

Pres Life

MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND

**How do we reach
multicultural
Australia for
Christ?**

**6 workers for the
Gospel share
their story**

**God's Church
in Qld
Cairns
Wavell Heights
Redlands**

**News from around
the State**
QTC Preaching Conference

The Gospel and Sexuality

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.

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Pres Life

Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

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Key Dates



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13 February
11-13 March
18 - 20 March
4 - 8 April
8 - 10 April
15 - 17 April
29 April - 2 May
27 June - 1 July
27 June - 1 July
4 - 8 July
16 - 19 September
24 - 29 September
25 Sept - 1 Oct
21 - 23 October
21 - 25 November

Darling Downs, Youth
Children's Leaders
Darling Downs, Children
South Brisbane, Children
NQ, Youth, Leaders in Training
Central QLD, Youth
North Brisbane, Children
Leaders
SQ, Youth, Leaders in Training
SQ, Children
SQ, Children
SQ, Youth
NQ, Youth
SQ, Youth
SQ, Children
QLD, Year 12



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The Gospel and Sexuality

by Bryan Mulligan (edited version of paper published by GiST)

Whatever our sexual orientation, we are all born broken

The Fall damaged our relationships with God and each other; the Holy Spirit calls us to identify not in the flesh, but in Jesus, says Gospel research paper

Sexuality is part of what makes us human.

According to professor of psychology Noam Shpancer, we have sex for pleasure and for procreation, and above all, we have sex to connect: to transcend our aloneness and form a meaningful bond with another human being.

So powerful is our sexual instinct, says clinical and forensic psychologist Stephen Diamond, that taking a vow not to engage in sexual behavior does not cause this instinct to disappear.

While it may wax and wane, this primal sexual energy is with us throughout our lives, fuelled by sexualised media messages and imagery, and extinguished only by death.

Little wonder, then, that many of us might be tempted to make our sexuality the foundation of our identity: our view of who we are and our place in the world.

But according to a research paper released by the Gospel in Society Today (GiST) committee, *The Gospel and Sexuality: Sex, Sexuality and Identity and the Kingdom of God*, making our sexuality the essence of who we are is idolatrous—a sin.

“Christians in Australia have too easily conformed to the modern western world’s view that sexuality is the foundational, defining feature of human identity,” says the research paper, which draws heavily—almost exclusively—on the Bible for its insights.

This worldly view can be traced back to The Fall—when Adam and Eve disobeyed God—which damaged our understanding of human identity, and our relationships with God and each other.

“We are now likely to seek to base our identity on things other than God—idols,” the paper says.

“Our natural experiences of the world and our humanity, are experiences of the fallen, broken world.

“This damage extends to sexual identity, orientation, and expression in all human relationships, including within marriage.”

In other words, in God’s eyes *all* of us are broken—heterosexuals, homosexuals, bisexuals and transgenders; married or single.

“*Sexual expression* outside of its intended context is the broken product of a broken human nature, and this brokenness affects all people, regardless of *sexual orientation*.”

This brokenness includes lustful thoughts, pornography, casual sex (there’s an app for that), adultery, homosexuality, prostitution, sex trafficking, rape and other forms of sexual abuse, including of children.

Even sexual expression within its 'created context'—marriage—is broken when it is an exercise of selfishness, control or idolatry, the paper says.

And yet Christians in Australia have a tendency to 'treat heterosexuality as the norm, as though such normality is untainted by sin'.

Not only that, some of them treat sexual expression within the context of marriage as the desired goal for every human life, ignoring the fact Jesus was unmarried and celibate.

On the contrary, singleness—in the words of the apostle Paul—is a 'gift from God' that allows men and women to devote greater and more undistracted attention to religious service.

The Old Testament shows how difficult the Law's standards were for Israel to maintain—the tension between living lives as broken people and as image bearers pointing people to God's character.

The *heroes* of the Old Testament are constantly caught up in sexual immorality, including prostitution (Judah - Genesis 38), adultery (Abraham giving his wife to Pharaoh - Genesis 12:10–20; Samson and Delilah - Judges 16; King David and Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 11), polygamy (Solomon) and other forms of sexual immorality.

The New Testament provides the solution to this immorality: the renovation or re-creation of ourselves, including our sexuality, through the hope found in Jesus Christ, the perfect human.

Those who become children of God are transformed by the Holy Spirit, called to identify not in the flesh—or our sexuality—but in Jesus.

Through Jesus, our sexual identity and expression are transformed, and while our sexual *orientation* may remain unchanged, "this is not necessary for sexual wholeness, or for a Christian identity".

"Jesus speaks against lust, as a form of adultery, but a distinction must be made between experiencing temptation as a result of orientation, and submitting to that temptation—turning it into thought (lust) or sexual expression...

"This means that chastity—be it in the context of singleness, or in limiting sexual expression to the context of marriage between one man and one woman—is the goal of human sexuality."

The GiST committee's paper says "the evidence suggests people are born gay—that they do not choose their orientation, which is determined by a complex range of factors beyond the individual's control".

But rather than homosexuality being a natural orientation created by God, the paper says it confirms "that sin is hard-wired into our humanity as a result of The Fall".

Moreover, "what appears natural and desirable in terms of our *sexual orientation* may not represent the created order or God's desire for human *sexual expression*".

"While sexual orientation should not be spoken of as a choice, sexual identity and sexual expression...are choices..."

"This insight into human sexuality is not limited to homosexual orientation—all natural human sexuality, apart from sexuality transformed by Jesus, is broken.

"We are all born sexually broken, wherever our orientation sits on the spectrum. The Gospel offers freedom from slavery to the flesh."

Bryan Mulligan is a member of Southside Presbyterian Church. He is also the principal and owner of bwriter, which offers writing and editing services to businesses, governments and not-for-profits.

