

Pres Life

MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND

**How well
do you
understand
faith?**

**Meet
our new
ministry
workers!**

**Hear about
QTC's trip
to Israel and
Jordan**

**The
Gospel
and
Abortion**

Bringing news, views and inspiration to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland as well as seeking to bring Glory to God and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

VOLUME 20 QUARTERLY ISSUE 1 2016

Pres Life

Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

CONTRIBUTIONS of stories, ideas and images are welcome. Stories and advertising should be sent to the editor. Photographs should be saved in JPEG or TIFF format and must be high resolution (300DPI). Written permission also needs to be given to reprint the photographs. If quoting other people's work in your article that should be acknowledged in the article. Please limit articles to **250 words (subject to editing)**. For a copy of the publication deadlines please email preslife@pcq.org.au. For full details on advertising please contact the editor.

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Key Dates



CAMPS & CONFERENCES

WWW.YNET.ORG.AU

YNET is an initiative of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland

Propel	18-22 January	Darling Downs, Youth
Kickstart Training	13 February	Children's Leaders
Kids Weekender DD	11-13 March	Darling Downs, Children
Kids Weekender South	18 - 20 March	South Brisbane, Children
NQ Launch	4 - 8 April	NQ, Youth, Leaders in Training
CQ Alive	8 - 10 April	Central QLD, Youth
Kids Weekender North	15 - 17 April	North Brisbane, Children
YNET Conference	29 April - 2 May	Leaders
SQ Launch	27 June - 1 July	SQ, Youth, Leaders in Training
Megasportz Soccer	27 June - 1 July	SQ, Children
Megasportz Netball	4 - 8 July	SQ, Children
Spring Camp	16 - 19 September	SQ, Youth
NQ Xtreme	24 - 29 September	NQ, Youth
Fun & Adventure	25 Sept - 1 Oct	SQ, Youth
Kids Weekender	21 - 23 October	SQ, Children
Jumpstart Schoolies	21 - 25 November	QLD, Year 12



Bible-centred. Gospel-driven. Mission-minded

Preaching Conference | 8-10 March



This 3-day event features **Christopher Ash** who will address 'Preaching from the Heart' alongside **Alistair Begg** who will teach on the work of the Gospel and Gospel Workers.

QTC Graduation Ceremony | 10 March



Join QTC to acknowledge and celebrate its 2015 graduates at Brisbane Boys' College, 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start.

Cross-Cultural Learning & Teaching Day | 11 April



Dr Evelyn Hibbert, an experienced missiologist and adult educator, comes to QTC to speak on discipling, teaching and training people from cultural contexts different from our own.

Taste of QTC | 14 May



Are you considering theological study? Join the QTC staff and students for breakfast to find out more about QTC and have your questions answered.

Romans Teaching Day | 23 May



Dr Tom Schreiner, a renowned reformed evangelical scholar of Pauline theology, will be teaching on one of Paul's most vital letters – Romans.

www.qtc.edu.au/events

QTC Preaching Conference 2016

Living The Gospel. Loving The Gospel. Teaching The Gospel.



Join us to hear from Christopher Ash on 'Preaching from the Heart', as he opens up the Psalms, Hymns and Songs of the Bible, and Alistair Begg on 'The Work of the Gospel and Gospel Workers' from 2 Timothy. There will also be plenary addresses from QTC's Gary Millar and Doug O'Donnell, as well as a range of elective seminars that will tackle the nuts and bolts of teaching the Bible to men, women and children in the local church.

Register at www.qtc.edu.au/event/QTC_Preaching_Conference_2016
For queries contact events@qtc.edu.au

8-10 March 2016
Emmanuel College
University of Queensland
St Lucia Campus

Single Day Pass \$70
3 Day Standard \$185



News from around the State



Academic Success for 2015 Fairholme Seniors

The Presbyterian Church of Queensland's Fairholme College in Toowoomba was delighted with its results in 2015.

The Fairholme family congratulates their Year 12 Cohort on their excellent OP/QCS results and tertiary outcomes:

* 6% of Fairholme girls achieved an Overall Position of OP1 (5 of the 341 female students awarded an OP 1 in Queensland).

* 31% of Fairholme girls achieved an Overall Position between 1 – 5

* 72% of Fairholme girls achieved an Overall Position between 1 – 10

* 94% of Fairholme girls achieved an Overall Position between 1 – 15

* 38% of Fairholme girls completed VET qualifications (Vocational Education Training)

* 11% of Fairholme girls completed units of University study

These strong results are representative of commitment and hard work both individually and as a whole cohort as well as reflecting the strong educational and pastoral support that has been provided by a professional and dedicated teaching staff. We recognise particularly, the work of Dr Carole Hill

and her QCS teacher team for their work in preparing the girls for these tests.

Our efforts throughout each girl's schooling at Fairholme have been focused upon developing appropriate pathways for the future within a tertiary educational setting, or within the workplace and ultimately as contributing members of the communities to which they belong. We do have confidence in each of our girl's ability to make a positive difference in her chosen field.

Do you have any news to share about what's happening in the life of your church or the work individuals/groups are doing to promote the Gospel? Then please contact the Editor at preslife@pcq.org.au.



Site for Northside, Townsville's church



Proposed auditorium for Southside, Brisbane

New Churches for Townsville and Brisbane

Northside in Townsville has been buoyed in December by the purchase of land in Stockland's North Shore development.

The Northside congregation plans to build on this land in 2016. This purchase was made possible with the assistance of the Committee on Ministry Resourcing and the Capital Fund, and will allow the congregation to maximise its effectiveness in using money allocated to it from sale of property elsewhere in North Queensland Presbytery.

After five years of meeting in the neighbouring suburb of Deeragun it will be great—Lord willing—for Northside to begin meeting in this new development.

Be Creative Weekend Retreat

"Wow! What a weekend this was! It was such a privilege to spend time with 115 ladies from far flung areas of the state, as well as a few overseas visitors. The fellowship, friendship and openness among the women was contagious." Isabel Barnett from Gladstone reports on her first experience of the *Be Creative Retreat* at Dakabin.

The workshops offered included several sewing options—a quilt top, table runner, bags, sashiko, as well as spinning, paper crafts, art classes, jewellery making and woodwork. The hall was a height of activity (and chatter) as we learnt new skills and made new friends.

Interwoven with these activities were several opportunities when the Gospel Girls team guided us through negative relationship issues we develop in our daily lives. Many of these—betrayal, denial, sarcasm, insults, disrespect—to name a few, mar our interaction with others and separate us from God. We thank Dr Carolyn Russell for drawing all these strands together in her message on Sunday morning as she spoke of 'Forgiveness'.

