically stressful.

Every day we would get out of bed and struggle with the need to decipher a foreign language, to gauge a real meaning behind words and to work out whether offence was being taken through our behaviour.

As a constant, energy-sapping need that we never fully belonged as well as a constant, energy-sapping need that we never fully belonged as well and we loved the richness of being the foreigner; but the underlying stresses were always there, even when our language improved and our cultural cues became more instinctive and our relationships deepened to a heartfelt honesty. The relationships we had were deep and wonderful, but we were still not fully at home. We still felt temporary and we still needed to work hard.

But then, years later and surprisingly, the problem turned into something else. In 2006 we returned to Australia and still felt like that! We were back in Australia but we missed dear friends and memories and very significant places in Nepal ... in exactly the same ways that we had missed our life in Australia. The only difference was that the smells were different – it was dal bhat instead of eucalypts, and paddy fields instead of autumn, and crazy tuk-tuk drivers instead of a smooth ride, and Lulu instead of Linda.

So I'm sitting here today, thinking about the article and wondering whether the state of being an expatriate merely exacerbates our underlying stresses.

...or does it? Perhaps being an expatriate merely deepens the feeling of not being at home, not complete and I don't truly belong … but I thank you Lord for all that you have done.

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President Joce Peardon with Rev. Don Ashman presenting book on history of PWA Millmerran, 1913-2013

Update on Roger Crane, PIM North Queensland

I AM pleased to be able to share with you the good news! A scan on 19 February, just before chemo five, showed that there is no sign of any lymphoma cells remaining in my system. I still had chemo five and I will have number six, but seven and eight will not be required.

Indeed we are thankful to our great God. In today’s parable, “It’s all good!” I thought you might appreciate the photo.

The doctor spoke of total remission and I questioned what was the difference between this and a cure.

He replied “Five years!”

With treatment behind us we hope to travel south and catch up with family and several churches. Obviously we were unable to do this over the Christmas period.

Hopefully we will be back on patrol sometime in August and regular checkups will be the order of the day as we get on with the job of visiting properties in north-west Queensland.

Pray, Live, Serve .... but where do I belong?
Taking local ministry to Muslims seriously

Rev. Richard Shumack, guest speaker on engaging Muslims, presenting at CMS Summer School 2014

Some of the gospel-centred answers outlined by Mr Shumack included that absolute certainty is unattainable, human religious success is impossible, and legal religion is impoverished.

"Islam makes some sense given the Muslim understanding of God and how we relate to God: Allah is Lord, and believers are his slaves. Christianity makes more profound and wonderful sense if you accept the personal and relational nature of God: YHWH is Lord and Father, and believers are his obedient children," Mr Shumack said.

"Laws don’t generate right living, they only describe it. Rules aren’t at the heart of your family, love and relationships are. True worship is personal and relational as well as obedient."

The primary way we engage and share our faith with Muslim neighbours and colleagues, he explained, should reflect the personal, relational way God engages with us, grounded on a solid understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mr Shumack currently works for the Centre for Public Christianity and teaches and researches with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. He spent twelve years leading a church planting team on a housing estate in Melbourne among people from diverse cultural backgrounds. He has visited and lived in the Middle East, and has a PhD from the University of Melbourne’s National Centre for Islamic Studies.

More resources and information about engaging with Muslims in Australia or to purchase Wisdom of Islam and the Foolishness of Christianity, contact CMS at qld@cms.org.au or (07) 3112 6530.

GOD BLESSED us with beautiful weather as we gathered at Ann Street Presbyterian Church on 4 February 2014 for the Annual Dedication and Communion Service. The service was conducted by Hon. Greg Rodgers with assistance from his chaplains, Rev. Matt Viney and Rev. Garriet Swann.

Beautiful hymns such as ‘Immortal Invisible’, ‘And can it be’, ‘When I survey the wondrous Cross’, ‘There is a green hill’ and ‘Praise my soul’ were sung, bringing praise to our God. The Moderator led the ladies in dedicating us to our God’s service in 2014. Our Moderator spoke on the Cross being a history changer. When Christ went to the Cross, several groups had something to gain. The soldiers kept their powerbase, the church leaders of the day kept their power over the people, the politicians didn’t want the people to become upset with them and the people wanted, but rejected, a king for the second time. God deals with people. What we see as important becomes unimportant as we seek God’s will and His plan for us in this world.

The elements were served by our lady Elders and grace was sung before we retired to the Hall for a BYO lunch and refreshments provided by the Ann Street ladies. Wonderful fellowship was enjoyed over lunch as we pondered what God has in store for 2014.

MORE MUSLIM migrants and refugees coming to Australia gives Christian churches opportunities to engage with them locally. "Taking their beliefs seriously and building strong relationships is crucial," said guest mission speaker at the recent CMS Summer School Conference at Tamborine.

"Islam is the sensible and reasonable faith, and we are the stupid ones – that’s the perspective of many devout Muslims. We can be really quick to walk in and tell them they’re wrong," said Rev. Richard Shumack, a mission expert and a mission expert.

He spent twelve years leading a church planting team on a housing estate in Melbourne among people from diverse cultural backgrounds. He has visited and lived in the Middle East, and has a PhD from the University of Melbourne’s National Centre for Islamic Studies.

Rev. Garnet Swann

"From the Muslim perspective, Islam makes some sense given the Muslim understanding of God and how we relate to God: Allah is Lord, and believers are his slaves. Christianity makes more profound and wonderful sense if you accept the personal and relational nature of God: YHWH is Lord and Father, and believers are his obedient children," Mr Shumack said.

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Outside The Four Walls

On Australia Day 2014, South Burnett Presbyterians stepped outside their four walls to lead their community in thanksgiving to the Lord for our nation. Rev. Bill Lutton reminded us of our Christian heritage and encouraged us to stand firm on the Word of God rejoicing in all of God’s wonderful blessings.

Grace College Principal confirmed

IN DECEMBER 2013, Grace College Council confirmed the appointment of Rev. Dr Anita Monro as Principal after the initial 12 months of her contract.

“Being Principal is all about constantly being conscious of the dynamics of community formation—something to which the Christian church is very committed. It’s everything from making sure that we’ve provided for the physical needs of our residents to offering them opportunities to explore life’s deep meaning and discover their own place in God’s world. Every day brings something different, I’m having fun!” Dr Monro said.

“We’re delighted to affirm the work of Rev. Dr Anita Monro in her first 12 months in the role of Principal”, indicated Rev. Lyn Burden, Chairperson of the College Council.

