The year 2014 marks not only 100 years since the beginning of World War 1, but also 100 years since the beginning of the Wilston Presbyterian Church. Our church family – past and present – poured in on Sunday 9 November for a thanksgiving service to celebrate this centenary milestone.

We were delighted to welcome back members from as far back as the 1930s, and even one couple from America who were married at Wilston in the 1960s. The State Moderator, Rt Rev Phil Case, and our local and State Members of Parliament were also able to join in the festivities.
PREPARE and ENRICH have been used for many years by those working with couples planning to marry, couples wanting to strengthen their relationship and facing new challenges, and couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. The inventories have a reputation for accuracy, reliability, sensitivity and relevance. PREPARE-ENRICH CUSTOMIZED VERSION has been used to great effect for 4 years now. It is accessed via the internet and is customised to suit each couple.

Training in the use of this new resource will be available at Brisbane Boys’ College, Toowong on Thursday and Friday 11 and 12 December. For Registration details, please email info@prepare-enrich.com.au, the Prepare office on 02 9520 4049 or Graham Cole on gcole@bbc.qld.edu.au.

Rev Graham Cole
Chaplain
Brisbane Boys’ College

Study Tour of Israel and Jordan 2015

Late next year a group of intrepid Queensland Theological College (QTC) students will be walking where Jesus walked - literally - as they head off on a study tour of Israel and Jordan.

Led by QTC’s Senior Lecturer in New Testament, Wesley Redgen, the group will experience firsthand the sites where Jesus’s life and ministry took place, helping to bring the Bible to life.

Day 5 of the tour will see the group visiting Cana, the scene of Jesus’ first miracle, and the village of Nazareth, while on Day 9 they will be visiting the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane and Bethlehem.

Virginia-Banyo Presbyterian Church celebrates 50 years

The Banyo Presbyterian Church will celebrate 50 years since the opening of the Banyo Church building on Sunday 1 March 2015.

We are endeavouring to contact past members and friends to join us on the day, and to offer any information, photos, memorabilia that they might be able to contribute for the occasion. Please contact Annette Moran on (07) 3267 5666.

PresAID Christmas Appeal 2014

This Christmas we plan to help an exciting variety of worthy causes:

- Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu to upgrade solar power facilities on two missionary houses at Talata Bible College - $10,000
- Reformed Presbyterian Church of Myanmar to fund renovation of the hall at the Reformed Bible Institute, Yangon - $3,000
- CCAP Zambia to complete the construction of the principal’s residence at Chasfu Theological College, Zambia - $15,000
- Scholarships for three Zimbabwean students to attend Chasfu Theological College - $6,000.

We are looking to the Lord to provide this money through the generosity of His people in the 2014 PresAID Christmas Appeal. If more than the required amount is raised we will be able as a national church to do even more to assist these worthy causes in the extension of Christ’s Kingdom.

We encourage you to participate in the forthcoming 2014 PresAID Christmas Day Appeal and to give generously.

Thank you for your help and co-operation.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Rev Bob Thomas, Convener, PresAID
P: 0417 592 646
E: crthomas@pcvic.org.au

JESUS
THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

What’s on …

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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 9309 or Margaret on 07 3265 6148 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 changes wishing to make changes to their entry in the White Pages should contact Church Office on 3281 4100 or email churchoffice@pcq.org.au

UNIT TO LET

CALOUNDRA, beachside units, from $300/ week. For details contact Ray on 0427 980 161 or rayandjean@hotmail.com

Lost & Found

Lost&Found is the new evening congregation of Eatons Hill Presbyterian Church (EHPC) that was launched on Sunday night 12 October.

Rev Garnet Swann as the lead pastor at EHPC tells why they’ve chosen the title ‘Lost&Found’ for this new work, “Our desire is that Lost&Found be made of people who are exactly that.

“We want it to be a community of people who are growing as followers of Jesus. But it’s also a welcoming place for people to ask their questions, express their doubts and explore the Christian calls so that they might eventually find God or, more to the point, be found by God.”

Lost&Found currently meets in the same location as EHPC’s morning service, the Eatons Hill Community Hall but you’ll find a very different vibe to what happens in the morning.

Dimmed lighting, coffee tables, acoustic music and a question time are some of the features that give Lost&Found its own distinct vibe.

Garnet says, “We’ve gone for that café vibe that some churches have found a helpful environment for young adults. The vibe might be casual but make no mistake this isn’t a show on a Sunday night.

“This is about a new community serving our city and doing the missionary work of proclaiming Christ and praying for others.

“God takes us as we are but He doesn’t want to leave us as we are.”

Talking to Garnet and others from the launch team of Lost&Found, it’s clear they’re excited as they look to take opportunities to be in their community to serve and share the love of Christ.

Lost&Found is a small new gathering on the Northside of Brisbane but they have big dreams for how God might work through them.

If you want to know more, look up Lost&Found on Facebook.

Lost&Found meets every Sunday night at 6:30pm at the Eatons Hill Community Hall.

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From the Moderator
with Rt Rev Phil Case

One of the more pleasurable tasks of the Moderator is to visit churches around the State when invited. I have had the pleasure of speaking at the Alberton, Cars, Maroochydore, Wavell Heights, St Andrews and Willow Vale (Townsville) churches and addressing the Sunshine Coast Wide Bay Presbytery.

I cannot be certain how much of an encouragement or challenge I have been to the churches I have visited, but I have certainly been encouraged by what I have seen. The Lord is doing a work in our denomination. Through the figures tend to obscure the reality, a good number of churches are growing in health and numbers.

As a minister, it is tempting when preaching to focus on what people are not doing and what they should do as Christians. Certainly, we only know how to respond properly to the Gospel because it is revealed in the scriptures, and that needs to be taught. However, it is in hearing the Gospel that people’s hearts are changed. All the scriptures testify to Christ. It is only as we come to comprehend the wondrous love of God in all the scriptures that we will mature into the people he wants us to be.

17 I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

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From the Editor
with Michelle Martin

Dear Readers
Welcome to the Christmas edition of ‘New Directions’.

I cannot believe the year is almost over and a new one is about to begin. This is a time when people reflect on what has happened during the year and a time to make New Year’s resolutions, and goals for the coming year.

A lot has been happening within the Presbyterian Church and God’s kingdom throughout the year. Milestones have been reached, churches are growing and expanding, and Christians are suffering in the name of Christ.

Our cover story this edition is the centenary celebration of Wilston Presbyterian Church. As you will read there have been a lot of changes since it was first established 100 years ago.

I recently attended Y Conference held at Mt Tamborine which was a weekend conference run by the QOC for those who are part of Gen Y or close to. People from 30 different churches attended including Presbyterian, Baptist, Church of Christ and others. Mark Biddleley spoke to us over the course of the weekend about the following topics: Sexuality (God cares about it), Mental Health (God likes to fill creation with diversity) and Money (to love money is to hate God, so be careful not to be greedy). On the Saturday night we had a bush dance/get down where everyone had a great time busting some moves.

At the Heads of Churches meeting (page 4) representatives from different denominations across Brisbane met with the Brisbane leaders of the Islamic community to ascertain ways of strengthening relations between the Christian and Islamic communities. I have been hearing, via the media, of the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in Christ overseas, particularly in Iraq, and my sufferings here in Australia seem quite insignificant compared to theirs. I encourage you, if you are not already praying for them, to start NOW and if possible help them in a practical way.

My church has been studying the book of 1 Peter and one of the topics we were looking at was suffering. Our minister explained to us that the normal Christian life involves sharing in Christ’s suffering and therefore we shouldn’t think of suffering as being abnormal. As the year comes to a close I wish you a blessed Christmas with family and friends and a Happy New Year. Don’t forget to check out the Christmas lights around your suburbs and also attend a Christmas carol service or two.

P.S. Due to time and in accordance with the guidelines of the John Knox series 2 parts, one has been left out of this edition. However please look for it in the February/March 2015 edition. Also in the next edition, there will be an article about what’s been happening at the Westminster Theological College in Uganda. Make sure you check it out.

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CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
WILSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

by Rev Stuart Atkinson

It was a great opportunity to give thanks for God’s faithfulness to this church family over so many years, and to reflect on the ministries, events and relationships that have been part of family life here.

Over morning tea, we pooled over old photos and mementos, and caught up with old friends. In birthday style, we also celebrated with games for the kids and cake.

A highlight was the singing. Along with some great newer songs, there were rousing renditions of great old hymns that helped us to look back to what God has done for us (Great is Thy Faithfulness), and look forward in anticipation of what He will do (Be Thou My Vision).

