

MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND

Mobile Mission Maintence team give Monto Presbyterian Church a new lease of life!



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.

Pres Life

Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

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Presbyterian Church of Queensland

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From the Editor



with Michelle Martin

Dear Readers

Welcome to the last issue for 2015!

There's been several camps held throughout the year across the state of Queensland for youth and children. It's wonderful to hear that the Gospel is being shared with our children and youth and they in turn are sharing it with their friends. Check out the stories and photos on pages 6-11.

Christmas is fast approaching! I hope you have a blessed time with family and friends, and remember that Jesus Christ is the reason for the season.

Enjoy reading!

Complete it Now!

Please complete the survey included in this issue and return it to us or go to: www.surveymonkey.com/r/6WVLFW9.

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What's On

Prepare – Customized 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 resource will be available at Brisbane Boys' College, Toowong on Thursday and Friday 10 and 11 December. For Registration details, please email info@prepare-enrich.com.au or contact the Prepare office on (02) 9520 4049.

Rev Graham Cole Chaplain Brisbane Boys' College

QTC Offers Online Courses



Interested in studying at QTC, but simply can't get to us in person? From February 2016 QTC will be offering subject units online. You can complete one of our shorter ACT courses completely online, such as the Diploma of Theology or Graduate Diploma of Divinity, or gain credit towards a longer course.

Our online units will be a great choice for those in regional Queensland, and for Christians keen to get some training as they serve in their local churches. Contact our Registrar for more details: registrar@qtc.edu.au

Briefly

MODERATOR-GENERAL

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

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 \$300/week. For details 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 office@pcg.org.au.

Position Vacant

Minister, Hervey Bay Presbyterian Church



Is seeking a Minister with a passion for proclaiming Jesus Christ in line with our Reformed Faith. We are looking for a man to reach out to a growing community and one who exhibits Pastoral care skills. Hervey Bay in seaside surrounds offers a very well and established Church and Hall facilities with a newly refurbished manse.

Please contact Mr Wayne Pivac (Session Clerk) for further information. E: jwpivac@iprimus.com.au.

The Gap Presbyterian Church The End of an Era

by David Niven

On 23 August 2015 the last service for the members of The Gap Presbyterian Church was held in the High School Auditorium. It was a bitter sweet time as members shared the Lord's Supper and a Fellowship Lunch together for the last time.

Following the service Mrs Sadie Crawford was presented with a pew Bible, which she had requested as a memento. Mrs Crawford was the last remaining member of the original Bardon congregation, and has been a Communicant member for over 60 years.

In September 1900 Ithaca Presbyterian Church opened a Sunday School at Bardon, which in September 1928 became the Home Mission Charge known as Carmel Bardon Presbyterian Church. Rev Samuel Summers was called as the first minister in 1930.

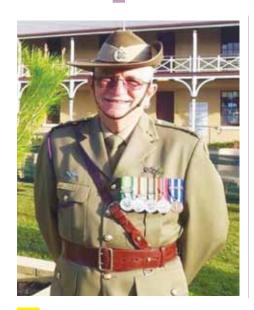
In 1984 the first Korean congregation in Queensland was formed as part of Carmel Bardon with Rev Dr Matthew Kim as minister. It eventually moved on to become the Korean Presbyterian Church at Kuraby.

A decision was made in 1989 to sell the property at Bardon. In 1992 the proceeds of the sale were used to purchase land and buildings on Waterworks Rd, The Gap. The church then became known as The Gap Presbyterian Church. Rev David Niven was the first minister (1994-2005), followed by Rev Chris Perona (2006-present).

In recent years—largely due to circumstances beyond its control—the church declined to the point where the Presbytery of Brisbane was asked to determine its viability. The Presbytery subsequently decided to close it as of 31 December 2015, thus ending a long and faithful Presbyterian witness to the people of Bardon and The Gap.



Rev David Niven awarded Conspicuous Service Cross



David has completed twenty years of service as an Army Chaplain in both the Regular and Reserve forces and will retire at the end of this year. The Conspicuous Service Cross was introduced in 1989 to recognise outstanding devotion to duty, or outstanding achievement in the application of exceptional skills, judgement or dedication, in non-warlike situations. His citation reads:

"The Reverend David Richard NIVEN, Qld, for outstanding devotion to duty as Staff Chaplain South Queensland Region, Army Headquarters.

Chaplain Niven has served proactively and tirelessly in a complex portfolio, achieving consistent and outstanding success in recruiting Chaplaincy assets and giving consistently timely, insightful and accurate advice to achieve best use of limited Chaplaincy positions. His dedication to Army members and their families during periods of exceptional operational tempo, across complex units and geographic boundaries, has delivered outstanding chaplaincy and pastoral care to the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force."

David said that it was very humbling to receive such an honour, which also reflected well upon Army Chaplaincy and the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Monto Presbyterian Church Work in the Bush

by Derek Bound

The small congregation of Monto Presbyterian Church, Central Oueensland was wonderfully blessed when a team from Mobile Mission Maintenance (MMM) under the leadership of John Cooper arrived to paint the church and manse, insulate the manse and do some plumbing repairs. The team comprised two full time couples and seven couples of volunteer retirees.

The congregation had hosed down the buildings and sugar soaped the wooden walls in preparation.

The Ladies' Guild supplied morning teas and lunch for the two and a half weeks the team was here.

This year MMM (a mission first developed in Australia, and now in many countries of the world), celebrates its 40th year.



Before



Why Kids and Youth Camps Matter

by Danny Mitchell, YNET Consultant

Christian youth camps are among the childhood highlights for many Christians who grew up in a church.

Camps provide great memories, formative experiences and key friendships. However, despite the great memories, adult Christians often baulk at running a camp for the children or youth in their church.

Here are six reasons why you should consider running a camp for young people.*

1. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Psalm 133 describes how good it is when God's people hang out together, and camps are a great opportunity to do this.

On camps you have the opportunity to build a world around the Gospel, so children and teenagers receive a taste of what Gospel living is like.

This is great for Christians AND those who don't know Jesus to be reminded of why following Jesus is so good or to see firsthand the difference Jesus makes in people's lives.

2. SUSTAINED GOSPEL TEACHING

Camps provide a vehicle for delivering multiple Bible talks in a short time frame. Young people get to be saturated in God's Word, rather than have Bible 'bites' over a term.

There is more space and time to get stuck into what God has to say. In fact,

dwelling in God's Word is so often the highlight for many young people on camps.

3. LEADERS ALONGSIDE YOUNG PEOPLE

A weekend camp has the same amount of contact as a weekly program in a school term. Yet the nature of camps means that leaders get to 'do life' alongside young people.

A two-way window into life is provided and this combined with the volume of time, creates a recipe for momentous Jesus-filled conversations. This means leadership matters on camp—choose your leaders wisely and invite older Christians, couples and families, not just time-rich young adults.**

4. MEMORIES

Shared memories are powerful tools in the forming and continuation of relationships. An experience shared provides the rich soil for deep, life-long friendships, especially memories that share Jesus.

5. GROUP IDENTITY

Whether it is a combined group camp or just your group, the time away forges and consolidates your group identity. Your group gets a better sense of itself and owning its members. This is particularly good for any new friends to get a sense of belonging as they consider Jesus.`

6. MEETING THE FAMILY

One of the excellent benefits of a camp

is that it can bring several groups together. This brings with it a joy in realising this whole 'Jesus thing' is bigger than you and the people you see each week.

Young people are reminded that we are part of a larger, more diverse Christian family, who is connected deeply because of Jesus.

If we are a family that genuinely loves and cares for each other, then we don't have to be afraid of introducing newcomers to the family!

If you are considering how to help your group grow more deeply in their Christian fellowship, then it is worth thinking about including a camp in your program.

If you are thinking about running a camp away, then YNET can help! YNET is a network to help local churches as they minister to young people. There are also plenty of opportunities to bring your group along to a camp. Please go to www.ynet.org.au for further information and dates for 2016 Youth and Children's camps.

*Really, there does not need to be an age restriction!

**As part of choosing wisely, always make sure leaders have a Blue Card and have completed ChildSafe training before they are involved in a camp.





YNET'S The Gathering

by Rosie Skerman

On a cool August evening, 300 youth and their leaders gathered together for a night of fellowship, singing, learning, growing and beholding our awesome God.

The theme of the night was 'Don't Give Up', featuring James Jensen (youth pastor of Eatons Hill Presbyterian Church) speaking from Hebrews 11-12.

James' talk from Hebrews not only explained God's Word to us, but also left us with three challenges to consider: throw off sin, run as a team, and be honest with each other. This discussion then led into a new segment called Gathering Q and A.

There was an eager hunger for this segment, with far too many questions to answer on the night. This prompted a question and answer 'advice column' on The Gathering's Facebook page that we pray will be a great encouragement to the young people asking these questions. (Feel free to check it out!)

