

Pres Life

MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND

Making Ministry Connections

**God's
Church
in Qld**

Tewantin-Noosa
Graceville
Wilston
Companion

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

Sharing the life of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland as we glorify God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our communities, nation and the world.

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Pres Life

Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

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Briefly

Used Stamps

We can turn your used stamps into mission support

The Presbyterian Womens' Missionary Union (PWMU) 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.

Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia (PFA)

In the early 1980s, the Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia (youth thing) put on a number of 'Image' rallies, where gospel songs, skits and talks were presented to the public.

Having recently digitised about 1500 photographs from the 1980s, I'm interested to know if any survivors from those times and events would be interested in viewing them, and talking over old times. These photographs also include images of sports and swimming carnivals, pirate-themed river cruises and leadership training camps.

If you are interested, please feel free to contact me by email 2xmaddoc@gmail.com and I'll try to organise some sort of mutually agreeable mass (or minor) meeting for that purpose.

Michael Madden

Events Around the State



Reformation Thanksgiving Weekend 29-30 October 2017 (500th Anniversary)

Speaker: Dr Mark Baddeley D.Phil, M.St., B.Div, BA - Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology at Queensland Theological College

Venue: Annerley Presbyterian Church, 23-33 King Street, Annerley

Saturday 29 October: 9:00am–2:00pm (with three lectures, morning tea (provided), prayer and BYO lunch)

Sunday 30 October: Reformation Thanksgiving Service at 2:00pm with afternoon tea provided after the service

Hosted by: The Reformation Fellowship of Queensland

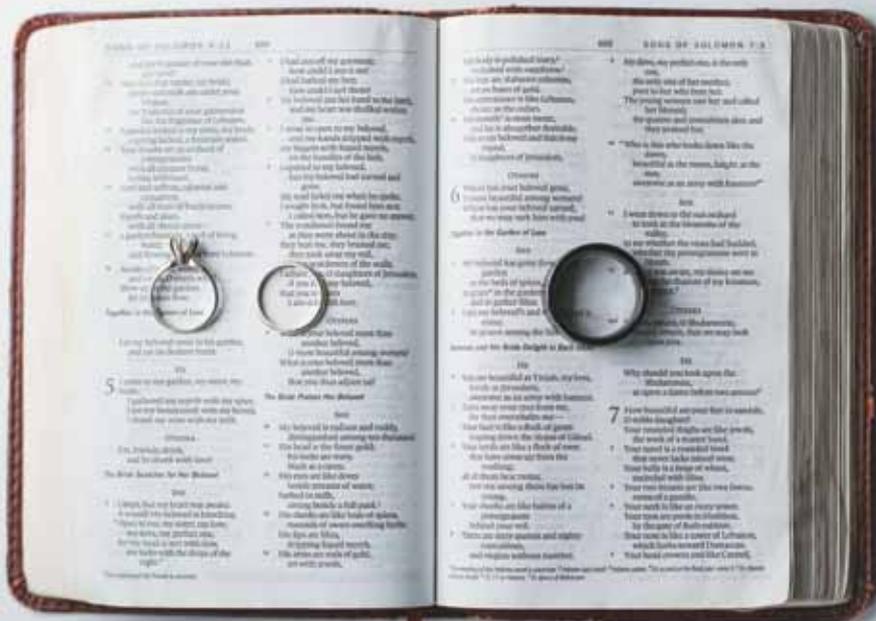
For more information contact Rev Martin Duffield at: martin@stjohnsannerley.com.au or (07) 3391 4431.

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 6 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 Wednesday and Thursday 6 and 7 December. The Thursday 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



The Plebiscite and Remembering Jesus

by PCQ GiST Committee

Stock image

This article is an extract from GiST's statement on the same-sex marriage plebiscite. The full statement can be found on GiST's website: www.gist.org.au

PCQ members are likely to be experiencing the same-sex marriage plebiscite in a range of ways. Some will be feeling worried by our country's big step away from a Christian perspective on marriage. Some will be feeling confused or unclear. Those in our churches who experience same-sex attraction, or love those who do, could well be finding some conversations about the plebiscite uncomfortable or hurtful. It is natural that this plebiscite will raise anxiety. But remembering Jesus addresses our anxieties.

Remember that the Lord is King

Jesus, the one who died for us, is the resurrected Lord. And he will be forever, even after the plebiscite. Whatever the result, Jesus will still be Lord. Even if it has all of the negative effects you may fear, no matter what happens Jesus is the Lord who has our eternal destiny well in hand: *"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body"* Philippians 3:20-21. It would certainly help our anxiety to remember that. It would also be great if others saw our calm confidence in the Lord Jesus shining through no matter what: *"Let your gentleness be evident to all"* Philippians 4:5.

The best way to put our trust in Jesus is to pray to Him who really is Lord: *"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 4:6-7.