The Wilston church began with Christians gathering in a local home as early as 1912.

In 1914, with some help from the Ann St congregation, the current land was purchased for one hundred pounds.

The first church building was officially opened on Saturday 9 May 1914 as the first Protestant church in the area.

By 1920, there were 120 members, a Sunday School of 138 with 12 teachers and a youth fellowship.

In 1921, Wilston was declared a sanctioned charge and eligible to call a minister. In true presbyterian style, the first minister was a Scot, Rev Thomas Allan.

The ministry extended into Newmarket in the mid 1950s, and the charge was renamed Wilston-Newmarket in 1959.

Continued growth (evidenced by the Sunday School enrolment peaking at 200 in 1959) led to the construction of a new church building, which was opened in November 1964.

The original building was moved down the site and still serves as our church hall.

Since that time, the church has had its ups and downs. There have been some wonderful periods of growth, and other difficult times where we have struggled with no minister and low membership.

In 1982, the charge was extended to include the Beaudesert area.

We rejoice in God’s faithfulness in growing followers of Jesus here in Wilston for 100 years, and we look forward to many more years to come.

Morning tea celebrations

Rev Stuart Atkinson

1. Lord, be my vision, supreme in my heart, bid every rival give way and and depart: You my best thought in the day or the night, wakening or sleeping, Your presence my light.

2. Lord, be my wisdom and be my true word. I ever with You and You with me, Lord: You my great Father and I Your true son. You in me living and I with You one.

NEW DIRECTIONS
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Send copy to: New Directions, PO Box 1508, FORTITUDE VALLEY 4006 P: (07) 3852 1564 F: (07) 3251 4109 E: newdirections@pcq.org.au Please note: if quoting other people’s work, that work should be acknowledged in your article. If providing photos they need to be 300ppi and written permission obtained to reprint.

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Heads of Churches meeting with members of Queensland Islamic Council

by Rt Rev Phil Case

I attended the Heads of Churches meeting on the 20th October. We met with all three leaders of the Islamic community.

Some might ask why we would meet with them if our faiths are so different. This was not about discussing the content of our respective faiths, but also about expressing concern about the violence that has been perpetrated against some Muslims simply because they are Muslims. It was a meeting to support the freedom of Religion we enjoy in Australia.

I thought it was Evelyn Beatrice Hall biographer of Voltaire who wrote “I disapprove of what you say, but I defend to the death your right to say it.” If we do not speak out against these actions pertaining to people because of their religion, how can we speak out when we are acted against because of our Christian faith?

We do not share beliefs with the Islamic Community, but we do share our humanity with them.

Our Lord has commanded us to love our neighbour, and to love our enemies. Speaking out in defence of their right to live in peace as law-abiding citizens is doing just this.

Agression toward people arises from fear, fear of that which is different, fear of that which we do not know and understand.

It would be good if we as Christians could take the time to get to know our Islamic neighbours and show them love at the appropriate level. How can we expect them to listen to us if we will not listen to them and take the time to get to know them?

Not only is this an opportunity to live out the commands of our Lord to love our neighbour, but it is an opportunity to share the Gospel with people who desperately need it.

God has brought these people to our shores, but the tragedy is that most of these people have no more contact with Christians than they would if they still lived in their Islamic homeland.

They hear no more of the Gospel and know no more of Christianity than those in countries where Christians are not free to share the Gospel.

In 1 Peter 3:15-16 we read, “...in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience...” If Christ is Lord, we are to be prepared to give an answer to those who ask about our faith and hope.

But no one is going to ask about our faith because of our Christian faith. Some might ask why we would defend to the death your right to say something that we believe is not true? Because of their religion, how can we show the love of God to others when we do nothing for them?

These actions pertaining to people because of their religion, because of their faith were appointed to form a united front to answer both those who are afraid and who practise Islam. Our common humanity ensures we have much in common with them. Many of their concerns are our concerns.

They are having open days at mosques and open to invitations to events that we might hold at our churches.

This is a golden opportunity to build bridges of faith and working through local media to promote joint events and activities.

Three representatives from each faith were appointed to form a working group to produce an action plan to promote joint initiatives that reflect the unique value of a fair go for people of all religious beliefs and cultures.

Further meetings of the Heads of Churches and the Islamic Council of Queensland will be held in 2015.

As well as being appointed to form a working group to produce an action plan to promote joint initiatives that reflect the unique value of a fair go for people of all religious beliefs and cultures.

Media Release: Heads of Churches and leaders of the Islamic Community meet

On Monday 20 October, the Heads of Churches meeting with members of the Islamic Council of Queensland together with all Queensland Christian Churches Together on 0418 335 088.

For further information contact:
Mr Mohammad Yusuf, President, Islamic Council of Queensland on 0413 038 610
The Rev Canon Richard Tutin, General Secretary, Queensland Churches Together on 0418 335 088.

CHRIST-CENTRED FAITH COLLABORATION ENJOYMENT SEEKING EXCELLENCE RESPECT

I encourage all Christians to learn about the beliefs of Islam, but also to get to know some people who practise Islam. Our common humanity ensures we have much in common with them. Many of their concerns are our concerns.

We do not share beliefs with the Islamic Community, but we do share our humanity with them.

On 20 October, a group of religious leaders from seven churches met with the Brisbane leaders of the Queensland Islamic Council there to discuss issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was precipitated by the concerns about the recent negative sentiments expressed towards Muslims and especially Muslim women.

The meeting affirmed such actions, and called on all Queenslanders to respect the right of all Australians to enjoy Freedom of Religion, and seek to promote ways in which understanding and tolerance between people of different faiths can be increased.

Churches represented included the Anglican, Presbyterian, Catholic, Uniting, Congregational Federation of Australian and New Zealand, Australian Christian Churches, Presbyterian Church of Queensland and the Uniting Church in Australia.

As well as members of the Queensland Islamic Council there were also representatives of the Council of Imams, Crescents of Brisbane and AMARAH in attendance.

Topics discussed included supporting freedom of religious practices and ideas within the Australian community; showing dignity to all people regardless of their beliefs and ways of life; and speaking with a united voice to government and politicians on topics of mutual concern.

As well as agreed to support initiatives such as the open mosque days, as well as initiatives to educate the wider community about Islam and Christianity, opening social events to people of different faiths and working through local media to promote joint events and activities.

In a 2007 interview Henry Kissinger said, “On one end of the spectrum there is globalization and religion be at odds? However, this is no false dichotomy. In Kissinger’s mind religion divides; world politics unites! Let the Christian be warned, religion and globalization are not deemed compatible by those advancing this agenda. To put it simply, independent religion (e.g. authentic Christianity) has no legitimate role in this new world order. Be assured, the pressure to conform to this new order will become increasingly great for us in the West: social pressure, economic pressure, technological pressure, political pressure etc., will all increasingly turn up the heat beneath the metaphorical ‘pot of life’ we swim in.

Until then, and until the first world has come at a low perceived cost to our faith, but from now on we will pay a higher price for remaining loyal to Christ, his values, and his cause. Will we simply continue to conform to this world, allowing our uncompromising loyalty to Christ to be subtle eroded as we are gradually boiled alive by secularism? Will we choose not to capitulate to the world and its systems, and make a stand for Christ? It is a choice we all must make—sooner or later!”

Roland Lowther
Making Friends for Life

by Rev David Niven

Life Church (a The Gap Presbyterian Church) recently favaoured a newly made friend from the USA.

A few months ago Hannah arrived in Brisbane and began attending services in The Gap. She befriended by several members of the congregation and when she lost her job at short notice was provided with help and accommodation.

She soon found another position in a suburb some distance from The Gap, but kept in touch through Life Church’s Facebook pages.

When she lost her second job, again at short notice, she was once more supported by the congregation.

Hannah attended the church for the last time on 12 October and was photographed with the congregation.

It was very encouraging to see the way the congregation rallied around Hannah.

Pray, Live, Serve ... but what if I’m weary?

by Naomi Reed

For the last two years, I’ve been interviewing intercultural partners, who have served in various parts of the Middle East and Asia. Most of the partners have been in those places for well over ten years, although some are now back in their home countries.

My role has been to get to know them and capture their stories for a project called ‘The Plum Tree in the Desert’.

It’s been a delight I can’t think of a more inspiring project, or book to write! But it just so happened that immediately prior to the first interview, I was feeling set up and weary myself, and questioning the value of some of my activities. Then I flew to Melbourne to interview the first couple who had served in four different countries in the Arabian Peninsula, over a period of 21 years.

