A few years ago I went on a short-term mission. It was my way of ‘testing the waters’, seeing whether I was cut out for long-term mission or not, and also trying to help the missionaries and local people. While I found that I could handle being in a third-world country, I wasn’t nearly as useful as I’d hoped to be. I didn’t have relationships with the people. I didn’t know their language. I quickly realised that I’d need to stay there long-term in order to be able to effectively minister to them. But when I heard about Proshikkhon, it made me think again. Read Kirsty’s story on page 2.

(Kirsty is currently in her third year of the Bachelor of Divinity at Moore Theological College in Sydney. This was her second time on Proshikkhon, and she is planning to go back again this coming year.)
Going with someone and working in partnership

YOU MAY have heard it said that short-term mission trips are a “waste of money” and have “little impact on the community”. Perhaps sometimes this is true. But the Proshikkhon short-term mission is different. And the key to its success is partnership. I believe that Proshikkhon is one of the best short-term missions available, for several reasons:

#1 Tribal Leaders: Our major project in Bangladesh is facilitating three seminars for tribal church leaders. We minister to these leaders by doing the Biblical research to enable them to contextualize their faith. The second seminar is to teach them how to craft and use Bible storytelling for evangelism and discipleship. And the third is on the Biblical basis for Christian unity - inter-denominational rivalry in Bangladesh doesn’t do much for the cause of the Gospel.

#2 Staff Training: We empower Bangladeshi pastors and Christian workers to do all the teaching. By modelling empowerment and the priesthood of all believers to the Proshikkhon participants, we are hopefully shaping their attitudes to ministry for the rest of their lives.

#3 Unreached People: Bangladesh is an example of a mostly unevangelized country with 340 unreached people groups. That makes it one of the neediest countries in the world. Through Proshikkhon we help the students understand the needs of the thousands of unreached people groups in the world. These could be reached in our generation if we put our minds to it.

#4 Poverty: Most Australians know very little about poverty. Bangladesh is a shock experience. At the same time we see some of the poorest work of Christian organisations involved in poverty alleviation.

#5 Cross-cultural Training: Through Proshikkhon, participants receive a variety of training in cross-cultural communication. This includes training in language learning, anthropology, orality and Bible storytelling, contextualization and syncretism.

#6 Modelling Cross-cultural Ministry: We expect each Proshikkhon participant to build a prayer team who will undergird the whole ministry trip with prayer.

Proshikkhon was conceived back in 2006 when Keith Benn from Wycliffe Australia met with the General Secretary of the Bible Students Fellowship of Bangladesh (BSFB) a member of IFES.

The hospitality of poor village Muslims was overwhelming Everyone loves to hear a Bible story

He said, “Let’s work together to run a short-term mission which will be beneficial for both Australians and Bangladeshi. It could include training for pastors and evangelists from the ethnic minority communities.” BSFB agreed and said, “Let’s work together. We also have a heart to reach out to the rural areas. What shall we call it then? Proshikkhon. It means ‘training’ in Bangla.” And so Proshikkhon was born.

What attracted me to Proshikkhon was that it isn’t about the foreigners coming in thinking they know everything, evangelizing the country and then nicking off. Rather, it’s about empowering the locals who are there long-term.

After I’d signed up though, I found out that we (Aussies) weren’t going to be running the training. I thought to myself, “Well, what are we going to be doing then?”

It turns out that our part of the partnership isn’t doing the upfront stuff. Right from the very beginning the BSFB staff were equipped to run the training sessions. Our main hands-on role with the trainees is in small groups working on case studies, aided by a translator. They contribute cultural and language knowledge. We contribute biblical expertise and resources. They organise the logistics beforehand and follow up people afterwards. We bring the money to make it possible. That’s partnership.

This year we also partnered with a local church in the north. The head of their denomination wasn’t expecting much when we came. They’ve had many short-term mission teams before, and they didn’t do much long-term good. But at the end of the Proshikkhon seminars he said, “What has happened here has been both unbelievable and unimaginable.” Each day participants went to Muslim and Hindu villages. When they came back they said, “They welcomed us in, put out seats for us and gave us tea. We asked them, ‘Can we tell you a story from the Bible?’ and they said, ‘Yes.’ Before this, their people had never shared the gospel with Muslims. What a difference partnership makes.

One of the other great things about partnership is that the work continues long after we’re gone. The church asked BSFB to help them set up new Bible study groups in the area and to run a follow up Bible storytelling seminar. Staff from the Global Recordings Network (GRN) and the Evangelical Cell Church Trust (ECC) have also partnered with Proshikkhon in recent years. Not only that, but in the months afterwards they send evangelists back to the villages where the gospel was shared during training.

Wycliffe Australia has also been asked to help support getting new Bible translation projects underway in Bangladesh. That’s the body of Christ working in partnership.

It has been said, “If you want to go faster, go alone. If you want to go longer, go with someone.” Proshikkhon has certainly seen the benefits of going with someone and working in partnership. Who can you partner with for the sake of the gospel?

Andrew Hutchens tells of his experience on Proshikkhon on page 8, along with information on how to sign up for Proshikkhon 2013/2014.

Learning to apply God’s Word to culture

Good communication is built on good relationships

Quality Bible research is hard work

The hospitality of poor village Muslims was overwhelming

Everyone loves to hear a Bible story
New minister for Cairns

Cairns Presbyterian Church celebrated the induction of Rev. Andrew Richardson as their new Lead Pastor on Wednesday 6 March 2013.

In talking about his aims in ministry, Andrew said, “God has been generous to Cairns Presbyterian Church with a history of faithful ministry, state of the art buildings, and a strategic location in a city of 150,000 people. It’s my prayer that we will be able to work together to be a church that hears God’s Word through clear, Christ-centred Bible-teaching, lives out God’s Word in holiness, trust and love, shares God’s Word with our city and beyond.”

Andrew also expressed his gratitude to the current minister, Rev. Harry Oh, and the congregation for their enthusiastic welcome since he arrived in mid-January.

During the induction service, Session Clerk Alex Farquharson observed that the church in Cairns has always had a growing healthy ministry when there has been two full-time ministry staff at work and so it was exciting to have Andrew joining Harry as the second full-time minister.

Please pray for Cairns Presbyterian Church in this new stage of its ministry.

Queensland Presbyterian Church Buildings

Geneva - Cradle for the Reformation

by Dianne Parker

Switzerland is a beautiful place to visit and there is much for the tourist to enjoy with the combination of beautiful scenery and its ancient history with buildings which date back to the thirteenth century and beyond.

Travelling through the modern Swiss countryside reveals an interesting mix of modern manufacturing industries and traditional farms with their tiny chalets and large barns and the many cattle grazing in the fields.

Switzerland is also the country which was the cradle for the Reformation. Geneva was the city which gave the Reformers freedom to share their views and thus allowed their teachings to be spread, eventually impacting throughout the world.

The centre of Geneva’s old town is dominated by the Cathedrale St Pierre, built at the end of the 12th century and finished a century later as a Catholic cathedral.

By the mid-sixteenth century, during the Reformation, all interior decoration and ornamentation was removed and the painted décor was covered over but the stained glass windows were spared.

Today the cathedral still dominates the old town and it is possible to see the pulpit from which Calvin preached and also a chair which is said to have been his.

This beautiful building is open to the public and a climb up the 150 or so steps into the tower gives a wonderful view of the city of Geneva; but it is not for the faint-hearted as the stairs up to the top of the towers go straight up by means of a spiral staircase – challenging than climbing up.

Adjacent to the cathedral is the International Museum of the Reformation which is housed in the headquarters of the Protestant Church of Geneva.

A visit to the museum provides a good overview of the Reformation told against the backdrop of history of Europe at the time. The story is told in an imaginative way with the use of objects, books, manuscripts, paintings and engravings and in the various rooms different aspects are emphasised and explained. Individual viewpoints of the leaders of the movement are argued as various Reformers are allowed to present their points of view with clever use of sophisticated audio-visual equipment, making the topics of the time current for those present.

The museum has thirteen different areas which begin with Martin Luther, the invention of the printing press and the translation of the scriptures into the language of the people. The spread of his teachings, with an overview of the arguments for and against, is presented clearly and concisely.

Calvin’s role and those of the many other Reformers is given. As well, the situation in Geneva and the way the expanding population impacted on the city is described.

The place of music and its place in worship throughout the ages is dealt with. Opportunity is given to listen to the way that the music of worship has developed to the present day.

An overview of the influence of the Reformation on world history up to the current time is also considered. The museum is connected to an archaeological site beneath the cathedral and this area is also available to be explored. There are three separate areas in the same site and entrance prices allow for one or all to be visited. Entrance to the Museum alone is thirteen euros ($26) and a combined ticket for the museum, church, towers and archaeological site is twenty euros ($42).

A brochure for a walking tour, “In the footsteps of the Reformation”, is a good way of seeing the city and the Reformation Wall is testament to the place of the Reformation in the life of Geneva. Organized tours are also available.

David and I made our own arrangements with the help of an American tour company which specializes in Reformation tours and provided some suggested itineraries.

For the museum and the Reformation tour company are as follows:

https://www.musee-reforme.ch/english-version/
http://www.reformationtours.com/
MEETINGS OF ASSEMBLY

Assembly Hall, Clayfield College

(The following order is subject to change. Agendas for each sederunt will be distributed at the commencement of each Session.)