This was the second time this year that YNET has held *The Gathering*, which brings together youth groups from across South East Queensland for a great night of fellowship, singing, learning, growing, and enjoying Jesus.

One of the key outcomes from The Gathering has been helping teenage

Christians know they are not alone. By getting to fellowship with other Christian teenagers from Queensland, they can share their struggles in life, their battles with sin and their desires to live a holy life pleasing to their Lord and Saviour.

The Gathering will be back in 2016, and we'd love for you to get involved. Not only is the night a blessing to your youth group, but they'll also be blessing many others just by being there!

If you're interested in more details, contact Danny Mitchell: danny@ynet.org.au.

Mega Sportz Soccer Camp

God's Word and playing soccer were the key focus for 130 kids at the 17th annual Mega Sportz Soccer Camp, held at Camp Moogerah in the 2015 June-July school holidays.

God worked through the camp as its leaders used analogies of soccer to explain God's plan for mankind.

One parent told the camp organisers: "My eldest said what he really liked about the camp this year was that it brought him closer to God. He enjoyed the group sessions learning about God and the gospel. He also said the leaders were awesome."

The 2015 leadership team consisted of 30 servant-hearted young men and

women who presented the Gospel in creative and enthusiastic ways.

According to the camp organiser: "The leaders showed an amazing willingness to do what needed to be done, all the while modelling Jesus' love through word and deed.

"The coaches also showed the campers that they were more excited about Jesus than they were about soccer."

The leaders' witnessing continued beyond the camp, when several camp leaders played a game of soccer for Raceview Division 2 Men's. Many campers and parents came to watch. Late in the game the team was awarded a penalty kick, which would have won

them the game. However, Captain Ben Lewis from Central Church told the referee the team didn't think they should be awarded a penalty. The game ended as a draw.

The parents watching the game sent a letter to the Association highlighting the 'Christian Act of Sportsmanship' shown on the field.

A big thank you to all the leaders, cooks and others who helped make the camp run smoothly as well as the Boonah Soccer Club for the loan of their fields.

Please continue to pray for the camping program through the Presbyterian Church.

Mega Sportz Netball Camp

Mega Sportz Netball Camp was once again another huge success, creating a little slice of netball heaven for 85 girls.

Held at Camp Moogerah in the midyear school holidays, the program's 20 passionate coaches and leaders taught the girls about netball as well as how to play on God's side in the game of life.

According to the organisers, God provided beautiful weather and a safe camp, which ran smoothly, with great bible studies, awesome food (thanks to five cooks who worked tirelessly to provide fresh wholesome food) and amazing campers.

The Camp's studies were based on 'The Party': the party planner, the party crasher, life of the party and the invitation. The Gospel was presented clearly and consistently.

Comment

"My eldest daughter has attended the Mega Sportz Netball camp for the last two years and has thoroughly enjoyed the camps. Of course the food, but also the leaders, support, netball skills, bible talks and the friendships she has made.

"My other daughter attended for the first time this year and brought a couple of friends with her. Parents of the friends came to the final carnival day and couldn't believe how good it was and how much their daughters had enjoyed the camp.

"I also wanted to thank the coaches and leaders who coached both my girls. They really taught them team spirit and have excelled their netball skills. I can't wait for them both to go back to Club next week and show how much they have improved."

2015 Mega Sportz Netball Camp parent

Kids Weekender II

In the jungle, the mighty jungle...Jesus is the King!: Kids Weekender 2015

Nearly 100 primary-school children from across Brisbane and beyond came together for Kids Weekender 2, 'The Great Jungle Bungle', in October.

The weekend overflowed with amazing jungle animals, creative jungle activities, fancy jungle food, crazy jungle boat rides, and fantastic jungle experiences as the kids joined in an amazing quest to find out more about God. (The weekend also included a (imaginary) mission trip to the unreached tribes in the jungle.)

Speaker, Steve Hay, took the children on a journey through the Bible, explaining how God has revealed Himself to us. It was awesome to see the kids discussing God, Jesus, His Word, and their lives.

One of the highlights was learning our memory verse: All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3: 16-17

As Kids Weekender camps continue to grow across Queensland, we ask that

you join us in prayer for the lives of these young people, praising and thanking God for His work in their lives and asking that they may continue to grow in their love for, and knowledge of Him in years to come. Please also pray for our faithful band of leaders and for the Holy Spirit to continue to work through these camps to bring many closer to our Heavenly Father. All the praise and glory be unto Him.



Spring Camp 2015: where youth groups hit the beach

by Danny Mitchell

The September school holidays saw the return of Spring Camp for 2015, but once again without 'spring-like' conditions!

For four days, youth groups from South-East Queensland converged on the stunning Camp Drewe in Lennox Head, New South Wales to kick back by the beach, try out a variety of outdoor activities and get stuck into the Bible.

This year, the campers benefited from hearing Ben Mansfield open up the book of Jonah to remind everyone of God's mercy to his people, even when they have been difficult and disobedient. This call echoed the sacrificial love God showed us through Jesus, providing a great foundation for the youth, on which to build their understanding of God.

The teenagers had great joy in reconnecting with friends they had met on previous camps as well as getting to know their own groups better over the long weekend.

It was an encouragment to see young people in high school building strong Christian friendships that will continue to grow and hopefully last a lifetime.

We look forward to next year to keep encouraging young people to know, love and follow Jesus.

NQ Xtreme: a look behind the scenes

by Soraya Hirth

For those who don't know about NQ Xtreme, the idea is churches from all over North Queensland send their leaders and youth group kids away for a week. The kids are also encouraged to invite friends.

The camp facilitates great relationships between youth groups in North Queensland. It also helps grow and strengthen the bond kids have with their group leaders, so that they can have fruitful Gospel conversations when they go home.

There are usually a few kids who have drifted from their youth group, but make a last minute decision to come on camp again. Throughout the week they are reminded of the value and worth of a life given to Jesus. These kids usually reconnect into their youth group postcamp.

The camp directors and organisers work tirelessly to create a camp with a Christian culture. Their focus is on helping kids grow in their relationship with Jesus, with the morning talks and devotions forming the most important part of the day.

It's always such a privilege to be a part of this camp. It effectively preaches the Gospel and runs a program that encourages both kids and leaders in their faith and relationship with Jesus.

Fun and Adventure Camp 2015

In the September school holidays, 30odd staff (yes, some of them were very odd), eight kitchen hands, one chef and more camp kids than you could poke a stick at, rocked up to Camp Moogerah. They were on board for another round of fun, adventure, skiing, singing, tubing, discussions, sports and chats.

The camp began with the world's biggest shaving cream fight. Dinner followed and then 200 people sang praises to our Great God in the notso-great Moogerah shed. The Central Church band led the singing and it was great to see the campers encouraging each other through song.

Jason Budden, Connect Pastor from Central Church, Ipswich, presented six bible talks during the camp on IDENTITY. What a great joy it was to see kids from all walks of life asking questions about life as a Christian. (There were kids from Central Youth, Acacia Ridge Youth and Southside Youth, along with others from youth groups across South East QLD and beyond.)

We gave each camper a book to read, a Bible if they needed it, and a commitment to follow them up after camp.

After a week of dressing up as aliens, sliding down water slides, being towed around the lake (thanks to our amazing boat drivers!), learning to ski, dressing up for the formal, playing volleyball, joining the FNA Bookclub (don't ask), and more, it was time to pack up and go home. And, just like past years, we look forward to bumping into each other again and again.

Thanks for your prayers. For more photos and encouraging stories, check out #keenforfna on Instagram or the Fun and Adventure Facebook Page.



How God used Dorothy Gibson to reach the Children of Queensland

by Gary Tosh

Born in 1912 at Grey Street South Brisbane, Dorothy began working with the Presbyterian Church in her mid

Dorothy worked under the directorship of Norman Nelson of the Youth Department and recalls how Norman pressed the Board of Finance to purchase 'Alexandra House' at Alexandra Headland until they agreed to do so. Dorothy's role was to supervise the Correspondence Sunday School, and she recalls having 1200 children enrolled from all over Queensland and many from the city of Brisbane.

The Centenary History of the Presbyterian Church states "this Correspondence Sunday School represented more than 400 families, and there was a team of more than thirty teachers who also corresponded with the parents of these children. This school was almost a congregation within itself."

Dorothy recalls six children were always selected from the school to attend the camps at 'Alexandra House' which she always attended as Registrar of the camps.

Dorothy has wonderful memories of working under the directorship of Norman Nelson and recalls how land was reclaimed by the Council to place the town water reservoir on it. The land that was sold off around 'Alexandra Park' had streets named after various Mission places and a Park in this area was named 'Nelson Park'. During the final years of her work in Church Office she was transferred into the Welfare and Youth department looking after the various Youth Hostels and Aged Care. Much of, if not all was due to the wonderful donations made by Mr WR Black, whom Dorothy remembers well and admires greatly.

