Five years ago Mitchelton Presbyterian Church planted Village Church at the Queensland University of Technology in Kelvin Grove. Village Church’s mission and vision has always been to ‘Grow followers of Jesus in inner-city Brisbane’. It started with a core group of 30 adults and one child, and now has around 162 adults and 30 children (all under 8) who call Village Church their home. The adult age range is 17-45. There are around 17 Bible study groups meeting from Aspley to Hamilton to Annerley to Sherwood.
October/November 2014  

Jane McClintock  jane@mu.com.au  

By bringing and sharing items, jewellery, novelty tea cosies, felting, watercolour, acrylics and pastels, or bringing or friends to spend time together relaxing with crafts, perhaps learning new skills, there is an opportunity for a girls’ getaway, a mother-daughter weekend, or a chance for sisters to get together.  

The 2014 BE CREATIVE LADIES CAMP will be held from 31 OCTOBER to 2 NOVEMBER at Watson Park Convention Centre at Dakabin.  This is a wonderful opportunity for a girls’ getaway, a mother-daughter weekend, or a chance for sisters to get together.  

Dr Peter O’Brien : Oct 9:30 : Hebrews  

Dr Peter O’Brien is recognised as a leading New Testament scholar and has previously been the Vice Principal of Moore College, Sydney. He’ll be visiting QTC over two days to teach on the book of Hebrews.  

Colin Buchanan : Oct 10 : Children’s Ministry Conference  

Colin’s program will interweave God’s word with stories and memorable for kids and adults, without a doubt. Australia’s best-loved Christian children’s artist, Colin, has a proven track record for helping kids engage with Jesus in the Bible, so this is sure to be a valuable conference to attend.  

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

Briefly

USED STAMPS

WE CAN TURN YOUR USED STAMPS INTO MISSION SUPPORT  

The Presbyterian Women’s Missionary Union (P.W.M.U) is collecting stamps to support our missionaries. Stamps can be left at Church Offices, 35 Amelia Street, Fortitude Valley, Qld 4006 or call Carole on 07 3324 6309 or Margaret on 07 3285 6146 for other options or more details.

MODERATOR-GENERAL

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

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

Any charges wishing to make changes to their entry in the White Pages should contact Church Office on 3281 4100 or email churchoffice@pqg.org.au

UNIT TO LET

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

News from Northside

Rev Andrew Millson  

Northside Townsville is rapidly approaching its fourth birthday. So what’s been happening in the north’s newest church?  

Almost as good has been seeing a number of people reconnecting with church and strengthening their faith as a result. Having Northside meet locally in our community has been a real advantage in making this happen. We’ve also tried to be creative in the way we engage people with the Good News of Jesus, for example by surveyed people on their questions about Christianity and inviting them to come along to church to hear these topics spoken about. We’ve done this publicly through social media and radio, and privately through people surveying their family and friends. In addition to these things we’ve supported school chaplaincy, helped run a local after-school kids ministry, assisted with the Christmas carols surveying their family and friends.  

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Legends:

ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant support, develop, recogn...
During the past five years Village Church started to be involved in evangelistic efforts such as Gospel Theatre and Krosswerdz (Hip Hop Church). They are also involved in community outreach and carry on with their choir, conversational English to international students, religious community centre and a core group of people (10-15) to consider how we engage in a more coordinated way to be involved in social justice projects in Brisbane.

On Sunday, 17 August 2014, they celebrated its 10th anniversary with the baptism of members of the congregation who shared how their lives have been changed by Jesus; a talk by Pastor Derek Hanna from Colomans 2:9-10 reflections on the past five years; and to end the night, dinner at the Caxton Hotel.

The members baptised were Michael Jones, Soraya Hirth and Anshula Dang. “I never had any tough questions for God when I grew up,” says Michael, “It took until adolescence when I really came up with questions and it won’t be like this forever.”

Soraya Hirth says, “I was carrying a glimmer of what God must be like. I really want to thank God today for revealing Himself to me, forgiving me, and for giving me a place to rest.”

Anshula Dang says, “she felt like she was walking through life with a murky, muddy pair of glasses that made her feel really bitter with life. “I came to know God through His people,” says Anshula. “I was just curious why they weren’t pursuing the same things I was pursuing.”

“At Village Church I met incredibly lovely people who were flawed and didn’t pretend to be. It came as a breath of fresh air. I saw a real genuine side of people and it gave me a glimmer of what God must be like. I really want to thank God today for revealing Himself to me, forgiving me, and for giving me a place to rest.”

“Grace is the seed of glory, the dawning of glory in the heart - and therefore grace is the resolution of the future inheritance,” said Jonathan Edwards in his book ‘Religious Affections’.

According to Pastor Derek Hanna, “This is a quote that captures the beauty of the Village Church community - what God is doing through the people He’s put here, and the thankfulness I have for the future because of what I see.”
The FAQs: Persecution of Christians in Iraq

by Joe Carter
An editor for The Gospel Coalition, USA

The apostolic Christians understood what it was to proclaim the Gospel, and what it meant to bear the Roman political structures of power. For Paul and John healed the crippled beggar in Acts 3, there was a natural progression into a shameless proclamation of the Gospel. They presented a message based on effective, dramatic, and compelling effects of their message. Their application of the grace and power of the Holy Spirit changed the mind of the Roman authorities.

We in the modern West all too readily assuage our consciences by conceiving of the events described as a ‘stylized’ representation of the facts—too amazing to be true for us! We say, ‘Oh yes, that was the Apostles’ but most ordinary Christians didn’t do those kind of things, did they?’ But according to leading New Testament scholar Larry Hurtado, they did! Despite the common perception that the early Christians hid in the catacombs to avoid persecution, Hurtado argues the opposite.

Rather than hiding from the Romans, the early Christians met there to have meals, and remember and honor the dead (especially the martyrs). There was nothing secretive or covert about it. He also argues that early Christian apologists, such as Justin Martyr, addressed significant defenses of the faith directly to the Emperor, as well as members of the general public (e.g. Epistle of Diognetus).

Moreover, those writings were being produced at a time when tensions between Christians and the Roman government were heating up. This is more than just not being ashamed; it’s making an open declaration of faith for the sake of the Gospel. What we witness in the historical accounts of the early Christian church seems almost in lock-step with the apostolic promotion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of Salvation is a life-transforming message, with profound consequences for this life and the next. As the apostles found, life-transforming messages threaten those with a vested interest in lives not being transformed. Perhaps Paul was saying: ‘I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.’ 2 Corinthians 11:23-24.

Paul confidently asserts that he is unashamed of the Gospel, and states why. Romans 116: The Gospel is the power of God for salvation. However, this powerful message of salvation did not derive its ‘power’ from clever rational persuasion that drew on the conventions of rhetoric and eloquence. The power that animated Paul’s gospel was the same power that animated the proclamation of the other apostles – the Holy Spirit!

The same Spirit that enabled Jesus to be declared ‘with power’ the son of God by his resurrection is the proclamation of the other apostles – the Holy Spirit! The same Spirit that demonstrated the rise of the Gospel ministry because they knew the source of their confidence, do you?

Roland Lowther

The Levant

The Levant is an area of the Middle East that includes modern-day Lebanon, Syria, and Israel. It is named after the Latin word “Levant” because it was a region that was a ‘departure point’ for ships sailing to the East. The Levant was also a major center of Jewish civilization and culture.

The region has been a focal point of conflict throughout history due to its strategic location and rich natural resources. It has been the site of many battles and wars, and has been home to various cultures and civilizations.

In the context of the Levant, it is often referred to as the heartland of the ancient Near East, and it was a region that was a crossroads for trade and commerce.

The Levant is also notable for its cultural diversity, with a mix of Arab, Jewish, and Christian communities. It is a region with a rich history and a complex political landscape.

For the apostles, not being ashamed of the Gospel had to do with many other things besides their own ability to preach or debate, and more to do with the transforming message of the Gospel’s death and resurrection, and the power of the Holy Spirit to effectively unveil it to darkness and death.