Sunday 23 June 2013
5.00 pm Business Committee meets in Board Room (Room 4), Clayfield College
5.30 pm Dinner
(Buses will be arranged to take Commissioners to Wavell Heights PC) Sederunt 1
7.00 pm WORSHIP SERVICE TO INDUCT THE MODERATOR (WAVELL HEIGHTS PC)

Monday 24 June 2013
7.00-7.25 am Prayer and Praise, Dining Room
7.30 am Breakfast (Buses will be arranged to take Commissioners to Creek Road PC) Sederunt 2 at Creek Road PC
9.15 am Monday Communion Service [Clayfield College Chapel]
10.15 am Morning Tea
10.45 am Sederunt 4 resumes in Assembly Hall
10.55 am PWA Presentation
12.00 noon Biblical Exposition #1 - Rt Rev David Jones
12.30 pm Close/Lunch
1.20 pm Devotions
1.30 pm Sederunt 5
1.40 pm WOMEN'S MINISTRIES PCQ Presentation
Presentation
PRESSURE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRIES RESOURCING (Inside Out Chaplaincy Stories from the frontline
Morning Tea, Lunch & Afternoon Tea provided.
3.45 – 4.00 pm Devotions
4.30 pm Biblical Exposition #2 - Rt Rev David Jones
5.00 pm Biblical Exposition #3 - Rt Rev David Jones
5.30 pm Close
5.45 pm Mission Barbeque - Tuckshop Area Sederunt 6
7.00 pm AFWM Qld will present their report, followed by the Mission Rally
9.30 pm Close/Supper

Wednesday 26 June 2013
7.00-7.25 am Prayer and Praise, Dining Room
7.30 am Breakfast
8.15 am Moderator’s Nominating Committee (Room 5)
8.45 am Devotions Sederunt 7
10.15 am Morning Tea
11.45 am Introduction of Moderator-Elect
12.00 noon Biblical Exposition #4 - Rt Rev David Jones
12.30 pm Close/Lunch
1.20 pm Praise
1.30 pm Devotions
1.40 pm FAIRHOLME COLLEGE PRESBYTERIAN & METHODIST SCHOOLS’ ASSOCIATION GRACE COLLEGE EMMANUEL COLLEGE ST ANDREW’S TOOWOOMBA HOSPITAL COMMUNICATIONS
3.15 pm Evening Tea
3.45 pm OVERTURES
5.00 pm Biblical Exposition #4 - Rt Rev David Jones
5.30 pm Close
6.00 pm Dinner
7.20 pm Praise Sederunt 8
7.30 pm Devotions
9.30 pm Close/Supper

Thursday 27 June 2013
7.00-7.25 am Prayer and Praise, Dining Room
7.30 am Breakfast Sederunt 10
8.45 am Devotions
8.55 am REMNANTS
10.15 am Morning Tea
12.00 noon Close of Assembly

MORNING DEVOTIONS

Chapel devotions will be led by Rev. Jens Norved speaking on Jesus Changes Lives: The revealing God (Psalm 19); The forsaking God (Psalm 22); The saving God (Psalm 110); The forgiving God (Psalm 51).

BIBLICAL EXPOSITIONS

Biblical expositions will be delivered on Tuesday and Wednesday by Rt Rev David Jones, Moderator General, speaking on THE MICAH CHALLENGE: #1 – What is God like? (Micah 1 and 2); #2 – The Shepherd King (Micah 5:4-7, 6:1-5); #3 – What does God require of us? (Micah 6:1-8); #4 – What’s in a name? (Micah 7).
Two Brave Young Women in Uganda

by Frances Tilly

FORTY-FIVE MINUTES outside Kampala, in the county of Luwero, two girls aim to set up a house for teenage girls who are victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse.

Toosowonna girl, Jane-Anderson (27), whose family attends St David’s Presbyterian Church, along with her friend Letah Black (22) from Alabama, have responded to God’s call to help these forlorn victims.

Their suffering is a violation of human dignity, yet it is sadly not considered out of the ordinary in Uganda. Statistics say that in 5 women are raped in Uganda, however the actual number is unknown. The number of sex workers is uncountable; many go unreported due to the fear of the process.

Following nearly seven months of working and researching in Uganda, Jane and AC saw this great need and have set up their own organisation, I AM MORE THAN.

It was named by the words Paul used in his prayer to the Christians in Ephesus that God “is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”.

On 21 March, St David’s congregation organised an opportunity for Jane to tell the 1 AM MORE THAN story, sharing photos of some of the girls they helped during their time in Uganda and relating their tragic experiences.

Jane explained, “It is our aim to provide housing, rehabilitation, education, life skills and job training for young women between the ages of 11 and 18 years, who are victims of sexual abuse and human trafficking, while advocating for the eradication of human trafficking and sharing the effects of sexual abuse to unreached people groups”.

AFTER NEARLY twenty-four years of committed service to the Presbytery of Brisbane, the Rev. Guido Kettnuss has concluded his term as Clerk of Presbytery.

Following the Clerkship of Rev. Hector Dunn and Rev. Gary Keil, Rev. Guido Kettnuss was appointed Clerk of Presbytery on 2 August 1985, relinquishing his then present role as Moderator of the Presbytery.

Guido has faithfully fulfilled the Oath of Office of clerkship throughout this extended season of service and has successfully swamped the Presbytery in a sea of paper for its entire duration. His minutes were extensive and accurate; he circulated them first at an expanded agenda, with some provision for adjustment and amendment by the members of the Presbytery, before they became the confirmed and official record of the Court.

In the early years of his Clerkship, Guido received some secretarial support in order to achieve his responsibilities however, in later years he fulfilled these responsibilities single-handed.

Anyone who knows Guido would wonder how he was able to fit this significant responsibility into his already-crammed life.

He undertook his responsibilities as Presbytery Clerk while also serving as Minister of the Gateway Charge with a specific ministry to refugees and others in need of pastoral care; while serving as Clerk of the Christian Reformed Bookshop; while heavily involved in the ministry of the Presbyterian and Methodists Schools Association while serving as the Assembly’s Business Convener; as well as serving as Convener of the General Assembly’s of Australia’s Reception of Ministers Committee. (Guido is also the Presbytery’s Mission Convener and has kept the Presbytery updated on mission-related issues throughout the world).

As Clerk, Guido has been a source of much-appreciated guidance and support for each of the Moderators who served during his Clerkship. Guido has also been pivotal in coordinating special Presbytery events with the assistance of the Moderator, such as the Moderator’s Ordination, Licensing of Candidates and funerals. He also has been instrumental in organising special Presbytery meals commemorating significant events in the life of the Presbytery and its members, for example the twentieth or thirtieth anniversary of a minister’s or elder’s ordination.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of Brisbane in March 2013, the Rev. Steve Blencowe was called to the Presbytery for the first time and has taken over as Clerk of Presbytery.

At this meeting members of the congregation and community to personally acknowledge Guido’s work as Clerk and to thank him for his extended period of service to the Presbytery.

As Moderator of the Presbytery, and a previous colleague of Guido who was involved in the photography of the “photocopier”, I would like to place on record the thankfulness and indebtedness of the Presbytery of Brisbane to Guido for his tireless and sacrificial service he has given as Clerk.

Annual service of dedication and communion

State President Mrs Heather Ross welcomes the Rev Dr David Niven. Back: Mrs Alissa Kelly, Mrs Margaret Taylor, Rev. Chris Perona, Mrs Heather Burton, Mr Robert Thompson

New Directions, June/July 2013 - Page 5

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

by Naomi Reed

BOOK CLUBS are the best audience. I was thinking about it the other week and even before I sat down I realized that it was going to be a good night.

They were all carrying a copy of ‘No Ordinary View’ under their arms and they had a list of questions longer than their arms. Then I realized that they could read the book more recently than I had... but they also knew my stories better than I did!

Luckily for me, their questions weren’t related to details and facts as much as to concepts and feelings. “How did you adjust back to Australia?” “Do you still have a go-lug?” “Were you really that calm during the evacuation and feelings.” “Why didn’t he heal Jalpa?” “I don’t know. I really don’t know.” “All I can say is that I sit with the pain... as we all do.”

And as we sit with the pain, we know. I really don’t know. All I can say is that I sit with the pain... as we all do. And as we sit with the pain, we get that feeling that we must be seeing only the underside of the weaving that God is making beautifully – with our lives and with this world.

During the storms of life we often ask God to make it smooth. Of course we do. “Please Lord, calm the storm, heal my friend, stop the pain, ease her tear.”

And we believe in a sovereign God Who can do that. We also believe in a sovereign God who wants to conform us into His image (Rom. 8:29), slowly and painfully, to get us really close to heaven. And amazingly, He knows what it takes to conform each of us, to make us more like Jesus and to get us there.

So sometimes, He speaks and the storm is stilled. Other times, we look up and meet Him there in the middle of it.

The storm carries on .... we bury our friends and weep over them; but somehow we find His grace, presence and love right there.

And then He gives us the strength to keep walking with Him, to keep pressing on, to keep praying and singing till we get to that place where we’ll never cry again.

It’ll look around, breathe out slowly and see the upper, beautiful side of the weaving.

The ANNUAL service, held in the Aria Street Presbyterian Church on Tuesday 5 February, was conducted by the State Moderator, Rt Rev. David Niven. Mr Niven spoke on “Running for Jesus” from Hebrews 12:3.

Mr Niven commenced by talking about a race – how we prepare for it and that it is not over until it is finished. We need perseverance and he likened it to a marathon.

He made the comment that usually young people run sprint races and older people do the marathon races so “old age” is an advantage for a long race.

The Bible tells us that we can learn from previous runners - Gideon, William Tyndale, Jim Elliot. People like this are watching over us as we run our race. They groin when we fail, they cheer when we do well and we can learn from them.

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

by Naomi Reed

Naomi Reed

to keep walking with Him, to keep pressing on, to keep praying and singing till we get to that place where we’ll never cry again.

It’ll look around, breathe out slowly and see the upper, beautiful side of the weaving.