Grace College is a residential college associated with The University of Queensland. It is jointly auspiced by the Assembly of The Presbyterian Church of Queensland and The Uniting Church in Australia (Qld Synod). The College houses 181 young women during semester time. Most residents come from rural and regional Queensland.

Many residents choose Grace College because of the community atmosphere fostered by students and staff, and the safe environment provided by the College.

Dr Monro is an ordained Minister of the Word of The Uniting Church in Australia. She has served in the congregations of West Toowoomba, Home Hill, Maryborough, Warwick, Grubing and Armidale (NSW). She has taught literature, theology and biblical studies through Brisbane College of Divinity, Sydney College of Divinity and Charles Sturt University.

She has recently been appointed as a Research Fellow within the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics at The University of Queensland.

For further information, contact Rev. Dr Anita Monro, Principal on (07) 3842 4000 or principal@grace.uq.edu.au

St Paul’s celebrates a new milestone

AFTER THE last twelve months of events celebrating 150 years since the establishment of the congregation, St Paul’s has a new a new milestone to celebrate. Having sold its home on the corner of Stone and Mortar built on a sure foundation that is centuries old, Jesus the cornerstone of our salvation. This House of Worship was dedicated to the glory of God on 5 May 1869. In days gone by, its imposing spire could be seen from all over the city, like a beacon on a hill.

As a sandstone building, St Paul’s is facing the challenge of the years. In 2004, the steeple was stabilised and the stone steeple was preserved under a wattle screen and steeple cladding.

Now, St Paul’s Restoration Trust is facing a $1.5 million challenge to restore the steeple and main entrance façade to their former glory.

To support this project, celebrations and fundraising events are planned to bring awareness to greater Brisbane of the financial implications of preserving this heritage-listed, FDG Stanley-designed church, not just for the current congregation but for all Queenslanders now and for generations to come.

To download a donation form or for more information about the Trust and its current project, go to the website restorstpauls.org.au. For those who would like to assist financially, donations over $2 are tax deductible and can be made to National Trust of Queensland St Paul’s Presbyterian Church Restoration Trust Appeal in the amount of $____ and posted to: National Trust, St Paul’s Appeal PO Box 156 SPRING HILL Q 4004

Please see “WHAT’S ON” (page 15) for upcoming events.

NIGERIA: ONE WEEK’S JIHAD IN THE NORTH

by Elizabeth Kendal

BOKO HARAM is waging a jihad to Islamise Nigeria, supported by al-Qaeda, which is seeking to gain strategic depth in sub-Saharan Africa. Their base is in Borno State, in the far north-east of Nigeria. Meanwhile, Fulani Muslims are waging a jihad to colonise and expand into the Christian-dominated south. Their jihad is supported by Boko Haram and rogue Muslim elements within the Nigerian Army. “Who see the advance of the Fulani as furthering their own goals. Their front line is the Middle Belt, in particular the states of Kaduna and Plateau. This is classic Islamic jihad, a state that wants to expand the territory over which Islam rules.”

ADAMAWA STATE (north-east) Interdicts the work of Muslims in Cameroon

Sunday 26 January 2014, unknown gunmen attacked St Paul’s Roman Catholic Church in Chakawa village in Madagali Local Government Area (LGA). They torched the church, killed 20 churchgoers and set fire to a local mosque. This is a strong indication of the advance of the Fulani as furthering their own goals. Their front line is the Middle Belt, in particular the states of Kaduna and Plateau. This is classic Islamic jihad, a state that wants to expand the territory over which Islam rules.

KADUNA STATE (Middle Belt) Thursday 30 January: seven people were killed and three others seriously injured when their bus ran over an IED on the Onewa-Madagali road near Kutha village.

RUDA STATE (north-east) Nigeria: Jerusalem is a city of the past

Friday 31 January: unknown gunmen attacked a church at a local mosque in Borno State, claiming to have killed 45 Christians. This is a strong indication of the advance of the Fulani as furthering their own goals.

THAT GOD WILL...

* Give the Nigerian government the clarity, conviction and courage to deny the Islamists their goals and preserve Nigeria as a united, secular state into the future.
* Store up deep compassion and righteous indignation in the free and prosperous southern Nigerian Christians to take up the cause of the profoundly suffering church in the north in a new, fresh and revitalised way such that prayer and mission flow out on an unprecedented scale.
* Pray for Nigeria and its Church.

Source: Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin 05 Feb 2014
IF GOD was to knock on our front door, we would surely open it with a mix of excitement and apprehension. That’s how it was for Elaine, the wife of the Rev. Andrew Gardiner, when she answered a knock at the front door of their home in Edinburgh in the mid-1980s. Only this was God knocking in the guise of an Elder from St Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Brisbane, from the other side of the world. What would she and Andrew make of this unexpected visit? What did this mean for the family?

The Elder’s overseas travel plans included Scotland and he went armed with a contact name. Through this connection, Andrew’s name came up as a possible candidate to fill St Paul’s vacancy. The Elder learned that Andrew was well-regarded for the work he had done in a poorer area of Edinburgh.

The Assembly of the Church of Scotland was meeting at this time and Elaine was not sure when Andrew would be at home. However, an evening meeting was arranged for the Elder to visit and he put forward the suggestion of Andrew being called by St Paul’s, even for just a few years if not permanently.

The Elder relayed his progress back home to St Paul’s Kirk Session. Andrew was already planning a visit to Australia to see his mother in Sydney and it was suggested that he might extend the trip to come to see his then-family of three children, Susan, Jamie and Elinor, and settle into Australian life in Brisbane.

So began, in August of that year, Andrew’s 27 years of ministry at St Paul’s.

There were many new challenges and adjustments to be made and within their first years here, they were delighting to welcome David as the Lord had in store for them. In mid 1986, he and Elaine duly farewelled their beloved congregation and in mid 1986, he and Elaine duly farewelled their beloved congregation in an Edinburgh parish and uprooted their then-family of three children, Susan, Jamie and Elinor, and settled into Australian life in Brisbane.

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Andrew felt the call of the Lord to fill St Paul’s vacancy. The Elder of this unexpected visit? What did she and Andrew make of this unexpected visit? What did this mean for the family?

Andrew said it always gave him a thrill when parents brought their children forward to be baptized, he guided them in the knowledge and love of the Lord. He took a very active part in St Paul’s Care Group, visiting the elderly and frail regularly, taking the Word of the Lord and serving Home Communion every quarter.