Dorothy retired in 1969.



A Children's Story: **Bear Fact One**

by Henry Pennings

The three bears of the well-known legend were once upon a time—I've heard—making their way slowly through the forest to the mansion where Goldie lived. It was then that Baby Bear turned to his father (Father Bear—of course) and asked, "Big Bruno, why do you swear and curse so much? Can't you occasionally use a noun without putting some crude adjectives before it?"

All this happened many years ago when little bears were taught all the basics of 'reading, writing and arithmetic', including all the parts of a sentence that make sense.

Big Bruno was so much put out by the little nipper's question that he was either at a loss for words altogether or couldn't make a reply without using any of those adjectives, which his son was complaining about.

So Mother Bear came to her man's rescue. "It's because," she said—as she

gave Baby Bear a playful cuff around the ears—it's because your father was never one for education and never learned to talk proper like."

"But," replied the little fellow, "when we visit cousin Bobby Bear's house—you know, just fifteen leaps past Goldie's grandfather's house—Bobby's father Uncle Robert asks his wife to please pass the honey, and he does so without any further description of that honey, and Bobby's father wasn't much for education either."

Father Bear had heard enough! He said that he'd kick Baby Bear to the other side of next week if he didn't shut up with his silly questions. So Baby Bear did. Well, for the moment anyway. At least until he'd sat on Goldie's chair, ate Goldie's porridge, and had fallen asleep for a while on Goldie's bed. That's how I remember the story anyway.

But as Little Bruno—he was named after his dad Big Bruno of coursemade some further enquiries into the question of why people speak as they do, he found that those bears who, like his Uncle Bob, cared about God and the kind of language God wants us to use, rarely felt any need to use the kind of adjectives which his father tended to use as a matter of course.

By the time he had worked that out he was no longer called Baby Bear. In fact, he was taller than his dad. And by this time Goldie—of whom it must be said he was a bit keen—had brought him along to St. Grizzly's Presbyterian Church, and taught him more about Jesus. And he was as happy there as a pig in mud. Mama Bear (called Happy Bear by her neighbours) was also coming along to the worship services occasionally, and he had high hope for his dad as well.

INSIDE C PRISON CHAPLAINCY

What's in a Name?

by Jesse Caulfield

We've just added one word, but it changes everything... Inside Out Prison Chaplaincy declares unashamedly who we are and what we do.

Our chaplains and mentors would say that they're ordinary Christians living out the words of Jesus, "I was in prison and you visited me". Matthew 25:36.

They are ordinary Christians, making an extraordinary difference. They go where no one else can—inside our state's prisons.

Last year 30 of our volunteer chaplains spent over 5,000 hours in prisonsharing a compassionate listening ear to some of the most marginalized and feared people in our state; prisoners.

We recognise that the word 'chaplaincy' in Queensland invokes images of a federal schools' program, and that's not who we are. Our chaplains don't go into playgrounds or classrooms. They go 'inside.' Inside the razor wire, inside the caged walkways and exercise yards, inside the very bowels of our prisons —and there they help people in their darkest hour discover redemption,

healing and hope... indeed—true freedom.

William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army coined the phrase: "While men and women go in and out, in and out, as they do now, I'll fight". He was talking about the reality of prisons in the 18th Century. He was talking about the carousel a prisoner rides—the ever revolving doors of recidivism.

Statistically speaking, if an 18 year old goes to prison they will spend, on average, the next 22 years of their lives going in and out—in and out. This will cost you and me (the tax payer), some two million dollars—let alone the extra costs to our courts, police and insurance policies!

So we meet with people whilst they are inside and we recognise that any change, any lasting transformation, will have to begin whilst they're inside, but it also needs to continue when they're out

To this end, we find Christian mentors—everyday church folk—who are willing to provide Godly wisdom

and compassionate care, to people who are trying to figure out what it means to be a new creation in Christ, and walk the path of Christian discipleship. Last year 51 prisoners chose a life in Christ.

So whether a prisoner is inside or out, we're there. We're there demonstrating consistent pastoral care to those who really need not just to hear the Gospel, but be changed by it!

And to that end, our name Inside Out Prison Chaplaincy encapsulates perfectly this truth. Change happens on the inside—our attitudes, minds, hearts—and that change is not easily visible as it is internal.

Yet it's visible too, in that we see the evidence of change in a changed life. We see that lived out through a person's words and actions.

I suppose that's the genius of our name —the play on words—because everyone who has been changed by Jesus knows that change happens from the inside out.

We are Inside Out Prison Chaplaincy.

A logo speaks a thousand words...

A new name signals a new beginning for Inside Out Prison Chaplaincy. And our new logo represents just that.

Adding colour to our logo helps to tell our story...

Green represents life and growth something we see in the prisoners we mentor as they discover the freedom that comes from knowing Jesus.

Purple is the international colour of Prison Chaplaincy and it reflects our

understanding that we're part of a global network of everyday heroes who take the Gospel where others fear to tread.

The **O** is reminiscent of a 'MOBIUS'. which has one continuous side. This is our eternal perspective as we welcome prisoners into a relationship with Jesus, that will continue into eternity.

And the **arrow** represents moving forward. Through a relationship with Jesus prisoners are finally able to break away from the never ending 'in and out' cycle and step into a promising future with ongoing support from our Inside Out Connection mentors.

They say a picture speaks a thousand words, and our logo is no exception. It tells a story of life, growth, unity and eternity. This is the story of *Inside Out* Prison Chaplaincy.

Girl Talk

Wendy Henry chats with Rosie Skerman



Wendy: Welcome to Girl Talk, Rosie! I've heard that you recently joined the staff team at the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (PCQ) offices. First let's get to know you...starting with your name. Is it actually short for something?

Rosie: It is actually Rosemary, but I go by Rosie.

W: Great! Where did you grow up, Rosie, and where do you currently live?

R: I grew up for the most part in Dalby, did a detour through China in my teenage years and am now at Ipswich where I've lived for the past seven years.

W: And what studies or work did you do along the way?

R: I've had a few random jobs here and there, but after school I completed Bachelor of Ministries at Queensland Theological College then took a job as a specialised ministry worker out at Central Church Ipswich where I still serve as a volunteer.

W: Now, what about your position at PCQ...how did that come about and what do you actually do?

R: I started off doing a couple of days a week assisting the Camping department and was offered a role that would expand some of the things I was already doing. Now I'm an Assistant to the Director of Christian Education. I have a lot to do with the camps, alongside assisting churches with ChildSafe needs, and providing support to the YNET consultants who are working with local churches in order to help grow ministry to young people.

W: Various roles, but a common thread of working with young people... is that something you always wanted to do?

R: It is! I love being involved in the lives of young people and watching them grow in their knowledge and understanding of God. It's so cool to watch the 'light bulb' come on, and see them love Jesus and love living for Jesus.

W: Going back to your studies at QTC... what was that like for you?

R: It was such a blessing to have three years to study God's Word in depth, develop a deep understanding of His glorious Gospel, and what that means for my life. My favourite areas of study (to my pleasant surprise) were Church History and Theology subjects. Of course, I also had a passion for Children's and Youth Ministry subjects.

W: So how and when did you become a Christian yourself?

R: I have been very blessed to have grown up with parents who tried to put Jesus first in everything. So that was modelled to me from a very young age. I remember giving my life to Jesus then and have since grown in my understanding of His grace, and the life that He has called me to.

W: Who or what encouraged you most, as you grew to know Jesus more?

R: My parents have been the biggest source of encouragement my entire life! They taught me that God is in control of everything, no matter what

the circumstances, and the knowledge of this promise (and many others throughout Scripture) has seen me through some very difficult times. Many others have also taken time in various ways to help guide me through life, always pointing me back to the Bible, and encouraging me to follow Jesus—it's so worth it!

W: Do you have a favourite scripture?

R: That changes each day! The entire books of Colossians, Ephesians, and Romans are great. The most encouraging passage that I constantly turn to, would be: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7.

W: Very encouraging! Thanks so much Rosie, for sharing your story with us all.

Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be evident to all.
The Lord is near.



Generation Next

Ministry to the #hashtag Generation



by Josh Mansfield

Hey you!

Yeah you, the kid with your face glued to your smartphone. Listen to this. The University of Salford in the United Kingdom did a study last year on social media's effects on self-esteem and anxiety. It reported that 50% of their participants said their use of social networks like Facebook and Twitter makes their lives worse. How can that be? There are so many great videos of cute kittens to be watched!