Continue Treasuring God's Design for Marriage

Many people in our society are arguing for a change to marriage laws. What's so special about God's design for marriage that we should keep living it out?

The first thing to say is that—as Jesus taught when questioned about divorce—marriage is not ours to change, it is the creation of our Creator: *"At the beginning the Creator made them male and female"* Matthew 19:4, quoting Genesis 1:27. So even if Australia changes its marriage laws, Christians must maintain our own marriage practice. And this is not only

what we must do, it is also a wonderful thing to do. Marriage between a man and a woman is a great gift from our Creator, displaying His wisdom and generosity to us, His creatures. That God designed marriage as needing both a man and a woman highlights the equal necessity of both men and women. Both are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27-28), and neither can bring into the world a new life without the other (Genesis 2:18-25, 3:20). Also, in God's design of marriage, children come into the world already gifted, a family context of loving commitment between their parents, both of whom they have a special bond with through their biological connection. This goodness of marriage as originally given is continually reaffirmed in man/woman marriage today, and our continued commitment to it should prompt gratitude to our Creator for His wisdom and generosity.

Of course, today no marriages are as they should be, including Christian marriages. Since humanity's original rejection of God, marriage is one of many good gifts corrupted by sin (Genesis 3:16). Yet Christian marriage also points to the even greater gift of Jesus in saving his people from sin. The intimate unity-in-difference between a man and a woman in Christian marriage points to the intimate unity-in-difference between Jesus and his people (Ephesians 5:31-32). A Christian wife will submit to her husband as the church submits to Jesus (Ephesians 5:24). Yet the authority of her husband to which she submits must never resemble that typically seen in the world (Mark 10:42-45). It must always be modelled on that of Jesus himself i.e. self-sacrificing instead of self-serving: *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"* Ephesians 5:25. When Christian couples display this complementary other-centredness, it displays to the world the beautiful relationship between Jesus and his people, the radical difference that Jesus makes, and the goodness of his salvation. So, no matter how marriage in our country changes, Christian marriage must keep displaying this complementary other-centeredness, if anything more profoundly than ever.

So what can we do?

Let's be people who remember Jesus by praying frequently about this. Let us pray for each other as we seek to trust Jesus with all of our lives, including the possible impact of the plebiscite. Let us pray for the government as they make decisions. Let us pray for our non-Christian family and friends, whatever their sexuality, that they will come to know our Saviour and his great love. Let us pray for opportunities and courage to speak well and graciously about Jesus.

Making Ministry Connections

YNET Consultant, Stuart Hoadley talks ministry partnerships with Joshua Dodd and James Jensen



Joshua Dodd



James Jensen

What are your current roles?

Joshua Dodd: Youth Pastor at Dalby Presbyterian Church.

James Jensen: Youth Pastor at Christ Central Presbyterian Church (Eatons Hill)

How did you meet?

JJ: I met Josh at YNET Conference one year when he had pity on me 'cause I was on my lonesome and he let me join his team for dinner. The rest is history!

What are some ways you have partnered together in ministry?

JJ: Mostly I piggyback off Josh's hard work. Take his studies, his ideas, even jump in on his running of PROPEL camp. There was this one time we did a rap together... More seriously, perhaps the most valuable aspect of partnership is just chatting out stuff on the phone. Just to have someone you trust in a similar ministry space and thinking, helps solidify good ideas and weed out many, many average ones!!

JD: Initially it started with just hanging out—we went to an A-league final, *Conversation Days* with YNET, Preaching Conference at Queensland Theological College (QTC)—that kind of stuff. I think this was important because it meant we actually took a genuine interest in each other, and subsequently each other's ministries. This led easily to talking through different ministry ideas and issues.

We caught up once to brainstorm ideas for structuring a youth year, we worked on some sessions at YNET Conference together, started running a camp together with some others, tried to get our youth groups together for half a day, that kind of thing. But the most helpful thing is talking through stuff. James seems to have thought through things more deeply than me at times, which is a great help.

JJ: Yeah what he said, except he doesn't give himself nearly enough credit thought-wise.

How has it been helpful to partner together—for yourselves and for your ministries?

JD: Personally, it's been very humbling.

JJ: There's no doubt that youth ministry at Christ Central is much richer, largely due to what we mentioned before about being able to bounce around ideas. So much of the ministry practice and ideology, even theology, is refined and shaped by our conversations, both over the phone and at events. Whether it's new ideas, or ways to do things better, or different approaches, so much of it has been refined by conversations with Josh.

I think too, even beyond just our friendship, there's been great relationships that have developed with some of our teens and leaders; it's strengthened the trust between kids and leadership, in leaders particularly through PROPEL camp, but also at other YNET

events. There's a level of trust that flows down from our leadership to the leaders in our teams, that makes the ongoing relationships between ministries probably grow even more when our teams are together at events.