Definitions

The GiST paper approached sexuality as a mix of:

- **Sexual orientation:** romantic or sexual attractions towards persons of the same sex or gender, opposite sex or gender, both sexes, or to noone.
- **Sexual expression:** the sexual acts performed by an individual.
- **Sexual identity:** an individual's conception of themselves, based on their sexual orientation and expression.

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 address 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>



Why a warm welcome is essential to reach multicultural Australia for Christ

by Sharyn Tidswell, Communications Officer, CMS Qld with Northern NSW

"You don't need to get on an aeroplane to meet someone from another culture. You just have to walk down the street." That's the message from leading missiologist Rev Dr David Williams.

Speaking at the annual CMS Summer School mission conference for Queensland and Northern NSW, David encouraged Australian Christians to reach out to people from other cultures and religions in their local neighbourhoods and workplaces.

"The nations of the world are now on our doorstep," David said.

With many people from Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist backgrounds now coming to Australia, especially as refugees, it presents Christians and churches here with many local cross-cultural mission opportunities.

"We all have the opportunity to be cross-cultural missionaries. The question is: Will we take the opportunities that are in front of us?"

David said that "people would be wise to reflect about the attitudes of our hearts, our homes and our churches. Rather than excluding people from very different backgrounds, either through outright hatred or indifference", he said "Australian Christians needed to embrace them as Christ would. However, there are reasons why that can be difficult.

"Human beings have an inbuilt safety mechanism. When we see something new or different, or something we don't understand, the safety mechanism kicks in to protect us. We tend to assume the worst.

"While that is a great thing when it comes to hairy spiders, it's not a good thing when it comes to cross-cultural relationships. It means that we will tend to assume the worst of people when we don't understand a cultural situation."

Our homes can be places of hospitality or safe-haven. David said that "offering hospitality to foreigners, refugees and asylum seekers has a huge impact in peoples' lives." He hears many stories of people from other cultures being invited to a meal and saying: "This is the first time I have been into an Australian home."

That hospitality extends to the church, which might offer 'welcome or walls'. Churches can be places of welcome for people of different cultures. One way is through providing English conversation classes, and then giving people the choice of staying to hear a Bible story and learn more about the Christian faith.

"The New Testament clearly presents hospitality as part of the Christian life—see Romans 12:13, Hebrews 13:2 and 1 Peter 4:9. So we are to open our homes and practise hospitality. At the simplest level that might look like having people around for a meal. Or it might look like having someone come and live with you," David said.

"Mission in the 21st Century is truly from everywhere to everywhere. All we need are hearts that will embrace those who are different from us, homes that are hospitable and open, and churches that are warm and welcoming."

For further information about cross-cultural mission in Australia, contact CMS Queensland with Northern NSW E: qld@cms.org.au, T: 07 3112 6530 or visit cms.org.au.

Children & Youth Ministry



Evaluating the Effectiveness of Your Ministry

by Danny Mitchell, YNET Consultant

Plenty of energy goes into generating new ideas for ministry to kids and teens. But for most of us, precious little time is dedicated to assessing whether we're hitting the target—or for that matter, determining what the target actually is. But if we can visualise the end goal that we're trying to achieve as concretely as possible, and we evaluate how we're going in pursuing that goal, then we can start to choose the strategies that will be most effective for the sake of the Gospel—instead of running around like tired, headless, frustrated chickens.

The following approach is useful for ministries of all kinds (youth, children, small groups and more!):

Visualising the Goal (Where are we going?)

In Colossians 1:28-29, Paul defines the vision of gospel ministry for us—we want to preach Christ with God's energy to see everyone brought to maturity in Christ.

From here, it's a useful team exercise to sketch out from the Scriptures what a mature 'individual' looks like. This can be done under the categories of convictions (what we believe), character (how we live), and competence (what we are able to do). (See Figure A)

It's also useful to picture what a mature 'group' of Christians looks like—this is what results when mature Christians love each other and do ministry together. You'll be surprised how full and detailed these lists will become. (See Figure B)

Evaluation (How are we going?)

At regular intervals (I'd recommend between each term), look back on the picture you've painted, and reflect on the progress that the group has made along with each individual.

Figure A

Individual	Group
Convictions	
Character	
Competencies/Practices	

A good way to do this is to tick the characteristics that the group/individual has grown in over the last term, and then circle one to two characteristics that you'd like to see that group/individual grow in over the next term. You may find that for a given group or individual, you keep circling the same characteristics. This is okay as it shows that Christian growth is a long-term project. But at this point, it might be worth reflecting on whether there's an issue undergirding that lack of progress.

For example, if a Year 10 student is reluctant to share their faith, it may be because they have underlying questions about the Gospel. As such, the competency journey can come later—there's a conviction journey that we need to take first.

Things to remember

It's easy to look at such a big, detailed picture of Christian maturity and feel crushed by how unattainable it feels. But always remember, this is what God is doing amongst his people, and his work will go on long after your season is done. We need to keep looking to this vision so that we don't slack off once we see the first signs of gospel fruit, and so that we keep labouring when fruit is hard to see.

Danny Mitchell is available to lead this training workshop with your team. He can be contacted by email:

danny@ynet.org.au

Figure B

Group	Individual
...tick characteristics that your group has grown in over the last term.	...initial and tick characteristics that the individuals in your group have grown in over the last term.
...circle 1-2 characteristics which you'd like to see your group grow in next term.	...initial and circle characteristics (1 per person) which you'd like to see these people grow in next term.

Children & Youth Ministry



Kids Weekender (South & Darling Downs)

by Rosie Skerman

In March we had two consecutive weekends of ultimate fun. Kids Weekender South kicked things off at CYC Burleigh Heads. The 48 campers were delighted to have taken part in this weekend, with a number of exciting activities ranging from surfing to SUP boarding to dragon boating. As always, one of the highlights of camp are our small groups, where the campers have a chance to wrestle with God's Word, and apply it to their lives. One of the campers excitedly shared with his mum, "My weekend was more fun than

yours. I went surfing, played games, did experiments, and talked about Jesus!"