No additional research is required to make the following statement. Generation Z—and the rest of us, let's be honest—find their self-worth in how many 'likes' and 'retweets' they receive, and how much better their online image is compared to their friends. Our identity is in Facebook likes. Our self-esteem and anxiety are often directly related to our social media experience.

If you NMP (need more proof) totally just made that one upthat social media is simply an identity gauge, then the study also reported that participants said their self-esteem suffered when they compared their own accomplishments to those of their online friends.

So if we want to make sure that we don't base our identity on our social media presence—I guess there's only one thing we can dodisconnect our Facebook, banish our Instagram feeds and throw our phones away. Hang on, I just received a 'FB msg'.

Right... I'm back.

Of course, the solution is much more profound that that. The kids in our churches need to understand that their identity is in Christ. Who are we? We are not Facebook users, social media addicts or smartphone experts. If we trust in Jesus and the Gospel, then we are children of God first, foremost and above all

else. Jesus left the heavenly realm to live, die and rise again, so that we can enter heaven through this salvation, as children of God. This means that no matter how many likes you receive for the selfie you just posted where your hair is just sitting perfectly, nothing compares to the fact that in Jesus Christ we gain our identity.

"Yet to all who receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..." John 1:12, and "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light..." 1 Peter 2:9. are helpful in thinking through our identity in Christ.

So ask yourself the question: "Who are you?" If you can answer with "I am a child of God", then amongst other things, your social media interactions will change and grow as you seek to be encouraging in your actions rather than seeking likes, tweets and hits.

To view the study by the University of Salford go to: http://thesocialu101.com/the-relationship-between-social-media-and-self-worth/#sthash.W326LtSe.dpuf



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Pray, Live, Serve...but what about cherishing?

by Naomi Reed

It's been 25 years since Darren and I were married, so last weekend we got dressed up, walked down to the big rock in our back garden, and then renewed our vows in front of the boys and the 'mad' beagle - It was lovely. We promised to love and cherish each other- again. We remembered the promises we had made 25 years earlier, and we had pictures in our minds of all the places that the promises had played out - in Sydney hospitals, in third world countries, within stress and civil war, and seasons of longing and confusion and grief. Afterwards, we came back upstairs, ate bacon and eggs with our boys, and played old wedding music. Then we cleaned up the kitchen, sent some emails, and sorted out the tax.

It reminded me that marriage occurs within thousands of ordinary moments... too many to count - all of those moments when we can't find the keys, or the dog, or the piece of paper lying under that pile of rubbish. We commit to love and cherish each other, within all of those moments, as well as within the obvious trials. All of those moments when we need that piece of paper, right now! All of those moments when the thought of taking a pretty photo in the garden is the last thing on our minds. All of those moments when frustration and stress would like to seep their way out in the slam of a door.

What does it mean to cherish each other in the middle of all of that? Perhaps, looking back on 25 years, for us, it's been the ordinary moments that have been as hard to cherish as the obvious trials. Darren and I have struggled through miscarriages and monsoons and civil war and lifethreatening heart conditions. We've been in pain and in hospital. We've wept. We've been scared and empty, and we've been very stressed. But we've also been deeply sustained. We've prayed and been thankful, and we've remembered that none of this is a surprise to God.

But what about the ordinary moments? Are they a different challenge altogether - to remember to cherish and say sorry and thank you and please, and to greet with affection, while we still can't find that piece of paper, or something even more important under that pile? Even then, cherish. Work really hard. Breathe. Somehow catch a glimpse of the eternal and sacred, in God's world, and each other.

Marriage is hard, but it's worth it. And as we continue to love and cherish, we remember that we do it in light of a much bigger promise that God has made to his people and has been writing since the beginning of the world.

Naomi Reed is a speaker and writer who lives with her family in the Blue Mountains. For more information go to www.NaomiReed.Info

Book Review:

John Wesley: The man, his mission and his message

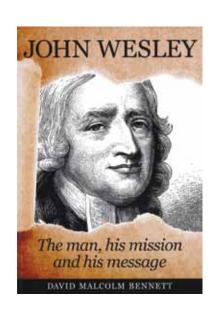
David Malcom Bennett has written a book about the life of John Wesley.

Here is a summary about this book:

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was a great evangelist. He toured the Bristish Isles for fifty years in the eighteenth century, preaching in churches, tiny chapels, village squares and in vast open areas, where he attracted enormous crowds. By the 1770s he was probably the most recognisable man in Britain, so much did he travel.

He was also a sensitive counsellor, a concerned pastor, a thoughtful theologian and a brilliant organiser. There are some who believe that his influence was so great that he and his associates saved England from the ravages of a revolution similar to that which occurred in France at the end of that century.

John Wesley: The Man, his Mission and his Message paints a picture of Wesley that is vivid and enduring. He appears in these pages as a real man, not a plastic saint, with all his astonishing talents, his clever sense of humour and his tragic weaknesses.



GRASS-ROOTS REFLECTIONS

The Lord's Prayer, Religion and Revelation!





by Roland Lowther

Waiting in a crowded lecture hall for the arrival of renowned theologian Karl Barth, a man scrawled on the blackboard, 'God is other people!'. As the aged and bespectacled scholar ambled to the stage, he paused at the words, then simply added a comma: 'God is other, people.' But what a difference that comma made! Barth stood resolutely against the destructive human-centered approach of modern theology and its undermining of God's authority.

In opposing this movement, Barth offered a penetrating critique of 'human religion' by setting it over and against the unadulterated revelation of God's Word—ultimately revealed in Jesus Christ. For Barth, human religion was not merely paganism contrasted with Christianity, but the humanistic construct of Christian religion in its attempt to 'fashion' God according to its own frames of reference.

Barth's critique focused on unmasking modern Protestantism's attempts to modify God's revelation within its 'rational' system of religion, subtly subordinating God's divine authority to religiously motivated human reason. Against such logic the Swiss theologian contended that God is God, not a fabrication of the human mind, and forever remains 'wholly other'.

The rise of human religion is not a new problem; in fact it's the oldest problem on earth. The prophet Jeremiah wrote, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?." Jeremiah 17:9. Jeremiah's words reinforce the essential problem: the 'false' bias in every human heart (self).

Without the quickening power of God, every 'heart' invariably reverts to its idolatrous ways, refashioning God's revelation into a religion of self-interest.

I became personally aware of this subtle self-deception when reflecting on my own prayer life. My practice has been to use the Lord's Prayer as a 'pattern' for regular devotional prayer. Usually in entering into prayer I found myself hastening to confess my sins, believing that such a confession 'must' precede all other facets of prayer. Frustratingly, the revealed truth of God in the Lord's Prayer: God's holy name, His kingdom, and His will, continually confounded 'my' goals. Why was my religious agenda being thwarted by God's 'strange' heavenly agenda? Then it dawned on me; 'my' religion (as pious and well-meaning as it was) was actually opposing God's revealed truth!

Sometimes the most profound truths are hiding in the most innocuous places. I have known the Lord's Prayer from infancy, learned it in Sunday School, recited it in school, meditated on it, preached about it, and prayed with it. But in becoming fixated on the forgiveness of 'my' sins, in order that God might favorably grant 'my' daily needs and preserve 'me' from evil, I had supplanted God's revelation for my own religion.

In contrast, the 'real' thrust of this prayer focuses on: honouring God's Holy name, anticipating His Kingdom, and desiring His perfect will, with the following petitions requesting 'our' daily needs, forgiveness, and the preservation from temptation and evil, serving God's greater purpose. This prayer orientates our 'heart' toward recognition of God, our submission to His Lordship, and our dependency on Him. If I had paid closer attention to the verse preceding the prayer: "Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:8; then perhaps I might have noticed the Lord's Prayer is

not constructed on human religion, but is a divine creed given to fashion a life of communion with God, in conformity with His will.

No matter how 'sound' a person's theology might seem, no one is immune from the subtle power of the heart to contrive false religion. If not perpetually submissive to God's Spirit-illumined divine Word, the heart will invariably subvert God's truth in the name of wellmeaning human religion.

Yes, we may have a comprehensive 'knowledge' of creeds, confessions, and theological systems, but if that knowledge is not honestly subordinated to the higher authority of God's inspired Word, our religious ideas, emphases, and traditions, will invariably distort our reading of Holy Scripture; domesticating the truth of God within it—exchanging divine revelation for human religion.

It's not just the 'big' issues that precipitate compromise, either. Every day and in every way, we are tempted to invert the truth of revelation for the comfort of religion. Money, possessions, career, ministry and family all form the 'currency of exchange', providing the means for the heart to exchange the challenge of divine revelation for the comfort of human religion.

Surely it is not an overstatement to assert, "We must always come to God's Word with fresh eyes and humble hearts, that we might receive what God says, not what we want Him to say," with these haunting words ringing in our ears, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12.