What would your advice be to churches when it comes to partnership in ministry?

JJ: Be quick to listen (something I think Josh does much better than me); it's linked with humility, I guess, but a willingness to learn from the other people in ministry is valuable to making a partnership work. What I value with Josh is the fact that he won't just tell me stuff to make me feel good. If he thinks my idea is not great, he'll tell me. So many times he's done that and I've gone "Yeah, that's a good point". Sometimes, he'll tell me his opinion and I ignore it, 'cause I still like the idea. I'd rather it that way than constantly hearing "yeah good one man" when it's not!

JD: In terms of advice about partnerships—it's hard to say because I think we fell into it more than it being a result of good planning. That said, I think partnerships are worth developing and investing in. We also appreciate the support of our senior pastors. They have both encouraged and supported the partnership, which matters because these things need time.

JJ: Definitely the support of senior ministers has been valuable. I've even had mine ask me if I chatted out an idea with Josh, when presenting something to him. Which just continues to build confidence in this partnership, when it's validated so strongly by senior players in my own team.

How can people pray for your ministries?

JJ: That teenagers on the Northside of Brisbane might meet Jesus and know the depth of his love for them.

JD: We've just finished looking at Ephesians together as a church, and it would be great if you could pray the way Paul did for that church, for our youth and church. It would be wonderful to see the eyes of their hearts enlightened so they know the hope to which God has called them.

Ministry Appointments



Glen Perkins

Wife: Elizabeth

Children: James and Amity

Studying: Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Ministry at Queensland Theological College (QTC)

What excites you most about your studies?

Being better equipped to serve God's family.

Why did you feel called to study?

It's been a long process. I didn't ever think I'd end up being here, but in the end for me, it's the only logical thing to do. In short, I have a passion to help people really know Jesus, and studying at QTC is the next step to help me achieve that.

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

God has given me a sense of how life's not really about me—it's about Him—and that gives me the biggest sense of worth. It doesn't matter how un-great I am, He's chosen me for His Glory, even though I'm broken.

If you weren't studying what would you be doing?

I'd probably still be at Theodore operating our mechanical repair business—creating greasy washing for my dear wife.

What social issue concerns you the most?

That's a hard question to answer because there's plenty to choose from. I think the breakdown of families probably has the most far reaching consequences.

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

Without hesitation, Paul. I love the way his passion for the Gospel, and love for people jumps out off the page at you, when you read his letters.

When are you happiest?

I think when I'm west of the great divide! You can take the boy out of the country, but never the country out of the boy!

What book changed you?

The obvious answer is the *Bible*! It has had the biggest impact on my life. *Radical* by David Platt, really challenged me.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

You need to know Jesus! And don't worry about stuff so much, God's got it.



Andrew Coombridge

Wife: Christie

Children: Elyssa (11 months)

Studying: Bachelor of Theology at Queensland Theological College (QTC)

What excites you most about your studies?

Being able to spend concentrated periods of time thinking through the things of God, and more importantly learning to read and teach the Bible well, so as to grow disciples of Jesus.

Why did you feel called to study?

After completing two years as an MTN Trainee, being further equipped was a natural progression of my training. Over these recent years I feel that God has slowly, but steadily been placing a strong desire in me to be involved with His mission in a local church context.

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

God has humbled me to see the need and importance of being a full-time gospel worker. If you had asked me before I was married whether I ever thought I would be training for vocational gospel ministry, I would have laughed at you.

If you weren't studying what would you be doing?

Driving ships—I'm a qualified deck officer for the merchant navy, having worked in the industry for 10 years prior to pursuing ministry.

What social issue concerns you the most?

While being aware of social issues as they come to the fore, I tend not to get too concerned with them. However, as a Youth Leader, one current concern is helping kids navigate a culture of gender fluidity while at high school.

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

Luke—I love his desire to give an orderly account of the gospel of Jesus (Luke 1:3). He is a multi-skilled guy who was also, at various times, a part of Paul's missionary team.

When are you happiest?

Probably when playing sport with some sort of competitive component.

What book changed you?

Zeal without Burnout by Christopher Ash. I found it really helpful for someone like me who likes to 'run hard' for long periods of time.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Growing up as part of God's family is a marvelous privilege and blessing. Keep trusting Jesus, no matter what.



Johann Vorster

Wife: Sharelle

Children: August

Position: Specialised Ministry Worker at Browns Plains (BPPC)

What excites you most about your appointment?

To see the congregation built up through the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and the opportunity to speak the Gospel in the local community.

Why did you feel called to this position?

I believe God gifted me with the skills to work for Him in this way, and then opened the door for me at BPPC.

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

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and calling me to partake of that precious gift—out of death and into life.