Kids Weekender Darling Downs took place at the Bunya Mountains campsite. Through experiences such as waterslide baseball, campfire stories and bush walking, the leaders were able to build greater relationships with the 30 campers in a way that will complement the work they do in their children's ministry, week in week out.

Both camps dug into the book of Luke, looking at the miracles Jesus did.

The question for the weekend was, "Who am I?"—i.e. "Who is Jesus?"—bringing the kids to an understanding that they need to make a decision about whether or not they will live for Him for the rest of their lives. Our camps have a rich history in the testimonies of many believers. This is why we still put our time and energy into running them; because young people are making decisions to live for Christ. It is my prayer that this camp continues to grow each year, but more so that our campers who attend continue to grow in their love for Jesus.

Ministry Appointments



Daniel Saunders (34)

Wife: Anita

Children: Natalie (7), Jacob (5)

Position: Minister at Gympie

What excites you most about your new appointment?

Gympie is a growing regional centre which gives lots of opportunities to grow a mission minded church.

Why did you feel called to this position?

I grew up in a regional town, and I think that it's important to see Gospel-centered and Bible-focussed ministry occurring in regional areas across Queensland.

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

As I've become a parent, I've discovered how limited I am, and how selfish my heart is. He's taught me again the need to repent, find forgiveness, and then to give forgiveness to others.

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

Prior to ministry training I was involved with computer programming and research with CSIRO, so I'd probably be working in that field.

What social issue concerns you the most?

This isn't technically a 'social issue' as such, but I'm concerned about the hyper-individualism (which is really code for selfishness) that undergirds the way we see ourselves and our world, which leads to apathy about the struggles and suffering of others. And I'm most concerned about how I see this selfishness in my heart!

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

I love Caleb, particularly in Joshua 14. He reminds me of many older blokes who can't be stopped. Though I reckon the real source of his confidence and strength is his deep knowledge of God.

When are you happiest?

At the park with my family when we're relaxed and enjoying each other.

What book changed you?

When I struggle with doubt Paul Barnett's *Is the New Testament History* is a great comfort for the reasons why I trust that Jesus lived, died and rose.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

The same thing I keep telling myself now—that Jesus is worth more than anything, and nothing beats being found in Him (Phillippians 3:8-9). Oh...and maybe give 'fresher rugby' a miss!



Matt Stewart (31)

Wife: Hannah

Position: MTN Trainee at Rockhampton

What excites you most about your new appointment?

Working with the people and ministry team at Rockhampton. It's a great chance to test the waters and experience the highs and lows of fulltime ministry life.

Why did you feel called to this position?

God opens and closes doors, and the opportunity arose for us to look into fulltime ministry, something we have thought about for a while. We have decided to follow the leading and see what happens.

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

Learning to be more content instead of worrying, resting in His strength. Life doesn't stop throwing curve balls, but trusting in Jesus and His saving grace gives us hope no matter what the situation is.

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

Working in the garden and caring for some farm animals.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The relentless desire for more stuff at the cost of people. And the Safe Schools agenda.

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

I don't really have a favourite, but I am encouraged and admire how God uses sinful broken people to proclaim His glory.

When are you happiest?

Enjoying the outdoors: hiking, camping, 4WD and generally relaxing with hopefully a BBQ and beer at the end of the day.

What book changed you?

Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Don't be afraid of what you think other people think (probably still need to hear it today).

Ministry Appointments



Serena Langenbruch (28)

Position: Connect Coordinator at Creek Road

What excites you most about your new appointment?

I'm really excited about learning from working in a team environment, and about seeing how we can welcome newcomers better at church. I'm also excited that the role is across our three campuses!

Why did you feel called to this position?

God calls us to use the gifts, skills and experiences He's given us, so when He provided this position at just the right time in my life, I didn't want to say no to that opportunity. I think it will be a great mix of being challenging, but in a hugely encouraging environment.

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

God has absolutely given me assurance that He holds me safely in His love and grace, no matter what I face in life. Being able to rest in this assurance is probably the biggest change I've experienced.

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

Towards the end of last year I was teaching English to international students—and I loved doing that too!

What social issue concerns you the most?

Not that these necessarily concern me more than other social issues, but the biggest issues going around in my head and heart in the past little while have been issues surrounding asylum seekers, and secondly discussion around *Closing the Gap*.

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

When reading through Old Testament stories, Jonathan has always stood out to me. I love his bravery, loyalty and kindness—he just seems like a pretty great guy!

When are you happiest?

I am happiest when I am in the sunshine, watching sport and surrounded by people I love.

What book changed you?

Two biographies of missionaries come to mind. One I read when I was very young, and I don't remember the details of

it, but I remember it having a huge impact – *Dorie, The Girl Nobody Loved* – about a missionary to New Guinea. The other I read recently – *To the Golden Shore* – about Adoniram Judson and his work in Burma.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

I would tell myself to value the different experiences I was given and to learn from them, and grasp the beauty in each individual person's life, rather than seeking 'normality'—God doesn't call us to normality.



Matt Fong (31)

Wife: Bonnie

Children: Aidan (10 months)

Position: Assistant Pastor at Eatons Hill

What excites you most about your new appointment?

It's a church that's growing and seeing many new people come through the doors!

Why did you feel called to this position?

We had been thinking about moving to Brisbane to serve a church up here, and this came up which matched where we thought we could be useful!

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

He continues to challenge and shape my need to win the respect and appreciation of others, turning my fear of man to a reverent fear of God.

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

Probably a Doctor somewhere, trying to serve from that profession.

What social issue concerns you the most?