Over a special morning tea in the mid 1980s, Andrew was called to the Parish of Liberton, Edinburgh. He enjoyed his ministry there and served for ten years before being called to St Paul’s.

Of his 27 years at St Paul’s, Andrew says that although it seems a long time, in reality the years passed very quickly. He said that every year brought a new challenge and the Lord guided them through those times. He was always thankful to the strong body of faithful people within St Paul’s who addressed these challenges.

Andrew said that although this phase of his ministry was finished, he will still be looking to serve the Lord in some way.

In his letter of thanks to the congregation, Andrew concludes with these verses from St Paul’s letter to the Philippians: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say again: Rejoice. Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

To Andrew and Elaine, the congregation of St Paul’s offered a heartfelt thanks for all that you have been one, always ready to help others, happy and healthy retirement.

May God continue to bless you both as you have been such a blessing to others.
WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH MELISSA SMITH ABOUT MINISTRY TO WOMEN IN A LOCAL CHURCH

Wendy: Hello Melissa and welcome to Girl Talk! I believe you are currently involved in ministry to women at Bald Hills PC and I’m interested to find out all about that. But first, let’s get to know you a little bit more and then get to the beginning of your story. So, ... where do you come from and what was it like growing up there?

Melissa: I grew up on the north side of Brisbane, the majority of the time in Strathpine while attending high school in Redcliffe. I moved to Redcliffe in my 20s and have recently moved back to Strathpine with my husband and daughter.

W: And then, after school, what study or work did you do?  
M: After high school I went on to complete a Bachelor of Business (Accountancy) at QUT. After commencing full-time work as an Accountant, I went on to post graduate study to become a Certified Practicing Accountant (CPA).

W: Now, what keeps you busy on a daily basis?  
M: I am currently working as an accountant, however my main focus, and what keeps me busy on a daily basis, is being a mum to our one-and-a-half year old daughter Amelia.

W: Tell us a bit about your family and how you came to be at Bald Hills Church.  
M: I am married to my wonderful husband Josh and we have a little girl Amelia. You could almost say I was born into the Bald Hills church community. This is the church where I grew up. It is coded with my family - (Mum, Dad, sister and brother) - growing up and continued to worship there after getting married.

W: So how and when did you become a Christian?  
M: Growing up in a Christian home, going to church, God’s word and the love of Christ had always been a big part of my life. However, it wasn’t until I was 21 that I really understood and wanted to accept the personal love and relationship that Christ wanted with me.

W: Who or what do you think helped or encouraged you in your personal growing and learning more about Jesus?  
M: Without a doubt my parents and grandparents were the greatest influence on my life. They were always there to help and encourage us no matter what we were doing.

W: What a blessing for you! And now you are sharing some of this with the women at Bald Hills! What sparked your interest in this particular area of ministry?  
M: Having a ministry that is specific to women is really important to me. I have had my heart for many years a need for a ministry where women are loved, supported and encouraged by each other, a ministry where we can grow together as sisters in Christ while spreading the word of God and the love of Christ to our family, friends and the community.

W: How did you get started and who has helped you along the way?  
M: We began last year with a number of events. Integral in getting this going has been Kamina Wust who is the wife of BHPC ministry worker Mick Wust. Kamina shared the same passion I had for women’s ministry and asked if I would work with her on the events. She has been a huge encouragement and a great support. Kamina has also written studies for, and led our BHPC Breakfast and Bible Study and I’m sure many others have been inspired by her example.

W: How has it been working out and where are you at now?  
M: We had a few events throughout 2013. There was a mix of events including one-day Bible Study for the women of the church and a number of one-on-one studies to the community, family and friends. We were encouraged by the success of these events and plan to run more throughout 2014. We are aiming to hold BHPC Breakfast and Bible study at the beginning of each school term. We also aim to increase the number of outreach events for 2014.

W: What were some of the challenges and how did you overcome them?  
M: One of the biggest challenges is encouraging women to come to the events. Everyone is busy and our calendars quickly fill up. Our plan is to hold events at different times and places (rather than the same day and time for each event). We also aim to have the date of the events planned out for the entire year so that we can give plenty of notice as to when the events will be on.

W: You’re so right. We are all busy – sometimes too busy! In those times when you are not busy with your family or other women, what do you like to do to relax or unwind?  
M: I love to read books, in particular design blogs. I also love to sit in a coffee shop and read a good book or “study” the latest design magazine.

W: Sounds very relaxing! In closing, do you have a favourite scripture, song or book, that has encouraged you and that you could share with us?

M: My two “go to” scriptures are:

• Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

• Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”

W: You can’t beat those old favourites! Thanks Melissa, for sharing your story. We trust that God will bless your work with the women at Bald Hills.

PREPARE - CUSTOMIZED VERSION

PREPARE and ENRICH have been used for many years by those working with couples planning to marry, couples wanting to strengthen their relationship and facing new challenges, and couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. The inventories have a reputation for accuracy, reliability, sensitivity and relevance. PREPARE-ENRICH CUSTOMIZED VERSION has been used to great effect for 4 years now. It is accessed via the internet and is customised to suit each couple.

Training in the use of this resource will be available at Brisbane Boys’ College, Toowong on Thursday 12 and 13 June. For Registration details, please email info@prepare-enrich.com.au, the Prepare office on 02 95204049 or Graham Cole on gcole@bcb.qld.edu.au.

Ladies Bible Study Retreat 2014

Guest speaker Beate Teale

women’s ministries

5pm 23rd May to 5pm 25 May, 2014.

QCCC Brookfield 179 Gold Creek Rd, Brookfield

WOMEN @ PRAYER …

Where there is no vision, the people are restrained. But happy is he who keeps the law.

Proverbs 29:18 (NASB)

• Praise God for the recent symposium where leaders in women’s ministry met to share their vision for ministry to women in the Presbyterian Church in Queensland. Give thanks for the overall unity of people from diverse groups and backgrounds participating in the symposium and for the opportunity to study with at least one unit being at the centre of our vision.

• Give thanks for opportunity to experience local churches, who shared how God is working through their women. Praise God for reports of churches where many women of all ages (from 4 to 84+) are using their abilities and gifts in diverse ways to share the Good News. For others who are cross-generational relationships are being formed and women are reading the Bible together in large groups and one-to-one, and are meeting together to pray.

• Pray also for other churches where this is not happening yet, and women believe they are not being equipped or encouraged, or that there are no opportunities for them to share the gospel or encourage believers in their faith. Pray that church leaders will find ways to encourage women to step out confidently and make a start – perhaps by simply inviting someone to read the Bible with them, or pray together, or even share their lives over a coffee.