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

Still searching for purpose, I suppose.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The slow moral degradation of our society (the shrugging off of anything to do with Christianity) is of concern to me, especially in how this worsening condition may impact the life of my son.

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

There are so many, if I must choose then perhaps the Apostle Paul. For the strength of his conviction which is so evident, especially as he leans on God through the hard times.

When are you happiest?

When I am with my wife and son and eating something delicious.

What book changed you?

Disciplines of a Godly Man by R. Kent Hughes, a must read for any Christian man.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Don't listen to your so-called friends, heed the word of Scripture instead.



Troy Wilkins

Wife: Angela

Children: Jack, Levi, Noah and Seth

Position: Ipswich Assist Program Manager

What is Ipswich Assist?

It is a social outreach ministry of Central Presbyterian Church (Ipswich) that provides emergency relief and crisis care to the people of Ipswich. We seek to model Christ through the way that we care for, and guide people through their immediate life issues. Through this we hope that the people who visit us would see we are different from other agencies and want to know why, allowing us the opportunity to share our faith in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

What excites you most about your appointment?

I get to lead and pastorally care for a fantastic team of volunteers that show up week in/week out to be there for people who are marginalised, and at risk in our community. While this excites me, it also breaks me to see the brokenness in so many people's lives.

Why did you feel called to this position?

God's persistence! He just wouldn't let up.

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

Showing me that He is the one with the plan and that I can depend on His plan for me.

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

Probably still running our landscaping business, or selling something, or cooking.

What social issue concerns you the most?

Welfare dependency and the many levels of social and domestic dysfunction that it creates.

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

Can't I pick 2? Ok then, Probably Paul by a nose. The way that he was transformed by Jesus then sought to be as Christ like as he possibly could. He evangelized, discipled, planted churches, encouraged churches and suffered for Christ. The type of Christian I would like to be.

When are you happiest?

When I am experiencing Gods beautiful creation in person on the water with my family having a fish.

Continued page 8

Ministry Appointments

Continued from page 7

What book changed you?

Most of the books my wife reads end up changing me, but I was given a copy of *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan a few years ago. It got me thinking about how much God loves me, and how I am living and leading my family in light of this.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

It's really hard to say because I am not sure I would have even listened, back then I knew it all. Well that's what my parents tell me. Maybe I would tell myself to hold on and enjoy the next 26 years.



Suzi Choi

Husband: Leo

Children: Jessica and Nicholas

Position: Assistant Administration/Receptionist at PCQ Church Office

What excites you most about your role?

Playing a small part in helping the wider church to do the work of God.

What does a typical day look like in your role?

Emails and phone calls.

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

In every possible way.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The fact that as time goes by Christians cannot express that they are Christians.

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

Can't choose—we can learn a lot from them all.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Life does not end at 35.



Danny Mitchell

Wife: Kate

Children: Adeline, Elsa and Beatrice

Position: Youth Pastor at Arundel and Youth Consultant with YNET

What excites you most about your appointment?

It's both a joy and a challenge to share the message of Jesus with young people during their high school years. It's a time when people are figuring out who they are and where they fit, and so it's exciting to see them find their answers in Jesus.

Why did you feel called to this position?

Because God calls us all to pass the news of his deeds on to the next generation, both in our families and in the church family. I have the privilege of encouraging leaders and parents as we do this together.

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

God's grace has been teaching me to stop trying to earn his love, and rest in the knowledge that he freely gives in Christ.

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

I think I'd be a travelling TV Chef.

What social issue concerns you the most?

This might be relevant across a range of social issues, but I'm concerned that Christians follow Jesus' example of loving those with whom we disagree.

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

I'm encouraged by the Philippian jailer (Acts 16), who was filled with joy that he had come to know God—he and his whole family.

When are you happiest?

When people say yes to Jesus, followed by when my family is laughing, followed by the moment when the baseball bat hits the baseball.

What book changed you?

Knowing God by J.I. Packer

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

It would be a combination of Ephesians 2:8-9 and Matthew 11:25-30, and don't stress about Y2K—it won't be a big deal.

God's Church in Queensland

Tewantin-Noosa Presbyterian Church

Location

St Andrew's (aka 'the church on the corner') is situated near natural bushland at the intersection of Beckman's Road and St Andrew's Drive at Tewantin, Sunshine Coast.

The Ministry Team

Many in our congregation minister in various capacities within the church family and local community, together with Rev Keith Mayers (Minister), Colin Brown (Teaching Elder, Session Clerk), Martin Jones (Teaching Elder, COM Secretary, Sunday School Teacher), Bill Doust (Teaching Elder, Mission Convener), Bill Hoskin, Graeme Hyland, Rob Dixon, John Berg and Jack Bade (Elders).

Demographic

Babies through to 90 year oldish. There is a range of backgrounds including students, professionals, and retirees. As the Sunshine Coast is a tourist destination, we also have visitors from far and wide, with some regulars returning annually to join us in worship.