During the interview, I asked them both about the lessons they had learnt, especially during hard times. They told me about setting up home in each case, and making good relationships with their neighbors and the community, and how long it took. It was hard.

But then, they said that on two occasions the police had come to their door and told them they had to leave at a particular time. They packed their bags, their homes, their children’s lives, and moved back to Australia for a time, before beginning again in another Middle Eastern country.

Members of Life Church

‘We do life together with Jesus.’

The Health of the Body

by Rt Rev David Cook, Moderator General

I have now completed the first year of my role as Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

It has been a privilege to see what is happening throughout Australia and to be able to draw some conclusions about the health of the Church.

In Victoria I spoke at the Ministers’ Family Camp and then gave the Exposition Sermon at the Synod. It was good to get beyond the Courts of the Church to hear what is happening in the congregations.

Observation 1:
Each State Assembly has a united focus on the Gospel. The single mind of the Church in Australia is something only the Gospel can reach. The Gospel reaches into every corner of our nation. It is a privilege to be part of such a harmonious, evangelical and evangelistic denomination.

Observation 2:
The Presbyterian Societies of the Sixteenth Centurty Reformation are the study-theology of the Bible and they are the emblems of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. However, I see a widespread determination to promote a lifestyle and culture and not transmit a distinct, censorious and unwellowing tone, which sometimes flavours the reformed tradition.

This balance between Biblical faithfulness and cultural relevance is often difficult to maintain, is largely being maintained.

Observation 3:
Our Presbyterian Church serves us well. Congregations are cared for as part of a wider denominational family and at the same time are given the freedom to reach their own communities in their own way.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the church plants sprouting up in Victoria, such as the different approaches being adopted in Coburg, Dandenong and Doreen and yet all thriving within the denomination.

Observation 4:
I have found not only unity but mutual affection for one another. At State level there is a great encouragement to attend Assemblies. There is a recognition of the work of God being carried out by the Church throughout Australia.

However there are three areas I think we need to consider.

First, at more than one Assembly, a good deal of time was spent dealing with the problem of impending leadership devoid of Christian commitment. Why leaders who are not Christians are appointed to hospitals or aged care facilities or schools or campsites, who do not share our ethos, I will never know.

Second, the health of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission (APWM) and Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) is a worrying concern. Are we giving equal vigour and support to evangelistic outreach at the local level?

New churches are being planted, but are the vast number of settled congregations reaching out to missions in children, youth and adults, where the Gospel is presented and people invited to respond?

Where is the APWM equivalent to encourage creative, competent and persuasive local outreach?

Third, our spiritual health is highly dependent on the ability of our theological colleges to attract quality people and to train them well.

This involves a financial commitment which will see our growing number of candidates well taught and cared for by faculties who are united in the truth and have close contact with the local church, the Presbytery and the Synod.

Our colleges must model and duplicate the local church so that students are prepared in preaching and disciple making as well as academic and faith training.

Pray for our colleges and their leaders and promote their interests at State Assemblies so that they do not lack resources to fulfil the demanding ministry required of them.

I was recently at a conference in Beijing with a Chinese Christian College. It has the capability to teach people groups who migrated from the predominantly Muslim north. Fifty-eight congregations were established in the last 10 years.

Operation ‘Go Back Home’ and ‘Tell’ was organized for converts to go back to their home towns and witness to their kin. Many congregations in north China were revived and new churches opened. They opened their doors to those that is the heart of the church of Christ, so I want to talk about equipping the whole church to take the whole Gospel to the whole of the Muslim world,” said John.

As someone who comes from the Muslim faith myself, sharing the Christian message is a personal passion and I want to share it with you at CMS Summer School.

In the 1990s a bursary from CMS enabled John to complete a doctorate at the London School of Theology. He later served as a CMS missionary to India in the early 2000s. He will speak at CMS Summer School conferences throughout Australia in January 2015.

Five Faces of Islam:
Converted Muslim to sojourn Australian Christians

Muslim sources and to engage with Muslim groups and people inviting them. There is a battle for the soul of Islam and there is a need to train people to engage in that battle.

In South Ghana, John developed a Gospel ministry to untrained people groups who migrated from the predominantly Muslim north. Fifty-eight congregations were established in the last 10 years.

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WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH WENDY ALLAN ABOUT HOW WOMEN ARE MINISTERING TO OTHER WOMEN AT EATONS HILL

Wendy H: Hello Wendy and welcome to Girl Talk! I have been hearing a lot recently about what is happening at Eatons Hill and we’ll get to that, but first, let’s get to know you a little, by starting at the beginning of your story. So... where did you grow up and where are you living now?

Wendy A: I grew up in Corinda, on the southeast of Brisbane. I’m now living in Strathpine on the northside.

WH: And in the middle of all that, what study or work have you done?

WA: I became a Home Economics teacher after I left high school, but it wasn’t something I was passionate about. I’ve since discovered I enjoy welfare work, and teaching women, preferably one-to-one or small groups. I get embarrassed when people who hear I was a Home Economics teacher say, “You must be a good cook” because I think I’m just average. We had a number of years in the country where Bill taught, we built our own house, had a hobby farm; and I was the relieving post mistress in a town named Cooyar. We moved to Warwick and then back to Brisbane. When our kids were teenagers, I worked part-time as a Family Resource Worker with the Department of Family Services. From there we went to Sydney in 1989, but our kids stayed in Brisbane to work and study. Our church in Sydney had a ministry to migrants and I was soon employed part-time in this ministry which I loved. I worked with women and families whose English was poor, who were adapting to life in a new country, and some who attended ‘Introduction to Christianity’ classes at our church. I coordinated the ‘Healthy Eating’ course, and with Bill, spent a very special time in hospitality ministry. I fulfilled a long held desire to go to Bible College, by studying part-time for a while at Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC). We returned to Brisbane in 2000, and went to Mitchelton Presbyterian Church and later joined the church plant at Eatons Hill.

WH: Now, what keeps you busy on a daily basis?

WA: Bill and I live very close to some young singles, who are both women and men... So we’re avid gardeners; I have a craft group in our home; I’m involved in ministry to women and families in our church; I’m part of the team that does the Gospel presentation at the annual ‘Be Creative’ camp; and this year I’ve had the privilege of speaking at a few women’s events.

WH: I can see how all that would keep you busy... Tell us a bit about your family.

WA: Bill and I have been married for 42 years and we have a son, Matthew, and a daughter, Kate, plus four grandchildren.

WH: So how and when did you become a Christian?

WA: My mum taught me to believe in God (she became a Christian later in life and I’ll have to wait til Heaven to find out whether Dad eventually came to trust Jesus). I went to Southside School and Youth Group and heard the Gospel. I considered myself a believer, but I was in my early thirties when I took a personal step of faith and accepted Jesus as my Saviour and Lord.

WH: Who or what do you think helped or encouraged you, most, as you were growing and learning about Jesus?

WA: Faithful preaching of the Word, studying the bible for myself, taking God at His Word and applying it by faith. In the beginning I had a Bible study leader, Vetta Thomson, who lived out the Gospel, and took the time to be involved with me, as I grappled with what it meant to follow Jesus in every part of my life.

WH: And now you are sharing some of this with the women at Eatons Hill! What is actually happening there?

WA: It’s interesting... because as I’m talking to you, I realise that I’m doing with other women what God provided for me when I was a new Christian – mentoring! I do it in a structured way with our women the opportunity to grow in their faith and in their ability to share it with others, by emulating the ideas of ‘The Tredills and the Vine’. So we held a breakfast, where Fiona Millar spoke to all of us about forgiveness and then we offered two workshops to choose from – either ‘How to Share Your Faith’ or ‘How to Read the Bible One-to-One’. Because we want to see our women develop their gifts, the workshops were led by women from our church family. Our women really appreciated this event, and we’re praying that they’ll grow as a result.

WH: In those times when you are not busy with this important work, what do you like to do to relax or unwind?

WA: I love designing our garden and growing flowers... Bill and I go somewhere nice for breakfast once a month... I enjoy going to new cafes with friends... and I couldn’t live without the ocean.

WH: Where do you see God might take it in the future?

WA: That’s a challenge, and we’re still working on it! We’ve had six women do ‘T’ and seven do the ‘Ministry to Women’ course run by Queensland Theological College (QTC), so we don’t want to lose the value of this training. In response to our concerns, at the beginning of the year, we began what we called ‘Read Pray Grow’ (aka Eat Pray Love) with a view to holding this kind of event twice in the year. We want to give all our women the opportunity to grow in their faith and in their ability to share it with others, and to emulating the ideas of ‘The Tredills and the Vine’. So we held a breakfast, where Fiona Millar and Angela Allen

Women @ Prayer...