• Pray for the Presbyterian Women’s Association (and the VWPMU) – women who have ministered faithfully over many years in local churches, and supported missionaries and students for the ministry. Pray that now, as these women reach their senior years and their numbers decrease, that they will know that their efforts have been appreciated by many.

• Pray for the Queensland Theological College, as the staff continue their provision of theological training for men and women, including the new course begun in 2013 – MDW (Ministry to Women) - designed for women wanting to be trained in ministering to other women. Pray that the second intake of women this year will be received well and that they will be confident that their training will equip them to be effective ministry in their local churches. Also pray that plans to extend this opportunity into the future, to women in rural areas, will be blessed by God.

• Praise God for the initiative taken by Caboolture church leaders, in reaching out to teenage girls outside the church, by providing weekend camps where the gospel is woven into activities designed to help these girls overcome their lack of opportunity and to learn how to live godly lives. Pray for the organisers from different local churches, for the school chaplains who help identify the girls in most need, and for the girls themselves as they begin to turn their lives around in the direction of Jesus.

• Pray for the WPWPMQ Committee as we review our role in light of the input from all the participants at the symposium, and then as we work together to encourage, equip and extend women all over Queensland, especially those in small, rural and regional churches. Also pray for Women’s Ministries of the Presbyterian Church of Australia that their work for another national “Flourish” symposium in 2015 will be clearly led by the Holy Spirit and that their work of encouraging all Australian Presbyterian women will unite us all in our vision of women ministering to women.

Melissa and Amy Smith

M: My two “go to” scriptures are:

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W: You can’t beat those old favourites! Thanks Melissa, for sharing your story. We trust that God will bless your work with the women at Bald Hills.
KINGSFORD TERRACE

Wouldn’t it be wonderful to live with people who enjoy life as much as you

Kingsford Terrace offers stunning new apartments in a vibrant and supportive community with exceptional facilities and services to meet your every need. From beautiful gardens, a superb café and lounge, to the sensational indoor pool, with the added security and peace of mind knowing Kingsford Terrace is operated by PresCare – a Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

Premium retirement apartments from $440,000. Call 1300 287 672 to view our display suite or visit kingsfordterrace.com.au

Governor unveils $100M retirement living development in Corinda

HER EXCELLENCY Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland, and Hon. Greg Rodgers, Presbyterian Church of Queensland Moderator, officially unveiled the Foundation Stone plaque for the first premium retirement living village in Brisbane’s inner west – Kingsford Terrace – on Saturday 8 February.

As PresCare’s newest development, the $100M Kingsford Terrace is designed to accommodate the way senior Australians want to live, with spacious and comfortable apartments, community areas and a focus on health, wellbeing and lifestyle.

Journalist and Kingsford Terrace Ambassador Mike Munro emceed the event, which was attended by over 100 local dignitaries and community businesses, representatives of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, PresCare people and future residents of Kingsford Terrace.

Guests learned more about the history of the site and the origins of both PresCare and their legacy of care.

PresCare Chief Executive Officer Greg Skelton said PresCare was building a vital piece of community infrastructure. He also said that it helped maintain PresCare’s connection to the site - an integral part of their history.

Guests at the opening toured the bright, spacious display suite with its full-sized kitchen, bathroom and bedroom, each equipped with all of the quality fixtures and finishes typical of a Kingsford Terrace apartment. The lead architect, landscape architect and project manager were on hand to discuss the features and benefits of the apartments and the $5M Southern Cross Community Centre.

Kingsford Terrace is named after the Brisbane pioneering aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith and will be home to over 200 people once the 10-year, six-stage project is complete. The 68 Stage One apartments are due for completion in 2015.

Assemblies Public Events

** Mark these dates **

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>28 June 2014</td>
<td>Celebration Rally</td>
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<td>29 June 2014</td>
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<td>PWA Activities</td>
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<td>1 July 2014</td>
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(These dates are based on last year’s Assembly program and may change.)
God’s faithfulness and alcohol-fuelled violence

Rt Rev. David Cook

THE CENTRAL characteristic of God, and the ground of all our comfort, is that He is to be trusted. That is the real cause of the terrible alcohol-fuelled violence and rape that we see in our streets, I wonder, where are the Christian fathers of these teens? That Sunday before at school he had received five bingings?

In 1978, Ronald Conway, the late Australian psychologist, wrote the book "The Land of the Long Weekend”. In this book he maintained that Australia is the most female-dominated culture in the world, he says that the “gender divorce”, “the separation of the family, something like his wife’s eldest son.

Men, we are surrounded by pressures, but we need to remember that our greatest legacy is the family which we love and feel that requires effort, planning and commitment. The work you do at the kitchen table is more important than anything you do at your desk or bench all day. It’s well summed up in the chorus we used to sing with our children: “Always be true, always be true, be true to the one who you are married to. Love her forever and always be true.”

Introduction: In South Asia something truly amazing is unfolding. A national student Christian organisation has become burdened that many pastors in their own country don’t understand the Bible in their national language. Each year when they sponsor seminars for pastors and translators, they need to learn English. Most of the available Bible translation resources are only in English. Would you be willing to invest $2,700 to help these mother tongue translators with learning English?

Hello, however, for these mother tongue speakers to succeed in becoming competent Bible translators, they need to learn English. Most of the available Bible translation resources are only in English. Would you be willing to invest $2,700 to help these mother tongue translators with learning English?

Challenges: However, for these mother tongue speakers to succeed in becoming competent Bible translators, they need to learn English. Most of the available Bible translation resources are only in English. Would you be willing to invest $2,700 to help these mother tongue translators with learning English?

Empowering Mother Tongue Translators

by English speaking

Translators Workshop 2014 in South Asia

March 22 – April 3: 4 weeks

Airfares, visas, insurance: $2,700

Total cost: $2,700

For more information email: Proisl@wecinternational.org

IT’S NOT CRICKET!

Well, it is, but it’s much more than that.

Why would anyone give up fame and riches to live in poverty in an unknown country?

From Ashes to Glory by David Malcolm Bennett tells the remarkable story of C. T. Studd, Test cricketer and missionary pioneer, who did just that.

Amidst this most extraordinary story is an authentic account of the Test Match between England and Australia in 1882, which began the Ashes legend.

Dr Evan Davies, of WEC International, has noted that Bennett has used a different style in this biography, which brings the story of Charles Thomas Studd to life. It is, in fact, in a dramatic, fiction-style like that will keep the reader engaged.