The apostles were unashamed of Gospel ministry because they knew the power of the Gospel’s deliverance and transformative acceptance, to the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation. However, this powerful message of salvation did not derive its ‘power’ from clever rational persuasion that drew on the conventions of rhetoric and eloquence. The power that animated Paul’s gospel was the same power that animated the proclamation of the other apostles – the Holy Spirit! The same Spirit that enabled Jesus to be declared ‘with power’ the son of God by his resurrection (Romans 1:4), is the same Spirit that enabled Paul to give Galatians the courage and ability to announce the Good News to a hostile pagan world. Notwithstanding the content of the Gospel being Jesus Christ, in Romans 15:13-19 Paul ties the effectiveness of the message’s deliverance and transformative acceptance, to the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit.
Pray, Live, Serve .... but what about work and rest?

by Naomi Reed

Last month I was invited to speak at a church in Sydney on the topic of work and rest—and I said yes immediately, not because I knew what to say, but because I knew I needed to think about the concept of work and rest myself.

As soon as I heard the topic title, I thought about my own blurry blend of writing, speaking, parenting, connecting, nurturing, administrating, recreational activities and I wondered whether I had any kind of recognisable work and rest balance at all. Probably not.

So I started at Genesis and read my way through the first three chapters as well as Exodus 25, only to find myself feeling guiltridden.

God spoke and formed the heavens and the earth, in all their vast array, and then he rested on the seventh day. He made it holy. He formed mankind and the earth, in all their vast array, and it was good… until the fall, when toil also became wearisome, and yet, there was the same command. God’s people were to rest on the Sabbath day, keeping it holy, Exodus 20:1-11.

And since then, the debate about the Sabbath has continued—but I wondered about God’s rest. Was He tired? Was He enjoying his creation, in all its glory? In what ways did He rest? If rest is the absence of responsibility or the presence of choice, or the opposite of work, how did the Lord God rest? And how should I rest? How do you rest?

Perhaps the problem for me is that my writing tends to happen whenever it can. At the moment, I have a deadline to submit the final manuscript of my sixth book and at the same time I have talks to prepare and conventions to attend and emails to answer and three teenage sons to feed (and love) and a dog to chase and a house to maintain and a husband to adore and friends to meet and a Bible study to enjoy and The Zookeeper performance to rehearse—and now we’ve run out of rice so I need to go back to the shops and the washing has piled up in the laundry. And in the middle of all of that, my laptop sits in the living area and I try and pay enormous amounts of attention to my husband!

My work and rest boundaries can feel very blurry. Some days, hanging out the washing is rest and emails are work, but other days it’s the other way around.

Friends tell me that some days they’ll sit at the office and spend 20 minutes booking holiday accommodation or ordering bike parts and then other days they’ll sit at home and spend 45 minutes answering emails in front of the TV. Are we, as a society, getting bluer?

So I kept reading, quietly. The Lord said to the Israelites, “My presence will go with you and I will give you rest.” Exodus 33:14. He will give it to us... rest is a gift. And there’s more. “The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their forefathers.” Joshua 21:44. And then David prayed, “My soul find rest in God alone, my salvation comes from him”. Psalm 61:2.

Not only is rest a gift from God, but it’s also somehow a noun as well as a verb. At that point, I breathed out and felt that perhaps rest wasn’t about finding a new hobby or knitting pattern. He will give rest for our souls as we spend time with him. Jeremiah 6:16.

But then, there was more, so much more. In the New Testament, Jesus said to the crowd and the disciples, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28.

Jesus, carrying our burdens and all our fears and failures and guilt and unmentionable screaming took them to the cross to be dealt with forever. We can rest today (even in the middle of all of that) because of God’s redemptive work on the cross to be dealt with forever.

We have been given rest and one day we will enter that place of rest forever and it will be glorious and it will be God’s. Isaiah 11:10.

But perhaps we still need to wonder, How are we choosing to rest with God and be renewed today and next week and next year? Is it the kind of rest that allows us to listen to our own heart and God’s still, small voice to us, through His Word? Is it different for all of us amidst our contrasting roles and responsibilities and weekly patterns? Are there ways that we could change the rhythm in the days ahead to let God renew us in the ways He wants us to?

I’m still not sure, but I’m going to try go and make some more hummus and clean up the kitchen and turn on my favourite CD and keep reading Isaiah, and think about what it means to rest.
Melissa Powell to be Clayfield College Principal from 1 January 2015

The Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) has appointed Ms Melissa Powell as the new Principal of Clayfield College.

Melissa Powell, who is presently Principal of the International School of Western Australia, has been appointed as the new Principal of Clayfield College. Ms Powell will take up her appointment from 1 January 2015, ready for the new school year.

Ms Powell’s qualifications include a Master of Education, a Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Studies and a Bachelor of Education degree. Ms Powell has received numerous academic awards including the Heather Barr Memorial Medal as the top graduate in Education Administration in Western Australia in 1994.

Additionally, Ms Powell is a member of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA), the Association of Independent Schools in Western Australia (AISWA), the Australian College of Educators (ACE) and the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL).

Ms Powell is a committed and passionate educator with over 20 years’ experience in large, independent Uniting Church and Anglican girls’ boarding schools in Western Australia, including Penfolds College, Methodist Ladies’ College, St Mary’s Anglican Girls’ School and St Hilda’s Anglican School for Girls.

Ms Powell joins Clayfield College having worked in executive roles at St Hilda’s Anglican School for Girls, Western Australia, including Penrhos College (as Principal from 2010 until 2014) and Penfolds College (as Head of Middle School from 2003 until 2009, where she reported directly to the Principal).

Clayfield College School Chair, Mr Kevin Standish, described Ms Powell as an experienced Principal with a strong track record of setting high standards. “Ms Powell’s demonstrated success in raising academic standards while fostering a holistic approach to education will benefit the growth and development of Clayfield College students into the future,” Mr Standish said.

Ms Powell’s appointment follows the announcement of Mr Brian Savins’ retirement from the PMSA at the end of 2014 after eight years’ of significant service to the Clayfield College community. The process for selecting a new principal commenced in April this year and the PMSA Council was assisted by an executive search firm in a comprehensive national search to attract high calibre candidates. The field of applicants included some outstanding senior educators.

In announcing the appointment today, Des Robinson, Chairman of the PMSA, said, “Ms Powell’s experience in leadership positions at two Uniting Church schools, Penfolds College and the Methodist Ladies’ College, coupled with her strong interest in pastoral care and her Christian faith, aligns closely with the mission of both the PMSA and Clayfield College.”

Both Mr Standish and Mr Robinson are delighted to announce the appointment of a high calibre educator to lead Clayfield College into the future. We join the Clayfield College community in congratulating Ms Powell on her appointment and warmly welcome her into the school community.

Supporting Eagles Wings

My name is Natasha Johnson. I am a volunteer and an enthusiastic member of Eagles Wings. Since 1999, Eagles Wings has been working to educate and support underprivileged children and their communities in Ndola, Zambia.

Eagles Wings Australia (www.eagleswings.org) is a grassroots organisation that works to educate underprivileged children and their communities in Ndola, Zambia. It also supports adult education and has several community homes for children in need.

I have been involved with Eagles Wings since 2009 and had the privilege of visiting Zambia as part of a building team in 2011. Eagles Wings is infectious. It seems that once you’re involved, it completely captures your heart. I am involved in Eagles Wings’ work for several reasons, including their commitment to creating sustainable development, and their least intrusive’ approach to supporting and empowering the Zambian people.

Most importantly though, Eagles Wings loves people and loves God. All of the program’s work and support of Eagles Wings is motivated by love for the Zambian people.

Funds raised through my participation in Challenge Gold Coast will be specifically directed to building an adult education building at Eagles Wings. Having this building was the dream of the late Mrs Sarah Matolokoshi, a beautiful-hearted woman who so wonderfully led the adult-education program at Eagles Wings. I consider it a genuine privilege to be part of realising her dream.

PresAid: Uganda Water Project

Noel Thomas, Director of PresAID Uganda, reports that the Presbyterian Church of Australia’s 2013 PresAID Christmas giving has been put to good use in Uganda where the Ug-Buikwe solar-powered water project in the village of Nangunga on the shores of Lake Victoria is nearing completion.

Pipes have been laid spanning 1.2 kilometres, solar modules mounted, and a 10,000 litre tank installed. So far this community has been rated by the Community Development Officer as the most cooperative society. PresAID Uganda has worked with in solving their societal needs. A safe, sustainable water supply is now guaranteed for Nangunga.