All over the world this Gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth. Colossians 1:6

- Give thanks and praise for the Gospel and the way it bears fruit and grows, as we share it with others.
- As the end of another year approaches, pray for those who are preparing to move to a new place to live, study or work. Pray that they might find fellow believers to support and encourage them as they adapt to their new surroundings. Also pray for those who are facing final exams and other challenges at this time that they will adapt to their new surroundings. Also pray for those who are facing final exams and other challenges at this time that they might plan to begin (or continue) reading the Bible regularly with others.
- Give thanks for those who have loved ones during this past year that they might find fellow believers to support and encourage them as they adapt to their new surroundings. Also pray for those who are facing final exams and other challenges at this time that they might plan to begin (or continue) reading the Bible regularly with others.
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WH: How did you get started and who has helped you along the way?

WA: Our minister, Garnet Swann, set up the T2 internship. It’s a one-day-a-week commitment based on Paul’s instructions in Titus 2 – older women teaching younger women. It’s about discipleship really – meeting one-to-one with another woman, reading the Bible and praying together. She also meets with another woman to encourage them and this is repeated monthly.

WH: How has it been working out and what were some of the challenges?

WA: Everyone involved has been committed to this work. Probably two challenges – just being committed to this went well last year (there are days when I just don’t feel like doing it, but that’s what commitment means, I guess) – and... we’re still working on it! We’ve had six women do ‘T’ and seven do the ‘Ministry to Women’ course run by Queensland Theological College (QTC), so we don’t want to lose the value of this training. In response to our concerns, at the beginning of the year, we began what we called ‘Read Pray Grow’ (aka Eat Pray Love) with a view to holding this kind of event twice in the year. We want to give all our women the opportunity to grow in their faith and in their ability to share it with others, and to emulating the ideas of ‘The Tredills and the Vine’. So we held a breakfast, where Fiona Millar

Wendy Allan

But God demonstrates his own love for us: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Be Connected with WMPCQ through the website + newsletter

www.wmpcq.com, or email pcqwomen@gmail.com

Rev Garnet Swann and Wendy Allan
Keeping people socially connected is imperative for a healthy mind and body. Too often you hear of older Australians being socially isolated, whether through the death of a spouse or the loss of being readily mobile.

Social isolation is experienced by one in five Australians and the impact on health is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day, or consuming more than six alcoholic drinks daily. It is more harmful than not exercising and twice as harmful as obesity.

Keeping people socially connected to their friends, family and community plays an important role in how PresCare looks after its clients. Robyn Sansbury has been coordinating a friendship club for the past two years to give people who are socially isolated the chance to come together to share a chat and a laugh or two.

"I wear my heart on my sleeve, Robyn says. "So I think the people that I work with each day know that I really do care about their welfare and ensuring they have a chance to have some fun each month too."

Robyn works tirelessly to ensure the clients who come are able to relax, enjoy themselves and forget about their troubles, even if it is only for a few hours.

PresCare’s Christmas Appeal will run from November through to February 2015, and funds raised from this campaign will go towards PresCare social isolation programmes, including Friendship Groups.

PresCare runs a number of other Friendship Groups around Queensland, and we’re always looking for volunteers willing to come along and help us provide clients with a fun day or morning out.

For more information about friendship groups, to see if there is one in your area, or to enquire about donating to the Christmas Appeal please call 1800 773 722 or email us at information@prescare.org.au

Wayne Piro, Maryborough and Wide Bay Chaplain, has helped embed chaplaincy and pastoral care services at Yaralla Place, ensuring the spiritual needs of our clients are met.

The team at Yaralla Place have established daily walking groups. There are also regular visitors from the community and local Presbyterian congregation who provide entertainment of all varieties for our residents.

Collaboration between Yaralla Place and Groundwater Lodge staff has greatly increased. We have recently begun having staff work across both sites. This is leading to sharing of knowledge and experience. It also gives us a more flexible workforce.

If you are interested in volunteering at Groundwater Lodge or Yaralla Place, or hearing more about either service at Yaralla Place, please call PresCare on 1800 773 722.

What Makes a ‘Contented Chef’?

The satisfaction of knowing you are providing nutritious, creative and wholesome food to your clients is what drove PresCare to develop a line of homestyle meals and desserts under the name ‘Contented Chef’.

The team of chefs at the ‘Contented Chef’ prepares family favourites like roast beef, ham steak with pineapple and honey mustard, and bangers and mash, along with more gourmet options like apricot chicken with French almond pilaf, beef bourguignon and sweet mango pork.

In recent months, PresCare has reviewed the service offering, packaging and delivery process for the ‘Contented Chef’ range of pre-prepared meals and made a number of improvements.

Food and Catering Service Manager, Scott Fraser says the ‘Contented Chef’ range will soon reach customers from Cairns to Coolangatta and offers dietician approved, colourful and exciting food options as well as customised catering for special events.

“If you love food like I do, you want to ensure that what you’re eating isn’t only made from the freshest ingredients and is healthy for you, but also tastes great! Scott says. ‘That’s what I love about the ‘Contented Chef’ meals and desserts.”

The gourmet meals and customised catering are offered direct to clients as well as through distribution points including PresCare facilities, independent retirement communities and in-home care services. Call the ‘Contented Chef’ on 1300 645 665 for more information or to place an order.

Staying Socially Connected with Friendship Groups

Keeping people socially connected is imperative for a healthy mind and body. Too often you hear of older Australians being socially isolated, whether through the death of a spouse or the loss of being readily mobile.

Social isolation is experienced by one in five Australians and the impact on health is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day, or consuming more than six alcoholic drinks daily. It is more harmful than not exercising and twice as harmful as obesity.

Keeping people socially connected to their friends, family and community plays an important role in how PresCare looks after its clients.

Friendship clubs are just one of the initiatives that PresCare is implementing right across the business to mitigate the impact of social isolation.

Local Kawana Waters Chaplain, Robyn Sansbury has been coordinating a friendship club for the past two years to give people who are socially isolated the chance to come together to share a chat and a laugh or two.

“I wear my heart on my sleeve, Robyn says. “So I think the people that I work with each day know that I really do care about their welfare and ensuring they have a chance to have some fun each month too.”

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What a Difference a Year Makes

In October 2013, PresCare took over the residential aged care facility Yaralla Place in Maryborough and what a difference a year has made.

PresCare Chief Executive Officer Greg Skelton said that with 30 years’ experience running Maryborough’s Groundwater Lodge, PresCare knew the purchase of Yaralla Place from the State Government would only enhance the connection they had with the city.

“The board and I definitely felt that our selection by the government as the preferred operator was an important recognition of the high standard of care our people provide every day,” Mr Skelton said. “We have proven over the last year that we were the right choice for Yaralla Place.”

Mr Skelton says, “There are a number of initiatives and improvements PresCare has put in place over the past 12 months which are proving to be successful and well-received.”

PresCare’s GenConnect programme was launched at Yaralla Place and Groundwater Lodge by Volunteer Programme Manager, Julie Hoffman, earlier in the year and has since had two very successful rounds. The participation of residents and staff alike ensured the programme ran smoothly and received high praise from the local community, particularly the school involved.

Another initiative of the Volunteer team was the refreshed ‘Yaralla Corner Store’, a mobile shopping cart which stocks all manner of sweets, gluten-free and sugar-free choices, puzzle books, pens/small writing pads, a variety of drinks and some personal items. It does the rounds of Yaralla Place every week. Residents love the opportunity to shop right from their front door!

Yaralla Place, Maryborough

Lyla Shand and Dawn Fox

PresCare believes in providing more than just physical care

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

www.prescare.org.au

A Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.
Visible progress every day at Kingsford Terrace

The site is full of construction equipment. Grindley Construction has established a row of jaunty yellow-roofed huts along the side of the excavated site, and each day a little more metal and concrete is laid for the foundations of PresCare’s Kingsford Terrace development.

PresCare’s $140m retirement living development, Kingsford Terrace, is being built on the site of the former Hopetoun aged care and independent living facility in Brisbane’s Corinda.

PresCare Chief Executive Officer Greg Skelton said “It is exciting to be able to actually see the progress the project is making each day, rather than just reading about it in reports.”