C. T. Studd gave up fame and great wealth to serve Jesus Christ in India, and Central Africa. From Ashes to Glory tells his story of his privileged family life and fame on the cricket field to a servant’s life on the mission field. He went to China with the China Inland Mission as one of “The Cambridge Seven”. They were all from wealthy backgrounds and well educated, but adopted poverty and hardship to serve Christ. C. T. Studd went on to found the missionary organisation WEC International.

David Malcolm Bennett says, “Researching the selfless, dedicated life of CT Studd has left a distinct mark on my own life. He was an amazing man.”

It’s Not Cricket!
Celebrating the life and work of Rev. Alan Switzer

Contributed by Viv Kilt, Session Clerk, St Paul’s Brisbane

Rev Alan Lloyd Switzer, 26/8/1926 - 16/2/2014

This paper was used for a St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital information session in late 2013 and is contributed by GIST

VULNERABILITY CAN be frightening. Pregnancy certainly involves vulnerable people. The mother, the father, perhaps the siblings, family and friends, all find themselves in one way or another stretched to make room for this new, wondrous but utterly dependent and frightening. Pregnancy certainly exposes people to a very different future to the one expected, and it is often a future devoid of the things valued and expected, and it is often a future that demands the life of another.

Abortion is the last thing they want to do, but they feel enormous pressure from others or from their life circumstances to have an abortion. Others choose to have an abortion readily without realising the burden of grief and guilt they will carry afterwards.

As the Son of God He could instantly see the truth about people’s hearts – truth which they often failed to see or admit. His words to everyone met were authoritative, deeply confronting, compassionate and liberating.

Jesus also knows the truth about our hearts. His words to every one of us are also both radically challenging and deeply freeing, and they speak directly to everyone who is rendered vulnerable by an unplanned pregnancy, or by a past abortion.

Here are three particularly important points Jesus made:

Firstly, many people know Jesus’ story about the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) who had no qualms about stopping to care for a complete stranger (even one who was ‘worthless’). He went directly to help someone who, upon being told by Jesus to love His neighbour, asked ‘Who is my neighbour?’ You certainly get the feeling that the lawyer wanted to draw some limits about who he was obliged to love!

In his ensuing story about the Good Samaritan, Jesus shows that love does not stop to ask whether someone is worthy of my love. Love assumes that God gives value and worth to all people because He has made every person to belong to Him.

Personal value is not found in success, youth, freedom, ability or acceptance by others. Security cannot ultimately be found in savings, jobs, education, birth control or even in particular relationships. We can be considered ordinary, unproductive and unimportant but nothing will shift the value God gives us just because He made us.

Secondly, Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan was designed to make the lawyer feel very uncomfortable. And it is designed to make us feel very uncomfortable too. For we must admit that we have failed to love others as we should.

For we must admit that we have failed to love others as we should. For we must admit that we have failed to love others as we should.

Jesus pulled no punches about our failure to love others. He was continuing his lesson of not only knowing about Jesus, but also knowing Jesus’ love and what He demands of us. We are all deeply confronted and challenged by our failure to love God and our fellow man. We are all deeply confronted and challenged by our failure to love God and our fellow man. We are all deeply confronted and challenged by our failure to love God and our fellow man.

But thirdly, Jesus came precisely to give us hope. He has shown us that we can bring hope to failures and rebels like us.

After telling this story, Jesus continued on a long but determined journey to Galilee. He was going to the cross. In His death, He voluntarily paid the price for our rebellion and lifted away our entire burden of guilt, including the guilt of abortion. He did this because of our deep worth to God and His unshakeable love for us.

Jesus famously said, ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life’ (John 3:16).

Jesus came precisely to give us hope. He has shown us that we can bring hope to failures and rebels like us.

The love of God in Jesus also frees us from the need to create our own value and worth. We need not feel that we love and are loved by Jesus. We should strive to create Christian communities that are marked by this kind of love and this kind of acceptance – for others who find themselves in radically changed circumstances; that value children; that honour parenthood high; and that embrace those with disabilities, no matter how short and difficult their earthly lives. God, in His power, is able to work for good in the lives of all those who love Him, no matter how small.

If you would like to know more about God’s love and His perspective on the influence of abortion, read the following references:

References:

- Andrew Cameron, Joined Up Life, IVP, England 2011
- Alan Switzer, Memoirs of the Strange World of Medicine, Krismins USA 2003

Abortion and the Gospel of Jesus

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BOOK DIRECTLY

O N A March 2014, St Paul’s commemorated the life of the Rev. Alan Switzer, retired Minister of Hillsong Church and Associate Minister of St Paul’s Charge since 1994.

Alan was born in 1926 to Henry and Ethel Switzer and grew up in Ithaca, New York. He joined the Presbyterian Church at an early age, enthusiastically taking part in the church’s activities.

Both the Rev. Davies and the Very Rev. Ken Gardiner were a great influence in his life. He became a junior minister of the church at the age of 20 and was a member of the Presbyterian Fellowship.

Prior to 1944, he served as a member of the Valentine Coastal Patrol and was caught up in the Japanese attempted torpedoing of American ships in Sydney Harbour.

In 1944 he joined the Royal Australian Navy as a stoker, and went to sea on the heavy battle cruiser “Australia” which was attached to the American Seventh Pacific Fleet. The ship was very badly damaged by both torpedoes and aerial bombardment by five Kamikaze aircraft. Alan’s eyes were damaged during the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines, but he was evacuated back to Australia three day convalescence.

On returning to home port in Sydney for repairs to the badly damaged ship, Alan’s father informed him that the ship was ordered to England for further repairs. On completion of the ship’s refit, Alan returned to Sydney where he was crewed on to the Sydney Harbour Military Convoy and sailed for India. These ships were affectionately called “rubber ducksie” because the sailors claimed they would roll on to the deck in India. He in India he was again transferred to the LST 3035, a troop and heavy equipment transport vessel, and sailed for Syria.

Just before Alan entered the Navy he met a girl who would become his wife. Valerie was the daughter of John and Eva Switzer and they became engaged. Many letters were exchanged during the war years and a love bloom and flourished. In 1945 Alan and Valerie were married – two became four with the birth of Paul and Barbara.

When he demobbed from the Navy in 1946 he joined the 2nd Australian Brigade. Alan left the Brigade and went share farming and it was while he was on the tractor at their farm at Kennaide Creek in NSW that he heard God’s voice calling him to His service.