It is concerning that anti-discrimination laws seem to discriminate specifically against Christians most of all.

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

Elijah—he did some really cool stuff, and held strong in a skeptical and rebellious world.

When are you happiest?

In the outdoors, hiking or playing sport

What book changed you?

Knowing God by J.I. Packer—really put some flesh on who God was and moved me out of my Sunday School version of God.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

There's more to life than video games!



Joel Willis (27)

Wife: Naomi

Children: Oliver (20 months)

Position: Children's and Youth Pastor at Cairns

What excites you most about your new appointment?

It's wonderful to be able to help kids and teenagers know and understand the Gospel. It's particularly exciting to be doing this in Cairns, which is where I grew up.

Why did you feel called to this position?

A personal conviction of the importance of youth ministry, probably because youth ministry was a big part of my Christian faith. I was given encouragement to pursue it from guys like Dave Hopper and others.

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

Saved me and brought me into His family (seriously, wow). He changed me from being an electrician to someone who uses a laptop and sits in an office (that's a big change).

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

I'd still be an Electrician.

What social issue concerns you the most?

Refugees and society's general attitude towards God.

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

King David because he was a real man with real issues but still had a heart for the Lord.

When are you happiest?

Seeing Christian teenagers bring their friends along to youth group to hear about Jesus. Both the teenager inviting and the teenager coming are wonderful things to see happening. Have to also say going boating at the local lake with the family.

What book changed you?

Changing the World through Effective Youth Ministry by Ken Moser. It certainly challenged and shaped my thinking on the philosophy of youth ministry.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Ha...probably should share my first thought here, Naomi (my wife) was in the same youth group so I'd probably say something like "man, stop teasing her and just go and talk normally"...Oh the opportunity to share with your 15 year old self!



Dan Wilton (29)

Wife: Nicky (31)

Position: Young Adults and Latechurch Pastor at Mitchelton (MPC)

What excites you most about your new appointment?

Dan: To partner with MPC to see the Gospel of Jesus go out in Mitchelton and the world. And to see how God's Word and Spirit change the hearts and lives of people at Mitchelton.

Nicky: Getting alongside the people at MPC, and together growing in our faith, and sharing the Gospel with those around us.

Why did you feel called to this position?

Dan: I have a real passion to minister to, and teach young adults, and God provided the opportunity to move up to Brisbane to do just that.

Nicky: We had a passion to go where there was a need, and God really opened doors, and prepared the way for us to come to Mitchelton.

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

Dan: He called me from my helpless state, offered me the gracious gift of life, and a new identity in Christ. It's been such an amazing blessing to realise that my value is found in Jesus.

Nicky: The great grace, forgiveness, security and freedom that comes from having my life now hidden in Christ. This life I live is not my own, for my redeemer paid the price.

What social issue concerns you the most?

Dan: Both the sustained treatment and care of asylum seekers, and providing a loving Christian response to issues with sexuality.

Nicky: Health - bodies, minds and souls. Providing access to good healthcare for all, and doing what we can to bring physical healing. Along with pointing people to the Great Physician who can heal completely, and save lives eternally.

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

Dan: Paul - He was a man who was radically changed by the Gospel, and faithfully served God, and the church with great zeal and perseverance. He found his identity and assurance in Christ, which allowed him to see the news of Jesus' death and resurrection go out to the world, no matter the cost.

Nicky: Levi the Tax Collector - He courageously leaves everything to follow Jesus. He boldly has Jesus over for a meal, along with his tax-collector colleagues, and others. At this meal we hear of the great grace of Jesus "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

God's Church in Queensland

Redlands Presbyterian Church

Location

Redlands has two preaching centres, the main one being at Capalaba and the second at Victoria Point. Both are located south-east of Brisbane.

The Ministry Team

Linden Fooks (Minister), Josh Swarts (Assistant Minister), Jennie Baddeley (Assistant to the Minister), Grace Hunt (Youth Worker), Mindy Smith (Children's worker) and Rebecca Hemelaar (Office Administrator).

Demographic

Both congregations have a great mix of people of varying ages. At Victoria Point it is mostly people who have retired and Capalaba has young families, youth and young adults.

Prayer Points

Please pray that we would be faithful in doing evangelism, to make the Lord Jesus known, as that's part of our mission statement. Please also pray for the opportunity to establish a church in the southern part of the Redlands Shire.

What is the church excited about doing to make followers of Jesus?

We're excited about seeing kids and youth growing to be faithful disciples of Jesus. We're also genuinely excited about the growth in people across the board.



L-R: Rebecca Hemelaar, Tim and Grace Hunt, Emma and Linden Fooks, Josh Swarts, Mark and Jennie Baddeley and Mindy Smith

Comments from church members



Robyn Olsson

How long have you been attending Redlands?

One and a half years.

What do you do during the week?

I have a hospitality business, teach religious instruction and I lead a Ladies' Bible study group.

What is the best thing about being at Redlands?

The fellowship with other believers. Being encouraged and taught by God's Word.



Kirsty Hughes

How long have you been attending Redlands?

Nine years and loving it.

What do you do during the week?

During the week I homeschool my three boys, teach religious instruction, co-lead a Bible study, read great books and try to keep on top of the ever growing mess that all this manufactures.

What is the best thing about being at Redlands?

The incredible fellowship.



Stephen Bailey

How long have you been attending Redlands?

Since May 1984

What do you do during the week?

I have been retired for four years. During the week I spend time doing various activities/tasks around the church and home, mixed with leisure as well.

What is the best thing about being at Redlands?

It's a place where you can meet with other Christians to give encouragement to persevere in the Christian faith.

Wavell Heights Presbyterian Church

Location

Wavell Heights is located in South East Queensland, two minutes from the Westfield Shopping Centre at Chermside.