“Now that you can literally see the development rising out of the ground, it’s an exciting time to be part of Kingsford Terrace’s story,” Mr Skelton says. “I can’t wait till the structure of the Litchfield building is in place because then people will be better able to visualise what we are creating here.”

Future residents of the village have been visiting the site regularly, attending get-togethers and formal events that PresCare hosts as a way of establishing a community feeling amongst the group, before they even move in.

In October the sales team, Safiya and Matt, hosted sunset drinks at the Display Suite and representatives from the Kingsford Concierge team came along to promote their unique service.

Kingsford Concierge will deliver an in-house and digital concierge service to residents, whereby they can seek assistance with anything from organising a holiday or party, to finding an anniversary gift or simply sorting out dry cleaning and parcel pick up. It is available to residents as soon as they put a deposit down on an apartment. “This means that residents are all eligible for the benefits of this service before their apartment is even built,” Mr Skelton says.

“The addition of Kingsford Concierge to the lifestyle at Kingsford Terrace is another way PresCare is setting our development apart from other retirement villages in Queensland.”

The new community, named after aviation pioneer Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, will be home to 200 residents, with the 34 phase-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.

There are also a number of churches which were gradually shrinking, barely surviving, that are now turning around. They were living off accumulated assets, but now some have also turned the financial corner. Some of these churches are now self sufficient or on the way to it. All this has happened because of Gospel ministry.

All this growth, be it a new plant or a rejuvenation, brings its own demands – demands for people to do ministry at a full time and lay level – demands for larger or renovated meeting places. This places demands for money and resources which, as a denomination, we have in short supply.

Those in the various committees of the Assembly are working hard to support these churches where they can.

Much goes on behind the scenes to keep the wheels of denomination turning smoothly and also to promote and support future growth. This is one of the truly exciting things I have seen as Moderator – Gospel focussed men working behind the scenes to support the ministry at the local church level. They are working particularly hard to find the resources needed by the local churches that are growing so they can continue to grow and expand their Gospel ministry.

The Committee for Ministry Training has done an amazing job in facilitating the growth of our college, the Queensland Theological College, so it is able to give training of the highest quality to men set aside for ministry within our denomination.

The Committee on Ministry Resourcing (formerly Home Missions) is working hard behind the scenes to support the local churches in their efforts to take the Gospel to the community in which they live.

Time and space do not permit me to mention the work of the Property Board, Gospel in Society Today Committee, the Church and Nurture Committee, the Finance and Administration Board and the Commission of Assembly, not to forget the Code Committee who are all working toward one goal – facilitating proclamation of the Gospel and the growth of the Kingdom.

I should also mention those who work in the office looking after administration and accounts. Without them, our denomination would grind to a halt very quickly.

You may smile when I mention these committees, but think about their work. They are often the ‘bureaucracy’ of the Church with no real impact on Gospel ministry. That is what is so exciting.

The committees of the Assembly and our Church offices are very consciously seeking to improve their support for the Gospel ministry of the local churches.

By Rt Rev Phil Case

Ministry Expansion and the Local Churches

All this good work is stretching the local churches involved and also the denominations’ committees. The question confronts us, “How can we as a denomination support and work with the local churches?”

This is not an easy question to answer, but the answer is about supporting Gospel ministry in its many forms.

One of the problems faced by young churches as they grow and expand is an adequate meeting place. It has been reported that more than 250 churches in Brisbane meet in temporary rented facilities, growth is limited. When that church acquires its own permanent facility, it then has the infrastructure to assist them to grow into their own premises. The aid will be in the form of grants and interest free loans.

Initially, the Commission has set aside just over one million dollars. That may sound like a lot of money, but this money, and more, has already been allocated to help meet the immediate needs of three or four growing churches.

The Finance and Administration Board has committed to injecting funds into this Fund each year to help meet future needs. You can also help. I would ask each church to ask two questions:

1. Has God blessed and prospered us?
2. How can we help our fellow churches?

If God has prospered you as a church, please look at how you can help these growing Gospel ministries.

In the eighteenth century, mission to those backblocks was a task captured the heart of the church with Mission Societies being formed and the Gospel going forth to foreign lands with zeal.

Today, many are keen to serve in and contribute to, overseas mission. We need to recover that same zeal for mission to the unchurched in Australia.

We need to see Australia as a mission field. The need is so great. There are so many places with little or no Biblical witness. The number of places without a witness to the scriptures from a Reformed Gospel emphasis is almost overwhelming.

The efforts of local Presbyterian Churches to reach their own area are having a great impact.

I ask you to consider helping Presbyterian Churches to be planted and strengthened as the Lord has blessed you.

The Good News is that the Presbyterian Church of Queensland is showing signs of healthy renewal. The Bad News is that we are still very much a ‘Mission Church.’

Please consider helping the growth of Gospel ministry in the Presbyterian Church of Queensland and by giving generously to the ‘Ministry Expansion Fund’ established by the Commission for Ministry Expansion. This Fund will be going to aid Presbyterian Churches in Queensland in their efforts to acquire strategic infrastructure to assist them to grow into their own premises.

If you can help in any way, please contact Lesleigh Hall, Church Liaison Officer, at Church Offices on (07) 3134 4341 or email deputyclerk@pcq.org.au.
1. PLACING FOUR NEW INLAND PADRE TEAMS ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Four patrols have been filled – David and Gay McDonald – John Flynn Patrol (SA); Cabin and Alison Morrow - Mungo Patrol (Vic/NSW); David and Kathy Allsop – Central Patrol (Qld); Surendra and Mayan Wesley – Mid West Patrol (WA). PIM continues to look for new workers for the North West Patrol (WA) and the North Australian Patrols.

2. OBTAINING A CHURCH BUILDING/PATROL BASE PROPERTY IN DARWIN

The Darwin congregation continues to reach out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ under the leadership of the Rev. Rob and Mrs Jeanette Duncanson. Efforts to gain what appeared to be a very suitable property in the end bore no fruit. The search is on-going for land/existing buildings which would allow for the development of a patrol base (for the Kimberley Patrol (NT/WA) and the opening of a church building. The Rev. Ross and Mrs Ruby Brightwell have completed a season of ministry at DPC, they have returned to Melbourne. Their labours are sincerely appreciated by all in the congregation and PIM.

3. TO DEVELOP A CHURCH/PATROL BASE IN ALICE SPRINGS

During the centenary celebrations in 2012, the Rev. Keith and Mrs Jenny Bell were appointed to initiate the new PIM congregation and prepare thereby also for the ultimate launching of the Central Australian Patrol. A multi-ethnic congregation has come together and on the last Sunday of the month ‘the open air cathedral’ is held. Keith (Chaplain to the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services) and Jenny (AS Hospital volunteer) have developed a community ministry which has received good coverage in the local media. Plans are in hand for further development of church and patrol.

**PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION 2014 CHRISTMAS CARDS**

1-3 packs @ $7.60 per pack • 4+ packs @ $7.00 per pack

Contact the Office:
P.O. Box 4014, Croydon Hills, VIC 3136
Ph: (03) 9005 8256 • Fax: (03) 9876 1941

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION 2015

PIM PATROL TEAMS AND PASTORAL TEAMS

1. Chris and Sandra Woongins
2. Chris and Sandra Woongins
3. Surendra and May’an Wesley
4. Surendra and May’an Wesley
5. Vacant
6. Vacant
7. Vacant
8. Rob and Jeanette Duncanson
9. Vacant
10. Vacant
11. Keith and Jenny Bell
12. David and Gae McDonald
13. David and Gae McDonald
14. Roger and Margaret Crane
15. David and Kathy Allsop
16. Greg and Janet Cripps
17. Laurie and Gwen Peake
18. Vacant
19. Colin and Alison Morrow
20. Vacant

PIM SUPERINTENDENT Stuart Bonnington
PIM CONVENER Rob Duncanson
PIM MANAGER Mike Timmins

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BY WORD AND DEED

P R A Y  F O R  T H E  P I M

SUNDAY Pray for Christ-likeness and spiritual growth in all PIM workers
MONDAY Pray for hearts to be opened as the Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed by word and deed by PIM workers
TUESDAY Pray for more PIM workers to be raised up and sent forth by the Lord of the Harvest
WEDNESDAY Pray for health, safety and deliverance from discouragement and depression for all PIM workers
THURSDAY Pray for the finance and the wisdom required to develop the ministry of the PIM
FRIDAY Pray for many people to become and grow as Christians through PIM patrols and churches
SATURDAY Pray that the PIM would be gospel-based and gospel-centered in all areas of its work