Next time you reflect on the Lord's Prayer, may that reflection serve as a reminder that 'your' religion is not necessarily God's revelation—God's truth is truth, even if you don't like it!

The world is full of Pos-Abilities for these graduates



A dinner with a difference



Rockhampton businesses came together to raise money for PresCare's programs that aim to keep 'Rocky' seniors connected with others in the community.

Now in its second year 'Dinner with Friends' was again generously sponsored by Woollam Constructions, and was a fun and fulfilling night.

Held at the Capricorn Caves, it included a three course meal and cave walk to

The Cathedral. Many guests expressed this as the highlight of the evening.

Special guests included PresCare clients who benefit from PresCare's activities to mitigate social isolation such as friendship groups.

One such guest was 82 year old Dorothy who has limited mobility, making it hard to go out on her own. When she receives a call inviting her to the next friendship group she says,

Six PresCare disability clients graduated with honors from a recent six week course in healthy living choices thanks to the Pos-Ability Project, and more are set to benefit from this program.

The Pos-Ability Project is a partnership between PresCare, Bond University and My Nutrition Clinic. Funded by a grant from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, the project was initiated by PresCare's Quality and Innovation team.

The program was developed to give clients confidence in key areas around health and wellbeing, including menu selection, grocery shopping, preparing and cooking meals, exercise and healthy living choices.

Chief Operating Officer Mike Bosel says he was very proud of the achievements of this project in such a short space of

Mike says he is also very pleased to confirm that PresCare is committing \$10,000 from funds raised for social isolation initiatives to the project.

"Social isolation can occur for many reasons," Mike says. "Not having the skills or confidence to get out into the community and grocery shop, or exercise, or do the other activities that make up a healthy life can be quite isolating. So we believe that funding this project for a second round will help our clients feel more connected to their communities, and this certainly fulfills our social mission, something we are passionate about."

"Yes," and has never missed one.

Friendship groups go a long way in keeping 'Rocky' seniors connected. Many long-lasting friendships have been forged within these groups.

Many thanks to all who attended the night.

Ensuring seniors are 'wheely' mobile!



Earlier this year we were really excited to announce the acquisition of mobility and special needs rehabilitation equipment supplier, Walk on Wheels.

They are a multi-million dollar operation who import and distribute mobility aids, scooters, power chairs and daily living aids as well as special needs rehabilitation equipment. When they joined the PresCare Group, the company had four stores and licensed the brand to a number of operators across Australia. A further two stores have now opened, with several more in the planning stages.

PresCare Chief Executive Officer Greg Skelton and Chairman Greg Rodgers travelled up to Townsville to celebrate the new sales team's official launch.

Mr Skelton said that as the first store outside of South East Queensland, it

was a great opportunity to introduce the brand to a wider Queensland audience.

"Townsville is experiencing growth in the number of residents over the age of 65," Mr Skelton says. "The proportion of the population in this age bracket is predicted to increase to 22 percent by 2026—an increase of around 34,000 seniors in a 15 year period. This highlights a key need for the provision of aged care services in the community."

Walk on Wheels promotes commitment to client convenience through services such as home delivery, in-home service and online ordering with a full e-commerce site launching soon. Visit www.walkonwheels.com.au for more information or to find a store near you.

Litchfield's beauty unveiled

In less than two months, the first Kingsford Terrace residents will take ownership of their brand new apartments in the Litchfield building. In early July, those residents had the opportunity to walk through Litchfield's first completed apartment, giving them a peek into their future lives at Kingsford Terrace.

Feedback was very positive with many citing the finishes in the kitchen and the balcony size being the highlights. As many future residents will be downsizing from their family home, the chance to bring with them their much loved pot plants and the ability to cook up a storm in a generous sized kitchen is a huge advantage.

As scaffolding comes down, gardeners and landscapers are also working side by side planting trees, shrubs and ground cover to bring to fruition the carefully considered garden design. From Weeping Lily Pilly, Frangipani and Poinciana trees to native Bottle Brush, Hoop Pine and Temple Grass; Kingsford Terrace residents will enjoy the lush gardens for many years to come.

If you are interested in seeing the display apartment for yourself, please contact our sales consultant Safiya on 1300 287 672.





Eighth Anniversary of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Tewantin

by Graeme Hyland

St Andrew's Tewantin/Noosa has celebrated eight years. Rev Keith Mayers in his anniversary address said the building was set apart, and dedicated to the glory of God for four main reasons: as witness to the community that God Almighty reigns; that the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ may be preached to be a light of God's love; to attract the lost and spiritually bankrupt; and to supply the needs of God's faithful people, meeting in prayer, worship and fellowship.

The church was dedicated for the glory of God on 23 June 2007. Mr Mayers reminded us it was a time to look back over the past eight years. We were also reminded to give thanks for the good and sad times. Both of these have seen St Andrew's church family grow in faith and hope as God's Spirit constantly reminds us of His love for us displayed through His Son Jesus Christ.

What God is there like our God? How thankful we should be!



L-R: John Wells, Gwen Wells cutting the cake and Elder Bill Hoskins

Letter of Appreciation

by Phil Campbell

On 7 September the Committee for Ministries Training (CMT) regretfully received the resignation of Convener Rev Phil Strong after a decade of service. Having played a formative role in the revitalisation of the Queensland Theological College (QTC), Phil now intends to focus his attention on the Presbytery of South Australia revitalisation project in Adelaide, which is now under the care of the Queensland Assembly.

Phil's effectiveness as Secretary, and then Convener of the Committee cannot be overstated. The committee noted that his wisdom, persuasiveness, and patience were to be recognised and commended. His ability to take a bold idea and work through each step of bringing that idea to fruition was also widely appreciated.

Phil joined the Committee in 2005 at a formative time. He was appointed Secretary, and helped facilitate the appointment of Dr Bruce Winter as Principal. In November 2008 he assumed the role of Convener and was instrumental in the appointment of Dr Gary Millar who maintained the momentum of QTC's growth. Under God's providence Phil's

steady hand has had an instrumental role in bringing the college to its current status as one of the leading Theological colleges in Australia. Significantly though in the words of one committee member: "Phil is a man who does not promote himself—only Christ."

The CMT Standing Committee wishes Phil God's blessing in his future work as he supports and reenergises the Presbytery of South Australia. Rev Linden Fooks has assumed the role of Convener of the CMT.

In Memory of...

by Susan Cowie and Ron Pilkington



Dr Hamilton Russell Cowie, OAM (1931-2015)

Highly-respected Brisbane educator, historian and academic, Dr Hamilton Russell Cowie OAM, passed away on 6 June 2015. Russell devoted his vocation to excellence in teaching and was a role model and source of inspiration for his many students.

Born and raised in New Zealand, Russell began his career as a History and English teacher. Following a move to his wife Kaye's hometown of Brisbane, he continued teaching first at Brisbane Grammar School and then The Church of England Grammar School (Churchie).

In 1972, Russell accepted an appointment to the School of Education at The Queensland University, where he continued until his retirement in the late 1990s. During his University tenure, Russell authored 24 history text books and played an active role in developing the history curriculum and assessment model for Queensland schools.

Russell possessed a quiet spiritual faith and was an active member of St Paul's

Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill, where he was an Elder Emeritus. He served as an elder at St Paul's from 1973, held the role of Session Clerk, Foundation Church Archivist and Chairman of the Restoration Trust (1999–2008) and was a member of the Committee of Management.

In the wider community, Russell served on the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association Council, the Queensland Board of Teacher Education & Registration and the Council of Grace College – to which he was appointed a Fellow. Russell was also a foundation member of the Queensland History Teachers' Association and lobbied for the restoration of the Roma Street Gallipoli Fountain.

In 2012, Russell was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of his service to the community as an historian and advocate for restoration as well as an educator and academic.



Gordon Dunkley (1924-2015)

Nearly 200 people gathered at Ann St. Church to honour the life of Gordon Dunkley, Elder Emeritus, on 19 June 2015. Gordon had a deep faith and was used by God to further His kingdom.

Born in Sydney, to a devoted Christian mother, Gordon fought in World War II along with his four brothers, surviving the west Borneo landing. Following the war, he became a Chartered Accountant. (He also held an MBA and helped pioneer the degree at Sydney University.)

After graduation, Gordon moved to England and worked in the Manchester textile industry. On returning to Australia he entered the emerging television industry, working at Channel 7 and Channel 10. During this time, Gordon became heavily involved with the Epping Presbyterian Church in Sydney and served as an elder and Session Clerk.

Upon retiring in 1989, Gordon and his

wife, Daphne, moved to Queensland to be closer to their daughter. They then joined the Ann Street congregation where he became an elder in 1992. Gordon left retirement to take up the position of General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (1990-1999) as well as serving as Secretary of the PIM Committee for 12 years.