What an amazing privilege we have in a Saviour who draws us to Himself breaking down the barriers we have built, forgives our sins and gives us His righteousness.

The committee wishes to thank all the tutors who very patiently gave their time over the weekend, and the campers for their contribution of lovingly stitched items for the 'Silent Auction'. The Dorcas Centre in Dehra Dun, North India has sent their thanks for the proceeds donated to them.

Welcome to Southside's new Auditorium. What is now a warehouse—you can drive a truck through (literally)—is being transformed into a 460 seat auditorium with kitchen facilities, toilets and large meeting spaces. After about nine months we now have a building application approved and work commencing—very exciting!

With such a large space with different functions the project has been staged. The first stage (the auditorium), we hope will be ready for use by September. However, if anything can go wrong with a building project it will.

We are blessed to have many tradies and people in the building industry in our own congregation and within the Pressie network. 'Blessed' is a word we often use lightly, but without these guys and their skills, this project just wouldn't happen—God answers prayers.

We've got a lot to thank God for. We can testify He is growing His church on the Southside.





The Gospel and Abortion

Edited version of article published by GiST

About 814 babies are born each day in Australia. A further 250 are aborted. How should the Christian respond not just to abortion, but also to women who go through this experience? The Presbyterian Church of Queensland's GiST Committee produced a paper to help guide a gospel-centred response. The following is an edited version.

Why women have abortions:

It is hard for a mother to be excited when her pregnancy is unplanned and unwanted. It becomes even harder if the pregnancy is planned, but the unborn child is diagnosed with a severe disability/genetic condition or the survival of the mother demands the life of the child.

It is an emotionally charged time when the mother is extremely vulnerable and an abortion is raised as a legal medical option. For some women, an abortion is an easy choice. Others feel pressured to go ahead with an abortion by the father, their family or by their life circumstances.

Irrespective of the reasoning for an abortion, it is becoming widely recognised that abortion can cause significant grief, guilt and emotional trauma, which is often delayed. These women remain vulnerable for many years.

The Gospel response to women having an abortion:

In the gospels, Jesus sought out those who were vulnerable, isolated, struggling and who carried heavy burdens of guilt. He still does and He knows the truth about our hearts. His words are radically challenging and deeply confronting, compassionate and liberating. They speak directly to everyone dealing with an unplanned or complicated pregnancy or by a past abortion.

Here are three important points Jesus makes:

God makes us worthy of love. Jesus told the story about the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), who stopped to care for a complete stranger lying hurt (and vulnerable) by the road while others hurried past. Jesus shows that love does not stop to ask whether someone is worthy of our love. Love assumes that God gives value and worth to all people because he made every person to belong to him. Our personal value lies in the value God gives to us because he made us.

We all deserve God's judgement. The story of the Good Samaritan makes us feel uncomfortable. It makes us admit that we fail to love others on countless occasions. Much worse, we fail to love and listen to the God. According to Jesus, we deserve only His judgement (John 3:18-20, John 16:7-11).

New hope and life in Jesus. Jesus came to show compassion and to bring hope to failures and rebels like us. In His death on the cross, Jesus paid the price for our rebellion and lifted away all our guilt, including the guilt of abortion. He calls on us to start life over again, finding our value, security and hope in his unconditional love for us.

If you are considering an abortion:

Listening to Jesus means changing into people who love God and unconditionally love others. For all of us, this means embracing the dependant and vulnerable 'stranger' in the womb, the foetus. A foetus is valuable and worthy of love simply because God has made him or her. He knows and treasures us when we are still being formed in the womb (Psalm 139:13-16).

God, in his power, is able to work for good in the lives of all those who love him, no matter how dire the circumstances.

How you can make a difference:

Christians must create communities that leave no one in isolation: supporting the vulnerable, valuing children, honouring parenthood and embracing those with disabilities.

Further reading

Cameron, A. (2011), *Joined Up Life*, IVP England

O'Donovan, O. (1984), *Begotten Not Made*, Oxford University Press, Oxford

Verhey, A. (2003), *Reading the Bible in the Strange World of Medicine*, Eerdmans USA

About GiST: Gospel in Society Today Committee

The 'Gospel In Society Today' (GiST) Committee hopes to equip Christians to understand and discuss key issues in society with Christ-centred theology. The Presbyterian Church of Queensland's State Assembly appointed the GiST Committee to tackle areas of ethics, public policy and cultural engagement that impact Queenslanders.

You can read articles written by GiST on topics such as sexuality, abortion and humanity:

<http://www.pcq.org.au/gospel-in-society-today-gist.php>

Girl Talk: Inside one woman's ministry work

Wendy Henry chats with Lauren Fung



Lauren Fung coordinates the children's ministry team at The Village Church, Kelvin Grove. Lauren grew up in Sydney, California and Townsville before moving to Brisbane. Lauren and her husband, Simon, have a daughter, Norah.

How did you become involved in kids ministry?

I sort of fell into the role of Kids' Ministry coordinator—I always felt nervous about doing kids ministry and not particularly gifted at talking to kids. But here's the secret: kids are people. Who knew?

Did you have any preparation/training/education in this area?

God has been mysteriously preparing my heart over the past 29 years. I'm also doing a part-time ministry traineeship and studying part-time at the Queensland Theological College (QTC).

What has been one of your biggest challenges?

Living with depression and anxiety is one of my biggest challenges. I've often found it hard to stay passionate about my work or manage little things like emails. However, God is gracious and works through me even when I am at my weakest. He has also surrounded me with oodles of love and support. God is good!

Who or what encourages you most?

The kids! Oh, the kids! The way they think about God and the world is precious. I am so blessed spending time with them and having the immense privilege of sharing Jesus with them.

What are you hoping for in the future?

I hope God continues to use me to share the message of Jesus and to love and care for His growing church.



Israel and Jordan with QTC

by Wesley Redgen

“Nothing beats being there”: while it’s a cliché, the 30 of us who went on the QTC Study tour to Israel and Jordan in December 2015, can testify it’s true.

The Bible came to life as we walked the streets of Jerusalem, sailed on the Sea of Galilee, sat in the synagogues of Nazareth and Capernaum, and stood in the palace of Pilate, Felix and Festus in Caesarea.

We had read those stories many times, but reading the stories aloud on location brought light bulb moments again and again.

For example, to see a reconstruction of an ancient olive press with a donkey crushing the oil out of the olives and realize that Gethsemane means ‘olive press’. The deliberate imagery is that Jesus was so crushed by the weight of the sin he was about to bear that he dripped sweat like blood.