The Ministry Team

Matthew Viney (Minister), Greg Rodgers (Elder), Andrew Ladlay (Elder) and Katie Allan (Pastoral and Administration Assistant)

Demographic

Mainly middle-aged persons with a growing number of young adults, seniors and families with young children.

Prayer Points

Pray that we continue to grow in every way: growing in numbers and Christian maturity, especially in how we welcome other people and care for them. Please also pray that we can make authentic, meaningful connections with the community around us.

What is the church excited about doing to make followers of Jesus?

We look forward to what God can do as we do 'the basics': gathering on Sunday, meeting in Bible studies, sharing in times of fellowship, and seeking to have a positive witness to everyone. The Christian life doesn't go from one big event to the next, but is a day-to-day journey of learning what it means to follow Jesus.



L-R: Matthew Viney, Katie Allan, Greg Rodgers, Andrew Ladlay

Comments from church members



Craig & Nicole Richardson

Children: Jenna, Zali, Luciella and Bryce

How long have you been attending Wavell Heights?

Three years +

What do you do during the week?

Craig works as a Hydrological Designer and Nicole as a Norwex Sales Consultant.

What is the best thing about being at Wavell Heights?

We love how church feels like a family—people of all different ages and backgrounds, supporting each other and celebrating life together. As parents we treasure that our children will grow up in an extended family, who demonstrate through words and actions, what it is to be a servant of Jesus. We have also been encouraged and challenged by the faithful, practical preaching of God's word.



David Low

How long have you been attending Wavell Heights?

Around seven months, since arriving in Australia for work purposes.

What do you do during the week?

I'm an Insurance Adjuster.

What is the best thing about being at Wavell Heights?

Two things come to mind: I enjoy the solid Bible teaching, and the love of my church family.



Hilary Morgan

How long have you been attending Wavell Heights?

Around 61 years

What do you do during the week?

I'm retired and keep myself busy through the week.

What is the best thing about being at Wavell Heights?

I give thanks for all the people who've been part of our church family over the years. In recent times it's been great to see the church growing—especially the Sunday School. I love how people of all ages are mixing well, sharing in fellowship and Christian love.

God's Church in Queensland

Cairns Presbyterian Church

Location

The Cairns church is in North Queensland near the centre of the town of Cairns.

The Ministry Team

Andrew Richardson (Lead Pastor), Peter Davies (NiteChurch Pastor), Joel Willis (part-time Children and Youth Pastor), James Lee (Korean Pastor), Bernie Brooks (Administrator)

Demographic

We have morning and evening English services of about 200 adults combined, a service each for Koreans, Nepalese and Cook Islanders. There's a good mix of ages, including adults, kids, youth and multi-cultural.

Prayer Points

Our theme this year is 'Invite 2016'; please pray that we'll be enthusiastic and bold in inviting people to church. Please also pray that our different cultural groups will relate well with one another and express the unity that we have in Christ.

What is the church excited about doing to make followers of Jesus?

We're excited about producing daily devotions for people to read which relate to the Bible talks on a Sunday. We have had a great uptake and many people have been reading the Bible more regularly.



Comments from church members



Barbara McFarlane

How long have you been attending Cairns?

Since June 1967.

What do you do during the week?

I've been retired for about 13 years but I used to be a nurse. At the moment I help teach craft two nights a month and I am the secretary of the ladies fellowship.

What is the best thing about being at Cairns?

I enjoy the Bible based teaching. I am passionate about growth groups as I believe they are an important part of the church, and have found the people in the groups to be very supportive and caring of one another. I have found it to be a very welcoming church, and really appreciate this.



Dan Warne

How long have you been attending Cairns?

About three and half years

What do you do during the week?

I'm an Electrical Engineer and work for an electricity distribution company.

What is the best thing about being at Cairns?

The best thing about being at church is spending time with other believers to focus on Christ, what's been accomplished on the cross, and our response as believers.



Alanna Charron

How long have you been attending Cairns?

Two years

What do you do during the week?

I am a Physiotherapist but I am just about to take time off for maternity leave for our first baby.

What is the best thing about being at Cairns?

The solid Bible teaching, and being able to see the spiritual growth of a congregation who can really get into God's Word. The other great thing that has stood out about our church is that it is really relationship focused; the first time we came to Cairns, people not only welcomed us, but actually followed up with us each week, remembered who we were and made an effort to encourage us and each other in Christ.

KROSS WERDZ



**Nat Carse (right (31))
with Warren McKenzie**

Wife: Danielle

Position: Special Ministry Worker with the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, Village Church and YNET

What do you do in your role?

My role involves co-leading Krosswerdz Hip-Hop Ministry with Warren McKenzie (Forest Lake Baptist/Salvation Army). Krosswerdz evangelises and disciples young people with Hip-Hop being the bridge to the Gospel message. I'm also excited to be gathered under the YNET wing as I seek to learn more.

What excites you most about your role?

Church in 'Juvie'; we walk around to all the sections (cell blocks) in the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre where we sign up young people for church. It's not compulsory but we see anywhere between 50-80 come along of their own accord. We sing/rap praise songs, pray with young people, preach the Gospel, hold a time of question and answer after the sermon, then we get young people up to rap songs about their lives. Once a month we run four church services in a row to cater for the numbers.

I have so much to learn about evangelism, but I love it, and I love how honest it calls us to be. All this stuff excites me.

Why do you feel called to this position?

I didn't go looking for this at all. I just listened to heaps of 90s New York rap as a kid, and I never thought God was doing anything in me. To see doors open up and opportunities within the centre appear like they have, is a true testament to God's sovereignty—God is good! We started running a music workshop in there one day a week since the centre saw Hip-Hop as a tool to connect with young people, and God has worked that into church, Bible studies and various workshops within the centre. Now He's opened up another door for us to walk around the yard unassisted, as we seek to pastorally care for young people.