[Naomi Reed is a returned missionary, author and speaker. Her four popular books and an audio book (The Precious) are available at Reformers Bookshop. She and her family attend Blaxland Presbyterian Church. For more information, go to www.NaomiReedInfo.com or join My Seventh Monsoon on Facebook.]

There are many obstacles in running a race so we need to throw off anything that hinders us. He gave examples of running too much time on hobbies or an addiction to social media. Sometimes it is too hard to go to church services.

Sin is a big obstacle in our race when serving as rubber-coated criticism, speaking ill of others.

He commented that God says “no” to certain things and to enable us to get rid of what is hindering us from running and finishing our race.

There are so many things that we need to remember to always look forward, never backward. We related issues lose heart and remember that no-one runs the race alone.

If we do this we will not grow weary and we will not lose heart.

Ann Street Presbyterian Church on

Mr Niven

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I CONFESS! this is the first book that I’ve read by Naomi Reed. I think my mother and Fiona have read them all, and I’m just discovering that I’ve waited this long. Heading Home. My Search for a Temporary World is her third in an autobiographical series of books, following on from My Seventh Monsoon and No Ordinary View. I’ll need to catch up on these stories later. This was a book in season for me, because we’ve spent a year working through where we belong, who we are, what we should be doing, why we don’t feel at home, and constantly being confronted by the Bible message that we are not at home until we are home with the Lord. Naomi tells the story of returning to their ‘home’ in the Blue Mountains, near Sydney in Australia, after being overseas for some time, mainly in Nepal. The account is full of humour and gaths as we’re given a window into the confusion of reverse culture shock. After living through a revolution in Nepal, and being without many of the things Aussies take for granted, it was overwhelming to visit supermarkets and department stores with the complete over-indulgence of choice. And no time is worse than Christmas with it’s red and white pimping of the season. The real message of Christmas barely gets a look in. I’ve spoken to other returned missionaries, coming back from economically poorer people, who’ve found this so difficult. One family vowed to never return to Australia in the lead up to Christmas. They found the whole experience obscene. I’d suggest that returning missionaries would be helped and encouraged by reading this book, and knowing that those who support them have read it too. So why not read it yourself, encourage others in your church to do the same, and send a copy to your partners overseas before they return. Heading Home is a mosaic of themes and ideas that paints the bigger picture of discovering and living out who we are in union with Christ. It’s a profound message that raises real issues for all who claim to follow Jesus. I believe that Naomi is well placed to write such a book for a number of reasons: (1) she has the advantage of looking at different societies both as an insider and an outsider; (2) she has taken the time to reflect, meditate, and have her thoughts informed by Scripture; and (3) she has an enduring humility that comes across in every chapter. As I reflect on the impact of a year of cancer and treatment, this book has had much to say to me. Who am I? Where do I belong? What am I to do with my life? Why don’t I feel settled? Naomi’s shared experiences have rubbed a little salt into a few of my wounds – and I’m glad she has. It’s easy to think that I really should be in ministry, planting a church for God, making a difference, finding fulfillment in the challenge of ‘exotic’ and remote mission. But I’m reminded that it’s not a matter of what we do, or where we minister, which particular location. It’s about being content in the fact that God is in control, and He will use us wherever, and however, to fulfill His purposes, and for His glory. Naomi writes of dreams and plans coming to an end, and deciding to stay upon returning to Australia. I could relate to this and was moved to pray her prayer also.

I used to be like you, I used to go,” Lord, there are times in our lives when we feel purposeless. The dream is over. We don’t even know what do anymore or why. But Lord, when we feel like this – lost one more – please remind us that we find our living in you, we find our focus in you... (p20)

This leads to a highlight of the book for me. Every chapter finishes with the reflection, well-considered prayer to God. Naomi is not satisfied with raising the dilemma, or even with raising the question. She brings these matters to God in prayer, and encourages us all as we grapple with issues in our lives.

i. observe our circumstances
ii. reflect on Scripture
iii. analyse and consider what we’re going through
iv. change our attitudes and actions
v. talk to God about it

Naomi reminds us over and over again that her prayers give a head start to those of us facing our circumstances. Heading Home is a helpful book for people who are not sure where they belong, or who are going through significant, even unexpected changes, redundancy, unemployment or retirement; people suffering bereavement and grief; people finding themselves strangers in a foreign place (that they might even know well). Its helpfulness and hope lies in applying God’s Word into our lives, and then helping us to bring this to God in prayer. Ultimately, this book succeeds by reminding all Christians that God deeply understands our circumstances and this world is not our true home – heaven.

So Lord, today, when we are surprised by being the outsider or by a myriad of choices or misunderstandings or failing in love; when we belong, or not belonging anywhere, help us to comprehend the fact that you have united our road and felt our pain and suffered for us, so that every day, here, we belong to you and that’s enough. Lord be glorified in all we do and say, today. And remind us that there will come a day when we will never be outsiders anymore. Lord, thank you. (p46)

Used by permission of Pastor Dave McDonald, ACT.

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE
An April Afternoon Craft Affair

Reflections on HymnFest
by Annette & Ivan Brown

Jerusalem, Athens, and Evangelism
by Roland Lowther
Don’t Put God in a Box

Reflections on Proshikkhon 2013 by Andrew Hutchens*

Andrew building relationships with a man on the bus

Introduction: From the moment I arrived in Dhaka I felt completely out of my comfort zone.

From odorous drop toilets, to people with missing limbs and deformities banging on our car window for money so that they can simply survive, to rubbish lining every street, to the shouts of stall holders only being overseen by the Muslim call to prayer blasting from every speaker on every street corner; it’s exactly the reason I never wanted to come to Bangladesh.

One month suddenly felt like a lifetime. Actually jail in Australia all over again by the Muslim call to prayer. Overpowered by the Muslim call to prayer.

Andrew is a ministry apprentice at the Soul Presbyterian Church, Hobart.

Applications open for the Proshikkhon 2014 team. Leaving Australia 27 December 2013, returning 30 January 2014. Email proshikkhon@wycliffe.org for details.

YNET CONFERENCE 2013
Sharing in Ministry Together

YNET CONFERENCE 2013 – it came, it went, it was great. Though there is far more to the story than this.

Each year around 200 leaders from children’s, high-school and young adults ministry congregations on Mt Tamborine for YNET Conference. They hear great Bible talks, participate in electives relevant to their ministry and network with other leaders from around the state.

This year LT Hopper spoke from Jonah, reminding leaders of the relentless God they serve whose grace is the great motivator in ministry.

The electives also provided great food for thought as attendees considered a variety of topics such as the Foundations of Children’s Ministry, Teaching Foams to Love the Bible, Work, Big Theology and Everyday Life and Creating Connections amongst groups.

However, the unique part of YNET Conference is the ability for ministry teams to connect with other groups and share their diverse experiences together. The mutual encouragement is invaluable and continues to encourage teams that we do not work in isolation on our own, but as one body in Christ.

YNET Conference would not happen without the support of local churches across the state. So thank you for sacrificing your leaders so that we can be better equipped to serve.

We look forward to next year’s conference which will be shifting to the CNBC Day long weekend, but will remain at Mt Tamborine.

*Andrew is a ministry apprentice at the Soul Presbyterian Church, Hobart.
PIM Patrols and Remote Church Ministries

Southern Patrol (WA)

PIM's AIM heritage in this Patrol includes past medical centers at Lake Grace (1920) and Esperance (1930). The Southern Patrol includes the WA Goldfields and associated settlements, a section of the Nullarbor Plain, a very remote area containing some of the world's hottest climates and good farming country closer to the coast.

The Albany congregation (now part of the PCNW) was initially organised by the PIM. The congregation remains very supportive of the patrol work. A small PIM congregation at Denmark is associated directly with the Patrol.

The Patrol is in territory ceded to the PIM by the Presbyterian of WA.

Mid West Patrol (WA)

PIM AIM heritage in the Mid West Patrol goes back to work of Rev. W. Cooper who served the inland based out of Carnarvon at the end of the First World War.

The Patrol covers territory from the Great Sandy Desert to the Indian Ocean.

The PIM Patrol base at Mt. Magnet allows for ministry to be conducted to all points of the compass as well as congregational ministry in a very sparsely populated area that is dotted with very small mining communities, indigenous settlements and stations.

The Patrol is in territory ceded to the PIM by the Presbyterian of WA.

North Australia Patrol (NT/QLD)

The Patrol area includes the Barkly Tablelands, mining settlements, many indigenous communities and small towns. It stretches from the waters of the Gulf to the desert interior of the Northern Territory.

Central Australia Patrol (NT/QLD)

The Alice Springs PIM Church is associated with the Central Australian Patrol.

PIM's AIM heritage in the Central Australia Patrol includes the Oodnadatta Hotel (1912) and Adelaide House (1926).

John Flynn Patrol (SA)

It was largely from the mining experiences in South Australia (which included what we call the Northern Territory until 1911) that all subsequent Presbyterian Church work in Outback Australia emerged.

The John Flynn Patrol shares with the Central Patrol NT's heritage of 18 years of patrol ministry, and thereby ensures that as the PIM moves into its second century of its existence, that these historical links are preserved and built on.

The northern boundary of the Patrol begins approximately at Cooper Creek to William Creek to Mann River to Leigh Creek and up the Sturt Track to Innamincka and the Queensland border. The boundary then follows the Queensland-NSW border to the Barrier Highway adjacent to Broken Hill and west back along the Barrier Highway to Port Augusta and up the Stuart Highway to Coober Pedy.