Or to stand in Gethsemane where Jesus contemplated dying for the sins of the world? You realise that when Jesus looked up to the towering structure of the Holy of Holies illuminated by the full Passover moon, would have filled his vision.

As he prepared to become the once and for all atoning sacrifice, he knelt in the shadow of the place where the Day of Atonement sacrifices had annually appeased the wrath of God.

How symbolic is that?

This year the tour included many people who were not QTC students. Why don’t you consider joining the QTC study tour to Greece and Turkey in 2017.

www.qtc.org.au

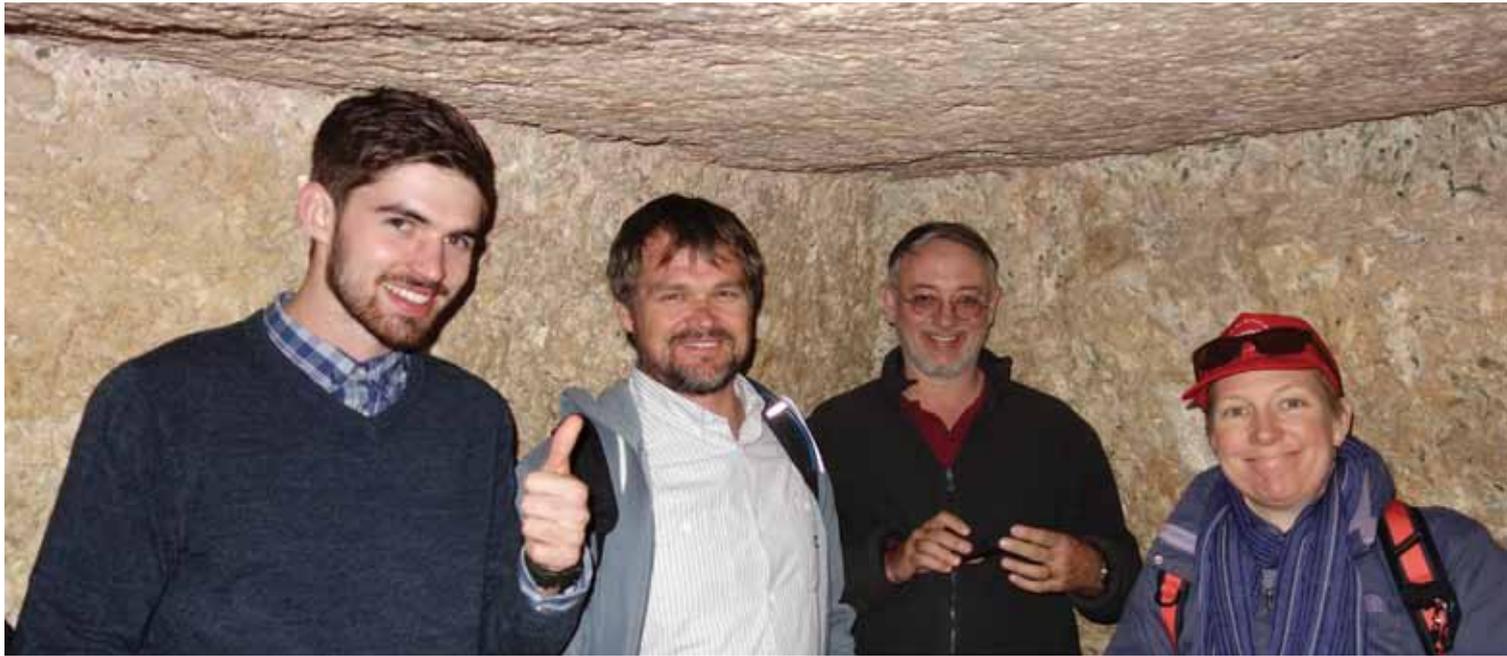
Photo: Dome of the Rock, courtesy Rob Davey

Photos on next page: QTC study tour group outside Jerusalem (top)

A first century garden tomb, just near where Jesus’s tomb would have been (centre)

Garden of Gethsemane (bottom)

Photos courtesy of Robert Thompson, Rob Davey and Wesley Redgen



Children & Youth Ministry



Jumpstart Schoolies 2015

by Stuart Hoadley

PCQ Jumpstart Schoolies marked its 20th year at the Point Lookout SLSC with one of our biggest camps ever. The 53 schoolies and 12 support crew enjoyed a week of life-changing Bible talks from David Hopper on the topic, 'True Love'.

These gospel focussed sessions were a highlight of the week. And the celebration of completing high school continued in a week filled with jet skiing, surfing, sand boarding, paddle boarding, swimming with dolphins, snorkelling, golfing, daily gelato, beach sessions, and much more.

A special mention must be made regarding the great efforts of Jon Ting and Josh Low, who stepped in as our cooks at the last minute, due to a family emergency with our usual cook. They prepared a great variety of tasty food every day, and did it all with a smile on their faces.

But the best part of Jumpstart Schoolies was seeing young people from all over Queensland gather as strangers and

leave as true friends in the faith.

Most of the campers are Christians and it was great to see the connections made at previous YNET camps grow into real togetherness over the week. And there were also a few campers that came to Schoolies seeking to know more about Christ, who consciously stepped closer to following Him because of their experience of good Bible teaching in a loving Christian community.

Over the years since it began as an alternative to the typical schoolies week, Jumpstart Schoolies has continued to provide an opportunity to celebrate this important rite of passage in an unashamedly Christian way.

This Schoolies week is one that inspires and edifies. Please pray that the 53 school leavers who attended will continue to grow as followers of Jesus and trust Him as they step into the next phase of life.





Propel Camp 2016

by Joshua Dodd

The school holidays ended with a huge week in Dalby. For five days, youth groups from the Darling Downs (DD) (and one honorary DD youth group from Brisbane) spent time camping on the edge of Lake Broadwater.

Regardless of the heat, and unfortunate sunburn (despite nagging leaders), a great time was had on camp. From tubing and kneeboarding, to bush dancing and rapping, to pool noodle wars and a Country Fair, there was always something happening. A great sense of community developed quickly, and it was good to see teenagers mixing across youth groups and age brackets.

We were privileged to have Mike Dicker (youth pastor at All Saints Petersham, Sydney) take us through Hebrews in four talks—thinking specifically about who Jesus is for us.

It brought great joy to those who led on camp to hear campers sharing around the campfire on the final night. Things such as feeling more secure in

Jesus and more comfortable to speak with God about their life because Jesus understands them—He knows what life is like.

A big thank you to the leaders and the churches that made Propel possible. This

is only the third year of Propel camp, but we are looking forward to the coming years, and seeing more teenagers encouraged to fix their eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of their faith.