Alan applied to the Presbyterian Church in NSW for admission as a Minister of the Gospel. He was accepted in 1959 and studied at the college in Sydney whilst serving as a home missionary at Wollomombi and Harford. He was ordained at Hay in 1968.

In 1970 Alan was asked by the Chaplain General of the Presbyterian Church to take up a position in the Army as Chaplain and was sent to Vietnam with the 4th Battalion.

Alan returned to Australia and entered hospital to repair a damaged shoulder inflicted in Vietnam during an insurgents ambush in Phoe Toi Province. During time in Vietnam, Alan deployed with the battalion in many skirmishes in the field, as he thought a Chaplain in carrying God’s message should be in the trenches rather than staying back in camp waiting for their return.

While in Vietnam, Alan had contact with the orphanage in Nui Dat run by nuns who invited Alan to take a scripture class whenever time permitted. He held an English class for the senior girls, who tried but failed to teach him Vietnamese. He also spent time on the orphanage’s farm assisting and training them in better farm and sheep husbandry practices to enable them to increase their production.

For this and other tasks undertaken he was awarded the very rare honour of the Civil Actions Medal for service to the Vietnamese people.

In 1977 Alan took discharge from the army and served part-time in various churches throughout NSW, including Redfern, Kyogle, Guya and Woodburn.

Following a move to Queensland he conducted services at Nambour, including Woombah and Mundumb. Eventually the Lord’s hand directed him into further service in the church and in 1990 he was inducted into the charge of Ithaca. Whilst there, he had his first heart attack.

In 1994 he demitted from the Ithaca Charge. Alan and Val became part of the St Paul’s congregation where Alan held the position of Associate Minister until his declining health forced him to resign from this position. They drew great support in the love, prayers and friendship of the congregation.

Alan was admitted to Greenslopes Hospital in November 2013 with the diagnosis of skin cancer. This infection was partly lodged in the nerve and caused constant and severe pain. The infection was controlled, the wound would not close and Alan eventually lost the leg. The amputation healed, but due to complications from the operation Alan’s health declined. His heart failure led to his passing into God’s charge on 17 February 2014.

As a Saddam of God He could instantly see the truth about people’s hearts – truth which they often failed to see or admit. His words to everyone met were authoritative, deeply confronting, compassionate and liberating.

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Sharing Jesus at youth camp

by Rebekah Hemelaar

The weekend of 21-23 February the Redlands Presbyterian Church held their first Ricochet Youth Group camp.

A group of 15 kids between grades 6-11, led by some brave Young Adult leaders, settled in at a house in Tewantin, borrowed from a family that attends the church.

The first night began with a compere discussion which led to prayer, where several kids decided to pray aloud, “praise God!”

During the weekend there were many things that did not go to plan; however everything worked out in the end and everyone had a fun and enjoyable time.

We were privileged to have Dave Hopper come to speak to the kids and lead them through who Jesus is in the book of Mark. Many found the passages confronting and were challenged about their faith; or for those who don’t have faith, whether they should put their trust in Jesus.

Saturday was filled with going to the beach, small group discussions and thought-provoking team building games. The kids were put into a position where they had to interact, providing opportunities to build strong relationships with each other.

A trivia and drama night was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole group with lots of competitiveness, laughter and memories that will last a lifetime. Although it was raining most of the time, and drowning with mosquitoes, the immeasurable amount of fun times made the weekend a total blast!

Praise God for the opportunity of having a youth camp. Pray for the kids that heard about Jesus who now need to decide whether He is someone they should trust and follow.

Thank God that no one was seriously injured. Thank God for everyone who was involved in making the weekend a great time, but more importantly, spiritually beneficial to the kids. Thank God for everyone who included leaders who guided the kids through the small group discussions about Jesus, the cooks who gave us yummy sustenance, Dave Hopper for speaking about Jesus and many more!

Questions You Don’t Need To Ask

by Greg Newnham, Member of Wynnum Presbyterian Church

WHO SAYS 65 should be the cut-off age for overseas cross-cultural mission service? When considering retirement from the secular workplace, perhaps the question we should ask is, “Lord, where can I serve You best, now that I have more time?”

My question was answered by an invitation to join the Proshikkhon 2014 team. Whereas I had been contemplating the grey-nomad adventure, I now had to ask myself, “But aren’t I too old? What if my health packs up? What if this? What if that?”

Then I had to ask myself the question, “If I had asked the original question, ‘Lord, where can I best serve you’, why am I asking all these others?”

For me, the most important confirmation needed to come from my family. “Could they do without me for a month or so?” But then I thought, “Haven’t I told you before that no one is indispensable? You haven’t been anywhere much lately, anyhow.”

And so, after the formalities, I found myself part of the team training at Maleny for Proshikkhon 2014 – a major trip in my life. But that didn’t end the questions. “Did you bring your laptop?” “But I don’t do lap-top!” “I’m hopeless with a computer. What use will I be? I only type ‘hunt & peck’.” How about the language? At school my French is terrible, my Latin even worse. How will I cope where they even write differently?

I had to think again: “Not to worry, Lord. You have begun a work in me. Have you promised you will continue it?”

And then some obscure quote from the past came to me: ‘Ours is not to wonder why, ours is just to do or die.’ That was very comforting. Maybe I would be missed after all. I’m sure that must be a paraphrase of the verse about casting all our cares upon God, and not being concerned about the outcome.

What a relief when I found myself in a team with three other retirees. I wouldn’t be the odd one out. We could all make the same mistakes together. We could possibly pool our tech savvy, and end up with an acceptable level of IT competence!

But I had made the commitment, so now, surely, all I needed to do was to accept that the eventual outcome was indeed in God’s hands. “Take everything as it comes,” “Immerse yourself as deep in the culture and enjoy it”, and something from the bard, “abide it’.

Thank God that no one was seriously injured. Thank God for everyone who was involved in making the weekend a great time, but more importantly, spiritually beneficial to the kids. Thank God for everyone who included leaders who guided the kids through the small group discussions about Jesus, the cooks who gave us yummy sustenance, Dave Hopper for speaking about Jesus and many more!

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IT ALL started with a generous donation from Ipswich businessman, philanthropist and devout Presbyterian William Robert Black in 1929 – 85 years this May. PresCare’s development of a facility in Queensland was driven to help the many aged men and women struggling in the aftermath of the Great War and the looming global economic disaster of the Great Depression. It was in this climate that the foundations of PresCare – the Church’s aged care mission – was established. Hopetoun Home for Aged Men, as it was originally known, was founded by the Church to one of the state’s earliest and most generous philanthropists, Mr Black.