The Ann Street congregation will remember Gordon affectionately. He had a warm personality, genial nature and intense interest in people. He was a diligent elder, faithful in attendance and very active. He organised bus trips and did all he could to foster a happy and caring congregational family.

Gordon was a keen sportsman—cricket, football, tennis all saw his interest—and his family, especially his two grandsons. If a statue of Gordon was erected it would have a football at his feet, a cricket bat in one hand and a cup of coffee in the other.

Ride for Refugees 2015

by Petrina Enchelmaier

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; defend the rights of all those who have nothing. Proverbs 31:8

A group of cyclists from around Brisbane gathered at Albert Bishop Park in Nundah to participate in an annual event, Ride for Refugees.

Since its inception in 2004 in Ontario, Canada, Ride for Refugees has spread across North America and Australia. It is organised by International Teams Australia with the goal of helping individuals and churches to engage with, and raise funds for refugee ministries.

The main ride is a 25km round trip from Nundah to Boondall Wetlands Park and back, which can be completed up to 4 times to equal 100km. There is also a 1.2km circuit for children and short distance cyclists (including a unicyclist) to ride as many times as they like. My children like to interperse their cycling laps with time on the jumping castle.

There are many things to like about Ride for Refugees as an event, such as making new friends from other Presbyterian churches and denominations, as we sweat it out together. It is also an event that the whole family can enjoy together. While my husband pedalled his way through 100km, I spent my time riding the short circuit with our children.

"We're doing a fundraising bike ride..." is an easy way to start a conversation

with friends and colleagues about the things of God. Let the conversations begin!

Most importantly, Ride for Refugees raises much-needed funds to help those in need in our suffering world. Across the Sydney and Brisbane Rides, International Teams Australia met their \$85 000 fundraising target for the year. We praise God for the generosity of riders, volunteers and donors, and pray these funds will be used for His glory across Australia and the world.

I encourage individuals and churches to get involved in this worthy cause in 2016. See you at the track!



Partnership Partne

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

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

SERVING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

lan and Pat Hart are from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland and are now at the Talua Ministry Training Centre, Vanuatu, for six months. They recently transitted through Brisbane and were able to attend the Queensland Assembly where Kevin Murray was able to catch up with them.

Please share with us something of your background.

lan: I've been a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland for forty years and have recently retired. Pat has been an eye surgeon for a similar period and has also retired. We suddenly find ourselves free and during the past forty years we've spent quite a bit of time overseas. We've lived and worked in a missionary capacity of some sort for ten years – in Africa and mainly Singapore. We have an awareness of the needs of the world church.

Why have you just travelled half way around the world?

Pat: Having just recently retired we were wondering how we could best use our retirement years. So we began to explore the possibility of going overseas to serve, probably for a short period of time. We have three adult children who are still settling down and so we didn't want to go overseas for a long period of time. We think that a short time overseas can be of benefit and so



IAN & PAT HART

we began to explore various options. Serving at Talua just kept coming up to us again and again.

What will be your role at Talua?

lan: I'll be teaching Andy Williamson's workload until the end of the academic year. I'll be guided by what the staff at Talua want me to do.

Pat: Until recently I had an open mind on what I might do. I don't think it will be very easy for me to be involved in medical work, although that's definitely a possibility. There's always lots to be done around a theological campus, interacting with students and staff. I've recently been asked to help with teaching English. I've never done that before but I'm happy to do it.

Do you have expectations of life at Talua?

lan: We think it's going to be fairly basic. It's unknown so it will be something of a challenge coming from a very comfortable, advanced lifestyle. That means that Talua's three hours of electricity a day and very intermittent internet access and a fridge that seems to work a bit, along with the heat and the potential for malaria will be a challenge. We're confident that we can cope but sometimes these things scare us a bit!

What are you looking forward to?

Pat: We're really looking forward to meeting some of God's family in another area with very different backgrounds in a very 'Christian' country. We've been told that we'll find lovely people there with a different history to their lives. We're looking forward to sharing in God's big family. It will be nice to see a different part of the world to which we've never been before.

lan: We just really hope to be useful in some way for the Kingdom, for the Church. That's the bottom line for us. If we experience various pleasures along the way, then that's a bonus!

David Pilgrim: with Christ

On 11th April, 2015, Dr David Pilgrim went to be with Christ. David, together with his wife Devona, was a tireless worker for the gospel.

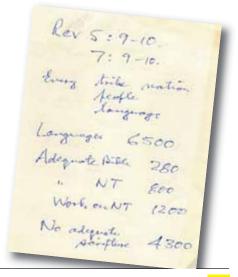


As an elder in the Hurstville

congregation, David had a significant impact on the life of the congregation. Many people can trace their conversion to the time when David explained the gospel to them. He played a key role in the lives of some NSW ministers, such as Paul Beringer, Bruce Christian and William Morrow.

From 1996 until 2010 David served as the Convener of the APWM National Committee. He played a significant role in the life of APWM and, in human terms, helped make it what it is today.

David also had a long interest in Wycliffe. I was recently searching through some of David's papers and came across this note. It was probably taken from a short talk that he gave outlining the need for Bible translation. It says so much of what was dear to him – 'No adequate scripture 4,300.'



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)

India: A Growing Relationship

For some years APWM has had a relationship with the Presbyterian Theological Seminary (PTS) in Dehradun, India. This has been primarily through John and Lynette Ellis (Clarinda, Victoria) who served there for 15 years.

In the last four years this relationship has developed further. Approximately seven years ago PWMU Victoria brought the Rev Suraj Chelliah to Melbourne to undertake further study.

From 2012-2013, Vijai and Suchitra Tagore studied at Christ College and worshipped



GRADUATING STUDENTS

in the Revesby (NSW) congregation. Vijai is a PTS lecturer and studied for a Master of Theology degree while Suchitra completed the Ministry Training for Women course. Their time in Australia was a blessing for everyone. It is hoped that sometime in the next few years they will be able to return to Australia for further study.

Joy Venning (Canterbury, Victoria) served at PTS for 12 months, teaching English and assisting in the Women's Programme.



IAN SMITH WITH PRINCIPAL DR MOHAN CHACKO

Last year John McClean from Christ College travelled to PTS and taught classes in ethics and doctrine.

In April this year Ian Smith, Principal of Christ College, his wife Jenni and Kevin and Julie Murray travelled to PTS for



CURRENT STUDENTS

graduation week and to hold some discussions about further developing the relationship between PTS and the Australian Church.

lan Smith comments: "I was struck by the number of people in India. There are so many of them. Only 2.5% of the population is Christian, that's 31 million Christians out of 1.25 billion people. A lot of those Christians belong to churches that are more theologically liberal then we'd like them to be."

Kevin Murray was invited to deliver the annual Strom Mission Lecture and presented a paper on "Mission, Suffering and the Sovereignty of God". Ian Smith spoke at the 43rd Graduation Service on "The Keys of the Kingdom." The 24 graduates will serve in a variety of ministries — some with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of India, some with other denominations and some will serve internationally in countries such as Nepal.

PTS is clearly a strategic ministry, training not only church leaders and ministry workers but also training men and women who will have a wider influence as they teach in Bible Colleges within India and in other nations.

lan Smith observes: "Non-Indians can't go into India to serve because of visa restrictions so we seek to serve India by training up Indian nationals to serve their fellow Indians. For that reason, the work of PTS is central; we are seeking to train students as we support the staff at PTS."

What is India like? Ian Smith comments: "It's a place of great food, colour, vibrancy, friendly people and rich culture. Yet, beneath that exterior, many Indians live under great spiritual fear, and long for deliverance. Only the gospel can bring about lasting change in such a vast nation. Only the gospel can bring liberation to people such as the Untouchables."

When asked about theological education and Vijai and Suchitra Tagore, he says "I've been involved in theological education for many years in different parts of the world. We're often trying to get a church to reform and come along with us. The great thing about PTS is that it's on the same page as us — it's thoroughly Reformed. When churches send their best people overseas for training we

have very little control over the quality of the person who comes to us for training. Vijai and Suchitra Tagore are well known to us, they are the right people for the job. They're bright, godly and desire to serve the church. The great thing about them is that they are only in their 30's and that means that they will be a great



LYNETTE ELLIS, JOHN ELLIS AND JOY VENNING

investment for the Church. If they can study in Australia they will be a great blessing to the Church in India. Vijai is the only New Testament lecturer at PTS which has about 100 full time students. That's unheard of in Australia. So he'll need lots of mentoring and help."

Ian Smith has just returned from lecturing at PTS for three weeks and mentoring Vijai in his role as New Testament lecturer.

With the help of PWMU Victoria plans are also underway for another lecturer, Chanreiso Lungleng, better known as Aso, to undertake further studies at PTC Melbourne.



PTS ACADEMIC CENTRE



TRAINING (TIMOR LESTE) A gift of \$10 will be used toward running a training conference for Pastors in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste.