PIM's AIM heritage is especially strong within the John Flynn Patrol. This includes the fact that nearly all of the great names linked with the formation and Foundation of the Australian Inland Mission were directly associated with work within areas covered today by the John Flynn Patrol. The First Patrol work commenced with the labours of the Rev. Robert Mitchell from 1894 that as the first 'Missionary of the Port Augusta' congregation. He was followed by the Rev. Frank Rolland, who worked there for many years, complementing the padres work (at Beltana) with that of the deaconess message (at Oodnadatta). Deaconess Alice Main was the first appointee there. John Flynn himself served in this Patrol as 'Smith of Dan桉ook Mission' and Bruce Plowman ('The Man from Oodnadatta') the very first AIM Padre was based in this Patrol and out of Beltana. The Smith of Dan桉ook Mission (which remains part of the Port Augusta congregation) has been the venue for worship services since its opening in 1895 as a Christian Church building. AIM medical centres were opened at Beltana (1919) and Leigh Creek (1945). This Patrol has a network of tracks along which visitation can occur. The southern boundary of the John Flynn Patrol is the southern boundary of the Central Patrol, NT. To the west for the South Patrol Qld and the Darling Patrol, NSW. The Patrol falls within, and extends the borders of the Presbyterian of Tasmania.

The Patrol has been closely associated with the Port Augusta and Whyalla Presbyterian Churches and includes the Smith of Dan桉ook Mission PIM Church.

South Patrol (QLD)

This Patrol has a reasonable network of roads along which visitation occurs. Pastoral and mining activities are found throughout the South Patrol. The Patrol falls within, and extends the borders of the Presbyterian of the Darling Downs. The PIM has a Mansio and a Patrol base in Charleville at the heart of the Patrol area.

The Patrol has been closely associated with the Charleville-Mitchell Presbyterian Church.

The southern boundary of the South Patrol follows the Darling Downs. South Patrol, NSW. To the north, the western boundary of the South Patrol forms part of the

Views Beyond the Furthest Fence

Photographs communicate, but skilfully composed photographs can capture the imagination and communicate even more. In the centenary year of the Australian Inland Mission (AIM), and its successor ministry in the Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM), it was appropriate that some of the extraordinary stories over this remarkable hundred year period be brought together.

Not only did John Flynn pioneer a remarkable successful ministry in the people of the Outback, but also his own personal interest in photography has

ensured that many early scenes and significant moments related to his ministry were captured and preserved for future generations.

Stephen Dryer was commissioned by the PIM to bring together a collection of historical and contemporary photographs in the form of a Coffee Table Book. For nearly two years Dryer has been photographing many aspects of the work of the PIM and sourcing photographs to complete an historical record of the AIM and the PIM. Many of the photographs in this compilation have been sourced from the AIM collection at the National Library of Australia. With great patience, skill and attention to detail, Steve has digitally enhanced them so that again they can vividly communicate. We know that Flynn himself would have taken many of the earlier photographs, however, insufficient records fail to allow the credit to go to him. It is likely he would be happy knowing that those who look at these collated here will be drawn to the Outback and the Gospel work conducted there, rather than to himself and to his talents.

The book also contains an historical account of the work of the AIM written by Rev. Stuart Bonnington, Rev. Bruce Bonnington, the Superintendent of the Presbyterian Inland Mission and Pastor of the Ferntree Presbyterian Church in Western Australia.

The work and ministry of John Flynn cannot be ignored. By the grace of God he achieved much for this nation, especially for those who live and work in the remotest regions of this vast continent. He inspired us as you read this book in the通知书rdering of the outstanding photographic images. Lift your heart in prayer and thank God for the many works he both raised up, and then sustained, to carry on this ministry. Also, take time to pray for those men and women that the Presbyterian Church of Australia continues to send out ‘beyond the furthest fences’ so communicate in both word and deed the love of Jesus Christ.

All profits from the sale of the book will go to support the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

Orders can be made on-line at www.pim.org.au or by calling the PIM office on (03) 9005 8256.

YOUR RESPONSE

Name: ___________________________
Address: _______________________
Postal code: ___________________
Telephone: ____________________
Email: _________________________
Enclosed is my gift of $ _______ Please debit my credit card for a gift of $ __________
VISA/Mastercard Card no: _______ _______ _______ _______
Expires: /__________/__________ Name on Card: _______________________
Signature: _____________________
I authorize the PIM to deduct the amount of $ _______ from my credit card
I authorize the PIM to deduct the amount of $ _______ from my credit card each month until further notice

The PIM Office Mr Michael Timmins – Office Manager
PO Box 404, Croydon Hills, VIC 3136 • Ph (03) 9005 8256 • admin@pim.org.au
eastern boundary of the Central Patrol, NT and to the south, part of the eastern boundary of the John Flynn Patrol, SA.

**Leichhardt Patrol (Old)**

This Patrol is based out of Wondalup, and bears the name of the famous explorer Ludwig Leichhardt who passed through the area in 1844. The town is a service centre for the wheat and cattle properties which surround it and is also among those properties that the PIM offers its ministry of proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ by word and deed.

**Darling Patrol (NSW)**

Inland mission heritage is strong in this Patrol. It is a little known fact that the PCNSW was conducting inland patrol work long before the formal organisation of the AAM in 1912. ‘...In 1906 the North-West Mission was inaugurated by the Assembly after several exploratory trips by the Rev. J.A. Smith in the Gospel car. This movement merged the settled charge of Bourke in a wider tract of country extending from Nyngan (formerly Cobrab) north-west to the borders of Queensland and South Australia...’ (CA White p. 172) The North-West Mission continued until 1920.

With its massive size, the Patrol area contains a wide range of people and activities. The Patrol fills within, and exceeds the bounds of the Presbyteries of the Central West and Moree.

**Mungo Patrol (NSW/Vic)**

Named after the Mungo National Park which lies almost at the centre of the Mungo area, it extends from Boulia Hill in the north west to Coonamble across to Wentworth to the Murray River to Boulia and across to the Victorian/NSW Border with South Australia. In the past the Mungo Patrol has been associated with the Presbyterian Church in Mildura (Sunraysia) and Wentworth.

**Mackersey Patrol (Tas)**

A number of the PIM Patrols are larger than Tasmania, so the PIM work in Tasmania is at the opposite end of the spectrum in terms of geographical extent seen on ‘the north island’. But the importance of the spiritual support and practical assistance it still the same even though the distance of the properties is not be 80 kms long. Following the Midland Highway between Launceston and Hobart visitation ministry is conducted in the districts to the east and west. The Patrol is named after a pioneer Minister in Tasmania.

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**PIM Patrol Teams and Pastoral Teams**

1. Chris and Sandra Woenings
2. Chris and Sandra Woenings
3. Bert and Penny Pierce
4. Bert and Penny Pierce
5. Vacant
6. Vacant
7. Vacant
8. Rob and Jeanette Duncan
9. Rod and Dawn Milliman/David and Kathy Alkilep
10. Vacant
11. Keith and Jenny Bell
12. David and Gae McDonald
13. David and Gae McDonald
14. Ross and Margaret Crane
15. David and Kathy Alkilep
16. Greg and Jane Cripps
17. Laurie and Gwen Peake
18. Vacant
19. Vacant
20. Vacant

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**Presbyterian Inland Mission 2013**

PIM SUPERINTENDENT
Stuart Bonnington

PIM CONVENER
Rob Duncan

PIM SUPERINTENDENT
Stuart Bonnington

PIM CONVENER
Rob Duncan
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

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

SOUTH SUDAN: HOW DO YOU RE-BUILD A CHURCH?

How do you go about rebuilding the Church when your country has been traumatized by decades of civil war and you have broken away from the northern part of the country? That's the challenge that faces the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.

For the Presbyterian Church that has meant a huge rebuilding effort. The members of the Church have been scarred not only by war but by the deaths that were involved. In some cases church buildings bear the bullet marks of war.

Their theological college, the Nile Theological College, has now had to relocate to Malakal in South Sudan. Church leaders are currently touring the country in an attempt to make an assessment of the current state of the Church.

Owing to the attitude of the North toward the South much of South Sudan wasn't given the sort of infrastructure that is present in the North. The New York Times recently produced a video entitled "How to Build a Country from Scratch." All this has made the Church's task in basic communication much harder. While mobile phones are everywhere, the internet is practically nonexistent in Malakal, South Sudan's second largest city, where the Church has its headquarters. Outside the capital city sealed roads are a rarity. This means that during the 9 months long wet season travel is very difficult.

The South Sudanese are composed of three main tribes, the Dinka, the Nuer and the Shilluk each with their own language. Many congregations are based on tribal languages but amongst some of the younger congregations the tribes are mixed and worship in Arabic.

The link between the Australian Church and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan has been strengthened by the large numbers of Presbyterian South Sudanese who came to Australia as refugees. A number of these have now returned to South Sudan to provide leadership and assistance in rebuilding the country.

The APWM missionaries in South Sudan are Motor Yat and Rhys & Rhondia Hall, Rhys and Rhondia serve with ACRROSS in the Sudan Literature Centre Project and in the production of community and Christian teaching programmes through the use of radio, film and digital players in a variety of languages. Motor is engaged in a ministry within the Presbyterian Church by training elders and is based in Malakal.

REV MICHAEL & MRS KERRY JANSEN, REV CHUOL YAT

Recently an Australian team consisting of Michael & Kerry Jansen, Chuol Yat from the Clayton, Victorian congregation and Kevin Murray travelled to South Sudan to learn more about the Church and see where the Australian Church could be of assistance. What they found was very encouraging.

These were opportunities to run some workshops for ministers in areas such as (a) an overview of the Bible (b) Biblical marriage (c) the message of Habakkuk. Each of these areas addressed pressing needs within the Church.

One minister publicly commented: "We've had many workshops before on leadership but never anything about the Bible." The ministers asked the team to return in the near future and provide more teaching. There is a genuine hunger in the Church for the word of God. Many ministers lack formal training in the Bible.

The team was greatly encouraged by the attitude of some of the ministers toward outside aid. One said: "We need to put up a new church building. For us to own it we must pay for it. If we don't pay for it then we won't take care of it." As part of the visit the team was able to renew our Partnership agreement with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. These are critical days for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan.