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

His faithfulness! No longer can I trust in myself. So many times I've tried to do life my way. And not only do I fail badly, but he lifts me up to my feet as I learn just how faithful and patient my Father is. It's always a hard lesson, but a beautiful one.



UPROCK Sydney (3 day Christian Summit)



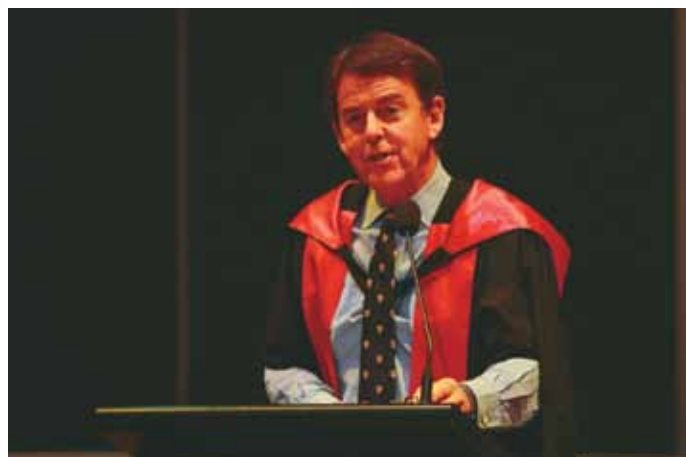
Krosswerdz Forest Lake Baptist Church service

News from around the State



Queensland Theological College: Graduation Class of 2015

On 10 March 2016, 350 people gathered at Brisbane Boys' College to celebrate Queensland Theological College's (QTC) graduating class of 2015. It was a wonderful occasion to acknowledge and thank God for the 24 students who successfully completed an accredited Australian College of Theology qualification. QTC also recognised other students who completed courses in the Foundations of Biblical Counseling, Ministry to Women, and in Bible and Theology. Alistair Begg, Senior Pastor from Parkside Church in Cleveland, Ohio, delivered an address to the graduating students before they were sent off with the blessing of QTC's faculty, staff and supporting students.




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Thinking of studying at Bible College?
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Saturday 14 May, 9.00am




Find out about QTC's courses for Semester 2, 2016.
Meet our staff and students.

 qtc.edu.au/events  (07) 3871 9373  admin@qtc.edu.au

**QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE**
Bible-centred. Gospel-driven. Mission-minded.

Romans with Dr Thomas Schreiner
Day Conference: Monday 23 May

**Venue:** Emmanuel College, 64/70 Upland Road, St Lucia
Time: 9:30am-3:30pm **Cost:** \$20
Tom Schreiner is a leading Reformed Evangelical Scholar of Pauline theology, having published widely in this area, including an outstanding commentary on Romans.
QTC is privileged to have Dr Schreiner teach on
The Judging Righteousness of God in Romans 1-3.

 qtc.edu.au/events  (07) 3871 9373  admin@qtc.edu.au

QTC Preaching Conference: Preaching the Word to a Biblically Illiterate Generation

by Daniel Sercombe, third year student studying a Master of Divinity

Pastors, students and lay preachers were reminded of the desperate need for expository teaching at Queensland Theological College's 3-day Preaching Conference in March.

United Kingdom based scholar and author, Rev Christopher Ash was one of the conference's keynote speakers. He believes the need for expository preaching is greater than ever, with such poor Biblical literacy in today's western culture. He is also a big advocate for preaching through books of the Bible, and is urging pastors to be patient as they allow the Word of God to shape the lives of people in their congregations.

American based pastor Alistair Begg challenged the attendees to push deeper into the scriptures as he preached through 2 Timothy. It was a timely reminder to many who currently serve in the local church.

"This week has challenged me to think really deeply and spend much time in God's word, praying and asking him to give me understanding and clarity," said Joshua Dodd, Youth Pastor from Dalby Presbyterian Church.

Both of the guest speakers warned of the temptation to generate new ideas or concepts away from scripture.

The Preaching Conference will be held again in 2018 at the new QTC campus in Spring Hill.



L-R: Alistair Begg, Gary Millar (Principal of QTC) and Christopher Ash

Want to know about the history of the Camp Hill congregation?

Margaret Henry recently presented the Presbyterian Church of Queensland Archives with a copy of her book *Social History of the Camp Hill Congregation*, which comprehensively records the development of the congregation at Camp Hill. The book provides an overview of the birth, growth and development of that congregation until it moved from the property in 1995. This preceded the move to Carina and ultimately the re-naming of the congregation to Creek Road. The completion of this fabulous historical tool has been a huge achievement for Margaret, who battled serious illness during the period in which it was written.

Margaret's father, Rev David Henry, was the first minister to be appointed to the Charge, and the current Creek Road congregation has grown from the foundations he laid. We thank Margaret and the extended family for their generosity in both funding and presenting this history to the Church. Margaret says of her book:

"This book is meant to be used as a reference book, and as such, is clearly indexed in the Table of Contents. By cross-referencing throughout the book, it is possible to follow the progress of all church organisations from their inception until 1995, which marks the end of this study."

We are very grateful to both the Henry family for their generous gift and to Margaret for her scholarship in preparing this wonderful story of what God has done. Electronic versions of the book can be obtained from Margaret.

The book could never have been written without access to all of the Annual Reports, Minutes and Organisational records which have been preserved.

For information on what documents should be kept, where and how they should be stored please email archives@pcq.org.au or go to:

www.pcq.org.au/pcq-policies-and-procedures.php.



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

Australian Presbyterian World Mission

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

THE BURDEN OF LOVE

It was with great joy that **Lauren Crase** was recently commissioned for service in Timor Leste at the Browns Plains Presbyterian Church. Part of that joy sprang from the fact that Lauren grew up in the congregation and is the first person to be sent out by Browns Plains as a cross-cultural missionary.