LIBRARY BOOKS (INDIA) A gift of \$15 will be used to help purchase much-needed library books for the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehradun, India.

Ph.D LIVING EXPENSES (INDIA) A gift of \$25 will be used toward living expenses for a lecturer from the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehradun, India, while studying for a PhD at Christ College Sydney in 2018.

APWM ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) A gift of \$40 will help support APWM Aboriginal ministry in Mount Magnet, Western Australia in conjunction with PIM.

APWM ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (MOUNT DRUITT, AUSTRALIA) A gift of \$40 will help support Rick and Kayleen Manton, APWM Aboriginal ministry workers in Mount Druitt, Sydney.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (MYANMAR) A gift of \$60 will help support the Evangelical Reformed Church in its work of educating children.

Ph.D RENT (INDIA) A gift of \$100 will be used toward rent for a lecturer from the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehradun, India, while studying for a PhD at Christ College Sydney in 2018.

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE FEES (VANUATU) A gift of \$100 will be used to help pay the fees of a student at the Talua Theological Institute in Vanuatu.

APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2015 ORDER FORM

HOW IT WORKS

- Choose the item(s) on our list that you would like to purchase for your friends/family.
- 2. Send us your order, including payment. Please note that these gifts are **not tax deductible.**
- 3. We will send you the cards you have ordered. You are then free to give these cards to your friends/family for Christmas. The cards state which gift(s) you have purchased, on their behalf, for someone in one of our Partner Churches or for APWM Aboriginal ministry. There is no monetary value printed on the card.
- 4. APWM then sends the money to our overseas partners to purchase items locally, or uses it for APWM ministry as specified in Australia.

ORDER FORM / PAYMENTS

Complete this order form and send it with your payment (cheque or money order made out to 'APWM'). Please DO NOT send cash.

Payment can also be made via Direct Deposit (details below) or Paypal (www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance).

Bank: Westpac

Account Name: Australian Presbyterian World Mission

BSB: 032 260 Account #: 151207

For Direct Deposits and Paypal, please write your name in the description box and send an email informing us of your deposit (finance@apwm.org.au).

All order forms should be mailed to:

APWM Christmas Catalogue 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134



Item	Qty	Cost
TRAINING (TIMOR LESTE) \$10		
LIBRARY BOOKS (INDIA) \$15		
Ph.D LIVING EXPENSES (INDIA) \$25		
ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) \$40		
ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (MOUNT DRUITT, AUSTRALIA) \$40		
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (MYANMAR) \$60		
Ph.D RENT (INDIA) \$100		
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE FEES (VANUATU) \$100		
Total		

I enclose a cheque / money order for \$ or
I have made a Direct Deposit of \$
Please tick here if you do not wish to receive cards and simply want to make a donation for these items
Please note that if any item is over-subscribed then the money will be allocated to a similar need.
Name
Address
Suburb

Email

PRAYER AND FINANCE **Response Form**

Please send to: APWM 81 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood NSW 2134
Address Postcode
Email
Phone
Church
I would like to support the following:
Missionary's Name
Please send me the missionary's prayer letter.
APWM ministry in a particular country
Please indicate an amount
\$20 \$50 \$100
other \$
Please indicate how regular your
payment will be:
one-off monthly quarterly
half-yearly yearly
Four Ways to Give
1 Cheque (made out to 'Australian
Presbyterian World Mission')
2 Credit card
Name on card:
Expires:/
Signature:
-
Date of first payment
3 Direct debit Your account name(s):
Tour account manne(s).
Signature
BSB
Account number
Bank name
Date of first payment
4 Direct deposit
Account: Australian Presbyterian
World Mission BSB: 032-260
Account number: 151207
Please write your name and the
surname of the missionary you are
supporting in the description box.
Please also email finance@apwm.org.au
telling us that you have made a deposit and provide the name of the
missionary that you are supporting.
Enquiries
finance@apwm.org.au

BRIEF UPDATES

Adam and Helane Ramsay have commenced serving in Japan. Please pray for them as they settle in and please give thanks to God that they are expecting their third child in early 2016.

Using their musical talents, they plan to hold performances to attract the local



THE COMMISSIONING OF ADAM AND HELANE RAMSAY



ANDY & ROSEMARY WILLIAMSON

community and point them to Jesus. "We hope to be involved in the community as much as possible to connect with people and connect them with Christians and with Jesus," Adam and Helane write. "To effectively reach communities for Jesus, Japan needs 80,000 more churches."

Andy and Rosemary Williamson have permanently returned to Australia. Andy has taken up a call to pastor the Beecroft (NSW) congregation. We thank God for their service for the gospel in Vanuatu over many years.

Vanuatu: Thank You

At the time of writing (late June 2015) the Moderator General's Appeal for Vanuatu has received donations of \$353,000. Thank you for your generosity!

The Clerk of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu has written to thank us for the assistance given following difficulties caused by Cyclone Pam.

"Greetings to you in the Lord's blessed Name. This letter serves to acknowledge your church's kind contribution to our church in this extreme time that we have survived the category 5 tropical cyclone Pam which has left behind great devastation.

We thank God that we were saved and we thank God also for your church for making

a meaningful contribution to our local church which will be used to rebuild our churches and schools that were destroyed.

On behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu's head office and its people we greatly valued your generous contribution and thank you wholeheartedly for this goodwill gesture.

It is our humble prayer that God through His spirit will richly bless the people in your church for this great ministry.

Thankfully yours Pastor Allen Nafuki **Assembly Clerk** Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

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NEW CEO FOR PIM

After a long journey of consideration, discussion, meetings and prayer the PIM Committee was pleased to reach the end of the search process and select a CEO.

Andrew Letcher has been appointed to the full time position of CEO for the Presbyterian Inland Mission. Andrew, his wife Fleur and their three children, are members of Croydon Hills Presbyterian Church.

Andrew has a wide-ranging background in leadership and management of Christian ministries and business. His most recent role was as the CEO of a Christian Funeral business that was established to minister to grieving families and to generate profits to support mission work. Prior to that Andrew and Fleur served as APWM missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators

in various management-related roles.

Both Fleur and Andrew are Presbyterian ministers' kids, having grown up in manses in a variety of places. They met at a Presbyterian Youth of Victoria camp many years ago, and both remain active in a variety of ways within the denomination.

Andrew is looking forward to the challenge of building on the wonderful work of those who have gone before. PIM has a rich heritage of gospel ministry over more than a century, and together with the committee, Andrew is looking forward to helping PIM prepare for another century of ministry, Lord willing. The challenges are great, bit so are the opportunities.

Though life has changed and the world is



Andrew and Fleur Letcher, with Mitchell, Emma and Charlotte

a very different place than it was when John Flynn was patrolling the Inland on a camel, the spiritual needs of people are still the same. For as long as Australia has people living in remote areas, far from any gospel witness and beyond easy reach of most of the church, the work of PIM must be sustained, for the glory of God and the salvation of the lost.

SEASONS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

After each giving over a decade of faithful, effective and diligent service to the ministry of PIM both Stuart



Bonnington and Rob Duncanson have both stepped back from their respective roles of Superintendent and Convenor of the PIM committee to allow them to focus on the other important ministries God has laid before them.

As Superintendent and Convenor, Stuart and Rob made an enthusiastic and effective team as they together championed the cause of gospel ministry in remote areas of Australia. Under their leadership, God has done many things. New patrol teams have been recruited and commissioned to serve and two new

mission churches, in Darwin and Alice Springs, have been planted and nurtured. Countless other small and large tasks have also been accomplished.

Stuart is continuing in his role as minister of Scots Church in Fremantle and other responsibilities with the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia. Rob remains active and committed as the minister of the Darwin Presbyterian Church.

The PIM Committee praises the Lord for the wonderful contribution of these two servants of His.

INTRODUCING THE NEW CONVENOR

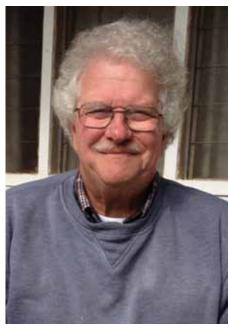
To introduce myself my name is Rev Les Fowler and married to Shirley. My wife and I live in Warren NSW having retired from full time parish ministry in 2014 but still finding so much to be involved in. Warren is located in Central Western NSW. My ministry has taken me throughout both suburban and country parishes but with a heart for country ministry.

I have been involved with the ministry of PIM for nearly 30 years. This started as the first full time patrol padre following church union when I was sent to what was then known as the Blackall Patrol at the beginning of 1986. This patrol was made up of the south western corner of Queensland in what are now the South and Central Queensland patrols. This was an enjoyable time breaking new ground in the ministry of the PIM as no full time patrol work had been done since union in 1977. As a family we spent 3 years in Blackall and ministering to this very large area of Queensland.