INDIGENOUS MINISTRY: APWM & PIM WORKING TOGETHER

"Working together and maximizing every opportunity for indigenous ministry," that was the heart of the message APWM communicated to the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) Committee when it met in Sydney during January. The meeting was told: "This is what we have been doing for years. Let's now formalize it in a very clear way."

Within the Presbyterian Church, responsibility for Indigenous Ministry has been given to APWM. Naturally this is a challenge that is beyond the capacity of APWM.

For this reason, APWM has agreed that PIM's pastoral care and mission church pastors should feel free to engage Indigenous people with the gospel wherever they have an opportunity to do so.

As part of this APWM has entered into a partnership with PIM where it will help PIM raise the necessary support for PIM ministry based at Mount Magnet in Western Australia.

There are increasing opportunities for indigenous ministry in areas such as Mount Magnet, Darwin and the new Alice Springs church plant led by Keith and Jenny Bell.

For the time being APWM is focusing on helping to raise $75,000 support for the patrol based at Mount Magnet, Western Australia. If you would like to support this patrol please go to http://pim.org.au and click the 'Support' tab on the left hand side. Alternatively you can send a cheque to Presbyterian Inland Mission, P.O. Box 4014, Croydon Hills, VIC 3136. Please make your cheque payable to "Presbyterian Inland Mission."
UPDATES

CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE
Thank you to those who ‘bought’ items from our Christmas Catalogue which helped our brothers and sisters in Myanmar and East Timor. Approximately $20,000 was raised as follows: 70 Tafrontis (East Timor) 169 Mosquito Nets (Myanmar) 107 Blankets (Myanmar) 44 Umbrellas (Myanmar) 87 Bags of rice (East Timor) 74 Bags of rice (Myanmar) 29 Bible college book resources (Myanmar)

16 Stationery packs for a rural school (Myanmar) 39 Education for one child (Myanmar) 21 Vitamins & Medicines for a rural village (Myanmar) 10 Medicine for Bible College Students (Myanmar) 11 Guitar (East Timor) 41 Goat or Pig (East Timor) 11 School Equipment (East Timor) 6 Generator for a Rural Villages (Myanmar) 2 Computers for a Bible College (Myanmar)

These gifts have now been sent to our sister Churches in East Timor and Myanmar. Thang Bwee of the Evangelical Church of Myanmar writes “Christmas gifts are really great help to our people.” Daniel Mural of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of East Timor writes “Thanks very much for Christmas gifts that God gave by hands of brothers and sisters in Australia.”

PAUL AND JENNY RAYNER

Paul and Jenny Rayner from Central Church (Ipwich), are preparing to serve with Flowering in Thailand. Paul will be serving as a teacher at the Grace International School in Chiang Mai. The school supports around 350 missionary families. This means that 350 couples are able to continue with their work of spreading the gospel not only in Thailand but in South East Asia.

MEAL FOR MISSION
Each year a number of churches run a “Meal for Mission” event or Sunday. What is ‘Meal for Mission’? It’s an opportunity for a local congregation to deliberately focus on the work of cross-cultural mission both here and overseas through ministries such as:

Rick and Kayleen Nanton serving the Indigenous people in Mount, Druit, Sydney; The Presbyterian Theological College in Bangladesh; Martin Eagle, serving with the Evangelical Reformed Church in Myanmar; John and Rosemary Evans serving in Japan; Malcom: Presbyterian Church Central Africa; The Evangelical Presbyterian Church in East Timor; Andy & Rosemary Williamson and Glen & Rachael Canning and Andrew & Marilyn Schache serving at the Taipa Ministry Training Centre, Vila Mau; Cambodian Presbyterian Church Central Africa The Staff in our National Office.

We ask churches to pray for these ministries and for each member, where possible, to contribute the cost of one meal to support ministry in these cross-cultural settings.

We are continuously attempting to use our website as a source of information and, if you would like, to download information on the ministries and support Powerpoint presentations then please go to our website www.apmwn.org.au and click the tab “What We Do” and go to the page “Meal for Mission.”

KIM AND STEPHANIE SCHWARZ

Kym and Stephanie Schwarz and family from Epping NSW are now in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia serving with SIM. Kym is serving in IT and Stephen is serving as a psychologist. Thank you to those who are partnering with them. Please pray for the family as they settle in.

ANDREW AND MARILYN SCHACHE

Andrew and Marilyn Schache from South Toowoomba, Queensland are now in Vanuatu at the Taipa Ministry Training Centre, serving in maintenance and administration. Thank you to those churches and individuals who are partnering with them. Please pray for them as they settle into their new roles. APWM now has four families serving in Vanuatu, the largest number we have had for some years.

COMMISSIONING OF ANDREW AND MARILYN SCHACHE

MINISTRY IN SOUTH SUDAN: MOTOR YAT

Motor (Izak) Yat serves as an APWM Missionary in Sudan and works with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. Izak recently in South Sudan and took the opportunity to ask Motor about his ministry. He will be back in Australia for Home Assignment in July 2013. Motor needs more people to support him in partnership. If you would like to support Motor in his ministry then please contact our office.

Kevin Murray

How long have you been serving in South Sudan?
I’m just entering my fourth year, I arrived here in 2008.

What is your main ministry?
First, I train church leaders. I train them in the area of eldership — the role of elders, the qualifications of elders, the election of elders and the call of elders. The church benefits from this training. The other area is witnessing about Christ to others.

What are some of the challenges that face the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan?
One of the challenges is that there are many people coming to church and yet the people are not able to build a church for themselves. Many are coming to church but they end up paying in the heating. Another challenge is the theological training of ministers. The church is not able to support its candidates for the ministry.

How has the war affected the church?
The church has been greatly affected by the war. Destroyed church buildings, schools and even the people. People are now coming back to church and helping from abroad. People lost some of their ministers. Recovering from war is hard and to spiritually rebuild the nation is not easy. People have been living in exile in different places and at different times. New people are coming to church and the church has been affected spiritually. We need to pray that the church can do its task of reaching out to such people. People have been traumatised by war.

How much theological training have ministers had?
When you go to the rural areas you find churches that are being looked after by people who are not trained. The people who have been trained have a certificate in theology and are usually serving as ministers. A few have been trained at the Nile Theological College here in Nyalabik. We need more training for ministers to be able to deliver the Word of God in the churches that they are serving.

How is the Presbyterian Church in South Sudan different from the Presbyterian Church of Australia?
First, in Australia, people look at their watches and expect church to start for one hour. Here people are very keen to listen to the Word of God and you can preach for an hour. Secondly, people in Australia support their local church and are good at tithe, even with 25 people. Here you may have a big number in the church but they are not able to support the minister. Third, in Australia, ministers are trained and qualified. Here we don’t have many ministered who can train others. Fourth, the people here are not good in giving. Many people in the church in Australia are employed. Here, half of the church is not employed and are not able to support the minister.

What things are encouraging you?
People are listening to the Word of God. You can share your faith and testimony with someone in his home or in the street without any problem. It’s an open door for the gospel in Australia people don’t have time. You may share your testimony or the Word of God with somebody but they don’t have time. Here there is time. You can see here because people are hungry and thirsty to hear the Word of God. You can pray with them and they are happy to pray. We are waiting to hear more about Jesus Christ. When I do training in churches for young people and elders I see many people who have hearts willing to listen to the Word of God. It’s very encouraging as you feel that you are helping to build the church.
A meeting of old friends - Rt Rev. David Niven and Elder Bill Mc Clintock, now of Caloundra, formerly a member of Caloundra Presbyterian Church.

THIS WILL be my final Moderator’s Update because, by the next edition, I will no longer hold that office. Greg Rodgers will be inducted as Moderator on 23 June at Wavell Heights PC.

I hope that, by giving you a glimpse of my activities during the past year, you have a better appreciation of the role of the Moderator.

I spent 8–13 March visiting the Central Queensland Presbyterian churches, which included Mackay, Moranbah, Yeppoon, Biloela, Monto and Gladstone. At each centre I was warmly welcomed and either preached or gave a short talk and a devotion. I was especially grateful for the hospitality that was extended to me wherever I stayed.

I also visited the Queensland Theological Seminary and attended the College Graduation and also attended the Queensland Theological Fellowship and Encouragement. The Lord’s Supper and received a new member in the church at Charleville.

Other churches that I visited were Caloundra for a service of covenant renewal, Eatons Hill and Mt Isa, where I conducted a teaching session, the Lord’s Supper and received a new member by confession of faith. All of these visits were wonderful times of fellowship and encouragement.

During the past few weeks, I attended the Queensland Theological College Graduation and also attended a chapel service and had morning tea with students and staff.

There were also the regular monthly Board meetings of PresCare and Fairholme College, two Commissions of Assembly and meetings of all the Standing Committees to attend.

It was a privilege to be able to share with some of the staff for lunch. Some readers may be interested to know that several Army Chaplains (myself included) will be deployed as a body on ANZAC Day since this year is the centenary of the establishment of a Chaplains’ Department within the Australian Army. It is an important milestone, and many Presbyterian Ministers have served as Chaplains, not only in the Army but also in the other two services.

The remaining few weeks of my Moderatorial year are sure to go quickly. Visits are planned for Charleville, Browns Plains, Dalby, Goondiwindi and St George. I will also be involved in regular monthly Board meetings and in some ground-breaking ceremonies for new developments being undertaken by PresCare.

It would be remiss of me not to thank publicly the Assembly for the opportunity afforded me to serve as Moderator, those churches that welcomed both me and Diane so warmly, the Church Office staff for their assistance, PresCare for the provision of a vehicle and arranging travel and accommodation, and last, but no means least, my wife Diane and my family for their support and encouragement.