Children & Youth Ministry



Starting This Year Well

by Danny Mitchell, YNET Consultant

A new year has started and this is a great time to reflect on your ministry to young people (whether children or teenagers), and how you communicate this ministry to those involved. It is always worth confirming that the people you are serving, and those you are serving with are on the same page. Below are some questions to help you think this through.

Who

Firstly, **who** are those key groups involved with this ministry? Young people and other leaders can be obvious inclusions, but parents, staff, prayer teams and the wider congregations can all play their part, if given the opportunity. When the whole church shares in ministering to children and teenagers, this prevents it from becoming a 'parallel' ministry and better connects young people within the life of the church community.

What

Have you clarified **what** it is you're doing in this ministry? Can your leaders and the young people themselves articulate this? Consider how young people describe the group to their friends, especially as they invite them along. Help them to share why it is good to meet with other Christians and be encouraged by them.

Why

Whilst it's important to define the 'what', knowing the '**why**' behind it is the key. Take some time to explain to those involved in ministry the basis for the group. It's vital to keep coming back to how the Gospel shapes and motivates this ministry.

Expectations

It is easy to assume that everyone in a ministry knows what is expected from

them. However, it's always a good idea to be clear about what the expectations are for those involved. For leaders, write out what the commitment of being a leader means.

For young people, explore the expectation of how they will relate to the rest of the group.

For other stakeholders, investigate how they can help create an environment of support and what it involves.

Each of these can be done with the leaders, young people or supporters to increase ownership of these expectations.

This year, let's work together to help young people know and follow our Lord Jesus Christ.

Contact details for YNET Consultants can be found here: www.ynet.org.au



Faith: Pure and Simple

by Roland Lowther

Faith is basic to Christian understanding; it's also easy to misunderstand!

It's easy to claim to have faith in Christ. Unfortunately, it's just as easy to adopt a 'form' of faith that actually denies that faith claim. Genuine faith will always be validated, but does not depend on human validation for its genuineness. How well do you understand faith?

Misunderstanding 1: Reducing faith to rational assent

Rational faith is really faith in reason, instead of having Christ as its true object. In its most basic form, this type of 'rational' faith is an acknowledgement of propositions about God. But knowing something is true about God, and actually trusting God are not the same. Faith in Christ can never remain an intellectual exercise; invariably it must manifest itself as a life of trust.

Misunderstanding 2: Representing faith as human faithfulness

In avoiding the error of rational faith, many swing to an equally erroneous view of faith as faithfulness. This is where faith 'relies' on validating works to 'prove' its legitimacy. In striving diligently, working harder, or being rigorous for God, we can develop a

belief that works 'make faith' genuine. However, this view of 'faith' actually makes human works the 'real' object of faith—not Christ. Faith as faithfulness, not unlike rational faith, so easily develops into a trust in ourselves.

Understanding what the Bible's view is on faith

Genuine faith doesn't depend on reason or human actions for validation, but absolutely on God's sovereign initiative and sustaining power. True Christian faith abandons the self and entirely trusts God to: secure salvation, sustain ministry, and structure mission. Saving faith is a comprehensive and continual trust in Christ from the initiation of salvation to its consummation. True Christian faith is a *perpetual trust* in Christ.

Paul explains this in Romans 1:17: "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" You see in Paul's view, faith in Christ not only gets us right with God, it keeps us right with Him, and indeed empowers our subsequent righteousness.

Faith is there at the beginning of our Christian experience and at the end. It endures, not as rational assent or human faithfulness, but as a perpetual state of

trust in Christ—from first to last. Simple faith trusts Christ absolutely; pure faith keeps on trusting in him.

Bible readings

- Romans 1:17
- Galatians 2:20
- Ephesians 2:8-10

Understanding faith: Quick Facts

- Faith relies on God, never on human reason or works.
- Faith is absolute trust, revealed in every dimension of life.
- Faith is perpetual; it initiates our relationship with Christ and sustains it.

Partnership



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

2016 #1

www.apwm.org.au • 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134 • (02) 8073 7490 • national@apwm.org.au

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

It's Still Not Goodbye Forever

For six months Ian and Pat Hart, from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, served at the Talua Theological Institute in Vanuatu. They returned home via Sydney and APWM's Sheryl Sarkoezy took the opportunity to catch up with them.

Ian, what was something that surprised you about Talua?

Well, I suppose we weren't really surprised by anything. We had been warned that lots of daily living would be quite difficult. No hot running water. Water needing to be boiled. Nearest shops a long way away, and a difficult road journey. Electricity three hours a day. Mosquitos and malaria. We were slightly worried about whether we would be able to cope with all this. However, we were pleasantly surprised to find that these various hurdles were not so hard to jump over as we had thought. We lacked many creature comforts. Some things took a lot longer to do. But it was quite "do-able".

Pat, you thought you probably wouldn't be doing any medical work. Is that how things worked out?

I wasn't registered as a doctor in Vanuatu so I couldn't do any direct clinical contact but I was able to teach, mentor and advise with a private health clinic. At Talua I taught English and enjoyed that very much. The students face the challenge of studying difficult subjects in English, which is not their mother tongue.

Ian, what subjects were you teaching while you were there?

I'm an Old Testament person so my main duties were teaching Old Testament. However the degree program is modular so that was done as an intensive month of teaching. This meant a very heavy workload, followed by the next month with a very light workload. So it fluctuated widely because of this modular approach. I was asked to deliver a week of lectures to the entire college with all the other lectures shut down for that week. I spoke to

everyone and enjoyed it. I also did a bit of church history and some New Testament. Kevin had said the essence of this assignment was to be flexible, and I tried to be that.

What are some of the memories that you'll take back?

Ian: Lovely, friendly people who laugh easily. The little Ferguson tractor towing a trailer with about ten students on the back of it, shouting and whooping and squealing with delight as they head off to do some work.. Beautiful countryside, lovely sea, lovely beaches, amazing tropical rainforest all around.

Pat: We've said to one another we think it's probably the most beautiful place we have ever lived. Even more beautiful than Ireland! We'll remember the roosters crowing anywhere between 2:30 and 5 o'clock in the morning. We'll remember people coming to our door - front door or back door, or sometimes both at once, often before 7:00am, to visit or get their phones charged or to ask for something. But I think most of all, I think the big thing is just the students, the friendliness.

Ian: We'll miss the lovely warm weather. The



IAN & PAT ENJOYING SYDNEY HARBOUR

climate, we thought, was delightful.

Pat: I think we will miss being part of a focussed Christian community, where everyone's agenda was how to serve God better in their lives, how what they were doing that week or the next week or in the course they were studying would help them serve God in the future.