NT PRESBYTERIANS

“THE DESERT SHALL REJOICE AND BRING BLOOM”

Alice Springs:
Sunday 10am 20 Parke Crescent, The Gap
Kath Bell 08 8953 7746
Darwin:
Sunday 10am Kormilda College, Berrimah Sunday 5pm Palmerston Library
Rob Duncanson 08 8945 7878

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

www.pim.org.au

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PIM PADRE TEAMS
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Chris and Sandra Woongins E: cwoongins@pim.org.au
M: 0428 665 123 Southern Patrol WA (Denmark PIM Church)

David and Gae McDonald
E: dmc@pim.org.au M: 0428 218 551
John Flynn Patrol SA (Smith of Duneske’ Beltana PIM Church)

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M: 0407 406 628 South Patrol Qld

Roger and Margaret Crane E: roger@pim.org.au
M: 0439 515 163 North Patrol Qld

Laurie and Gwen Peake E: lpeake@pim.org.au
Leichhardt Patrol Qld M: 0427 486 677

Colin and Alison Morrow E: cmorrow@pim.org.au; alisonmorrow@pim.org.au
M: 0407 220 055 Mungo Patrol NSW/Vic

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M: 0438 719 956 Alice Springs PIM Church

Rob and Jeanette Duncanson E: convener@pim.org.au
M: 0413 021 716 Darwin PIM Church

RESPONSE FORM

Name ___________________________ Phone ( ) __________________ email __________________________
Address ___________________________ State __________ Postcode ____________

Donation – PIM general funds
Donation – PIM Mid West/Surendra Wesley
Total

Payment details:
☐ Cheque enclosed (Payable to Presbyterian Inland Mission)
☐ Charge my Credit Card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard
Card No ___________________________ Expiry date ___ / ___
Name on card ___________________________ Signature ___________________________
WHAT DOES CHURCH PLANTING LOOK LIKE IN TAIWAN?

Linda McKerrell serves with OMF in churches among the working class, a Taiwan with a team seeking to plant. Does a Taiwanese church plant differ from an Australian church plant?

1. What are the essentials for a “Church”?

At the recent Church planting retreat, we tried to write a list of things that make up a church.

If one of these things were missing, would it still be a church?

Here’s the list we came up with –

- A group of Christians who meet together regularly
- Pray and praise God together
- The Bible is central – we read and learn together
- Looking after each other
- Baptism and the Lord’s Supper
- Having leaders and church discipline
- Equipping people to serve each other

2. What are the essentials for a healthy ‘working class church’?

- Living geographically close together so that we can easily be involved in each other’s lives
- Specific teaching re: idolatry, food sacrifices
- Flexibility – time, structure and noise level
- What should be the relationship between the local established denominations in Taiwan and the kinds of working class churches we are trying to plant?

The answers are not straightforward. They are bound in Taiwanese church history, Taiwanese culture, the various cultural backgrounds of missionaries from Europe, Asia, USA and Australia. Please pray that God would use His people in Taiwan (both Taiwanese believers and foreign missionaries working together) to help grow His church, especially to reach out to the working class.

3. Questions we wrestled with

- When we know the ministry in the remote mining town of Western Australia, we anticipated that they will commence serving with Global Impact in January 2015. Morris will take up a position in Arnham Land with MAF. John and Kara Dekker (APWM National, Cornerstone Concord, NSW, APWM National Associates, Indonesia), are currently the Senior Presbyterian Chaplain and the Director For the Centre for Pastoral Education at Westminster Hospital. In January 2015 Morris will take up a position in Indonesia training and supervising Hospital Chaplains for a large group of Private Christian Hospitals in Jakarta, Indonesia.

JOHN & KARA DEKKER

AARON AND KATIE RIGG

VIVIAN TO

MORRIS AND FLORIANNA KEY

TUMIRIN & SHERIDAN INDARTO

NEW MISSIONARIES

Surendra & May’an Wesley (APWM/PIW, Western Australia) We are currently awaiting the approval of their visa. God-willing Surendra and May’an Wesley will be arriving in Australia in December 2014. It is anticipated that they will commence ministry in the remote mining town of Mount Magnet, Western Australia in early 2015.

SUREN德拉 AND MAY’AN WESLEY

Vivien Barton (Tamborine Mountain, QLD, SIM, Kenya) will serve as SIMpact coordinator assisting and mentoring short term missionaries to Kenya.

VIVIEN BARTON

Youssif Kunda & Vivian Ajawin (Clayton, VIC, GNI, Australia) have commenced serving with Global Recordings Network which is located in Sydney. Youssif has been trained as a recordist to produce Bible resources in people’s heart language. Vivian is serving in the GNI promotions team. Although they are currently serving, they still need more support.

YOUSSF KUNDA & VIVIAN AJAWIN

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

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT

‘Dispatches from the Front’ by Tim Keeseer is an unusual book. It’s a travel journal which records the advance of the gospel in some of the world’s remote locations. There is also a 7-disc DVD series. You can watch some excerpts at www.dispatchesfromthefront.org.

You can read the Frontline a blog at www.frontlinemissions.info

John Piper writes about the DVD series “Beware of watching these Dispatches if you don’t like being moved and inspired and shaken out of the rut of your life. My wife and I were riveted in watching the frontline reports of God’s work recorded in the Dispatches from the Front. This is the sort of information that builds faith in the present providence of God over his mission, and stirs up action for the sake of lost and hurting people near and far. I would love to see thousands of people mobilized as senders and goers for the sake of the glory of Christ and the relief of suffering on the frontiers, especially eternal suffering.”

Please note APWM National’s new phone number and address 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134 (02) 8073 7490
APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2014

This Christmas why not give gifts to your friends and family and at the same time help someone who doesn’t have the basics that we take for granted? The items below can provide for the needs of Christians and others in our partner churches in Myanmar. All gifts will be channelled through our partner Presbyterian Church in Myanmar.

**APWM ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (AUS TRALIA)**
A gift of $25 will help support APWM Aboriginal ministry in Mount Magnet, Western Australia in conjunction with PIM.

**BIBLE COLLEGE BOOK RESOURCES (MYANMAR)**
A gift of $35 will provide books and resources for the Reformed Bible Institute in Yangon.

**STATIONERY FOR ONE RURAL CHILD (MYANMAR)**
A gift of $45 will provide stationery for one rural child.

**VITAMINS AND MEDICINES FOR A RURAL VILLAGE (MYANMAR)**
A gift of $50 will provide vitamins and medicines for a rural village in Chin State.

**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR ONE RURAL CHILD (MYANMAR)**
A gift of $60 will provide educational assistance for one year for a child.

**MEDICINE FOR BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS (MYANMAR)**
A gift of $60 will provide medicine for students at the Reformed Bible Institute in Yangon.

**SOLAR LIGHTING EQUIPMENT (MYANMAR)**
A gift of $700 will provide lighting for children in village schools to study at night.

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**PRAYER AND FINANCE Response Form**

Please send to: APWM
81 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood NSW 2134

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Postcode: __________

Email: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Church: ____________________________

I would like to support the following: Missionary’s Name

☐ Please send me the missionary’s prayer letter.
☐ APWM ministry in a particular country

Please indicate an amount:
☐ $20  ☐ $50  ☐ $100
☐ other $ __________

Please indicate how regular your payment will be:
☐ one-off  ☐ monthly  ☐ quarterly  ☐ half yearly  ☐ yearly

Four Ways to Give
1. Cheque (made out to Australian Presbyterian World Mission)
2. Credit card
3. Direct debit
4. Other

Name on card: ____________________________
Expires: __________
Signature: ____________________________

Date of first payment: __________

☐ Direct debit
Your account name(s): ____________________________

Signature: ____________________________

BSB: __________
Account number: __________

Date of first payment: __________

☐ Direct deposit

Account: Australian Presbyterian World Mission
BSB: 033-260
Account number: 151207

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.

Enquiries
finance@apwm.org.au
02 8073 7490
www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance

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WHERE IS YOUR FAITH AND TRUST?

Bali and Premila Shepherd run a ministry known as “SEWAH” in Northern India. The ministry reaches out to children from poor families through its education and welfare activities. Bali and Premila were recently in Australia, speaking in churches about SEWAH. SEWAH stands for “Society for Education and Welfare Activities in the Himalayas.”

Bali, how did you become a Christian?

I was born and brought up in a Hindu family and I had never heard about Christians before. I travelled to Mussoorie where there were so many Christians. I wanted to catch them out but God caught me up with a miraculous way. I wanted to commit suicide but God stopped me every time!