Thanks to all the Presbyterians in Australia who contributed to the appeal.
Wendy: Hello Cecelia! It’s been a very long time since we last chatted here on Girl Talk (if you believe!), so perhaps I can re-introduce you with a couple of the roles you play in life and let you finish off the list on praying for the women that you believe say that you are a busy wife and mother, as well as... Cecelia: Wendy. Yes, a good man and mum to three great kids. At church I’m involved in my local church music team (and anything else I can help out with), member of the PCQ women’s ministry committee (WMPCQ) and I am a national level convenor in the Presbyterian Church. I am a Registered Nurse lecturing at a University in Brisbane and also a part of Women’s Ministries (W) aspired to be. I enjoy the challenge of shaping women’s ministry at a University in Brisbane and am a part of the leadership of the Presbyterian Church in the 90s. I have put together a survey that is looking to explore what is working and what is not working in Australia with the women who are involved in Women’s Ministries. Wendy: What I love about ministry in the church is that you have a genuine heart for encouraging women, but found it difficult to express this to women. Over the past 20 years, God has heard within the leadership of the church a genuine heart for encouraging women, but found it difficult to express this to women. Over the past 20 years, God has worked within the leadership of the church in Australia and so that they are able to freely express their hearts to women - irrespective of their roles or marital status - to grow, serve Jesus and be equipped to survive in this life. If I feel privileged to be involved in this, I must believe this to be true. And as I do, so I do. Wendy: What really has been a part of Women’s Ministries in Australia, as well as, how long has that been and who else have you worked with? Cecelia: I started in WMPCA when our local committee WMPCQ began on a consultation paper about women’s roles within the church in 2004. Our current national committee is a dynamic team and has representatives from around Australia (Margaret Thieberger (WA), Mairi Girgis (VIC), Vanessa Stoddart (NSW), Jem Stoddart (QLD) and I am the convenor. Andrea Pye recently led the convenor to the leadership role of encourager in the group (I guess a bit like a Chaplain). The women on this committee are humble, kind hearted and very helpful and are a pleasure to work with. The most difficult part is we are all volunteers and hold very busy personal lives.

W: What challenges might you see ahead of us? Cecelia: Hmmm, I think I was invited to join WMPCQ in 1998, so a little while now. The biggest highlight... that’s difficult. There have been many. Serving God in any opportunity I would say generally has brought me the most joy. The biggest highlight I would have to say is seeing a huge change in how the leadership of the Presbyterian Church demonstrate their encouragement of women. When I was a working, single woman attending the Presbyterian Church in the 90s, I found it quite awkward as I didn’t really look like a “normal” woman in the church. I didn’t fit into the normal roles of mother, wife, etc that women generally had within the church. I was outside the box! I was a single professional woman, but loved being in the family of the Presbyterian Church. But I have been very, blessed, as God led me to churches where the ministers and people in the church have been insightful and supportive. I believe that the leadership of the church had a genuine heart for encouraging women, but found it difficult to express this to women. Over the past 20 years, God has worked within the leadership of the church in Australia and so that they are able to freely express their hearts to women - irrespective of their roles or marital status - to grow, serve Jesus and be equipped to survive in this life. If I feel privileged to be involved in this, I must believe this to be true. And as I do, so I do.

W: What has been your biggest highlight? Cecelia: I think the future of women’s ministry is my biggest highlight! As a Presbyterian Church, we are all sinners in need of God’s grace and love and we should be working together. Wendy, What is the big thing that you would recommend to us? Cecelia: Everyone is welcome to attend Flourish 2015 in Melbourne! For all women involved in or wanting to develop women’s ministry in some way, and of course of encouragement of leaders to attend (and non-leaders too)!

W: What can you tell us anything about plans so far for the theme, topics, speakers, venue? Cecelia: A Melbourne committee is currently planning the details of the conference, including the theme and date, so when I know more I can let you know. Wendy, What are the rewards of seeing women ministering to other women? Cecelia: What’s been happening for you personally and in women’s ministries within your church and community? I trust that many will join us in prayer for a successful conference as well as abundant opportunities for Presbyterian women all over Australia to share the Gospel of Jesus and to encourage one another in the Word of God.
From the moment of his call to preaching in 1549, Knox firmly believed that to save Scotland and advancing the cause of biblical authority that Knox was preparing him for the great missionary work of the Reformation. He was not to be understood as an anti-Catholic Arch Damascus, but as a militant trumpeter, who was sent to usher a new era of spiritual awakening upon the world. Just as the walls of Jericho came crashing down upon the Israelites, so Knox was convinced that the false religious battlements of this world could be brought down only by the sound of the authoritative preaching of the Scripture. It was this high view of biblical authority that Knox committed himself throughout the end of his life to the fight for Protestantism's return to the Catholic Church. In this second article of our series that continues the account of Knox's life, we look at the years in which Knox was to be involved in the struggle for religious reform in Scotland. The reference to ‘weak labours’ at the end of this account is not to be understood as an act of worshipping the bread and indulging in the communion. The deeper Knox dug into the history of the Church of England, he saw more clearly the chasm between the true and false churches. The deeper he searched into the history of the Church of England, the more Knox realized that ‘in the days of old, when the king of England invited Marjory to worship the image of the Virgin, she kissed the idol, threw it overboard and cursed it, that it might be devoured by the waves’. The reference to ‘weak labours’ is not to be understood as an act of worshipping the bread and indulging in the communion. The deeper Knox dug into the history of the Church of England, he saw more clearly the chasm between the true and false churches. 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MISSION TO ALICE SPRINGS
CHRIST COLLEGE OUTBACK GOSPEL OUTREACH

During the second week of April this year, 8 students from Christ College, Sydney visited Keith and Jenny Bell in Alice Springs. Together they had the opportunity to do evangelical work, cold calls, Bible studies and outreach initiatives such as letterbox drops. Valuable opportunities for witnessing were gained through the students’ optimism and the students were able to immerse themselves in the Alice Springs’ way of life while getting to know the indigenous culture a little as well.

The area which we were originally responsible for was the largest ever covered by a PIM patrol. Its boundaries extended from a line from Forrest on the Transcontinental Railway, across to Kalbarri and then included all regions above, extending to and including the Kimberley. The patrol was massive in area and praise be to the Lord, so were the blessings. It took some twelve months to traverse and was the longest patrol in both time and distance ever carried out by PIM.

While on early patrol work, we visited many pastoral stations and Aboriginal communities. We were privileged to speak of our Lord and to render practical assistance in meeting local needs. Over time, this meant the commitment of donated and personal resources in the purchase of two vehicles for ministry, and to the supply of Bibles and other Christian literature, clothing and food. We are so appreciative of the generosity of Presbyterian congregations in Perth and right across Australia in this, for the many, many gifts which helped so much when on patrol over the years.

One Sunday morning we were at Laverton (in the Northern Goldfields) and found out that there was no worship service in town. We travelled to Mount Margaret Aboriginal Community (formerly the Mount Margaret Mission) in search of a church and were directed to a large corrugated iron building from which we could hear Aboriginal voices singing hymns. We got out of the LandCruiser and quietly walked in through the rear. The Pastor stopped the service and warmly welcomed us. We were the only white people in the congregation of about 30 people together and mandatory canines between the pews. This commenced a long relationship and I was invited to speak to the congregation on our many visits.

We had often used the caravan park in Mount Magnet (in the Murchison) as base for patrols. About five years ago funding for the Anglican Parish dried up, which meant that the church property was to be sold, thus removing organised Protestant Christian influence in the town and the huge region around Mount Magnet. Penny suggested to Stuart that the PIM should consider purchasing it, which would allow for the church to continue on and a PIM Patrol base to be established in the heart of the Mid West Patrol. The PIM agreed and at a very reasonable cost the property was acquired, with the Anglican Diocese of North West Australia also generously transferring their church building and property in Meekatharra (two hours north of Mount Magnet, in the Gascoyne) gratis to the PIM. The vision was to eventually develop another PIM Patrol base up there, to service the North West Patrol into the Pilbara and to the east into the ‘red heart’ of the continent. We agreed with the vision, but almost immediately (Bert) was affected by health problems which required two major operations. We were sure that God was saying “Yes you can go to Mount Magnet but there are a few things to take care of first.”

We knew something of the struggle that the Anglican Minister had in building a congregation. The main problems being that Mount Magnet has a transient population and that most townpeople generally feel that all is attainable by the strength of the human arm. We worked on building a congregation and gradually a small number of white and aboriginal people began to attend. Then things took off with a flourish and it was not unusual for meetings to be attended by 50 or more aboriginal people plus children. We took the opportunity to minister and there was much singing, praying and praising God.