We will miss the people. We do hope to keep in touch. We have no idea whether we will ever be back. We would like to think that we might and that helps in the "saying goodbye" ... that it's not goodbye for ever and ever and ever. But if we don't get back, if that's God's plan ... it's still not goodbye. If we don't get back on this earth, it's still not goodbye forever.

Wanted: Bible College Lecturer Vanuatu

Australian Presbyterian World Mission is looking for someone to serve as a full-time lecturer at the Talua Theological Institute, the Bible College of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

The ideal candidate will have

- a heart for training the next generation of pastors and leaders in gospel ministry in Vanuatu
- either a Bachelor or a Master's degree in theology
- pastoral experience in Australia or elsewhere

Please note that the position requires the raising of Partnership Support.



For further enquiries please contact the APWM Office 8073 7490 national@apwm.org.au or Kevin Murray 0421 366 720 kevinmurray@apwm.org.au

“ AFTER THIS I LOOKED AND THERE BEFORE ME WAS A GREAT MULTITUDE THAT NO ONE COULD COUNT, FROM EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE, STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE AND IN FRONT OF THE LAMB. (REVELATION 7:9) ”

Updates



ABLUTION BLOCK, TALUA

WORKPARTNERS VANUATU

Workpartners has just completed its latest project: a male ablution block at the Talua Theological Institute. In 2016 Workpartners will take a different form that will be determined by mid February. If you are interested in taking part in Workpartners in 2016, then please send an email to Sheryl Sarkoezy in the APWM office (office@apwm.org.au) and you will be placed on a mailing list to be informed about Workpartners in 2016. Alternatively you can visit our website for information after mid February www.apwm.org.au/what-we-do/workpartners/

TRAINING NATIONALS

One of the most effective things that we can do in cross-cultural mission is train nationals to minister to their own people. APWM does this primarily through supporting theological education. Please consider sponsoring a student from one of the following countries.

India

In India we support the Presbyterian Theological Seminary which is located in Dehradun in northern India. Scholarships in the Master of Divinity programme cost AUD \$1600 for a single student and AUD \$2000 for a married student.



STUDENTS FROM PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, INDIA

Vanuatu

In Vanuatu we support the Talua Theological Institute, the Bible College of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, where the Dekkers serve. A Bachelor of Ministry scholarship costs \$3000.

If you would like to sponsor a student or contribute toward a scholarship then please use the form on page 4 or email national@apwm.org.au or contact APWM National on (02) 8073 7490.



VIJAI AND SUCHITRA TAGORE

Vijai & Suchitra Tagore

A few years ago, APWM brought Vijai and Suchitra Tagore to Sydney so that Vijai could study for his Master of Theology degree and Suchitra could undertake the Ministry Training for Women programme at Christ College. APWM plans to bring them to Sydney from 2018-2020 so that Vijai can study for his PhD while Suchitra also does further study. This will cost approximately \$60,000 per year and APWM is currently setting aside money for this training. If you would like to assist with these costs then please contact Bruce Campbell finance@apwm.org.au or use the form on the last page of this newsletter.

MINISTRY AT MOUNT MAGNET, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Surendra & May Wesley have now settled into the outback town of Mount Magnet in Western Australia with a population of 700. They serve there in a joint APWM/PIM Ministry. Surendra writes

"Our family is settling in very well by the grace of God. We like it here and we are enjoying all the wonderful blessings of God and we as a family feel honoured, privileged and blessed to serve our Living God. Thank you all who support for us not just

financially but in lifting us up in your personal and family prayers, through which God gives us strength and helps us to keep going.

God has been so merciful and gracious to us in all aspects of these ministries he has entrusted into our care. Currently we have 10-12 adults attending the church. These numbers vary every Sunday. We have two young families with three kids each but one of them doesn't come very often. We try to maintain our relationship with them. We have two couples with no kids and they are very faithful in attending the church. We have a couple who have a trucking business in Perth so they come whenever they are in Mount Magnet. Two gentlemen come regularly, one of whom is single older gentleman.

We also meet for prayer on Tuesdays at 4:30 pm. We pray for the town and especially for the kids of the town. The number attending the prayer meeting varies from 2-5 people.

I visit nearby stations 2-3 days a week. I am really enjoying the visitation ministry, meeting new people, building relationships, helping them anyway I can and asking them if I could pray for them and their families. Often I get a very good reception from station owners. They like to talk and sometimes I am invited for coffee or tea and sometimes for lunch.

I am a chaplain in the local district high school. Slowly but steadily we are building relationships with local people. At the school at 8 am we have a breakfast club in which I help serve the kids and help the ladies clean up at the end even though I am not required to do any of those things, but I have found that this is a effective use of the gift of service which God has given me."



SURENDRA WESLEY



ON TRACK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

ISSUE 1 2016

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
BY WORD AND DEED

HOLDING THE ROPE

In the 18th Century, Gospel opportunities in India were likened to a deep gold mine, needing someone to go down into it to explore. William Carey famously stated that he would go down the mine, but that someone would need to 'hold the rope.'

Whether it is sending a missionary couple to Vanuatu, or running a summer beach mission in Torquay, sharing the Gospel with people who do not normally hear it requires the work of a team. Some on the team climb down the rope and others hold the rope.

On the 'frontline' are those who will share the Gospel, through preaching, teaching, kids programs, one-on-one conversations, sharing in practical ministries and so on. But behind the scenes there are many people working in many ways to help these frontline ministries work effectively.

PIM Patrol teams take the Gospel to some of the hardest-to-get-to places on our continent, and to do that they need people who will faithfully 'hold the rope' for them.

When the wider church holds the rope for PIM teams, they know that no matter how hot or dusty it is, how rough the road is or how many miles from home they are, they are not alone in their work.

There are two main ways that you can help 'hold the rope' for the PIM teams:

Prayer is our biggest need. As with all ministry and mission, we are engaged in a spiritual battle for the souls of men, women and children. Prayer is our chief weapon in this battle. Specifically, this means praying for:

- Open doors and open hearts – please pray that God would go before each patrol, softening hearts to the Gospel and raising up a harvest for Himself in the remote areas of the nation.
- Genuine growing relationships – meaningful relationships take time to build. Pray that the Patrol Teams will be able to develop deep long-term relationships with people in their patrol areas.
- God's timing – sometimes an unexpected delay because of weather or vehicle issues frustrates the plans of a Patrol Team, but this often results in them being in just the right place at the right time, to minister to someone in need.
- Safety – even with good vehicles and satellite phones, a snakebite or a grass fire can slow down the Patrol Team and perhaps even jeopardize their lives. Please pray for safety for all the teams.