William Black was said to have been ‘sorely possessed’ man. Clearly he had a bold spirit when it came to business. Mr Black would perhaps not have been surprised to see that his legacy of giving and commitment to the community had survived for 85 years. PresCare Chief Executive Officer Greg Skelton notes our rapidly growing number of partnerships we must find new ways of providing care and services to the seniors in our communities.

This means new ways of engaging them, respecting their independence as for as long as we can, as well as keeping their connections to family, friends and communities,” Mr Skelton says. “Projects like Kingsford Terrace represent a bold leap forward for PresCare and are a most fitting way of marking our 85th year.”

PresCare expects this year to be one of celebration, enabling them to strengthen relationships with their people, clients and community stakeholders, especially the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. General Manager External Relations James Woods says PresCare is driven by its Church-centred values of Care, Respect, Discover and Deliver and its creation as a Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. He thanked PCQ Archivist Dianne Parker and PCQ-PA to Clerk of Assembly Lynda Rakeley for their invaluable assistance in tracing the history of PresCare and noting key milestones.

“PresCare as an organisation was originally created in 1929 as the Committee on Homes for Aged People,” James says. “PresCare operations then began with the opening of Stonehaven Home for Aged Women at Chermside on 24 February 1930 and in May that year the opening of Hopetoun Home for Aged Men.”

It was not until 1 July 2000 that the organisation formally became known as PresCare, transitioning from the former Department for Social Mission.

PresCare celebrates 85 years young

The intervening years were busy ones with PresCare expanding from those initial two homes to facilities in Rockhampton, Mackay, Maryborough, Mt TAMBorine and Brisbane as well as community and disability services in towns from Cairns to the Gold Coast. One most recent addition was the former Aged Men’s Home in Southport-owned Yaralla Place in Maryborough.

This year will see PresCare celebrate their 85th year through existing events such as the PresCare Woollam Cup and anticipated new events including the opening of new services and number of regional activities.

Cumulative to celebrating this milestone with our clients, supporters, suppliers and PresCare people throughout the coming year, James says.

Innovation aims to keep residents out of hospital

OVER THE past few months, a dedicated project team at PresCare has been working with Alexandra Gardens Facility Manager Sandra Parker and a number of local partners including Central Queensland University, Medicare Local and Queensland Health, to deliver the Residential Sub Acute Care Project.

“This project will deliver a ‘skilled service’ model, whereby staff at PresCare residential facilities will recognise and intervene early when a resident’s condition changes.

It is based on a simple traffic light system aimed at providing care in the facility for eight common conditions – chest pain, confusion, dyspnoea, fever, infection, incontinence, UTI, dehydration, constipation, falls – each identified and managing care in the facility for eight common conditions – chest pain, confusion, dyspnoea, fever, infection, incontinence, UTI, dehydration, constipation.

As part of this program, we will provide each resident with a personal ‘traffic light’ device that will display their condition.

What this means in practice is that the care team will be able to identify when the resident is ‘green’ and needs no extra care, ‘yellow’ for those who have a condition that requires a modified approach to care, and ‘red’ for those who require immediate attention. We hope that in the right place, in the right time, in the right way to ensure it delivers the right treatment by other providers and it will help us deliver the right treatment at the right time, in the right place to the right person.

The Sub Acute Care Project will be piloted at Alexandra Gardens in March 2014 and then rolled out across PresCare’s other residential facilities.

Social interaction builds wellness

HELPING THEIR clients manage the issue of social isolation is a key priority for PresCare in 2014, with a number of different programs being rolled out across its business.

In the communities in which PresCare operates, many caring employers, volunteers, members of the Presbyterian Church, family and friends have contributed their time to bring happiness into the lives of elderly people who are alone.

The recent PresCare 2013 Christmas Appeal raised almost $25,000 towards the overall goal of $50,000 for the Social Isolation Program. Thanks go to community and residential clients, Presbyterian Church congregations across Queensland, donors and suppliers, including a generous $10,000 donation from Woollam Constructions.

Broadly scoped the program is being developed as a range of social activities for all PresCare clients to help overcome the disadvantage of loneliness, boredom, withdrawal and often depression which can result from being socially isolated, day after day, month after month.

In each region in which PresCare operates, the specific activities implemented to address social isolation will vary depending on the needs and numbers of their clients.

In Mackay, for example, there are around 400 people benefiting from the activities offered through its Social Isolation Program.

There are three streams of development for the community activities – Friendship Clubs, Special Events and a Christmas Function. All of these activities have identical objectives: to enhance the quality of life for elderly people at PresCare by reducing their social isolation, increasing mobility and independence, educating clients, all under the umbrella of increased social interaction.

“The team at PresCare will continue to invite donations to reach the goal of $50,000 to formally launch the Social Isolation Program,” the CEO says. “We are more connected because we offer this directly to a diverse range of services of any aged care provider in Queensland,” the CEO says. “We strive to offer care that is more connected to the communities we operate in and the people we work with, to their families, to their networks, to their communities and to the services we offer.”

Mr Skelton says PresCare believes their logo means a sense of purpose, self-worth and contribution to the world at large is vital to their wellbeing.

As PresCare’s tag line maintains PresCare’s connection to the communities is more than a core part of both their history and their future, “Projects like Kingsford Terrace represent a bold leap forward for PresCare and are a most fitting way of marking our 85th year.”

PresCare will be communicating the rebadged to customers, suppliers and community partners over the next few months.

We would like to contact PresCare, email them at info@prescare.org.au or phone (07) 3223 4444.

A very special way you can help

Your donations and bequest gifts can help PresCare improve the quality of life for elderly people in care.

To make a donation or bequest gift, visit www.prescare.org.au or phone (07) 3223 4444.
What’s on ...  
MEGA SPORTZ 
SOCCER 
CAMP
www.megasportz.com.au

REGISTER ONLINE www.megasportz.info
back to school special offer valid till 30 June 2014

GRADE 5 - 7 ONLY
- SIZZLING SHAVES
- GEAR NIGHT ACTIVITIES
- WIN GREAT PRIZES
- INCLUDES A TEAM SHIRT

S Watkins
31 July 2014

HIGH TEA ON THE HILL

 Aurelia Platform Studio
6 James Ave, Highgate Hill
30 July

The Christian Faith: A Systematic Web

Don Carson will be returning to QTC in July 2015 to conduct a series of lectures and speak at a chapel event.