Prayer Points

Firstly, that we would faithfully portray Christ as His image bearers, and live as salt and light in our community so that some may come to know Him.

Secondly, that the Lord would guide us in planning for future ministry needs to the glory of God.

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

We are excited about being true worshippers of God through faithful Biblical teaching, a caring pastoral ministry, and in building deep, authentic relationships where we can share the love of Christ leading to transformed lives so that the knowledge of God is not lost in this increasingly hostile, hurting world.

Meet the People



Colin Brown

How long have you been attending Tewantin-Noosa?

11 years

What do you do during the week?

I am the Registrar (Clerk of the Court) at the Noosa Magistrates Court.

What is the best thing about being at Tewantin-Noosa?

The Word of God is faithfully preached week in/week out. I love being a traditional Presbyterian.



Mrs Debra Boyles

How long have you been attending Tewantin-Noosa?

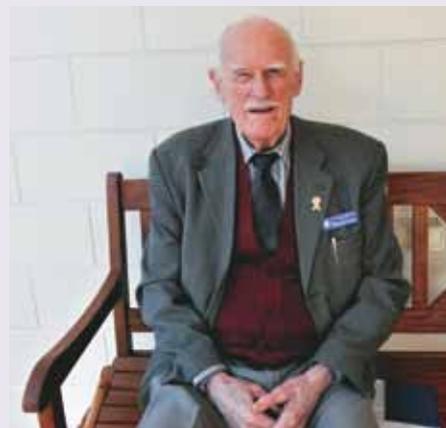
About 20 years

What do you do during the week?

Home duties and family, dog walks, Bible study, Religious Instruction, PWA and choir.

What is the best thing about being at Tewantin-Noosa?

The hymns, the Gospel of Jesus and the community.



William Hoskins

How long have you been attending Tewantin-Noosa?

About 20 years

What do you do during the week?

Retired Stock and Station Agent

What is the best thing about being at Tewantin-Noosa?

Supporting Rev Keith Mayers in his extremely good work for the Lord, and being part of a devout and caring congregation.

God's Church in Queensland

Graceville Presbyterian Church

Location

Graceville is at 12 Bank Road (a south-western suburb of Brisbane), about 15-20 minutes from the CBD and close to University of Queensland (UQ). Our church is surrounded by local cafes, opposite the railway station.

The Ministry Team

Ian Spence (Senior Pastor), Rohan Pieris (Assistant Pastor), Mitch Spence (Student Pastor - Youth), Tracy Tan (Administrator)

Demographic

We're an ethnically-diverse church with the full spectrum of ages and stages of life—uni students, young workers, families with young kids, youth, middle-aged and elderly. Most have joined in the last 3-4 years following a merge with another church and a focus on revitalisation.

Prayer Points

Our mission is to make disciples. To this end, pray we would never become complacent in sharing the saving news about Jesus with our local community. Pray we'd also continue to deepen our love and commitment towards one another as we follow Jesus together.



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

Over the next few months we're excited about a school holiday club to share Jesus with local kids; a Bush Dance that provides relationship opportunities to connect with community members, and our annual carols evening where we seek to present an engaging and hope-filled Christmas message to the many visitors who attend.

Meet the People



Luke & Gemma Bird (with Ruby and Noah)

How long have you been attending Graceville?

Since March 2017

What do you do during the week?

Luke partners with students at UQ to preach the Gospel on campus (working with AFES). Gemma spends time looking after Ruby and Noah, and getting to know other mothers in the community. Ruby and Noah play/eat/cry/sleep!

What is the best thing about being at Graceville?

We love the way the Gospel is so clearly at work in the church. God's word is faithfully taught, and people are living lives that seek to honour Jesus. It's a wonderful gospel saturated community to be a part of, and we are excited to see what God is doing in and through Graceville!



Cecily Moar

How long have you been attending Graceville?

Almost 6 years

What do you do during the week?

Retired. I enjoy meeting up with several folks, including Korean friends for Bible study.

What is the best thing about being at Graceville?

Clear Biblical teaching, the friendliness and warm fellowship.



Callum & Charlotte Gibson

How long have you been attending Graceville?

Charlotte - 3 years

Callum - since earlier this year

What do you do during the week?

Charlotte - Dental assistant and student at UQ, studying a Diploma of Science
Callum - Lawyer

What is the best thing about being at Graceville?

There is such a great sense of community among everyone, and we love being surrounded by our Christian family every week. At times, our church is a hub of excitement, at other times it is a place for serious reflection and delving deeper into the complexities of who God is, and how we are to follow Him.