You can obtain specific and timely PIM prayer points by making direct contact with an individual PIM Team, by connecting with the PIM Facebook page or by visiting the PIM website.

Secondly, we also need financial support to keep our teams on the road. Any mission activity that tries to take the gospel to people in out of the way places is going to be relatively expensive. The



The ladies of the PWA in NSW have been holding the rope for PIM for many years, by raising funds for special projects through their annual Market Day in Sydney.

work of PIM is no different. Many of the people we minister to are way off the beaten track, many miles from towns along rough dirt roads. Each year the PIM teams burn thousands of litres of diesel, cut up tyres on jagged rocks and rattle the longevity out of vehicles and campers on harsh corrugated bush tracks. All for the sake of the Gospel.

Fuel, tyres, maintenance and eventual vehicle replacement all cost money, sometimes lots of it. But this is the cost of bush ministry.

You can help hold the rope by financially supporting a particular Patrol Team. You can also help by providing funds to help pay for vehicle operating costs, or by contributing to the special projects that come up from time-to-time.

Our CEO Andrew Letcher is available to speak at churches and small groups to share the ministry and vision of PIM. Many of our Patrol Teams also enjoy visiting churches and sharing their work.

Training for spiritual care workers

The development of the chaplaincy and pastoral care training program has taken into consideration the difficulties that spiritual care workers face when attempting to apply their theological framework of understanding with people of different faiths and convictions.

The training of chaplains and pastoral care workers also has two other components; developing professional ability and developing practical management in personal care.

Hence the training covers aspects of professional development and self-assessment so that they can contribute to the overall quality and level of care being offered by a specific facility.

One of the aims of the course is to lift the profile of chaplaincy and pastoral care in PresCare and the Presbyterian Church of Queensland so that the theological, professional and practical elements of spiritual care are deemed an important and integral part of Aged Care work within the Presbyterian denomination and its ministry through PresCare.



PresCare Groundwater Lodge

PresCare has been a part of the Maryborough community for over 30 years, beginning with residential aged care in 1985 and steadily expanding into Community Care covering the Wide Bay region.

The care and services at Groundwater Lodge are personalised and sociable, adopting the concept of transforming care. This proactive model of care is resident-centred, adding value to the care process.

Like all PresCare facilities, Groundwater Lodge has a pleasurable home-like atmosphere. Of the 60 high and low-care residents that Groundwater Lodge provides for, 20 beds are allocated specifically for dementia care. These rooms are located across five wings and are single ensuited, fully air-conditioned rooms.

Groundwater Lodge is surrounded by beautiful landscaped gardens, hosting a covered area for activities including exercise classes and a large BBQ area providing entertainment spaces for residents and their families.



Knowing the boundaries

PresCare pastoral care training is the first step to educating carers. It shows how to implement professional boundaries between them and their clients. Professional boundaries can assist in maintaining appropriate communication in relationships.

Boundaries are the limits that allow the safe connection between the spiritual

health care provider and the client.

Take for example, Jack's experience: Jack lives alone and would love to share a meal with his carer. So feeling sympathetic for Jack, the carer invites him around to have dinner with his family on a Friday night. This ultimately makes the carer feel good whilst also making Jack feel less isolated. Whilst this

may seem to benefit all, this is in fact, an example of a broken boundary.

The carer should have established the boundaries and instead recommend Jack attend a social event in his community, as staying socially connected to the community is essential for both mental and physical health.



Prayer Points

1. Pray for the ongoing work of volunteers. Their approvals are yet to be confirmed. Once approved they will start officially in February 2016.
2. Pray for future training sessions where it is envisaged that the Chaplain plus other trainers will lead the training sessions.
3. Pray for the residents and community clients who receive pastoral care, that they will find a rich source of encouragement through their carers.
4. Thank God for the slowly growing numbers of volunteers being added to the team.
5. Thank God for the success of the pilot training program to date.
6. Give thanks for the helpful staff at Groundwater Lodge and Yaralla Place who escort most attendees to and from the church services as part of their busy shifts of work.
7. Give thanks for the emphasis on pastoral care for residents, which are receiving prominent attention and support at both facilities in Maryborough.
8. Pray for those who have recently received volunteer training as pastoral carers at both facilities in Maryborough, that they will be used, mightily, by the Lord, in serving the residents who have requested pastoral care.
9. Give thanks for the excellent standard of training and refresher reminders, given at the day of training, recently conducted by PresCare Brisbane staff at Groundwater Lodge.
10. Pray for wisdom to know how best to replace the deteriorating hymn books used at worship in both facilities: i.e. by the projection of words on screen, the procuring of another book or the individual lamination of hymn-sheets.
11. Give thanks for the Lord's providing of a musician to play at the services.

Ministry Appointments



Rob Davey (32)

Wife: Suzi

Children: Meg (10), Will (8), Georgia (6) and Cooper (2)

Position: Pastor at Eternity, Gold Coast

What excites you most about your new appointment?

The chance to do gospel ministry in a new town with new people and see the potential that there is for gospel ministry on the Gold Coast; to be a part of this is exciting.

Why did you feel called to this position?

Our hope was to return to regional Queensland but God opened a door for us here on the Gold Coast, and as we get to know the people more we're getting excited about how we might be able to point them to Jesus.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

In the last couple of years God has really humbled me and given me a new sense of patience and humility. He has helped me to be where He wants me to be instead of where I want to be, and has reignited a great joy in following Him.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

Having been in ministry most of my working life (I was a youth pastor in Rockhampton and a high school/primary school chaplain after that), what else I'd do is hard to say, although I'd probably open a business somewhere, like a café, drink lots of coffee and meet lots of people.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The breakdown of the family unit—broken homes, high divorce rate, high abortion rate, the distortion of values and roles. Jesus is the answer, and so we need to walk alongside the families and individuals in our communities, and share Jesus with them, as we share our life with them.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

Gideon from the Old Testament was always my childhood Bible hero.

When are you happiest?

When I'm having a really good discussion with someone about the Bible, preferably someone who doesn't know or hasn't

read the Bible. I also enjoy having a good BBQ with my family.

What book changed you?

Leadership Dynamics by Harry Reeder III because it reshaped the way I think of Biblical leadership.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

To listen more and be patient. I was a very confident teenager, and confidence is good as long as it starts with being a good listener.



Mitch Smart (33)

Wife: Maddie

Children: Rosie (2½) and Stella (10 months)

Position: Minister at Dalby

What excites you the most about your new appointment?

Connecting people from Dalby with the church, particularly young families, and learning to live in the country again.