This was often delivered from the back yard of the Manse through a loud speaker system which could be heard on the other side of town.

God had given the blessed opportunity to speak His word to these people for approximately 12 months. Then as quickly as it formed, the whole thing dissipated and people went in their various directions. We were bewildered and devastated as this happened and the biggest quandary and question for us was “why?” There was no easy answer. It can simply turn out that way and as Christians, we should just be thankful that we could touch those lives. We continued to do patrol ministry and conduct church services. We prayed for Aboriginal ministry but did not see how any future situation would come about. The Aboriginal community continued to use us to conduct weddings and funerals.

When we first came to live at Mount Magnet, Penny had started a ministry with children, giving an icy-pole in summer and a biscuit in winter to all children who knocked at the Manse door. This gave opportunity for a dialogue with the children whereby Penny could speak about good manners and standards, as well as giving invitations to attend Sunday school to learn about the Lord Jesus. Some aboriginal women continued to meet with Penny in a ladies bible group. Penny was also invited to speak and in one talk she spoke on the topics of “The Significance of women at Easter” and “The Crowning Qualities of Womanhood”. The ladies enjoyed both talks and later requested copies.

Then in early 2013 I received a phone call from George Taylor an Aboriginal Pastor of NSW. He said...
MUNGO PATROL MORROWS SENT FORTH

‘May the people praise you, O God, May all the peoples praise you.’ (NIV)

On Friday 7 March members of the Sunraysia Presbyterian Church, and representatives of the Presbytery of North Western Victoria, the wider PCV and the PIM met together for the commissioning of Colin and Alison Morrow to parish and patrol.

The service of commissioning was led by Rev. Phil Burns (Presbytery Moderator) and Elder Tony Zimigast (Clerk of Presbytery and elder at the Sunraysia congregation). Rt. Rev. Andrew Bray (representing the PCV Moderator), Mr. Denis Wright (representing the PIM Committee), Rev. Mark Smith (representing the PIM Superintendent and preacher for the service), Mr Mike Timmins (PIM Office Manager) and Rev. Dr Robert Carner (PCV Ministry Development Director) were in attendance joining with the Sunraysia people for this significant event for Colin and Alison, the congregation and the Mungo Patrol.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” – Isaiah 6:8

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Darwin: Sunday 10am Korrina College, Kimberley
5pm Palmerston Library, Rob Duncan 08 8934 7878

VIEWs BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE CENTENARY VOLUME STILL AVAILABLE

To commemorate the founding of AIM in 1912, Stephen Dyer was commissioned by the PIM to bring together a collection of historical and contemporary photographs in a large format full colour book entitled VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE

Stephen was selected because of his photographic skills and his personal commitment to the PIM. Over the years he has visited sites of historical significance to the PIM as well as travelling through various Patrol areas. Stephen currently serves as an elder of the Karang Presbyterian Church. In addition to the magnificent photographs, VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE contains an historical account of the work of the AIM and the PIM written by Stuart Bonnington. Stuart has done research in church history, with a special focus on the place of the Presbyterians in the Australian story. Stuart combines being the Superintendent of PIM with ministry at the Scots Church in Fremantle.

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

To overcome the founding of

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M:)

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T o  w o r k  b e t w e e n  t h e  A N Z A C  D a w n  S e r v i c e  a t

S t e p h e n  w a s  s e l e c t e d

B e c a u s e  o f  h i s  p h o t o g r a p h i c  s k i l l s  a n d

H a s  v i s i t e d  s i t e s  o f  h i s  t o r i c a l  s i g n i f i c a n c e
to t h e  P I M  a s  w e l l  a s

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With great thanks to Almighty God from previous page that they had received a calling to come to Mount Magnet and minister to Aboriginal people. George is an Aboriginal man of the Badima tribe which is of the Yamatji tribal area which includes Mount Magnet. He is married to Kate who is medically qualified in the areas of women’s and children’s health. They arrived in town in June 2013. They joined our Wednesday night Bible Study at the Marsue and showed themselves to be devout, long standing Christians. George wanted to commence a Yamatji congregation. While not part of the PIM, we were pleased to encourage the Yamatji congregation in a number of ways. We are delighted and thankful for George and Kate and for their stable Christian leadership for Aboriginal people of this area.

For some years I have officiated at the ANZAC Dawn Service at Mount Magnet. Last year I instigated wreaths being laid for Padres and Aboriginal ADF personnel who had served at times of war. This year I invited George to join me and participate in the delivery of the ANZAC message. As we mark the end of ten years of PIM patrol and church work, we look back and are very thankful for so much ministry to so many people and to see the Lord’s Spirit so clearly at work! To Him be all the glory and praise!

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

Dili, the capital city of Timor Leste, was the venue for the latest step in the partnership between Australian Presbyterians and the church in Timor Leste. A training workshop for about 30 local church leaders was held in the new church building in Dili on 9-13 June 2014. These workshops are proving to be an encouragement and help for attendees. Many of these leaders have limited training and most work in isolated and deprived settings.

Peter Burke (SIM Nigeria) led sessions on church finance and administration, assisted by Alex Rahston (APWM National Committee Treasurer), Dave Bell (Cornerstone Church, Concord) gave brief sessions on discipling ministry and the prayer life of a leader. David Burke (Christ College Sydney) spoke on Mark’s Gospel and preached at a public service. Alex and Peter had pre-conference meetings with Synod leaders and Dave Bell stayed an extra week to investigate local mission possibilities. It was a first for brothers David and Peter Burke to minister together like this.

The new buildings were a great venue for the training. They are part-funded by Australian Presbyterians through PresAID, along with significant help from the Timor Leste government. When the full suite of buildings is completed later in 2014, the Dili church will be well-equipped for its own ministries. The buildings will also be a great venue for such events as the training ministry.

Where does the training go now? For several years we have run an annual workshop focussed around Christian character, Biblical and theological knowledge, and ministry skills. It seems timely to develop these workshops into a more systematic programme to train existing church leaders. Plans are underway to hold a consultation on ministry training later in 2014, with a view to significant enhancement in coming years.

DILI DELIGHT TIMOR LESTE TRAINING JUNE 2014

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In recent years APWM has focussed its partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu at the Talua Ministry Training Centre. Over the years we have seen a variety of Australians serving at Talua – Ian & Jenni Smith, Beryl Burke, Norah Taylor, Robert & Pam McLean, Darrell & Margaret Thatcher, Chris & Leah Balzer, Philip & Sandra Burns, Andy & Rosemary Williamson and Glen & Rachael Connor. In addition, there have been many Australians who have taught short courses. What a privilege to be in such a partnership!

**BACHELOR OF MINISTRY HOUSING**

**PRAYER AND FINANCE Response Form**

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Please indicate how regular your payment will be:
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Four Ways to Give
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Please write your name and the surname of the missionary you are supporting in the description box. Please also email finance@apwm.org.au telling us that you have made a deposit and provide the name of the missionary that you are supporting.

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**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROMOTE MISSION IN YOUR CONGREGATION?**

A Mission Prayer Slot in Church

Our congregations typically set aside time for prayers of adoration/confession and intercession. Why not have a specific time to pray for mission — local and overseas? Select some local mission activities such as school scripture — your church’s Kids’ Club or playgroup — an upcoming evangelism event or perhaps the next event of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. Pray for one of these each week as well as praying for one of the missionaries associated with your congregation. If your church uses a data projector then you could put up a photo of the missionary and perhaps give a very short update on the missionary.

**A Macedonian Call**

Eighteen months ago, high school teachers Brian and Judy Cullen left their retirement to travel to Vanuatu to teach at the Tata Secondary School in Vanuatu. They have had to work through various obstacles — cultural communications, a lack of electricity, separation from family etc. — but they are finding it immensely rewarding. Brian and Judy will finish at the end of the year and the school would like APWM to replace them.

This raises a bigger issue. When Independence came to Vanuatu in 1980, the Church gave many of its schools to the Government. However, this has had a negative impact as secular values have led children away from Christ. The Government now has plans to hand a number of schools back to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. This means that the Church now has to prepare for the challenge that this will bring. We have been asked if we could do as we have done in the past and send Christian teachers to help shape the next generation of young people for Christ. Teachers don’t just teach information, they model what it means to follow Christ. Is this something that God is leading you to consider?