During the commissioning hands were laid on Lauren. She later commented "Those hands were heavy but I thought 'This is a burden of love'". Lauren will be serving in a remote area in Timor Leste through outreach, discipleship, teaching English and healthcare. Lauren is due to depart in early May. Lauren has served in remote Timor Leste on three previous occasions but this time will be located there for two years. Please pray for God's wisdom as she settles into ministry.

JAPAN: THE NEXT STEPS

John and Rosemary Evans and family recently returned to Japan after 5 months home assignment in Australia. They now enter a particularly exciting phase of their ministry as the groundwork of the last few years begins to come together.

The task is now to assemble the Chiba City church planting team. It is hoped that within two years they will begin to meet as a church. The team includes Adam and Helene Ramsay (APWM/CMS) and Matt and Carly Chase (Mission to the World). Please pray for them as a family that they will know God's sustaining hand as they transition back into life in Japan.



John & Rosemary Evans and family

Nathan and Tomoko Stewart continue to develop their partnership support and have recently been visiting churches to speak about ministry in Japan. Their plan is to help a Japanese congregation in Osaka reach out to people through English language ministry. Their current support level is at 50%.



Nathan & Tomoko Stewart and family

APWM is planning to commission them on Sunday 23rd October if their support level is near 100%. If you would like to have them speak to your congregation then please contact Nathan on 0422 853 800 or nathan@stewartfamily.id.au

VANUATU: CYCLONE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who generously gave to our appeal for Vanuatu following Cyclone Pam in March last year. We are now starting to receive photos of some of the buildings that have been repaired. At the Assembly last year book vouchers were distributed to Presbyteries to enable pastors to select books sent from the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Thank you for your partnership.



Meliwo Bible school building paid for by the Presbyterian Church of Australia to replace a building destroyed by Cyclone Pam.



Jonathan Tarip from the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu hands vouchers for theological books to the Clerk of the Southern Islands Presbytery.

APWM

To support APWM missionaries financially please go to www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance

APWM Queensland

Convener:
Kim Dale qldconvener@apwm.org.au

Secretary:
Peter Dimond qldsecretary@apwm.org.au

National Office

81 Shaftesbury Road Burwood NSW 2134
(02) 8073 7490

National Director Kevin Murray,
0421 366 720
kevinmurray@apwm.org.au

Sheryl Sarkoezy national@apwm.org.au
Bruce Campbell finance@apwm.org.au



WITH THANKS TO THE RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA...

Millions of PIM promotional brochures have been printed, at no cost to PIM. These are so widespread you probably even have one in your purse or wallet right now! What a blessing it is to have something of the story of the Australian Inland Mission, PIM's predecessor, told on the face of the twenty-dollar note!

The life and ministry of John Flynn are depicted on the note. Much of the imagery conveys the story of Flynn's most famous initiative, what has now become the Royal Flying Doctor Service. But if you look closely on the right hand side of the note, you will see another man. This man, astride one of the camels purchased by Flynn, is Rev. Coledge Harland, one of the early AIM Patrol Padres. From around 1919 to 1921, Harland had the largest parish in Australia: over three hundred thousand square kilometres of outback South Australia. Harland patrolled this territory on the back of a camel. It is reported that in one five-month period he rode more than 1500 miles on that camel, ministering to the people of the outback.

Today, PIM Patrol Teams have traded in the camels for Land Cruisers and the like, but the core of the ministry still remains the same. There are people living in remote and isolated parts of our enormous continent who, in the ordinary course of their lives, have very limited contact with Christians, the church or any solid gospel message. It is these people that PIM seeks to reach with the Good News of Jesus.

Many people living on the land struggle through drought and flood and

experience suffering and hardship that those of us who live in major towns and cities are largely protected from. However, isolated Australians still have the same basic problem that each of us has, regardless of where we live. Our sin separates us from God, and we need a Saviour to deal with that. Of all the things that can be done to help the people of the 'Inland,' the most important is to introduce them to Jesus.

So, next time you pull out a twenty-dollar note, why not pause for a moment and pray for Australians living in remote areas, and the PIM Teams who will be taking the Gospel to them today?



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN PIM

A number of Patrol Areas across the continent are currently vacant. In many of these areas there is little or no Christian witness and very little opportunity for people to hear the Gospel. PIM is seeking expressions of interest from people who might be interested in joining our team.

If you love the Lord, have a desire to share the gospel with people and are available to live a somewhat nomadic lifestyle, then

we'd love to have a chat.

We currently have patrol opportunities in NSW, WA, Central QLD, as well as potential to help develop new patrol areas based out of the Darwin and Alice Springs Mission Churches.

To learn more, please visit our website, find us on Facebook or give our CEO Andrew Letcher a call on 0438 868 964.



Taking the Word of God into the vast Australian outback.

PRESCARE ROSLYN LODGE

PresCare Roslyn Lodge is a 38-bed facility which includes an 8-bed special care unit for those diagnosed with dementia.

Visiting families and friends are welcomed by Roslyn Lodge's friendly staff, and can take advantage of the beautiful gardens throughout the facility along with the many sights to see on the mountain including amazing lookouts, rainforest walks, coffee shops and the popular 'Gallery Walk'.

Roslyn Lodge's chaplain plays an integral part in looking after the well-being of residents; providing weekly services and being available anytime to chat.



PRESCARE CHAPLAINS WEAR MANY HATS

Our Chaplains wear many hats at PresCare, as they work tirelessly to ensure all residents are provided an opportunity to reflect on meaningful events, both past and present and in their own way.

One example of this is the annual service that is held on ANZAC Day for the residents and their families at Roslyn Lodge. For a number of residents in particular, it is an especially poignant time to reflect on the time serving in the forces in World War II.