Web: qtc.edu.au
Email: events@qtc.edu.au

QTC What’s on in 2014
August:
Guthrie Nankivell - Date TBC
Guthrie Nankivell serves as director of women’s initiatives for The Gospel Coalition. Author of the Long Hard Bible study, she speaks often at women’s conferences and loves working with women in studying the Bible.

Dr Michael Horton - August 22: Talking Theology
Dr Horton has taught systematic theology at Westminster Seminary California since 1986. He has written many books, including The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way.

Matt Chandler - August 25
Matt Chandler is the lead pastor for teaching at The Village Church in Dallas, Texas. Chandler is involved in church planting around Dallas and across the world through The Village Church and other partnerships such as Acts 29.

Lunch on the Hill: Propet & TBC
Saturday, 1 August @ 11:30

Don Carson will be returning to QTC in July 2015 to conduct a series of lectures and speak at a chapel event.

Web: qtc.edu.au
Email: events@qtc.edu.au

CHANGED ASSEMBLY DATES

The Assembly dates this year will be Celebration Rally, 28 June; Induction Service, 29 June; Assembly seminar and business meetings, 30 June-3 July. Mark them in your diary and plan to come.

UNIT TO LET

CALOUNDRA, beachside units, from $300/week. For details contact Ray on 0427 990 161 or rayandjean@hotmail.com.

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

CHAPLAINS

The Moderator Elect, Rev. Phil Case, has made a change of chaplains. His chaplains will be Robert Thompson (Elder, Coorparoo) and Rev. Ross Wilson (Minister, Southside). To make bookings for the Moderator, please email pjmmoderator2014@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS - ST PAUL’S

Over the years St Paul’s has been the setting for many weddings and special services and an open invitation is extended to all who were married at St Paul’s or for whom it has a special connection. The Trust and the congregation would be delighted to have you support the High Tea fundraiser on the Saturday and also to share in worship the next day, celebrating 125 years of worship to God in this sanctuary.

High Tea On The Hill
Saturday 3 May: 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm
St Paul’s Presbyterian Church, 43 St Pauls Terrace, Spring Hill
Hosted by: St Paul’s Presbyterian Church Restoration Trust

Enjoy a delicious high tea in St Paul’s heritage-listed Church Hall to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the dedication of St Paul’s Presbyterian Church in Queen Street.

Donations $15.00

A Spire to Inspire
Sunday 4 May - 9:30 am
Church Service celebrating the 125th anniversary of the dedication of St Paul’s church building to worship.

St Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill, was dedicated to worship on 5 May 1889. The ‘Kirk on the Hill’ is of special significance to the architectural heritage of Brisbane as it is one of the buildings of the Colonial Architect, P.D.G. Stanley. Stanley was responsible for other notable buildings such as the GPO, Port Office, Queensland Club and National Bank Building in Queen Street.

Join together as a congregation, with friends and supporters of St Paul’s, for a special service, filled with music and inspiring messages, to celebrate this heritage-listed building, which, with its imposing spire, has been a witness to the activities of this city for 125 years. The service will be followed by refreshments in the historic church hall.
Mission team returns to Kenya

by Rev. Ian McIver

THIS YEAR’s team, led by members of the Caloundra Presbyterian Church, consisted of nine members. Margaret Kennedy, Erin Higgins, Norma and Ian McIver were all part of last year’s team. The other five - Irene Higgins, Joshua and Kirra Shanahan, James and Rachel Cru - had never previously visited Africa.

Undoubtedly a wide range of emotions are experienced in any visit of this nature, but once again our team experienced the sovereignty of God and the promise of Jesus that He will never leave us nor forsake us. It would be hard to think of a single hiccup during the nearly four weeks that the team spent in Kenya.

Our last two days involved a change of pace as we played the tourist role. We drove down from Nairobi, via Narok, to the Maasai Mara Game Reserve in the south-west corner of Kenya. The roads were amazingly awful but Africa weaves its own magic. In a game park, we saw most of the game animals, both from the ground and also from the hot air balloon ride that most of the team enjoyed. Then it was back to Nairobi in a small single engine aircraft before flying out from Nairobi International airport for Dubai and home that same evening.

Amid a rich tapestry of experiences, we considered three things stand out.

One was the faith and commitment of our Kenyan Christian friends. In the midst of extremely adverse circumstances, their ministries stood out like beacons. Indeed, it became evident that the very adversities that they faced provide the soil in which their maturity in Christ was able to grow. The Lord is able to do amazing things with and for His beloved servants when their ministries are forged on the anvil of hardship and adversity.

Second, we were struck by the way in which the work of the Agape Hope Children’s Centre and the New Hope Education Centre has grown in the last year. While there is still much to do, the two ministries have moved forward and developed in ways that were very encouraging to observe. We look forward to visiting again in a year’s time to see still further improvements and developments.

And finally, we were grateful for the financial gifts that we were able to bring, some $15,000 all told. And also that the time and talents we were able to share led to tangible improvements to the lives of the children, the schools and the orphanage. It was wonderful to be useful in giving shape and nurture to young lives. And it is good to play a part, however small, in that part of the Lord’s vineyard called Kenya.

And over all there was that same strong presence of the Lord that we sensed last year. It comes as a calm reassurance that when He says to us, as to countless others of His people over the years, that He will never leave us or forsake us and that He will be with us always even to the end of the age, He means it. We had the great comfort of knowing that He was with us and that He would bring fruit from our visit that no one else could, trust of all ourselves. What greater privilege than to be instruments in the Lord’s hands for His work in the world.

For me there was also a small personal highlight. During our time at Agape Hope, Irene and Erin presented a Kenyan flag for the flagpole that already stood in the playground of the school. A flag parade was held on our last full day at the orphanage. Exactly fifty years earlier Kenya had obtained her independence on 12 December 1963. When the new school year began in January 1964, I was in the equivalent of Year 12, and from the beginning of the new school year, “flag parade”, complete with school band and assembled school, was held every Friday in the main quadrangle.

And for the first time the new flag of independent Kenya was raised. Now, 50 years later, I was able to enjoy the same experience in an orphanage just a few miles away in the same city.

The event was moving in itself, but even more than that, there was for me the sense of the faithful hand of God in the life of one who didn’t deserve the least of the Lord’s blessings, but who by His grace had experienced so much.

Finally our thanks go to the members of our own congregations in Caloundra, on the Sunshine Coast and in Toowoomba, and to the readers of New Directions, for your prayers. We are very grateful.

And Lord willing, we look forward to our next visit in 2015.