Premila, how did you become a Christian?

I was a Hindu. My father became very very sick. My relatives sacrificed goats and chickens for his healing. He has been to him.

RICK MANTON

Many will have heard that Rick Manton, Pastor of the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church, has been quite ill. What began as an infection quickly developed into a life-threatening illness as the infection travelled to his heart. Rick spent many months in hospital as the doctors tried to bring the infection under control. He is now home and undergoing rehabilitation to regain full mobility and preparations for open heart surgery to deal with a damaged heart valve.

Throughout this trial, God has used the congregation at Mount Druitt to minister to Rick and his wife Kayleen. Rick and Kayleen’s son-in-law, Leon and he became worse. A neighbour suggested we ask a Christian minister to pray for him and one came to our house and prayed for my father. That same day my father saw a vision. There was a black man pushing him up and a white man like Jesus, pushing him down. Both were pushing and the white man won. My father slowly began to get better and I thought “Jesus is a living God that's why the minister prayed for my father and he was healed.” It was at that time that I accepted the Lord.

What does the SEWAH ministry do?

I was a pastor many years. One day God called me to reach out to Hindus with the gospel because I understood them and used to think like them. They had the same questions as I had to use. I said “God, I have family responsibilities.” God said “You preach your usual self. Please listen to your faith and trust.” Through some miraculous ways, God gave us an operating school. We began to teach Bible stories and songs to the children and the school began to grow. The God spoke to us through Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” That verse became the basis of our ministry. Now we have 5 schools with 300 children.

How many teachers do you have and are they Christian?

We have 18 teachers. Some are Christian and some are not. The non-Christian teachers have the responsibility of teaching Bible verses to the children but they also learn the Bible. Some of these teachers have come to faith in the Lord Jesus. On the first Saturday of every month all the teachers join together for Bible study.

What encourages you?

We're encouraged that we are able to teach the children from the Bible. We are free to teach them the Word of God. They have a fresh mind and the Bible verses they learn stay with them. We are very happy to see the children growing in the Word of God day by day.

BALI AND PREMILA SHEPHERD

RICK MANTON

Turvey, is the congregation’s youth worker and has been pastoring and preaching in Rick’s place. If you speak to Rick he will quickly tell you what a tower of strength Kayleen has been to him. Rick and Kayleen would like to thank the many people who have been praying for them. There is still a long way to go before Rick will be back to being his usual self. Please continue to remember them in prayer.

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AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION
www.apwm.org.au

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New Directions December 2014/January 2015
It was much more than one parishioner had bargained for when he was about to have his cataracts removed.

The snake had been spotted acting suspiciously in nearby undergrowth before the service commenced.

Despite some spirited driving in the car park, the snake hung on for the ride.

Fellow parishioner, biologist and CMS-QLDNSW parish liaison Stuart Hyland, volunteered to remove the snake.

Oddly enough assistants were not forthcoming. The snake wrapped itself around one arm, whether this was intentional no one is quite sure with Stuart he grabbed the snake’s head, before posing for photographs.

Stuart took the python to nearby undergrowth and flung it off his arm – the snake was for a moment airborne before landing and slithered off, none the worse for wear. Oh... and Stuart was ok too.

Minister Keith Mayers reported the incident had not discouraged worshippers, but he noticed more people were parking on the bitsumen part of the car park.

In August this year, Vision radio’s breakfast presenter Richelle Wenham journeyed to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania with CMS-QLDNSW, she recounts:

“Aside from adjusting once again to thick heat, the unusual taste of tree root potato chips and the crazy lack of road rules, I found that seeing the genuine humility and joy of the Tanzanian people amidst the lack of road rules, I found that seeing the genuine humility and joy of the Tanzanian people amidst the darkness.

In James 2:14-20, God teaches us the mark of a Christian is faith, but that faith without helping others is dead. While I wanted to stick it out for another week to help, I had to remind myself that telling people’s stories is important too.

“People are just like you and me, but they’re often left without a voice and without hope. Even in these small things we can show the love of Jesus and tell everyone their lives DO matter. My prayer is that God would never let me forget their plight.”

“Nation-wide ‘Day of Miracles’ raised enough funds to perform 18,800 cataract operations and I simply can’t express in words how much this transforms individual lives.

“Having met with patients and gone in to see a cataract operation performed, I’ll never forget the story of Abdallah. He told us his life was like living in a dark prison at the mercy of some leader. He never knew his parents. His father died when he was only three. Since then he had to fend for himself. He didn’t have access to education.

“Being with Abdallah when his bandages were removed and Richelle Wenham

Richelle Wenham with another happy patient who’s looking forward to seeing and playing with her grandchildren.

If you’d like to know more about CBM Australia, simply visit www.cbm.org.au or phone 07 3112 6530.

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

If you want to learn more about the work of CMS in equipping church leaders throughout the world, visit www.cbm.org.au and read more about CBM Australia.”
Fun and Adventure has gone ‘Viral’

For those who are still grappling with the world of Facebook and online media, the word viral may not be overly familiar to you, but this year Fun and Adventure Camp (FNA) nearly sold out within 10 hours!

Online registration was announced via the Fun and Adventure Facebook page and BOOM, kids from far and wide were signing up in a flurry.

What an exciting time to see young, enthusiastic high schoolers frantically registering to come to a camp whose primary focus is a series of Bible talks on the book of Mark.

And with that the camp was full. Ten weeks later, 144 campers arrived at beautiful Moogerah Lake for a week of fun, adventure, Gospel-driven Bible talks, relationship-building activities and a 40m piece of builders plastic slide!

Brett Middleton flew up from Sydney to bring us six talks on the Gospel of Mark. The word Gospel means ‘Good News’ and ‘Good News’ is designed to be shared. And this is why they attend so enthusiastically.

With a whole bunch of fun games and activities such as the water slide, mini World Cup, dancing and our first ever ‘COLOUR RUN’, complementing our main activities of tubing, kitesurfing, rock climbing and jet skiing, the campers were quickly into the flow of camp.

On just the second night some were even commenting on how much they’ll miss camp when it’s finished. This is a group of campers that has the potential to be extremely influential in our churches in the years to come.

With not a single behavioural issue, and campers putting themselves to bed from the second night onwards, it was an absolute joy and pleasure to watch this group of youth grow together in unity and in the Word.

At the time of writing this, camp has been finished for a few weeks now but the flow of camp has only just commenced. Stories are filtering through the youth groups like Central Church and Acacia Ridge Church having extra kids join them post camp.

The FNA/Central Bible Study Group ‘Monday Night Gaths’ had an additional eight kids show up for Bible Study after camp. Kids are still trying to get their hands on the three books we were promoting at camp (Crazy Love, Jesus > Religion and Do Hard Things), and leaders are still posting these to campers.

The momentum is greater than ever. The leaders were encouraged on camp to remember that we are NOT the Vine, we are the Branches – what branch tells the vine what to do? For fruit to grow on a branch, a branch needs to CLING to the VINE!

And that’s what we did; committing each and every component of camp into the hands of God, the vine, and enjoying the sweet, sweet taste of the fruit which he has blessed us with.

A massive thank you to Troy Williams for cooking for the camp with help from Rachel Kirkby, Jonathan Ting and the legendary boys from Acacia Ridge Presbyterian Church: Mike, Prathee and Javed!! Those boys were dishwashing machines!! (Note: There were many others that also helped.)

Thank you also to Murray Whiting, Stewart McGregor and the boat driving team. What a joy to celebrate 30 years of MAD MURRAY with a dinner, a plaque and a badly backfiring prank. It was great to walk down memory lane with former Camp Director Peter Barson also visiting us on this night.

We would love to continue to offer campers discounted books, Bibles and other resources – if you are interested in helping us with some money please email John Mansfield (johnm@pcq.org.au). But please pray, but the flow on groups and churches would be encouraging and helping the many campers who are walking through our doors to know Jesus more. Pray that the campers might be ‘ALL IN’ for Christ.

Check out our Facebook Page – Fun and Adventure Camp – for more info, details and online registration date for 2015. If you have Instagram, check out the hashtag #keenforfna for pics of camp. And if you have tweeters, make sure they register early, as next year promises to sell out even quicker!

Ever been to Egypt?

We have! Yes, more than 80 campers and nearly 90 leaders travelled back in time to Egypt on a great Egyptian adventure at the recent Kids Weekender Camp held at Lake Moogerah (aka The Nile) in October.