It has been a busy twelve months and I give thanks to God for His grace and sustaining power during this time and I wish Greg every blessing for his time as Moderator.

PICTURE THE scene: There are well over 6000 people. How can they be fed? There’s one boy with five loaves of bread and two fish. He gives them to Jesus who multiplies it and multiplies it until 5000 people are fed and there is plenty left over.

Do you think that boy ever forgot what happened to his five barley loaves and two fish that day? Of course not.

Sometimes the grace of God works in unexpected ways, but if there was anyone who you would expect to have managed all this, it was this young boy. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

The people within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste pray for you. They pray in their prayer meetings. They pray that the Lord would richly bless us who are in the Australian Church.

The words of one young man are often in my mind. He is from a very poor area, and when we met for the first time he said, “Previously we had only met around the Throne of Grace, but now we have met face to face.”

I don’t know his name. He did not know my name, and he does not know yours; but he did know that there are brothers and sisters in Australia who cared for him, and he was faithful in seeking our blessing.

I don’t invite you to give to me or to APWM, but I do invite you to give some of the resources that the Lord has given to you.

It may be the value of two small buns; or you may be able to give much more than that. It does not matter how much because God can work with much or little. Maybe you will give to Timor Leste or to PIM or to other of the Lord’s ministries - that is up to you to decide.

Currently the Presbyterian Church of Australia gives the Church in Timor Leste $4000 each quarter to help with ministry purposes. We have agreed on the type of expenditure for this money, but we do not involve ourselves in the details.

At the end of each quarter the church in Timor Leste reports to us exactly where the money went. This allows us to give them an appropriate degree of autonomy. They take up their responsibilities faithfully before the Lord and we preserve ourselves from any colonialist arrogance which would suggest that we know better than they do what is the best way to minister within their culture.

We currently have money set aside for Bible translation and also for a building in Dili. This money has been given for these purposes and will be spent for these purposes.

We presently have no funds at all for sending a teaching team to Timor Leste in June. We expect that this will cost around $2500. We also have no funds at all for the next quarterly grant which is due in June ($4000).

We have mission teams going from the Northern Territory to the end of May and another one from Western Australia in July. Both are funded by the participants.

We are not worried, because we know that the Lord is not short of money - far from it. We do, however, encourage you to be faithful with the resources that the Lord has given you. Whether that be through giving here, there or elsewhere, or praying with us that the Lord will send His provisions, and multiply them for effective witness in the land of Timor Leste. What He sends will be just the right amount.

Rob Duncan, Minister at Darwin Presbyterian Church, and APWM Coordinator for Timor Leste, APWM $8 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, NSW 2299

www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance
OVER THE Easter weekend, twenty-three experienced and trainee Bible storytellers prepared themselves to partner with the Redlands Easter Family Festival (REFF) Committee for the Easter Monday extravaganza at the Redlands Showground.

Among the experienced storytellers were Russell Harden (Mt Tamborine PC), Peter and Ruth O’Loghlin (Southside PC), and Peter and Ann Brown, Peggy van Buuren and Keith Benn (Creek Road PC).

Each year, for the last thirteen years, the churches in the Redlands area have worked together to provide the community with a fun day where families can be together as well as hear the Good News of Easter.

Two weeks before the event, the storytelling staff recorded a set of nine Easter stories, beginning with the death and resurrection of Lazarus. The set finished up with two resurrection stories – the first where the tomb guards were paid off by the religious leaders to spread the news that Jesus’ disciples had stolen his body; and then the final one where Jesus eats a piece of grilled fish and commissions his disciples to take the Good News to every ethnic group.

The REFF Committee took these stories and put them together with some songs and a message which asked, “What if it’s true?” Then they prepared about 5,000 CDs to be given away at the Family Festival.

On Easter Monday, people from many ethnic groups came to the Family Festival to enjoy a day of entertainment, merry-go-rounds, train rides, food and drinks.

Many people joining in the long queues for free food were interested to hear Bible stories told by the team.

Two Chinese girls were happy to hear an Easter story from a storyteller who was standing in their food queue. He told them about Jesus’ trial before Pilate. They asked to hear another one, so he followed with the crucifixion story. They said, “We’ve never heard these stories before”.

After hearing the Caiaphas trial story, one girl responded, “Oh, then he died, didn’t he?”

One storyteller went to the face painting section and offered to tell a family the Easter stories. The father said, “No”. Then the mother also said, “No”. But then the kids said, “Yes, please!” As the Easter stories unfolded, the parents listened in!

A large number of New Zealanders turned up for the day. One couple came into the storytelling tent, listened to all nine Easter stories and joined in the Bible studies. They commented, “This is wonderful! Which churches are participating in this event? We would like to connect with a local church here.”

Another said, “I started telling a lady a story in a food line, and the lady behind came around, and was really close, like a sponge, absorbing what was happening”.

Many of those who heard stories also asked if they could have a CD. The storytellers appreciated the opportunity to practise their newly-learned skills. One reported, “As I began telling a story to a couple, a group of boys came over and said, ‘What’s going on here?’ They listened to the start of the story, then weren’t interested, but really wanted the CD. Later on I ran into them and they said, ‘Oh, the storytelling guy!’ And they wanted a photo with me!”

The storytellers worked in three teams and the three groups (23 people in all) told 189 Easter Bible stories to over 300 people in either 1-to-1 or small group scenarios. They also told the nine stories eight times during the day to hundreds of people.

By the end of the day the storytellers were exhausted and exhilarated. They knew that hundreds of people had heard the Good News, and at least 2,000 families went home with a CD from which they could learn much more, and even commit themselves to Jesus as Lord.

What could be better than that?
**WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH ROBYN BAIN ABOUT M2W - A NEW COURSE FOR WOMEN AT QTC**

Wendy: Welcome Robyn! Can you tell us by telling us exactly what M2W is and how did it come about?

Robyn: M2W is designed to encourage and equip women to become comfortable to be convicted and transformed by God’s grace, and to be a part of the project of helping others to help those women encourage other women to become comfortable to be convicted and transformed by the gospel too! Similar courses have been run elsewhere around Australia but Gary and Fiona Millar wanted to design something specifically for the Queensland context.

W: What has your role been in all this and who else was involved?

R: I’ve been helping Gary and Fiona to design and run the course. We’ve also had some wonderful input from QTC lecturers and some wise and godly women from around Brisbane.

W: How many women enrolled for this first course?

R: About 60 — far beyond our expectations! It’s lovely to see so many women keen to serve.

W: Can you tell us a little about what they’ve been doing? What does a morning at M2W look like?

R: We spent the first seven weeks mainly learning to read and understand the Bible well. Over the next five weeks we built on those foundations and thought about identity, relationships, practical Word ministry and evangelism. Each session includes three hours with morning tea in the middle. We spend our time interacting with the Bible in lots of different ways — listening to talks, searching the Bible in groups, talking through practical situations and praying. Each week there is a set of pre-session prep to stimulate thinking and reflection. We’ve certainly tried to make the sessions challenging, but helpful, for women at any level of biblical knowledge!

W: Robyn, what outcomes are you personally hoping for, from a course like this?

R: We really do want to see women deeply committed and transformed by the gospel. Women who love Jesus and love reading God’s Word can make an enormous impact on those around them. There may be some women who find M2W gives them the confidence to go on to further training at QTC. But we are hoping there will be many who simply feel more confident to encourage others.

W: What about the future — is it likely that M2W will be repeated or perhaps expanded in some way?

R: We are hoping to develop M2W and run it as long as it serves and repeated or perhaps expanded...

W: Has there been a highlight for you?

R: I’ve loved plumbing the depths of the gospel in such good company!

W: Thanks, Robyn, for introducing us to M2W. We pray that God will be gracious in renewing a passion for sharing the gospel in all those who have been involved.

**WOMEN @ PRAYER ...**

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods, with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

Psalm 63:1-5

- Thank God for the privilege of prayer and begin by praying Psalm 63 (above) as your own personal prayer.
- Thank God for the gospel of Christ! Thank Him for the way He has presented it to us in His Word — both Old and New Testaments.
- Pray God for the M2W course and the amazing effect it has had on the lives of the women who were able to attend.
- Give thanks for the presenters who give of themselves in sharing their wisdom, experience and love for the gospel and also for the Queensland Theological College for taking the initiative to provide such a course for women.
- Pray that after the course concludes and the women go back to their respective churches and their messy lives, that they will find many opportunities to share the great gospel message of hope with others, who also have messy lives.
- Pray for those who may be considering further study, that there will be an opportunity to make that part of their journey, if it is God’s will.
- Pray for the future of M2W, however God chooses to develop it, and that it will continue to provide for women who want to be equipped and encouraged in ministry at whatever level is appropriate for them.
- Praise God for the Be Nurtured retreat in May where women were encouraged by Lesley Ramsey’s teaching. Pray that they will be refreshed and nurtured as they return to their daily lives, taking with them the blessings and encouragement of learning from God’s Word.
- Pray for our church as its leaders meet at Assembly in June. Pray for unity, wisdom and humility. Pray for the women’s events too, and especially for Fiona Millar as she shares her passion for the gospel at the WMPCQ gathering.

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**M2W**

For me, M2W has been a journey of discovery. I feel as though I know my sinful self much better, know Jesus better and I want to know Him even more. I am a woman in need of change, who is looking forward to helping other women in need of change, clinging to the Cross all the while.

Christine

I learnt
- That we have many lives (still) and that God is always working to make us more Christ-like. And still He wishes to work through us!
- That the gospel message can be found throughout the Bible and it is exciting to look for it.
- That our personal walk with God is vitally important. Our heart attitude is what God sees and He is chipping away at it to make us more like Christ – renewing us over and over – a work in progress.