Wilston Presbyterian Church

Location

28 MacGregor Street, Wilston

The Ministry Team

Minister: Stuart (&Cathy) Atkinson

Student: Josh Rowe

Families and Children's worker: Lloyd Lawrence

Elders: John Campbell, John Kerr, Geoff Bamford and Nathan Vickers

Demographic

We're mostly families with younger (primary aged) kids—It's pretty much a 50/50 split between adults and kids, with our first bunch of teenage youth last year. The babies keep coming as well, and there's a smattering of older people.

Prayer Points

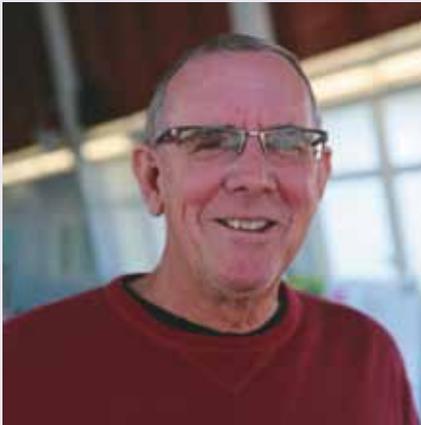
1. For the kids club which is being held on the student free day on 16 October.
2. For unity of purpose as we work towards our 2020 vision.



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

We want to keep and build our connections with the Wilston State School, and we want to encourage every member to be growing in faith and take part in our vision to be growing followers of Jesus at every stage, through all of life.

Meet the People



Stuart Edmitson

How long have you been attending Wilston?

6 years

What do you do during the week?

Retired. Previously I was a white collar middle manager and small business owner.

What is the best thing about being at Wilston?

I can worship God with a community in a church that has little dogma and hierarchy. I believe that if Jesus came back today and came to our church, he would be well pleased to see that his simple message is being faithfully shared amongst us all.



Rebecca Milne

How long have you been attending Wilston?

About 1 year

What do you do during the week?

Year 8 student

What is the best thing about being at Wilston?

I love the people at Wilston PC. As cliché as it sounds, the atmosphere here is so open and friendly. I've met some amazing people, and it's definitely one of the best parts of going to church.



Debra Bela

How long have you been attending Wilston?

3 years

What do you do during the week?

Former journalist. I now help refugee students grow 'veggies' at our local high school, write the occasional theatre review, work in the school bookshop, teach our youngest kids at church about the Bible, sing, and make homework fun—most of the time!

What is the best thing about being at Wilston?

It feels like home; you could be hugging John and Bev for the 'upteenth' time or welcoming a new person with a cup of tea, 'bikkie' and a chat. Everyone feels like family—how long they've been away doesn't matter.

God's Church in Queensland

Companion Presbyterian Church (previously Wangsung)

Location

We use Graceville PC's hall at 12 Bank Rd, Graceville.

The Ministry Team

Our Senior Pastor Jack Jeong preaches every Sunday, and leads Bible Studies during the week. All members support in preparing these gatherings and services, especially sharing church news on social media.

Demographic

Majority of our members are Korean who have lived in Australia for years. Companion PC consists of various visa holders and second generation Australian-born Koreans. We have people ranging from young adults to older families.

Prayer Points

1. A church that preaches the Truth and genuinely knows about Jesus Christ.
2. A church that envisions cross-cultural ministry.



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

Facilitating Bible Study groups and seeing people live out their faith in such a way that their life reflects Christ.

Meet the People



Jo Ja Nam

How long have you been attending Companion?

11 years

What do you do during the week?

At church I am a deaconess, and at home I help my family with their business (we own cafés) and do general house duties.

What is the best thing about being at Companion?

Pastor Jack's sermons speak Biblical Truth because he teaches us what it means to have hope in Jesus. We learn to realise there is Shalom through Christ alone.



David Hwang

How long have you been attending Companion?

5 months

What do you do during the week?

Real Estate Agent

What is the best thing about being at Companion?

For me, I am greatly inspired by the young adults in our church who were born in Australia and live out their Christian faith, especially within a Korean-speaking congregation.



Button (Jun Young) An

How long have you been attending Companion?

Just over a year

What do you do during the week?

At the moment I am looking for a stable job. During the week I compose music, travel and attend Bible studies.

What is the best thing about being at Companion?

I am 23 years old, and because I no longer live with my parents there are times when making life decisions are challenging. The church guides me to overcome these issues, and to know what is right in Jesus.

News from around the State



South West Queensland Christian Convention (SWQCC)

"I was only going to come Friday night, but this is great. Can I come back tomorrow?"

Those were the words of a man who lived and worked on a 5,000 hectare property over an hour away from the nearest church. It was at that moment the SWQCC Committee knew the first South West Queensland Christian Convention was worth doing.

Over a weekend in July Christians from across South West Queensland gathered as one big family of Christ. Hosted in Dalby, and supported by countless volunteers, this new initiative was born out of the Darling Downs Presbytery's desire to encourage and equip smaller churches.