Tour Guide Steve Hay and the rest of the Clubhouse leaders from Acacia Ridge Presbyterian Church joined together to create a wonderful series of Bible talks looking at ‘Unearthing the Story of Joseph’ and how it points us to Jesus.

With Duncan pouring all his money into archaeology and the Professor not having much luck, campers were taken on a journey through time as we looked at the story of Joseph, his dreams, his imprisonment, his perseverance, and his rescue. What a great joy to sing ‘The Egyptian Rap’ with noisy, friendly, colourful and happy campers:

‘Will you stay strong? Will you stay true? Will you persevere in all you do? Stay strong in CHRIST! Stay true to GOD! Persevere... STAY STRONG!’

Thanks to Emily Barrett and Amelia Evans (Dalby Presbyterian Church) for teaching us some great memory verses and the rest of the leaders for preparing their small group times so well. But of course, there is a little bit more to come.

If you follow Kids Weekender Camps on Facebook you can be kept up to date with all the goings on of camp on a rolling basis, but for those who missed out, we played games, ran ourselves silly, played a strategy-style-board-game-building-game on Saturday night and enjoyed being towed around behind speed boats on Saturday afternoon.

What fun it is to see five campers come back to shore after a ten minute ride on the five metre sausage with their stories of pure enjoyment, heroism, heaps of good fun and ‘the water sprayed me in my face!’ Good times…

Of course the food was awesome and a special thanks goes to Troy Wilkins (Central Presbyterian Church) who along with his apprentices, Prathee, Mike and Paul (Acacia Ridge Presbyterian Church) and Kylie Evans (Dalby Presbyterian Church) ensured the kids and leaders were fed and fed well.

The only problem with the food is that the parents all complain that their kids expect bacon, eggs, hash browns, sausages and toast for breakfast the Monday after camp.

This concludes our Kids Weekender camps, and in fact all our kids camps for the year.

Thank you to over 100 leaders who joined us over the course of the year. We saw a massive number of kids join us this year, who have shown back time and time and time again. Thank you to the churches who were praying for us and we would love for you to send along your kids next year. And speaking of next year, has anyone seen my calendar? Let’s better go and search the jungle for him!

Check us out on Facebook!
The Family and friends of Thelma Jean Young, nee Allison, gathered at the Presbyterian Church, Wynnum on 24 October to give thanks to God for, and to celebrate the life of Thelma, who was called home by her Lord the previous Sunday.

Thelma was born at 54 Whynot Street, West End to Robert and Francis Allison, who welcomed their second child and a sister for Robert aged 6.

Her great grandfather Robert Allison had come from Scotland in 1863. When Thelma was 2, the family moved to Wynnum where Thelma spent the next 92 years.

Thelma was an independent spirit, an accomplished musician, an athlete, a naval officer, a strong member of the local church, a devoted family member, a wife, a good friend and a very gracious lady. She attended the Wynnum Central Primary School and completed her secondary education at Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

She could fill in on the piano or organ at a moment’s notice, and played whenever the PWA formed a choir for a special occasion.

Robert was ordained an elder in 1949, and served as Session Clerk from September 1958 to the end of 1992.

Their unwavering commitment to the work of the Gospel in Wynnum was evident for all to see over so many years, and there would be many around the state, and further afield, who would have experienced their fellowship through church gatherings.

Thelma was widowed early in 2002. She moved to PresCare Vela early in 2010, where she resumed her ministry not only amongst the residents, but also to the newly appointed Chaplain, Glenda.

Glenda received much encouragement, inspiration and confirmation from Thelma who obviously had much to offer due to her long and steadfast walk of faith.

The presence and fellowship of Thelma Jean Young amongst the PresCare residents at Vela and the congregation at Wynnum Church will be sorely missed.

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.

POSITION VACANT
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, a forward looking Session, strong outreaching PWA, Mission Committee and 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.

POSITION VACANT
QTC Events Coordinator

Queensland Theological College are seeking a dedicated, confident and capable person to fill the position of Events Coordinator. This casual position involves approximately 35 hours a week and may include occasional evening and weekend work during peak periods or at special events. The starting date will be the week beginning 30 March 2015.

Major responsibilities:
• Event administration, management and promotion of QTC events
• Producing promotional material for the college, including newsletters, ads and flyers
• Promoting the college through social media and managing website content
• Providing occasional general administrative support, as directed by the Principal

Essential criteria:
• Understanding of and commitment to the QTC ethos
• Organisational and administrative skills
• Communication, interpersonal and teamwork skills
• Technical proficiency in Microsoft Office programmes as well as general computer skills
• Design skills and familiarity with Adobe Photoshop (or similar)
• Ability to liaise effectively with graphic design and advertising professionals

Desired criteria:
• Employment experience in events management and/or public relations
• Ability to rapidly acquire knowledge and skills for new technologies and programmes
• General familiarity with the Bible and biblical concepts
I've done it myself and I failed miserably
I set sail and sailed forbidden seas
Bailed that place to face God’s Grace
Only to reject love and chase what myself tastes
I battled daily till the day God saved me
My future’s certain, there ain’t no maybe
I'm always learning about burden and sin
But it’s fuel for the fire, Christ burns within!

Krosswerdz is a group of people who love Hip-Hop and love Jesus. What started in Sydney seven years ago has now seen church plants Australia wide and as far as Malaysia and South Korea.

For over four years Krosswerdz South East Queensland has been running church services, outreachs, Bible studies and weekly Hip-Hop workshops within the community.

Services are held at various locations including Mitchelton Presbyterian Church, Fortitude Valley, Forest Lake and the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.

Krosswerdz held a community event in Inala at the end of October, combined with Forest Lake Baptist and Westside Multicultural Baptist Church.

People from all over the community attended the event, at which Mark Mackay (Forest Lake Baptist) gave a short Bible talk; a graffiti mural was painted on the side of the church building; Christians expressed their faith through music and dance; and a free dinner was provided.

Nathan Carse is the co-founder of Krosswerdz SEQ and a Ministry Training Network trainee at Village Church, Kelvin Grove. “It’s beautiful to see so many denominations join together with one goal, for young people to come to know Jesus,” he said.

Nathan has been blessed with numerous opportunities to share the Gospel through Krosswerdz outreachs.

“...I love being a part of Church services in the Youth Detention Centre. We’ve had heaps of opportunities to rap in front of the young people and to share from God’s Word. It’s an incredible experience,” says Nathan.

More information on upcoming events and opportunities for outreachs can be found on the Krosswerdz Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/groups/krosswerdz.qld/

Christmas in Prison

by Jesse Caulfield

Christmas in Townsville is a charming time of year. As the hot summer sun begins to set, families flock to the water or begin cricket matches in parks and backyards. Christmas lights adorn roofs and patios, and decorated Christmas trees, surrounded by mountains of presents, can be spied through living room windows.

For Townsville locals, Wayne and Rhonda are prison chaplains. They frequently visit prisons who are so often spiritually obscure town of Bethlehem. To the first Christmas in a dusty stable, in the obscure town of Bethlehem. To the story of that very story of a God who became flesh to pray for your prison chaplains, please then. It is often when a prisoner is overcome with sadness and feeling most alone, that the Gospel of Jesus brings the most amazing grace and comfort.

At Christmas many prisoners feel lonelier, more depressed and segregated than at any other time of the year. They hurt deeply; they know the enormity of what they are missing out on. This is why the chaplains think it is so crucial to go into prisons on Christmas Day. It is often when a prisoner is overcome with sadness and feeling most alone, that the Gospel of Jesus brings the most amazing grace and comfort.

On Christmas Day, Wayne and Rhonda find the energy to lead prison chapel services in the morning, have lunch with the staff, and then lead another service in the afternoon. As the chaplains enter the prison chapel they notice a sea of new faces. There’s often an influx of inmates at services during Christmas – people who are longing for a sensitive message full of hope and redemption.

So in the most notorious of places, the chaplains tell the story of that very first Christmas in a dusty stable, in the obscure town of Bethlehem. To the prisoners who are so often spiritually poor and lost, the chaplains tell the story of a God who became flesh to save that soul.

This Christmas season please pray for Rhonda and Wayne, and all your prison chaplains, as they visit people in prison. Pray that they will be strengthened by God to proclaim the Gospel of God’s grace boldly and clearly. Pray that prisoners will be able to see the joy of the birth of the Saviour Jesus Christ this Christmas.

Thank you.

To find out how to intelligently pray for your prison chaplains, please visit www.insideoutchaplaincy.org.au or alternatively write to us at PO Box 513, Red Hill Qld 4059.