Why did you feel called to this position?

I went on College mission to Dalby and loved the church and I think it is important for ministers to be prepared to go outside the city.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

I have to come to rest my identity and value in Jesus.

If you weren't in ministry, what would you be doing?

Working in radio.

What social issue concerns you the most?

Sexuality.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

Job because I resonate with his emotions in the face of difficulties.

When are you happiest?

Drinking beer and watching Friday night football or BBL.

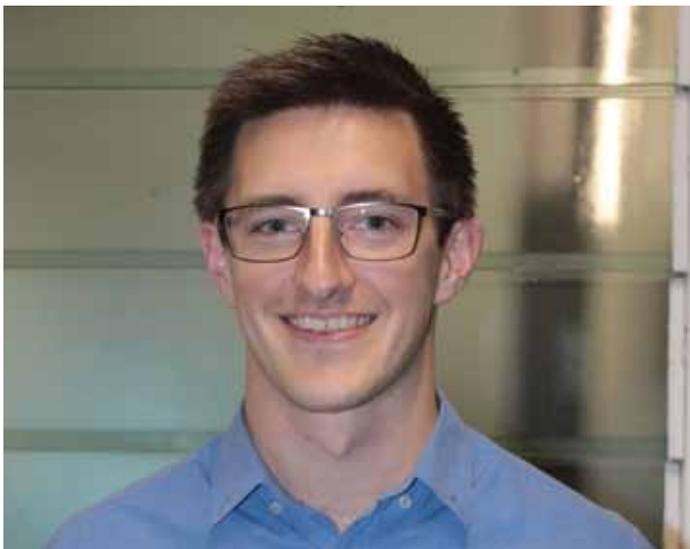
What books changed you?

What Some of You Were by Christopher Keane and *Leaving Homosexuality* by Alan Chambers.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

It doesn't pay to keep secrets.

Ministry Appointments



Rod McLennan (29)

Wife: Natalie

Position: Assistant Minister at Biloela then church plant in Emerald

What excites you most about your new appointment?

I'm really excited about moving back to the country. I have friends and contacts in Emerald that we're hoping to connect into a church when we start in Emerald.

Why did you feel called to this position?

When I trained as an optometrist I was passionate about taking my skills to a country area, which is how I ended up in Emerald in the first place. I feel that same passion with the Gospel.

In what ways has God changed your life the most significantly?

Through everything He experienced, Jesus was the most impressively humble man. His selflessness thrills me. I have a long way to go, but I know I am less proud and self-centred thanks to my relationship with Jesus.

If you weren't in ministry, what would you be doing?

Optometry

What social issue concerns you the most?

The obvious one that I struggle to think past is abortion. In my mind it's pretty black-and-white, but it's also complex when you consider the hard cases as well as the sadness and guilt that can come with it. We need sensitivity and grace.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

David, for his exciting life, extreme faith and integrity. Of course there's the tragic element of his failures, but they only make him more real. His life is a model and a warning all in one.

When are you happiest?

Outdoors on a warm sunny day. Which is why I love Central Queensland.

What book changed you?

To End all Wars by Ernest Gordon.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

I would want to help a very self-conscious 15 year old be less self-conscious.



Nathan Shannon (35)

Wife: Naomi

Children: Trinity (7), Timmo (5), Rory (4) and Gino (2)

Position: Minister at Gladstone/Benaraby/Calliope

What excites you the most about your new appointment?

Having the privilege of preaching God's word and pastoring a congregation over the long term, and waiting with anticipation to see what God might do in the congregation and me over the coming years.

Why did you feel called to this position?

I believe I have gifts that can be useful to God's church, and Gladstone is a congregation that the elders and I believe will be a good fit for us. It is a regional city which I am excited about and a place where gospel ministry is greatly needed.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

Being justified by faith is one of the great gifts of the Gospel. It is by grace that we are saved and that's liberating for me as I live the Christian life.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

Running a retail business.

What social issue concerns you most?

Large numbers of people who don't have any meaningful relationships with friends, relatives or anyone else in our community. There are a lot of socially isolated people, both old and young.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

The man who was born blind in John 9 who Jesus finds and heals. Jesus healed the man so that God's glory might be displayed. This man trusts in Jesus and finds salvation, despite the opposition he faces.

When are you the happiest?

When I'm on holidays with my family at the beach.

What book changed you?

Lectures to my Students by Charles Spurgeon.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Nothing is more important than the Gospel.



Chris Gargan (29)

Wife: Rebecca

Children: Samantha (2½) and another one on the way later this year

Position: FES placement at Eatons Hills

What excites you the most about your new appointment?

Being given the chance to serve God in a different capacity and work alongside new people. Also having the opportunity to see ministry in a different context.

Why did you feel called to this position?

I found out about Garnet through my current minister. Garnet is a guy I wanted to work with and believe I could learn quite a bit from. We wanted the chance to be in a different a church.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

I grew up in a Christian home but was more charismatic. AFES helped me understand the Gospel better. It provided me with a great opportunity to grow in my understanding and be equipped to serve.

If you weren't in ministry, what would you be doing?

I would probably still be a chemical engineer whilst serving in a lay capacity.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The biggest thing would be asylum seekers. Seeing the most vulnerable in society get treated badly. Love to see Australia caring for them more.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

Paul. I'm amazed at how he approaches evangelism, proclaiming the Gospel.; seeing how free he is with the Gospel coming from a pharisaical background.

When are you happiest?

When spending time with Rebecca while playing with Samantha.

What books changed you?

Knowing God by J I Packer, *Cross of Christ* by John Stott, *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges, *A Call to Spiritual Reformation* by DA Carson, *Desiring God* by John Piper

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

I would tell myself the Gospel; how the Bible fits together. I would keep reminding myself to look at Jesus, particularly if I'm feeling lonely or afraid. I would also tell myself that Jesus is real.



Andrew Lubbock (45)

Wife: Sarah

Children: Ezekiel (14), Jemima (13), Oscar (10) and Matilda (8)

Position: Senior Minister at Arundel

What excites you the most about your new appointment?

Partnering with a church full of Christ-centred, Bible-based, Jesus-followers to see the Gold Coast perfect in Christ, the only hope for this broken world.

Why did you feel called to this position?

The Christian calibre of those on staff and in the congregation. And the many existing partnerships in the Gospel of Jesus Christ with YNET, Griffith Christian Students, QTC and the PCQ in general.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

Rescued me from sin and death through the ransoming sacrifice of Jesus. Also helped me see that my life is found in Him and living for Him, not myself.

If you weren't in ministry, what would you be doing?

Professional singer-songwriter, or cyclist, or entrepreneur or...;-)

What social issue concerns you the most?