Over 150 adults, 40 kids, a Queensland Theological College (QTC) mission team and a Youth With A Mission (YWAM) team made the weekend a huge joy in the Gospel. Sunday morning our numbers swelled to 450 as churches across Dalby joined in for the morning. Bryson Smith (formerly of Dubbo Presbyterian Church, now in Bathurst) opened the book of Hebrews and reminded us that Christ is worth our every effort.

Each session also featured stories from Christians across the South West. From Matthew's story of coming to Christ through grain silo evangelism, to Rob's life in St George, to Dan's ministry in small towns, to Brad's new role at Goondiwindi and finally Camille's struggle to trust God through sickness. It was a convention for the country, and by the country.

As well as the main talks, there were a range of seminars aimed at living for Christ in regional areas: "It didn't feel like a city thing, it felt like it was ours and for us" was a comment from one woman who came from St George.

Seminars included Youth, Kids and Older Adult Ministry in Small Towns, as well as topics like Sexuality, Music Ministry and Evangelism in the Bush.

The convention was organised by a committee made up of people from different churches in Dalby, St George, Chinchilla and Goondiwindi under the banner of the Queensland Christian Convention Association.

Conventions like this are not a new idea, but done well they are an excellent way to encourage people in gospel living, and reminding them that they are part of God's bigger plan to grow His kingdom under Christ.

The SWQCC Committee was very grateful for the help of QTC in running the kids program, YWAM for providing practical support, and St George Uniting and Dalby Presbyterian for financial support.

See swqcc.org.au to find out about next year's convention.



Kids' program

News from around the State



Central Queensland Christian Convention (CQCC)

Quiz Worx Kids Convention

The annual Central Queensland Christian Convention (CQCC) was hosted at Rockhampton Presbyterian Church over the weekend of 12-13 August and was repeated on the following weekend in Mackay.

This year we were delighted to have as our guest speaker, Rev Dr Peter Jensen, former Archbishop of the Anglican Diocese in Sydney, and also the former Principal of Moore Theological College. The theme was *The Grace of God and the God of Grace*. From the Bible, Peter showed us how gracious God is towards us in the Gospel of His Son. In the Gospel we are united with him, redeemed through him, raised by him, chosen in him and assured in him. You can listen to or download Peter's talks for free from the Rocky PC website <http://rockypc.org.au/cqcc17>.

Our *Kids Convention* with Quiz Worx which runs concurrently with the convention, was also a great event. Using puppetry, music and creative story telling, the Quiz Worx team spent the weekend teaching our kids about Jesus, and what it means to follow him. Quiz Worx also performed a record number of Religious Instruction shows in Rockhampton schools, and also ran a mid-week three day *Kids Club* with Rockhampton Presbyterian Church before the convention with over 70 kids coming to hear about Jesus.

Since its inception, CQCC, a ministry of the Rockhampton Presbyterian Church, has aimed to encourage and strengthen regional churches and Christians in Central Queensland by providing Christ-centred Bible teaching.

Our attendance figures in Rockhampton were significantly higher this year with over 170 people attending on Saturday, and over 200 on Sunday. This year people came to Rockhampton from places up to 270km away, as well as a greater representation from other denominations.

Although a smaller convention, Mackay also reported an increase in numbers from different denominations, churches and towns, indicating the need and hunger for good Bible teaching in regional Queensland.

Making the most of having Peter Jensen in Rockhampton, Peter and Mike were interviewed on ABC Capricornia about the convention, and the current state of the church attendance in regional Queensland. Peter also spoke at our church's first ever *Food For Thought Dinner* at Dingles Cafe—an idea we pinched from Mitchelton. It was a great night—with 54 people in attendance, and great food—hearing Peter speak about *Why I'm Still A Christian*. In response to Peter's talk, a number of guests indicated they would like to do *Christianity Explored*.



Rev Mike O'Connor (Minister at Rockhampton) and Rev Dr Peter Jensen

Commissioning of Jako and Jessie Schwartz at Browns Plains Presbyterian Church

God blessed and challenged all present with a message from Romans 1:14 by the State Moderator, Rt Rev Greg Watt.

Daniel Rudge of Power to Change (previously Campus Crusade and Student Life) who also attended explained first-hand what Jako and Jessie will be doing in Northern Queensland after they finish a year's training in Toowoomba.

Jako and Jessie have been approved by APWM to serve as dual member missionaries of APWM and Power to Change. Many APWM QLD Committee members were present, and took part in the official part of the commissioning.

Jako and Jessie ask for prayer that God will bless them as they are trained, and that their work with the students they come in contact with will be fruitful, and God will open many doors for the Gospel.