Mardi

We’ve also had some wonderful Fiona to design and run the course. We’ve spent the first seven weeks mainly learning to read and understand the Bible well. We’ve seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods, with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

Psalm 63:1-5

Pray

Pray that after the course concludes and the women go back to their respective churches and their messy lives, that they will find many opportunities to share the great gospel message of hope with others, who also have messy lives.

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**Footnote: Be Connected with WMPCQ through the website and newsletter www.wmpcq.com or email pcqwomen@gmail.com Visit the WMPCA website www.gaawomensministry.com**
Leaving Nairobi “Mission Accomplished”

After two very busy weeks working in the Air Force Head Quarters and with the team ready for a change of pace and place. We were all glad that we were able to leave Nairobi for the next stage of our Kenyan adventure with a sense of “mission accomplished”.

We had been able to see substantial improvements at the orphanage. Indeed, it seemed as though everything was being made “light, bright and white”. Skylights in each of the classrooms brought light into what had previously been very dark rooms. The whole place had been painted, and three of the children’s dormitories had been finished and painted - all bright white! Electric lights were provided for most of the rooms in the orphanage, coffee had been provided for the kitchen and the laundry area, along with laundry tubs and benches for the children to wash their clothes. An efficient sawdust-burning stove had been fitted for the kitchen, to replace the inefficient and smoky charcoal fires.

Safari to the Great Rift Valley

Our journey took us along the eastern side of the Rift Valley, and about half-way between Nairobi and Mt Kenya. We had been provided for the kitchen and the laundry area, along with laundry tubs and benches for the children to wash their clothes. An efficient sawdust-burning stove had been fitted for the kitchen, to replace the inefficient and smoky charcoal fires.

Candielet dinner with Nann Barratt, River House

Northern Ireland, which meant that she and Eleanor were able to form a bond of friendship. It was through one of them was from Country Antrim and the other from Cork. Candielet, the standout amongst them will certainly “be true”!

Nann came to Kenya in 1955, was married to Stan and was a Presbyterian Church, Nairobi, and has lived in Kenya ever since. Like many people of British stock before her, she has made Kenya her home. As a result of the political wisdom of its founding President, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the predominantly African nation that is independent Kenya has taken such people as its own.

Our two days with Nann were just wonderful. We were able to enjoy cordon bleu candlelight dinners, log fires in the lounge in the evening, and do whatever we wished during the day. Those of us who chose to go out to lunch at a small roadside restaurant “The Sleeping Curlew” were blessed with the most delicious food. As we went to dinner at the hotel, we were able to enjoy a meal with them, cooked in the open air. We were able to encourage them, and leave them a financial contribution, for which we are so grateful. This was a reminder that people of all sorts have a place in the Lord’s family.

The Tungi Tatu Congregation and Maasai Worship

Our journey on Sunday took us to the southern end of Lake Naivasha. As we travelled down the eastern and southern sides of the lake, we passed acres of fields covered with flowers growing under protective plastic “glasshouses”. Kenya exports millions of flowers to Europe and other destinations every year and is reputed to be the second largest rose growing and exporting country in the world. Flowers that are cut in Naivasha one day are being sold on the streets of Tokyo and Japan only two or three days later.

The excitement of the day was heightened when we saw two Masai giraffes close to the side of the road, along with several impalas and other small animals further in the distance. Our journey took us along stone and rock strewn roads as we travelled into the hill country west of Lake Naivasha. However, our driver Charles was always equal to the occasion and took us through uncharted country.

The villages we visited were lower in altitude than the one we had visited on the previous day, so altitude sickness was no longer an issue. Here we were able to visit the Moidapi [the village is partly named after Kenya’s former President, Daniel arap Moi] and the Tungi Tatu congregations. Once again we were able to give stuffed toys and Bible storybooks to the children and a financial gift to the congregation, along with the reminder of the forty Swiss Bills that we had brought from Nairobi.

The Privileges of Going Beyond our Comfort Zone

Our worship that Sunday was one of the real highlights of our time in Kenya as we enjoyed the bright colours and joyful worship of Maasai Christians. Each of the main groups in the congregation - the children, the young men, the women and the married couples separated separately to worship in ways that were so different from our more formal style of worship. However, they had done all the same the presence of the Holy Spirit that we enjoy at home.

Our little group also did our best to make a contribution to the worship by singing “Father we love You” as best we could. Our effort was appreciated though, and there was certainly an unexpected response for us as we lifted up “Our Father in heaven” not in the familiar context of our church family in Calundala, but in the very different surroundings of a Maasai congregation in the heart of Kenya!

After the service everyone shook hands with everyone else in a line that seemed never longer and never as long we all left the building.

Our time among the Dorobo and Masai people that we visited was brief. Yet it led to a sense of privilege that we had visited the Lord’s people in a remote part of Kenya, had experienced their culture in an unaffected way, and had enjoyed experiences that may not be western people who travel to Kenya as tourists never have the opportunity to enjoy.

It was a striking reminder that the family of God includes people from all walks of life, from Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. Jesus Christ embraces all peoples, languages and cultures. It was also a reminder that we are not really “cherry picking” the Great Commission. The support should “all nations” that are to hear and obey the Gospel. The support should be to “all nations” that are to hear and obey the Gospel.

The Blessing of a Supportive Missionary

Our visit was also a good reminder that our own Presbyterian Church needs to take with ever renewed seriousness the fulfilment of the Gospel mandate. The Lord and Head of the Church does not give us the privilege of “cherry picking” the Great Commission. Nor does He intend for the Christian Church to operate on a business model. When it does it will fail. The Church is on a mission, and its mission is to send “into all the world” and support those whom the Lord sets apart “to make disciples of all nations”. The responsibility of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland is not only to pray for every Presbyterian in the world, but also to “all nations” that are to hear and obey the Gospel.

The Lord’s promise to Abraham was that “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Gen 12:3). By His “Great Commission” to “make disciples of all nations” the Lord has given the Christian Church the privilege and responsibility of spreading His gospel to all the nations.

There are several million Christians in Kenya. Some are with others of the Lord’s people, as its own. As we climbed up the western side of the Rift Valley, we had to argue with her sentiment. She was clearly see the dormant volcano of Mt El Donyo Eburru and Altitude Sicknes.

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The oldest in the room was 120

THE MOTHER’S Day luncheon held at St David’s Presbyterian Church North Toowoomba on 9 May featured “Cherished Memories”. A delicious two-course meal and items of singing and poetry entertained the appreciative audience.

The tables provided for this memorialia were arrayed with Mrs Potts iron, a lantern, embroidered doilies, historical articles and a beautiful porcelain faced doll named “Barbara”.

“Barbara” was created in Germany last century with a registered number and in most non-western cultures!” says Gordon. Young people recognize the wisdom gained through years of life experience and are keen to learn from those older in years.

Just after my retirement from the Presbyterian Synod of Syria and Lebanon, I was assigned the task of communicating with partners regarding the tragic Syrian situation, in how the church is ministering to the refugees and displaced.

Until the last two years Syria has been the most secure country in the Middle East. The Christian community worshipped freely and served the community as full citizens, never experiencing discrimination or denied rights that were common to all.

While Syria cannot claim to have been free from violence, the government, the security forces, and the congregations transmitted a message of peace and openness that never seemed to change. The people of Syria have been resilience.

However, all we wanted reform, more freedom and participation. All things that the Christians and the congregations had hoped for, were lost.

Syria has 22 million. Originally 15% were Christians; it is now about 8%. Christianity existed in Syria as far back as the early church. The majority of Christians are Orthodox. The Greek Orthodox Church and its denominations are found. The Protestant community is a minor one with the Presbyterian church being the largest. The tragic situation meant all Christian churches needed to work together.

It is a fact that there are about four million displaced within Syria and a million refugees in neighbouring countries, and they are in need of the basics.

We, as a Christian Synod, have had to make hard decisions. We have closed churches in Aleppo and in Homs and the congregations scattered.

We are trying to renovate old church buildings in Lebanon expecting Syrian Christians to flee there.

Syria has been described as the cradle of Christianity. Now we are afraid of having no future in Syria. We have been here for 2,000 years. Christian induced violence has been the rule of the game by all, but the Christians are only threatened by the rebels. Christians are told openly by rebel groups who have gained control in certain areas, that the options available to them if Islamic groups take over. Indeed they are afraid of having no future in Syria.

Somehow, it looks as if the whole world is against the people of Syria. In particular, some of these groups who have no idea what Syria is like in times of peace, and of course, they are paid and supported to do so.

Our cry is for peace, for justice, for the end of the suffering.

May God have mercy and forgiveness.

Many thanks to all who are concerned.

MM (on behalf of the Syriac Orthodox Church).
Multi-million dollar retirement living development commences at Corinda

CONSTRUCTION OF PresCare’s new retirement living community at Corinda started on Tuesday 7 May with a ceremonial ground-breaking event.

Minister for Housing and Public Works, Tim Mander, turned the soil on the $300 million Kingsford Terrace project that will provide premium accommodation to Queensland’s seniors and provide thousands of jobs.

Greg Skelton, PresCare’s CEO, said for over 80 years the site was home to Hopetoun, which provided independent living cottages and residential aged care services to tens of thousands of people.

“The site at Corinda has been an integral part of PresCare’s history; it represents our legacy of caring for people as they age,” he said.

“To move forward and to elevate the quality and type of care provided to people as they aged, rebuilding Hopetoun was not acceptable. PresCare wants to provide services that people want so they can stay in their communities.”

The new community, named after aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, will be home to hundreds of residents. Demolition is now complete, and early works commenced in May on the 10 year, six-stage development. The 68 stage one apartments are due for completion in 2015.

Mr Mander said housing the elderly was likely to be a significant challenge in the future which made developments like Kingsford even more important.