**VANUATU: POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Theological Lecturer at Talua Ministry Training Centre

Late 2015/early 2016. Qualifications • Master’s degree in a theological discipline, preferably a research Master’s degree + pastoral-evangelistic experience + cross-cultural experience (preferred)

Head Teacher English for Academic Purposes
Late 2015/early 2016. Qualifications • Master’s degree in Teaching English for Academic Purposes or equivalent + experience in teaching.

Primary and Secondary Teachers: Various Locations

From 2015 onwards Qualifications • academic qualifications appropriate to the area being taught + professional accreditation

Please note that all positions require the raising of partnership support.

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**NEW DIRECTIONS**

October/November 2014
3 Ways to Pray for Our Enemies
by Joe Carter
An editor for The Gospel Coalition

“If you’ve ever wondered why many people feel free to offer us advice during His earthly ministry, you have to look no further than that verse.”

1. Pray for their conversion

There are two primary reasons we don’t pray for the conversion of Islamic extremists. The first reason is that we are not commanded to love and pray for our enemies. The second reason is that we fear they might turn evil.

But how do we do that? How should we pray for those who are engaged in persecution against those who are engaged in persecution against us? Here are three specific ways we can pray for our enemies.

1. Pray they will be restrained

There is no praying in vain for the good of our enemy and praying against them (the only thing that is to their benefit as well as ours that they be prevented from committing more evil.

For those who have hardened their hearts against God, we should pray for better that their life was shortened than for them to continue to persecute their children.

2. Pray the evil they do may be restrained

There is no praying in vain for the good of our enemy and praying against them (the only thing that is to their benefit as well as ours that they be prevented from committing more evil.

For those who have hardened their hearts against God, we should pray for better that their life was shortened than for them to continue to persecute their children.

3. Pray they will receive divine justice

This article first appeared on 14 August 2014 On The Gospel Coalition website. Used with permission.
An exciting new chapter began in August with the first Queensland Theological College (QTC), North Queensland class held in Townsville at Willows Presbyterian Church.

There were 18 students from 5 different churches enrolled in a class called 'Principles of Interpretation', taught by QTC Principal, Gary Millar.

Over three days the enthusiastic students examined the importance of history, literature and biblical theology when reading the Bible and began to learn how to communicate the message of any text in the context of the flow of the whole Bible.

They were equipped to understand how the whole World of God fits together, how Jesus Christ is the key to all the Scriptures and to approach the task of interpreting any part of the Bible.

It was a terrific introduction to the ‘Back to Basics’ unit and one that all theological college students at QTC undertake at the beginning of their course.

For most of the students this was the first unit of study undertaken towards an entire accredited course such as the Graduate Diploma of Divinity or the Diploma of Theology and they are looking forward to more!

The class days were very full with much to learn, but comments from students ranged from ‘excited’ to ‘refreshed’, with the majority of students now anticipating their next unit on Jesus and the Gospels to be taught in the first semester of 2015.

Holding theological classes in North Queensland is an initiative QTC has been working towards for a number of years. The Committee on Ministries Training along with the staff and students of QTC in the southeast were thrilled to have North Queensland students join the QTC family, to share the privilege of being fellow workers, teaching, learning and training together so that the Gospel may go out.

QTC is committed to serving people in this part of the State by continuing to offer units of study in intensive face-to-face mode, making it possible for students to complete one of the shorter qualifications, such as the Graduate Diploma of Divinity or the Diploma of Theology, entirely in North Queensland.

This first class was just the beginning of what the College hopes to be a vibrant centre for learning and equipping people for Gospel ministry.

Students and Staff delve into Ezekiel

by Annette McGrath

The month of August saw an unprecedented line-up of guest speakers dropping in to QTC to speak to students and guests.

It started with Kathleen Nelson who spoke at the weekly Window on the World session about her work as Director of Women’s Initiatives for The Gospel Coalition.

Kathleen also spoke at a day conference ‘Dazzled by Grace’ for women hosted at the Brisbane Convention Centre, where about 400 women came along to hear her speak on the Psalms.

Dr Michael Horton, who lectures in systematic theology and apologetics at Westminster Seminary, California, gave us a preview of his yet-to-be released book 'Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World'. He then took questions on a wide range of topics.

To finish the month off we had Matt Chandler, lead pastor of The Village Church in Dallas, Texas, come to speak to the students and invited guests at QTC. Matt is the president of the Acts 29 Church Planting Network.

He spoke about his experience starting at a church with 160 people which has now grown to over 12,000 at a number of sites.

Matt also spoke at an evangelistic event ‘Proclaim Jesus’ at the Brisbane Convention Centre where 1000 people attended.

It has been a real treat for students to have access to these high-calibre speakers, and though it made for a busy month it was well worth it.

Faith in a Radical, Restless World’

by Naree Keighley

October/November 2014

QTC’s Lecturer in Old Testament, Tony Pyles, enjoyed a day being a ‘student’ again when Prof Daniel Block came to teach on Ezekiel. Here’s what he had to say about the one day conference.

One of my greatest joys as a teacher is sharing my passion for the Old Testament with students. There is something about the slow change from confusion to delight, the transition from folded arms to hands bent down over the text, that makes teaching an exciting privilege.

A month or so ago, I got a great reminder of what it’s like on the other side of that transformation.

At the end of July, a humble but passionate man who loves Jesus, loves the church, and loves the Bible came to QTC to teach us about this strange book called Ezekiel. That man was Prof Daniel Block. Though he was here to teach a Master of Arts class, the Monday was open to anyone, so the room was full of students, pastors, and a number of interested lay people.

I believe I’m not the only one who left at the end of the day feeling like this strange and wonderful book ought just be my favourite!

Prof Daniel Block, who teaches Old Testament at Wheaton College in the US, has written commentaries on Judges, Ruth, Obadiah, Deuteronomy and Ezekiel. He’s a recognized name and does fine work, but there’s only so much you can tell about a person from what they write.

What he shared with us at QTC that morning, and with some students over the course of a whole week, was not just insight and information, but a transforming passion: passion for Jesus, passion for the Bible, and passion for seeing challenging and strange parts of God’s Word do their transforming work in His people.


by Peter Barnes

Francis Nigel Lee (1934-2011) was one of those larger than life characters who appears every so often. For a start, he took up more than the usual amount of space in the Australian Presbyterian Yearbook as it listed his ten doctors.

Raised by his atheist father and Roman Catholic mother, he was converted to the Reformed faith in a goldmine explosion in South Africa in 1955.

Coming to Queensland to teach theology, Professor Lee made an impact on the wider Presbyterian Church of Australia as well as returning to some parts of the world, notably the USA and South Africa. He was particularly prominent in the 1991 decision of the General Assembly of Australia to admit women to the pastorate. For this he was sued, along with Dr Allan Harman and Elder John Mill.

In 2004 his aged father was attacked by an intruder in his home, and died as a result of his injuries. Lee was able to visit the guilty man, and presented him with the Gospel of free grace in Jesus Christ. He responded warmly to this, and the correspondence between the two men is reproduced here. It reveals that Dr Lee was more than simply a talking head. He was a man of passion and love, wanting to win souls. He was a builder and a theologian but also a warm-hearted evangelist.

One need not agree with everything he wrote on the book of Revelation or the details of theonomy to welcome this biography of an extraordinary man.

This article first appeared in New Life on 1 September 2014. Used with permission.

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Cross Cultural Mission - Army Chaplaincy

by Rev Dan Cassidy

When I think of missions I often think of overseas missions. I think of the long running involvement that the Presbyterian Church has had with the Bible College in Talua, Vanuatu. I think of the Evan’s Eight in Japan and the Bible College in Talua, Vanuatu. I think of the Presbyterian Church has had with overseas missions. I think of the Presbyterian Church has had with overseas missions. I think of the Presbyterian Church has had with overseas missions. I think of the Presbyterian Church has had with overseas missions. I think of the Presbyterian Church has had with overseas missions.

Yet apart from our mission to those within the communities around our church, we have an amazing opportunity to do cross cultural mission right here in Australia. You guessed it, the 80,000 men and women that serve in our Defence Force need to hear the Good News about what Jesus has done for them and Defence sees fit to ensure that this happens. The typical Aussie bloke may appear a little rough and a little tough to crack. But my experience has been that once you crack that nut there’s a soft kernel inside. So too with soldiers. They are spiritually hungry.