The role that chaplains play in our facilities doesn't stop at organising services; in fact that's

just the beginning. Our chaplains and pastoral carers, and team as a whole, listen, observe, interact and most importantly, care. Whether it's spiritual connections or simply a chat over a cup of tea, the team ensure all residents feel supported and remain connected to the things most important to them.



PRESCARE PRAYER POINTS

1. Residents of Roslyn Lodge, their families and friends speak positively and fondly of the care provided by staff.
2. Sunday and Thursday morning worship services are wonderfully supported by staff in relation to those residents who wish to attend.
3. The dining room at meal times has become a relaxed environment for both lively and quiet conversation with residents and their families.
4. The recent deaths of several Residents have confronted the Roslyn Lodge community with perennial questions of identity and destiny.
5. The work of ministry in Jesus' name is wonderfully supported by a great team of volunteers from the Tamborine Mountain Presbyterian Church.

CHAPLAINS' CONFERENCE 2016



Coming up in May, PresCare's chaplains and pastoral carers will once again come together at their annual professional development conference.

This conference is an excellent opportunity to hear from respected speakers who are experts in their field. This year PresCare are very pleased to welcome aboard Dr Lyndal White from Belmont Private Hospital who specialises in Psychiatry and Peter Janetzki, respected counsellor and educator in Brisbane.

The objective of this year's conference is to provide an opportunity for chaplains and pastoral carers to hear the latest research and techniques currently being implemented in the industry including approaches to self-care, boundary settings and general tools in protecting pastoral carers with grief counselling.

Director of Chaplaincy Danny Mihailovic is pulling together this conference to help keep his team connected to the wider industry, and ensure they are up to date with changes, new projects and news from parts of PresCare they may not interact with on a daily basis.



Goals galore, celebrations, high fives, and every now and then we'll stop to eat—above all else, coming along to MSSC will give you the opportunity to learn about our Great God. He created us, loves us and we want to show you how football reflects life, and can help us understand what it means to be a follower of God.

So what are you waiting for? Grab some friends and your favourite jersey and register NOW for MSSC 2016.

www.megasportz.info

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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.

Unit To Let

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

Telephone Directories

Any charges wishing to make changes to their entry in the White Pages should contact Church Office on 07 3716 2800 or email Michelle@pcq.org.au.

Prepare - Customised Version

PREPARE and ENRICH have been used for many years by those working with couples planning to marry, couples wanting to strengthen their relationship and facing new challenges, and couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. The inventories have a reputation for accuracy, reliability, sensitivity and relevance. PREPARE-ENRICH CUSTOMIZED VERSION has been used to great effect for 5 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 2 and 3 June. The Friday will only involve the morning. For Registration details, please email info@prepare-enrich.com.au or contact the Prepare office on 02 95204049.

Rev Graham Cole
Chaplain
Brisbane Boys' College

Positions Vacant

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 or as negotiated.

Applicants should be ordained ministers 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 **15 May 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



Ipswich Assist Program Manager

Ipswich Assist is an evangelistic social welfare ministry providing help, hope and support to 80 Ipswich families each month and is an important way that the Central Church community reaches out to its local area.

Ipswich Assist is looking for a person to take on the position of Program Manager to lead this ministry into the future.

The successful applicant will:

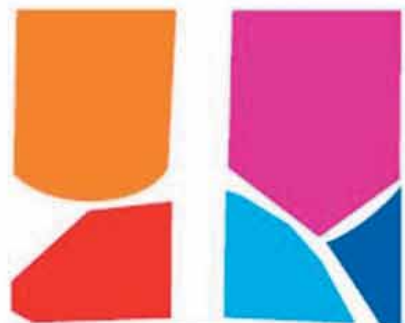
1. Be a Christian with a passion for and experience in evangelism to the marginalised
2. Have a Reformed Evangelical understanding of the Christian faith
3. Have an approach to social ministry that aims to care physically for people while leading them to realise their greater need for Christ
4. Have the ability to love and lead a team of volunteers
5. Be able to give strategic leadership to the organisation to reach its goals
6. Be able to fund raise for the ministry
7. Become an active member of Central Presbyterian Church Ipswich

The position is part-time (3 days per week) with remuneration commensurate with an Accredited Ministry Worker of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

For a full position description or to apply, contact the Secretary of the Board, Mr Kevin Bull at secretary@centralchurch.net.au.

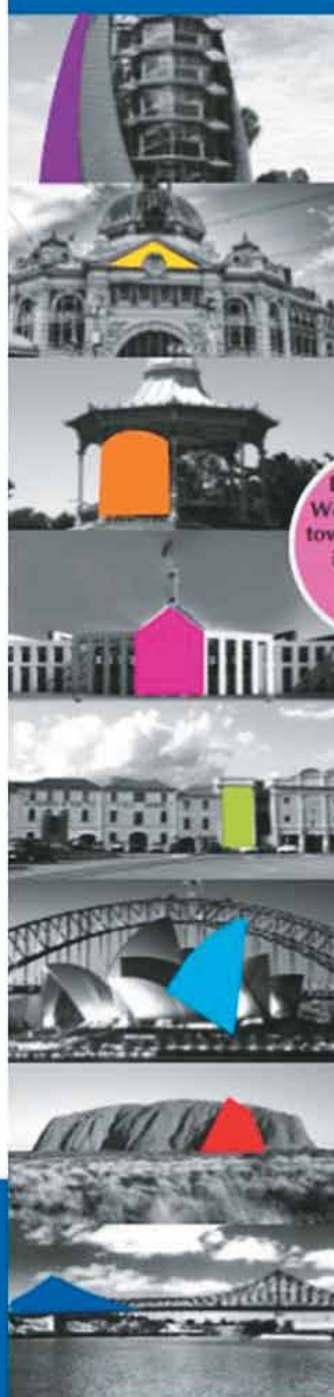


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Saturday 28 May, 2016
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Formerly "Flourish" conference