Since that time I have continued to have an interest in the PIM and joined the Committee many years ago and later was appointed to the executive of PIM. It has been an exciting journey through the years watching and being part of the growth of PIM from just one full time patrol to padres working in most states. The expansion into planting the Mission Churches has also been an exciting yet challenging work to be a part of.

It has also been a wonderful time of working with the outgoing Convener and Superintendent. Both Rob and Stuart have been an inspiration with their total commitment to the ministry of PIM and I thank them for this and all that they have done.

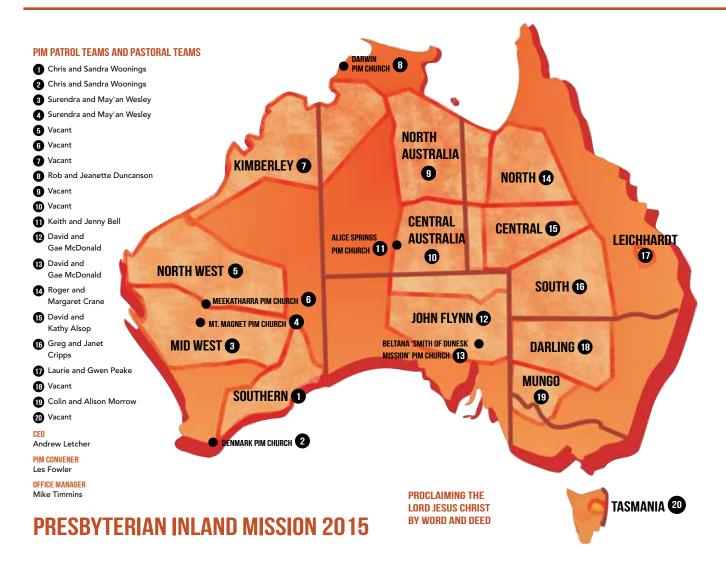
I look forward to being a part of the ongoing work that is before the committee as it plans and directs the ministry of PIM. With the new CEO Andrew Letcher now on board and



Les Fowler

settling into his work for PIM we both look forward to your ongoing prayers and support for PIM.

Les Fowler



NEWS AND UPDATES

After much planning and preparation, Mark Jellis and his team have commenced the challenging work of turning the deteriorating Meekathara Church building into a usable space for worship and community outreach. Of key importance in making the building usable is the installation of a toilet block, and the replacement of the tired old roof. Please be in prayer for this project and the gospel work in Meekathara.



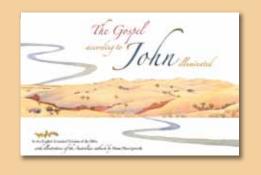




THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ILLUSTRATED

www.fionapfennigwerth.info/fiona@fionapfenningwerth.info

Fiona Pfennigwerth has produced a coffee-table sized book which contains the text of the Gospel of John (ESV), beautifully illustrated by her drawings of the Australian outback. Fiona's artistic talent is clearly evident on just about every page, as is her love for the story of Jesus as recounted by His friend and disciple John. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ILLUSTRATED is a book to be cherished and if given to others, will be received as a most attractive gift.

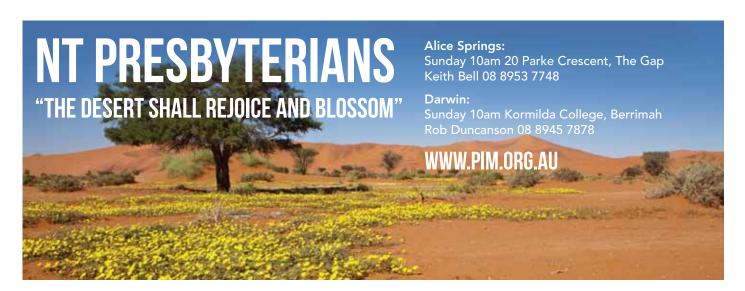


PIM RETREAT

Being scattered across the continent, PIM teams have few opportunities to meet up with their colleagues and spend time together. In September this year in Alice Springs, the team will gather together for fellowship, encouragement, spiritual

refreshment and meetings. These retreats happened about every three years and are a vital part of keeping the people of PIM connected. Naturally, there are some significant travel costs in getting everyone together. If you would like to make a special

donation to help cover the costs of this retreat, it would be a great source of encouragement to all at PIM. Please contact Mike Timmins at the PIM office for details of how you could make such a gift.



PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

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E: convener@pim.org.au

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David and Gae McDonald

E: dmcdonald@pim.org.au M: 0438 218 551

John Flynn Patrol SA ('Smith of Dunesk' Beltana PIM Church)

Greg and Janet Cripps E: gjcripps@pim.org.au M: 0407 406 628 South Patrol Old David and Kathy Alsop E: dkalsop@pim.org.au M: 0408 786 898 Central Patrol Old Roger and Margaret Crane E: rcrane@pim.org.au M: 0439 515 163 North Patrol Old Laurie and Gwen Peake E: lpeake@pim.org.au Leichhardt Patrol Old M: 0427 486 677

Colin and Alison Morrow E: colinmorrow@pim.org.au; alisonmorrow@pim.org.au M: 0407 220 005 Mungo Patrol NSW/Vic

Surendra and May'an Wesley E: swesley@pim.org.au P: (08) 9963 4125 Mid West Patrol WA (Mt. Magnet PIM Church)

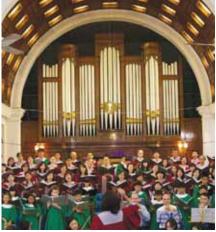
PIM CHURCH WORKERS

Keith and Jenny Bell E: kjbell@pim.org.au M: 0438 719 956 Alice Springs PIM Church Rob and Jeanette Duncanson E: convener@pim.org.au M: 0413 021 716 Darwin PIM Church

RESPONSE FORM					
Name Phor	ne () email			
Address		State	Postcode		
Donation – PIM general funds		Donation – PIM John Flynn/David	d and Gae McDonald		
Donation – PIM Mid West/Surendra Wesley		Donation – PIM Mungo/Colin and Alison Morrow			
Donation – PIM Alice Springs Retreat			Total		
Payment details:			Return with payment to:		
Cheque enclosed (Payable to Presbyterian Inland Mission) Charge my Credit Card Visa Mastercard			PIM PO Box 4014 Croydon Hills Vic 3136		
Card No. Signa	ature	Expiry date/	Fax: (03) 9876 1941		

Orchard Road Presbyterian Church







Orchard Road Presbyterian Church (ORPC) has a history that spans almost 160 years and is located at the intersection of Singapore's main shopping district and the city-state's historic civic district. The 1,000-strong English congregation of ORPC gathers to worship in traditional-style Sunday services which emphasize Christcentered Bible teaching and expository preaching. More information about ORPC can be found at our website: www.orpc.sg.

ORPC is seeking a Senior Minister for its English-speaking congregation. The Senior Minister will provide

spiritual and pastoral leadership to a multi-generational and multi-ethnic congregation which worships in the city center of cosmopolitan Singapore.

ORPC is prayerfully searching for God's chosen servant who has a vision from the Lord to guide them into the future, able to preach His word with wisdom from the Lord, and provide pastoral care for the members and community.

The ideal candidate will possess a good understanding of crosscultural differences and be able to communicate, and work well with the pastoral staff and ministry leaders in

the church to carry out ORPC's Godgiven mission. The successful candidate will have a degree from an accredited theological institution and at least 10 years of experience as a pastor.

Interested candidates should apply by sending a resume, including contact details for two referees to Elder Lim by email (cwlim.ORPC@gmail.com) or by post (3 Orchard Road, Singapore 238825). Applications by post should be marked: Private and Confidential (Attention: Elder Lim Chung Wei). Please email for enquiries and further details.



CAMPS & CONFERENCES

WWW.YNET.ORG.AU

YNET is an initiative of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland

Propel Kickstart Training Kids Weekender DD Kids Weekender South NQ Launch CQ Alive Kids Weekender North YNET Conference SQ Launch Megasportz Soccer Megasportz Netball Spring Camp NQ Xtreme Fun & Adventure Kids Weekender Jumpstart Schoolies

18-22 January 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 - 19 September 24 - 29 September 25 Sept - 1 Oct 21 - 23 October 25 November

Darling Downs, Youth Children's Leaders
Darling Downs, Children
South Brisbane, Children
NQ, Youth, Leaders in Training
Central QLD, Youth
North Richage, Children North Brisbane, Children Leaders SQ, Youth, Leaders in Training SQ, Children SQ, Children SQ, Youth NO. Youth SQ, Youth SO. Children QLD, Year 12



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Contact registrar@qtc.edu.au for more information about courses and enrolling for 2016.