When challenged about the great truths of the Gospel and the emptiness of their own lives many respond for the first time in faith.

From an Army perspective, most soldiers enter service through the Army Recruit Training Centre (ARTC) Kapooka. Kapooka is ‘the home of the soldier’, the place where every enlisted soldier receives his/her induction to army life. But often it’s also the first place that soldiers will experience what church is like, having never attended or grown up in a church before. And first impressions count. From that first experience of church at Kapooka, some fall away but many continue in their new found faith.

Chaplains play an important part in this process because as missionaries to another culture (if you haven’t guessed, the Army has a culture all of its own) they serve as the conduit for soldiers to consider their belief system, worldview, and the reality of death - their own and others - and ethical decision making at home and on operations.

There is a great hunger for the Word of God. We need chaplains that are proactive, passionate and able to communicate God’s truths effectively to another culture. Chaplaincy shouldn’t be seen as a second calling, an easy alternative to parish ministry, but as a first calling to cross-cultural mission whereby we get paid for the privilege of sharing about God’s promise of eternal life for those who believe.

If you think you’re up for the challenge, love sharing the Gospel, and remaining physically active, please speak with one of our Defence Force Chaplains to find out more.

Scripture Union Caloundra Chaplaincy Fundraiser

On the last Saturday in July a team of members from the Caloundra congregation hosted an all day fundraiser for the Scripture Union Caloundra Chaplaincy outside the local Bunnings Warehouse.

For part of the day the team was joined by two of the local chaplains, Di Menz from Currumbin State School and Craig McMillan from Caloundra State School.

Bunnings has a national programme to support local community charities by providing all the gear necessary for a barbecue, including tents and even the ‘kitchen sink’. The charities only need to provide a team of people to run the barbecue, and enough sausages, bread, onions and drinks to last the day.

A wide range of local charities take part in these fundraisers from surf life saving clubs to service clubs, and now a local Presbyterian Church.

The whole day was busy, but as might be expected business picked up during mid-morning and was constant until early afternoon.

Altogether our team was able to raise over $3,500 from the sale of sausages and drinks.

Our thanks go to the local IGA store which provided the sausages without charge, and to Coles for the provision of about twenty dozen cartons of soft drink at a reduced price.

We also wish to thank Mr Howard Montgomery who provided a friendly face as Community Co-ordinator on behalf of Bunnings in Caloundra.

I was in prison and you: did / did not (circle applicable) visit me - Jesus. (Mt 25:40)

Do you want to see lives transformed by Jesus? Do you want God to use you as a vessel of His grace?

If you think you’re up for the challenge, love sharing the Gospel, and remaining physically active, please speak with one of our Defence Force Chaplains to find out more.

Rev Dan Cassidy serves as Chaplain to The First Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment in Townsville and is a member of Willows Presbyterian Church.

www.guyhousebnb.com.au    email:  nohlmans@dodo.com.au

31 Guy Street, Warwick    07 4661 7669  or  0416144070

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Leave stress behind and pamper yourself in this beautiful old Bed & Breakfast, circa 1880. Accommodation has own entrance, own bathroom and is very private from the rest of the house. Being right in the heart of the Warwick CBD you will be close to all amenities.

Accommodation has own entrance, own bathroom and is very private from the rest of the house. Being right in the heart of the Warwick CBD you will be close to all amenities.

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Lynda returning to the office from her last Assembly

When I commenced work with the Presbyterian Church of Queensland 27 years ago, the plan was to stay for two years while I completed a Grad Dip in Second Language Teaching. Three years previously I had left Commercial Teaching at Mt Gravatt State School to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Queensland. Never did I expect to be here 27 years later; nor that this would be my job from which I retired. But I had determined early in my life to live in obedience to God and to trust Him in whatever circumstances I found myself. So this has been quite a journey and this is the place He chose for me to learn the lessons He had to teach me.

My first position was as Secretary to the Director of Home Ministry and Christian Education from 1987 to 2004. In all those years, I remember twice – for 15 minutes – having caught up on all my work. It was an extremely busy time with a lot of responsibility. Many volunteers helped out in the work and it was fun working with them.

Circumstances changed and in 2004, I moved to the position of Secretary to the Clerk of Assembly and Editor of New Directions. Even then there were extreme busyness with computerisation and extra staff, the job was varied and the combination of legal and creative aspects kept it interesting.

Highlights (in no particular order) have been time spent at Assembly (meeting ministers, elders, missionaries, Church members, representatives from entities associated with the Presbyterian Church and para-organisations), the early Assembly dinners, compiling New Directions, quiet chats about life, doctrine and the direction of the Church, friendships I have made, and learning about a denomination and how it functions.

Any achievements are bound up with what I have learnt along the way. All the publications I spent hours helping compile in the 90s - Vacation Bible School workbooks and craft packs, OHP sets, study books etc - have all gone. It was fun doing them but they no longer exist.

What I have achieved is that I know that God is faithful and that no matter how bad things get, He is worth holding on to. Forgiveness is essential for you to move on in life - harbouring resentments and disappointments destroys who you are and what you can give. God is the One who changes things in His time and it is Ok if He doesn’t change things - He gives you the strength and courage to go through them. And as in the words of the chorus, I know that ‘God’s love never gives up on me’ and His purpose is to make me more like Christ.

These have been valuable lessons (some harder to learn than others) but I am so grateful to have left here whole and contented. I’m not sure what the future holds but I’m certainly excited about the next stage of my life. Parents who need care and help, family and friends I love spending time with, travelling, gardening, reading, making photos, family tree research, ways I can help my own church, helping speak in the Presbyterian archives, movies, sewing, voluntary work, the community are all ideas I have.

But I want to take three months out to decide what, where and how and maybe God has totally different plans.

I always found Ecclesiastes depressing when I was young, but looking back now I can see great wisdom in the last two verses:

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14

Lynda leaving with her presents

Farewell Lynda Rackley...

Introducing Paul and Elaine

[NB This article and photo should not be reproduced on any social media, email or website without removing Paul and Elaine’s surname and photos. So If you are an email or website subscriber...]

While at Sydney Missionary and Bible College during the 90s God gave us a heart for missions. After graduating, Paul went on to serve Home Missionary with the Presbyterian Church of Queensland for 12 years while Elaine looked after their growing family and later worked as a nurse/midwife in the various local hospitals where they lived around the state. The family of five is now grown up and we are grandparents to eleven lively youngers.

When Ruth, our oldest daughter, and her husband, Dave went to China with International China Concern (I CCC) as a couple, I was very excited. The couple became members of a short term mission team – just to see what they were doing and to be able to share with folks at home first-hand knowledge and experience.

Whilst we spent time with disabled and abandoned children, and their carers at the ICC centre at Hengyang our hearts were touched. We became acutely aware that Australian children who need special care and therapy can have such ready access to these services whereas the odd counterparts in China are not so blessed.

Returning home was difficult. Returning to China and backpacking through their world as we bring them the love of a wonderful Father with the help of the Holy Spirit and other parts from other parts of the world.

Now we are flying towards the day when we can be with them, to encourage, to share some life with them in our own church, helping to lay the foundations of a ministry that will support the Church and para-organisations, the associated with the Presbyterian Church and para-organisations,(

What are you closest to? The Christian Ministry? by Thomas Newtson

The first two books put the immensity of God in front of me. They are like a warm blanket to my soul. Level 1 modules have always had a deep effect on my emotions. They profoundly stir my affections for God.

What books have most profoundly shaped how you serve as a Christian? by Charles Bridges and‘Christian Eldership’ by Alexander Strauch have helped shape how I lead and serve others.

What biographies or auto-biographies have most influenced you? ‘Bonhoeffer’ and ‘Amazing Grace’ by

On My Shelf: Life and Books with Matt Chandler

by Matt Smurch

Associate Editor for The Gospel Coalition

The Chronicles of Narnia

A Season on the Africa Shaped the Christian Mind

The Chronicles of Narnia

The Chronicles of Narnia

The Chronicles of Narnia

Life and Books with Matt Chandler

New Directions

NEW DIRECTIONS

October/November 2014

On My Shelf is a series which helps you get to know various writers through a behind-the-scences glimpse

What’s on your nightstand right now?

I’m reading ‘A Season on the

What are your favourite fiction books?

I don’t read a lot of fiction

What biographies or auto-biographies have most influenced you? ‘Bonhoeffer’ and ‘Amazing Grace’ by

What are some books you regularly re-read and why?