“The number of older households in our community is expected to almost double over the next 15 years”, he said.

This demographic shift means we, as a society, have to get serious about ensuring we have enough appropriate housing available, close to family, health services and other forms of support,”

Mr Skelton said the apartments will be fitted out with modern conveniences and with facilities such as cafes, games rooms, function rooms, cinema and an indoor pool.

“The heart of Kingsford is all about community and the assurance that somebody is always around if you need them”, Mr Skelton said.

Mackay tees off for charity golf day

ON SUNDAY 19 May local trades and businesses tee’d off at Black Springs Golf Course for the PresCare Woollam Constructions Annual Charity Golf Day.

With a goal to reach $25,000 for PresCare Mackay, players competed Ambrose-style.

PresCare provides in-home care services for the elderly and people with disabilities in Mackay.

CEO Greg Skelton said the day would not be possible without the committed support of Woollam Constructions, the dedicated volunteers and the local community.

“For over seven years now, PresCare has teamed up with Woollam Constructions to run this great event. We are grateful for their generosity and enthusiasm,” Mr Skelton said.

We had teams from local businesses including Mackay Solicitors, AE Smith, Dig It Landscaping and Demos Plastering.

“It was our biggest, best and most fun day ever. We look forward to next years’ one on Sunday 18 May”.

Future golf days will be held in Rockhampton (Sunday 4 August) and Brisbane (Saturday September).

For more details, or to register interest in future golf days, contact Kerry Cutting kecutting@prescare.org.au or 0478 881 463.

Couple recognised for giving to Queensland’s elderly

MARYBOROUGH COUPLE Coralie and Kevin Larsen have a lot of love to give – love for family, for each other and for their community.

It is their love of community that was recognised on Friday 26 April with a ceremony to present them with an Australian Government’s National Volunteer Award for 2012.

Coralie and Kevin will be presented with the award by Federal Member for Wide Bay, Warren Truss, for their volunteer services to Groundwater Lodge. The Larsens are an integral part of the PresCare Volunteer Program and were nominated for the award by Volunteer Manager Julie Hoffmann.

Kevin said Coralie is the heart of the volunteer work they do. “She loves giving, he said.

With four children, twenty grandchildren and one great grandchild, plus volunteering for the local motor home club, the Larsens are just doing what they love; content to be in the background giving something back.

Coralie said volunteering at Groundwater Lodge is their way of showing appreciation to Queensland’s older people. “It’s nice to do things that you know the residents look forward to. My mum lives at Groundwater Lodge so it is a pleasure to help”, she said.

One of Coralie’s passions is preparing the newsletter for the residents and staff.

“I research, produce and deliver the newsletter. The residents and staff look forward to it because I fill it with interesting anecdotes and jokes, really brightens the residents’ day.”

Coralie also cooks for the fundraising events and always produces 40 containers of slices and cakes to sell with Kevin as the ‘handyman’. “Kevin recently gave the planter boxes a fresh lease of life. The planter boxes will sit outside the dining room for everyone to enjoy”, she said.

Groundwater Lodge Service Manager Stephen Luptett, said Coralie and Kevin are an inspiration. “They give their time and provide an avenue for the residents to feel part of a family and the wider community”, he said.

Their selfless attitude brings laughter and stories to people who may not have an opportunity to leave the residential facility, because of frailty or health issues, to know about their neighbours.”

According to Myron Lichtenstein of Enviro Site Services there is not much on a building site that cannot be recycled.

Enviro Site’s latest job, demolishing PresCare’s Hopetoun facility at Corinda, saw the Brisbane-based company salvage and recycle 95% of the Corinda site, over four tonnes of bauxite and seven hundred kilograms of aluminium and aluminum and 120 tonnes landfill.

Myron said up to 80 per cent of construction waste is made up of discarded materials that are ideal for re-use or recycling.

“Recycling saves the earth’s resources and does make a big difference. For example for every one tonne of aluminium we recycled at the Corinda site, over four tonnes of bauxite and seven hundred kilograms of petroleum were saved. The flow on effect of that impact results in the prevention of associated emissions from entering our air,”

“Recycling demolition and construction sites also reduces the impact on our landfill sites”, Myron said.

A total of 10.0 million tonnes of construction and demolition (C&D) waste was generated in Australia in 2008-09. Of this total waste stream, 8.5 million tonnes was disposed to landfill while 10.5 million tonnes, or 55%, was recovered and recycled.

(Source: Recycling in Australia 2011 report.)

Kevin and Coralie Larsen

Tim Mander, Tammy Smith and Greg Skelton turning the soil at Kingsford Terrace.

For Community Services enquiries 1-800-773 722 or visit www.prescare.org.au

Mackay Tartan Triathlon

We had teams from local businesses including Mackay Solicitors, AE Smith, Dig It Landscaping and Demos Plastering.

A total of 25.0 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste was generated in Australia in 2008-09. Of this total waste stream, 22.5 million tonnes was disposed to landfill while 10.5 million tonnes, or 45%, was recovered and recycled.

For more details, or to register interest in future golf days, contact Kerry Cutting kecutting@prescare.org.au or 0478 881 463.

 faces the Glasgow team in the final.
**What’s on ...**

**Master of Arts in Theology at PTC**

Intensive week July 22 – 26 2013

Lecturer: Dr Guy P Waters

BA, MDiv, PhD

Author and Professor of New Testament at RTS, Jackson

![Image](https://example.com/ptc.png)

**TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES**

UNIT TO LET

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

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@pq.org.au or contact Church Office on 3251 4173.

**HELP FOR ARCHIVES**

WMPCQ @ Assembly

Guest Speaker - Fiona Millar

Sweet Talk

10 am Tuesday 25 June

Swimming Pavilion, Clayfield College

Morning tea ($6) and lunch ($8-50) available

All welcome *** no child care available

RSVP by 16 June on 0418 755 914

**BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE**

Dr. Vishal Mangalwadi

‘The Bible, Worldviews and Culture’

Dr. Frank Stootman

‘The Challenge of Atheism’

For more information and to register go to our website http://www.fireonthebluff.org.au

**COUNTERING GOD**

Holden onto Hope through all life’s journey

Heat from Jenny Satt, Dean of Students at the Sydney Theological & Bible College (STBC)

on how to keep counting on God through all of life’s journey from the book of Numbers.

www.qca.org.au
Transition from St Petersburg to Kandern

by Linda and Richard Buchanan

All I write this we are in “transition”, a subject that we have regularly taught on the orientation courses we have run in St Petersburg for the last four years.

We left St Petersburg in Russia by train on 8 February. After a weekend with friends and colleagues in Finland, we flew to the Netherlands to spend three weeks with experienced Dutch colleagues whom we had asked to help us in producing the new orientation course that we have been asked to head up.

After that we hired a car and drove to the south-west corner of Germany where we will be based for the next three years. Accommodation is scarce in Kandern. Our organization has an office there from which we will work.

We spent the first three weeks in a holiday unit in a village fifteen minutes out of town, while waiting for a studio apartment in the home of some Americans to become vacant. This too is temporary as we wait for another American family to return to USA in early July for a year, during which time we will rent the top floor of their home which has just been converted into a small apartment.

Between April and June we will be away for meetings in England, the north of Germany, and God willing, back in St Petersburg.

By the time we move to our permanent apartment, we will have been living out of our suitcases for five months. So it is rather a long transition.

Meanwhile, we are in a beautiful place in the Black Forest enjoying the company of our new colleagues.

In our move to Germany we have seen many instances of God going before us in working things out. We can’t help but praise Him and know where He wants us.

Leaving St Petersburg was not easy. In the last week, there were many farewells with tears on both sides. Farewells are not uncommon to us though, as we have trained each new group of people joining SIL’s work in the current and former Russian speaking parts of the world.

We would become very close to the participants, then we would see them off to their respective allocations. This is probably the hardest part of our job, but it comes with many blessings.

We are often reminded of Matthew 10:29, “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.”

Though we miss our own children and grandchildren immensely, we have been blessed to be adopted as parents and grandparents by many of our colleagues as well as our church friends in St Petersburg. So our church family was also hard to leave.

As part of an English speaking Home Group, we ended up having a Mum and Dad role with many of the young people in the group.

The Home Group was comprised of Russians and people from all over the world who had left families and friends to work or study in St Petersburg. We saw many grow in their relationship with God during their time there.

We did not fully realize the role we had played until our Home Group farewell, when there were many tears. We feel so privileged to be used by God to love and encourage these younger believers.

But in St Petersburg, there is freedom to share about the Lord and give them Scriptures. We took every opportunity that arose to make friends with these people and have them for meals.

It was the farewells with them that were the hardest because, as yet, despite their happy acceptance of printed materials and PDVs, we are not aware of any heart-changes.

We do know though that we have altered their understanding of what a Christian is, and we trust that our Lord will bring along others to build on that.

I am reminded of Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 3:6, “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase”. Please join us in praying for our friends.

In our new role, we won’t just be orientating new members going to the regions of the former Soviet Union, but also the new members of SIL who will be going into a much wider geographical area.

In addition, we have been asked to give some orientation to members of other organizations with similar goals to ours.

We obviously won’t be teaching them specifics of the regions they will end up in, so the course will be shorter than the ones we have been running.

But we have also been asked to ensure a location-specific orientation is being undertaken by colleagues in each of the regions.

At the end of June we are planning to run a pilot course for the various area coordinators so that they know what the new members are learning from us.

We then help them to formulate what they will teach for their part of the orientation process.

This is a team effort and we are relying on the combined experience of everyone to produce the best course.

We wish to thank all of you who have supported us and our family prayerfully and financially over the 21 years we have been with SIL. Without you, we would not have been able to do all that we have done.

May the Lord bless you richly for your sacrifices of time and finances.