Dead heat between Same Sex Marriage, Domestic Violence and Children in Detention. But above all the eternal destination of hell for every person who does not repent and trust Jesus.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

Paul. His life has been turned around by the gracious love of God in Christ, he is certain that His eternal life is hidden in Jesus, and is wonderfully strategically relentless in pursuing sharing this good news with all people. Philippians 3:10-11.

When are you happiest?

When I'm remembering Jesus, leading others to Him, seeing others empowered to do the same and live for Him in obedience to His Word, singing His praises especially when repenting, and when I'm with my family.

What books changed you?

Bruchko by Bruce Olson, telling his story as a missionary.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Concentrate on fewer things and do them well. And Matthew 6:33!

Ministry Appointments



Phill Morrow (26)

Wife: Janine

Children: ex-RSPCA dog Stella

Position: MTN Trainee at ChristLife, West Toowoomba

What excites you the most about your new appointment?

Well I was already doing ministry while I had a full time job but now I have the time to be more prepared, and to learn how to do it better. For example now I can have the Bible study finished before I hop in the car to drive to Bible Study.

Why did you feel called to this position?

Don't think I felt specifically called to the position but I feel we are all called in the Bible to serve those around us. There was however an opportunity to press pause on my previous career and see if I am suited to full time ministry.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

Discovering I was actually the first son in the parable of the prodigal son not the other older one.

If you weren't in ministry, what would you be doing?

Realistically probably still being a doctor but optimistically a presenter on Play School.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The way we kill hundreds and thousands of our unborn children because they can't vote or defend themselves.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

Peter because he's enthusiastic and 'gung ho', but he also puts his foot in it a lot and Jesus bails him out.

When are you happiest?

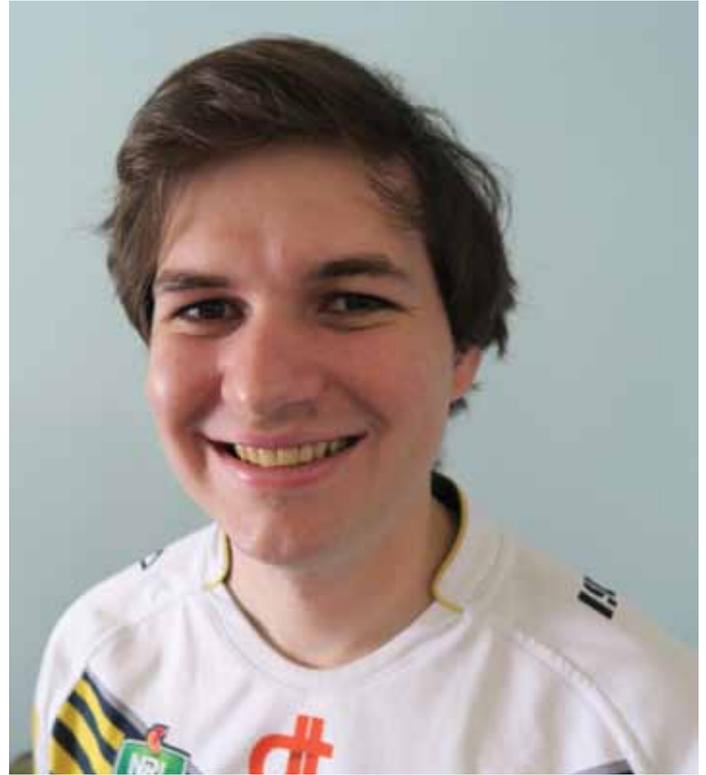
Probably when I'm just having a BBQ with friends or playing frisbee.

What books changed you?

Space Trilogy by CS Lewis. It really helped to illustrate some of the truths about creation and the Gospel.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Actually, Dad was right.



Damon Scott (25)

Wife: Coralie

Position: MTN Trainee at Willows, Townsville

What excites you the most about your new appointment?

I'm excited by a lot of things this year. I'm most excited by the opportunity to serve the people at Willows, to think carefully about ministry and learn lots of practical ministry skills.

Why did you feel called to this position?

I really want to serve God in everything I do. I've really enjoyed the ministry I've done in the past, and have been encouraged by lots of people to try full time.

In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?

The most significant change that God has made in my life is that he has stopped me from relying on myself for everything, but instead has helped me to begin relying on him for everything.

If you weren't in ministry, what would you be doing?

I'd probably still be working at Woolworths.

What social issue concerns you the most?

My biggest concern in Australia is people who don't know Jesus.

Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

Probably Paul, I like Paul because even though he was a sinner (he murdered Christians) he was still saved by God's grace and God worked through him to bring about his purposes and write half the New Testament.

When are you happiest?

During quiet moments at home with Coralie.

What books changed you?

More than reading a specific book, meeting with other Christians to read the Bible has been the most changing experience for me.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Read your Bible and pray more.

Positions Vacant

Lead Pastor, Browns Plains Presbyterian Church

We are a vibrant community church in a rapidly expanding suburb of Brisbane. Our passion is to see people in our neighbourhood coming to faith in Jesus Christ. We have a vacancy for a lead pastor and would love to hear from you if you feel that God may be calling you to such a work.

We are an Evangelical and Reformed church. You can follow us on Facebook or find our web page at: <http://bppc.org.au/>

Interested parties please contact the Interim Moderator, Ian Spence:

P: 0421 477 900
E: ianlspence01@gmail.com



Chaplain, Kirkbrae Presbyterian Home

An exciting opportunity exists for a Chaplain to work with residents, families and staff at Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes in outer eastern Melbourne, commencing 1/7/2016.

Applicants should be an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

They should demonstrate a heart for aged care chaplaincy work with relevant theological qualifications, practical experience and a commitment to personal, spiritual and professional development.

For a full position description please contact:

Mrs Kathy James
Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Co-ordinator
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
at chaplaincy@pcvic.org.au

Applications close **28 February 2016**



Volunteer Cooks

Seeking gifted, willing volunteer/s to either run or help with cooking at Church Camps/Seminars in South East Queensland. Contact Roger Medland:

P: (07)38497874
E: rogermedland@yahoo.com.au

Used Stamps

We can turn your used stamps into mission support

The Presbyterian Womens' Missionary Union (P.W.M.U) is collecting stamps to support our missionaries. Stamps can be left at Church Offices, Level 4, 19 Lang Parade, Milton Qld 4064 or call Carole on 07 3324 9309 or Margaret on 07 3285 6146 for other options or more details.

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CALOUNDRA, beachside units from \$400/wk. Contact Ray on 0427 990 161 or rayandjean@hotmail.com



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