‘Knowing God’ by John Piper and ‘Desiring God’ by John Piper

What’s your All-time Favourite Bible verse?

Ecclesiastes 12:13,14

Soldarity Sunday

Local congregations may consider a retiring offering to be given to APWM for those working in the sensitive area of Middle East Reformation Fellowship (MERF www.merf.org).

This gives Christians in our relatively safe and secure Australia, the opportunity to pray for and stand with our brethren, especially in the Middle East, who are enduring dreadful persecution because of their discipleship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunday, November is also the International Day of Prayer for the persecuted churches to be held especially to pray for persecuted Christians and other religious minorities suffering in the Syria-Iraq crisis.

The Lobby will also be producing a short video, this will be available at www.acl.org.au. This video is a visual demonstration of solidarity and may also be purchased.

The Australian Christian Lobby, in consultation with churches throughout Australia has set aside Sunday, November 2nd as Solidarity Sunday.

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Imagine you became very sick and couldn’t talk to your doctor about your treatment.

One of the hardest situations for a doctor is to be called to a person with a critical illness, when there is no plan in place. Some people may be suffering from a chronic illness which has made their quality of life poor, others whose quality of life may have been good right up to this sudden illness.

The doctor faces the challenge of deciding whether to start invasive medical care and intensive care, without knowing if the client would want this.

Advance Care planning is a process that helps you plan your medical care in advance so if you become too unwell to make decisions for yourself, your wishes can still be respected by your health care team and your family.

Having a nominated Enduring Power of Attorney and an Advance Care Plan (or an Advance Care Directive) allows you to plan ahead of time, to determine what you would normally have wished and communicate this to your family. This can be done in writing or verbally.

When selecting someone to be your attorney, it’s important to choose someone whom you can trust, who knows you well and is willing to respect your views and values and who is able to make decisions under circumstances that may be difficult or stressful. They must be over 18.

You can complete an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) yourself but you may wish to first consider talking to your solicitor, the Public Trustee, financial planner, or others who can give you professional advice tailored to fit your circumstances.

The Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) form can be obtained from your local newsagent or through the QLD Government/Adult Guardianship website.

1. Completing an Enduring Power of Attorney (personal/health matters)

This is a legal document that enables you to appoint another person to make personal/medical treatment decisions on your behalf.

Over 50,000 Brisbane seniors are among an increasing number of Australians at risk of depression and early death due to social isolation, identified as one of the most serious mental and physical health risks facing the nation.

PresCare, alongside social inclusion initiatives for the elderly, has made social isolation and its associated consequences of loneliness, withdrawal and depression, its priority. John says.

PresCare believes people live more enriched and fulfilling lives when they are connected to care services, their families and their communities.

As you know, PresCare is a Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland and has been supporting the elderly and most vulnerable in our communities for the last 25 years.

PresCare Director of Chaplaincy, John Gilmour says that many generous donors during the Palm Beach Christmas Appeal, PresCare raised half of its $50,000 target. The support of congregations for the 2014 Chaplains’ Appeal, as well as that of suppliers and clients of PresCare, means that PresCare has now moved $2,000 closer to their goal.

Funds raised at the event reached almost $47,000 and will go directly towards research and developing social inclusion initiatives for the elderly.

“Older Queenslanders who stay in their own homes, often alone, are most at risk of social isolation and its impacts”, John says.

“As our population ages and seniors make up a greater proportion of our communities, we are likely to see more and more people at risk of social isolation. PresCare is commissioning significant research projects into social isolation and the money raised at the Charity Golf Classic will help PresCare develop programs to reconnect lonely people in the local community.”

PresCare believes in providing more than just physical care

PresCare clients enjoying one of the Kawana Friendship Group outings

Our dedicated team across Queensland provides friendship and care to thousands of individuals through our residential, community, independent living, allied health and chaplaincy services.

Different levels of care are designed to meet the varying needs of our clients while maintaining their independence, dignity and connection to the broader community.

For more information about our range of services, visit www.prescare.org.au or call us on 1800 773 722.
KINGSFORD TERRACE

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

Premium retirement apartments from $458,000.
Call 1300 287 672 to view our display suite or visit kingsfordterrace.com.au

Grindley Construction to Build Stage One of Kingsford Terrace

PresCare announced the appointment of Brisbane’s Grindley Construction as the building contractor for stage one of Kingsford Terrace, the organisation’s $100M retirement living development, at an event on Thursday, 28 August.

Kingsford Terrace is on the site of the former Hopetoun Aged Care and Independent Living Facility in Corinda, which has been part of PresCare for 85 years.

The new community, named after aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, will be home to 200 residents, with the 34 stage-one apartments due for completion in 2015. The development is the first premium retirement living village in Brisbane’s inner west and will be an integral part of the Corinda community.

PresCare Chief Executive Officer Greg Skelton said, “Grindley Construction has an excellent reputation as a builder of retirement living facilities, and has won a number of Master Builder Association Awards over the years including this year’s Excellence in Housing Award for BallyCara in Scarborough.

“PresCare was seeking a partner in this build, not just a contractor,” he said. “This is a project which has been dear to the heart of all of our Board and Executive Team for several years now. We are confident Grindley Construction are as dedicated to our vision as we are.”

Grindley Construction has a 25 year history of creating innovative projects in a broad range of sectors including aged care, retirement, commercial, education and health. With more than 300 properties added to their portfolio in that time, their experience in retirement living and aged care has seen them add more than 35 retirement living developments across Queensland and New South Wales.

Also at the event in August, Kingsford Terrace Ambassador Mike Munro inducted a number of future residents into the Pioneer Club. They each received a memento highlighting their loyalty to the development and membership of this prestigious club. Once the Southern Cross Community Centre is complete, they will see their names inscribed on a plaque in the centre.

New e-Book Resource!

TRUTH Matters

‘We are living in times of an explosive growth in knowledge — except in the knowledge of God and therefore of ourselves.’ — David Cook

Eight chapters, each with study questions.

e-Book price: $10
(Includes licence for up to 10 copies)

Email: Greg Goswell
cristianee@pc.org

Widow’s Life Changed by Bible Literacy

Annpurna is a widowed mother of five living in India. Annpurna encountered Jesus through Bible League’s Bible-based literacy class and her life was totally transformed.

“As a full-time mother, I worried about my children’s future. But one day, this changed,” Annpurna said. “Brother Nishant, a Bible League trained literacy leader, came to my house. He shared the Gospel with me and invited me to Bible-based literacy class.

“I decided to try it. When I went, he taught us about reading, writing and Jesus. Brother Nishant also said (referring to Jesus), ‘Cast your burden upon Me because I understand your worries quite well’.

“These words gave me peace. Since then, I attend Bible-based literacy class regularly. And now I can read and write very well and read God’s Word. I am a totally changed person because I know Christ as my Saviour”, she reveals.

The Holy Spirit didn’t stop with Annpurna. “My children have also met Jesus!”, she said with evident joy. “Today, Christ is the head of my family.

Meeting Jesus through the Word... because of people like you providing Bibles, people like Annpurna learn to read and write from God’s Word. Through your prayers and support, you provide Bibles, training and Bible-based literacy resources so people like Annpurna can read, write, and know Jesus.

Thank you!
Letters to the Editor

We would encourage all who contribute to Letters to the Editor to do so in the spirit of Christian love and grace and to deal with issues involved, not personalities. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to decide which letters to publish. Please limit letters to 500 words and send to newdirections@pq.org.au.

A disaffected reader

My name is Rob Johnson, and I am the Session Clerk at the Charleville Presbyterian Church. I have read Roland Lowther’s column on self-vindication. I was filled with concern for what was contained in this column, I guess that makes me one of the disaffected and disgruntled faction.

I think I can see what he is trying to say, that as leaders, sometimes we have to make difficult decisions for the good of the church that we lead. The message in this column however comes across as arrogant, no thought that he could possibly be wrong. We are also a church governed by elders, and as such most of these decisions should be the Session decision, not his alone.

I will agree that self-vindication is nothing that should be common practice in our ministry. Roland cites Paul’s ministry as a man who could have practised self-vindication but didn’t, and he quotes Galatians 2:20. However he should have read the verse from the start of Galatians 2, then.

I have found over the years that in most cases the reason people get upset about decisions they don’t like is because they don’t understand them.

This may be because they are immature as Christians and are not looking at it from the biblical point of view, but from a personal or worldly view.

Or it may be because as leaders we haven’t taken the time, or haven’t done a very good job of explaining why we are making the decision.

It could also be because we haven’t built up a level of trust with the congregation.

Whatever the reason, we need to work with these people, not to vindicate ourselves, but to help them understand the reasons for the decision, and from a biblical perspective, why it was the right one. And we need to be open to the fact that if some are upset, maybe, just maybe, we have made the wrong decision.

We may be presented before God the Father as without blemish or stain, but it is through the blood of Christ.

The process of making this perfect is ongoing, and we will stumble.

It concerns me that Roland does not seem to be concerned with mending fences, but is encouraging our church leaders to build the fences. If our churches are to grow and fulfill the great commission, we need to be two things, a church that lives by the teaching of the Bible, and a church that is filled with love for Jesus, and each other.

If we don’t make every effort to be unified as the body of Christ we will fail this great commission miserably.

Nothing turns the nonbeliever away from a church like disunity, and nothing will draw them in more than a full of love for Jesus and each other.

Yours in Christ.

Rob Johnson. Charleville.
bigrobxx@bigpond.net.au

Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia (Queensland Unit)

Report on 2014 Assembly Week Activities

by Mrs Heather Burton, Secretary

Brisbane City Hall Tour ‘The Gold Leaf Mirror’

Back: Secretary - Mrs Heather Burton, Chaplains - Rev Ross Wilson and Mr Robert Thompson
Front: President - Mrs Heather Ross, Moderator- Rt Rev Phil Case and Treasurer - Mrs Beverly Horgan

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VACANCY

Caloundra Presbyterian Church

Are you an ordained minister who has a heart for missions, preaches the Bible evangelically and is looking for a sea change? Then we might be the place for you.

Ideally we require you to be:

- At least one term in another charge;
- Preferably with a young family;
- Keen to grow a church;
- Interested in reaching out to young families and youth.

Caloundra Presbyterian Church is located on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. They have three services each Sunday, a viable Committee of Management, forward looking Session, strong outreaching PWA, strong Mission Committee and strong Outreach and Nurture Committee.

For further information please contact Session Search Elder, Randall Roberts on (H) 07 5437 3494, (M) 0419602257, marran@bigpond.net.au or Session Clerk, Wayne McMaster on (H) 07 5439 7131 or wayne.mcm@bigpond.com.

41st Annual AGM and State Conference

Monday, 30 June was a chilly but glorious day for the PWA members, friends and guests who attended the 41st Annual AGM and State Conference held at Ann Street Presbyterian Church. The theme was ‘Faithfulness’ from the scripture reading Lamentations 3:22,23: ‘The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness.’

It was our pleasure to welcome the newly inducted State Moderator the Rt Rev Phil Case. He was accompanied by his Chaplains, Rev Ross Wilson and Mr Robert Thompson.

We were delighted to hear an introt and later an anthem from the Sunshine Coast Presbyterian Ladies Choir.

The guest speakers for the day were Mrs Ruth Jones, who organised the events. Miss Christine O’Gorman sharing about her role as chaplain at the Community Services Centre and later an anthem from the Choir.

The guest speakers for the day were Mrs Ruth Jones, who spoke on the theme scripture from Lamentations; Miss Christine O’Gorman sharing about her role as chaplain at Somervile House; and Mrs Jan Langbridge speaking about her recent holiday to visit Rose, John, and the grandchildren in Japan, and an update on their ministry to the Japanese people.

The newly inducted the office bearers for the 2014/2015 year, gave encouragement to the ladies and accepted the Burning Bush Project cheque on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. The amount of $3,000 is to go towards refurbishments at the Lake Tinawoo Campsite.

After a delicious lunch of sandwiches, slice, cake and fruit we gathered for our afternoon session.

When our guest speakers finished, the meeting was closed by our President Mrs Heather Ross. While the congregation was leaving the church, the organist, Mrs Shirley Pollock played the Hallelujah Chorus. A very fitting end to a wonderful day with the Lord and each other.

Yours in Christ.

Rob Johnson, Charleville.
bigrobxx@bigpond.net.au

41st Annual Report of the Presbyterian Women’s Association of Australia (Qld Unit)

On Tuesday, 1 July, at Clayfield College, the President of PWA of Aust. (Qld Unit) Mrs Heather Ross, Secretary Mrs Heather Burton and Treasurer Mrs Beverly Horgan were presented to the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. Mrs Heather Ross addressed the Assembly and presented a copy of the 41st Annual Report for the year 2013 of the PWA of Aust. (Qld Unit).

Brisbane City Hall

The final day of the activities commenced on a chilly Wednesday morning at the Brisbane City Hall where 20 ladies braved the cold to have a guided tour through the City Hall, which has been restored to its former glory. It is magnificent.

The main auditorium is designed so that the interior is unhindered by columns. The central lighting is known as the Oculus and has a myriad of colours when switched on.

We heard the pipe organ, which has over 4,000 pipes, being played. It was brilliant.

We viewed the auditorium through the original timber and heritage windows uncovered during restoration.

The guide obtained permission to visit the ‘Gold Leaf Mirror’ for receiving guests and entertainers.

We also visited the museum to see and read the history of Brisbane City. The museum is referred to as the Jewel in the Crown for receiving many prestigious awards.

By 12.30pm it was time for lunch. More ladies joined us for lunch at the historic Shingle Inn. The fixturers and furnishings are from the original café in Edward Street.

We also enjoyed the fish and chips served in newspaper depicting news and photos of ‘yester’ Brisbane.

It was a delightful way to end our activities and special thanks to those who organised the events.

We give thanks to Almighty God for His bountiful provision and attention these activities. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and praise. He truly is a faithful God to us.

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MEGA SPORTZ SOCCER CAMP

by Joshua Mansfield

Mega Sportz Soccer Camp was once again held at the Field of Dreams – Camp Moogerah. It was World Cup year this year (yes, I’m still recovering from sleep deprivation) and the 126 World Cup trialists arrived at camp ready for a week of Soccer Madness!

Greeted by Striker the Stallion, the campers got straight into it, breaking into their Six-a-Side teams, eating lunch and playing soccer right from the start. Right from the start it was obvious to all that these campers were a passionate and friendly bunch, and that the camp was in full swing.

Crazy Dude night was followed by a good two and a half hours sleep before we rolled into Tuesday.

The leaders had spent time planning a series of talks with workbooks linking ideas and themes from soccer to the Gospel. We took ideas such as the coach, the players and the referee endeavoring to show the campers how the greatest game of all was important but that following Jesus was WAY more important than soccer!

This was of great benefit to the campers as the seeds of the Gospel were planted. The leaders prayed that God would continue to plant. This was of great benefit to the campers as the seeds of the Gospel were planted. The leaders prayed that God would continue to plant and people come up on Friday afternoon to watch the girls’ games as they set aside to play netball and do some drills and technique practice.

Thank you for your prayers for this camp. Please pray that He would bless all the leaders and players in action.

MEGA SPORTZ NETBALL CAMP

by Jeanette Teale

Mega Sportz Netball Camp was held in the second week of the winter holidays and was a fantastic week away. We had a huge group of girls join with us at the camp to learn more about God, enjoy playing netball and spend time together.

Netball Camp often attracts girls at different points of their spiritual walk. Some girls are from Christian homes, have a good understanding of the Bible and are looking to grow their faith; some are still pretty new to Bible reading and what it means to be a Christian; and a large group of girls who don’t know much about God at all. Therefore, this is a great chance to show and tell the Gospel.

All the leaders had the beautiful challenge of getting to know all the girls in their group and helping them in their walk with God.

Each morning at camp was an up-front time with activities designed to teach the girls more about God, including videos, pick a box, a Bible talk and a memory verse. Small groups followed this teaching time giving the girls the chance to ask some great questions about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian. We had some challenging questions this year and it is encouraging for us to see the girls growing with each camp they attend.

Obviously, there is a chunk of time set aside to play netball and do some drills and technique practice.

Looking forward to next year’s camp already!!

A massive thank you must go to our coaches and our cooks – Troy Wilkins is a big man with a big heart and his love for the Lord was evident in the way he managed his dual role as leader and cook. Thanks legend!

Please pray for the campers as we see a lot of them regularly through our churches and through the local soccer clubs.

The Lord has been gracious to this camp for many years. We continue to pray that He would bless it into the future.