Jako and Jessie Schwartz

Ordination of Rohan Pieris at Graceville Presbyterian Church

The joy and excitement was palpable as Rohan Pieris was ordained into the ministry at Graceville. A full church with some exuberant singing, and a sermon challenging Rohan to make prayer and Christ-centred preaching core elements of his ministry, made for a memorable service. Scott Muir, the Moderator of the Mowbray Presbytery officiated.

This was the culmination of a giant step of faith on the part of Graceville. In 2015, even though we did not have the funds to pay for an extra staff member, we invited Rohan and Heather to come up from Sydney to join the ministry team. Their ministry has been well received, and we have experienced a steady growth in numbers from that time. Particularly pleasing is the number of young families who have chosen to make their home with us.

In regard to the finances, not only are we meeting budget, but through the generous gift of a benefactor we have been able to purchase a piece of land at the back of the church for future development.



Rohan and Heather Pieris

Short Term Mission to Yangon, Myanmar

Earlier this year Rev Peter Barber and Russell den Dulk (Minister and Elder at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Townsville) travelled to Yangon, Myanmar to teach at the Reformed Bible Institute (RBI) on the Book of Revelation. Peter systematically went through each chapter and Russell discussed some themes throughout the book.

We also preached at the Yangon Reformed Church where Rev Dr Thang Bwee is the pastor. We went on a field trip two hours south east of Yangon to a small mission church in a country village to visit some of the congregants. The mission church is the home of Mor Dang and his wife. I believe that we 'Aussies' should come to Yangon to live for a couple of weeks because the experience would kill the petty complaints we have in Australia.

Our prayer and hope is that the twenty-six pastors and students who attended will have a greater understanding and confidence about who their Conqueror Jesus Christ is, and will continue to study and use the book to the benefit of their

own people in Myanmar, and the Glory of God. Please pray for those who attended the studies and thank our Lord for these opportunities.



Reformed Bible Institute Pastors and Students at Myanmar

News from around the State

Praise Fest at St Paul's Presbyterian Church

Story contributed by Megan Schroder and Christine Campbell

The walls of St Paul's rang with enthusiastic praise to God when nearly four hundred people, including the Brisbane Festival Male Voice Praise, gathered in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, singing hymns and spiritual songs. Well-known hymn writers were represented—Charles Wesley, John Newton, Isaac Watts, Graham Kendrick, Fanny Crosby, Stuart Townend—to name just a few, and of course—Martin Luther, and other Lutheran hymn writers.

After a rousing opening with *All People That On Earth Do Dwell*, Luther's *A Mighty Fortress* and Rinkart's *Now Thank We All Our God*, the next section of the program was organised using the five solas or principles that were held by the reformers in response to some Roman Catholic teachings of the time.

The congregation, like the reformers of the past, professed their faith in Scriptura Sola (Scripture Alone) singing *Thanks to God Whose Word Was Written* and Solus Christus (Christ Alone) in Kendrick's modern hymn, *In Christ Alone*. The SATB harmony group provided a time for reflection on Sola Fide (Faith Alone) by singing Wesley's *Let Us Plead For Faith Alone*.

The congregation joined together again in full voice for the last two solas, Sola Gratia (Grace Alone) in Charles Wesley's well-known hymn *And Can It Be?* and Soli Deo Gloria (Glory be to God Alone) with Neander's *All My Hope on God is Founded*.

Other sections illustrated the inspiration and impact of the early reformers on those of later ages. The post sixteenth century hymns included Fannie Crosby's simple affirmation *Just as I am, O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go*, which Matheson acknowledges was born from his own great suffering, and the great Irish hymn, *Be Thou My Vision*. The heartfelt prayers and praise of these great hymns resonated with those assembled, reminding them all of the relevance of their message today.

This was further reinforced by singing some of the modern hymn writers of the twentieth century. Graham Kendrick's *Beauty for Brokenness* and Stuart Townend's *How Deep the Father's Love* both speak of God's unconditional love and grace for His world. They also highlight our continuing connection with the affirmation of faith professed by Luther and the original reformers.

Timothy Dudley-Smith's hymn *Lord, for the Years Your Love Has Kept and Guided Us* was a fitting end to a truly inspirational afternoon.



Brisbane Festival Male Voice Praise

Gospel Partnership in Gympie

During August a team of students from Queensland Theological College (QTC) partnered with the Gympie Presbyterian and Baptist churches for a week of mission and ministry training.

During the week the team of eight students joined in ministry to schools. They presented a Religious Instruction (RI) Assembly Program to students at a few State Schools and spoke at a local Christian College's Chapel Service. Daniel Saunders, the Minister at Gympie Presbyterian Church said, "having these younger, keen Christians going into local schools was a great encouragement to those who've faithfully taught RI in the region for many years. As a team, they were able to teach the Bible in a way regular classroom volunteers can't."

A highlight of the week was a free public lecture by Rev Dr Wes Redgen entitled *Jesus' Crucifixion: One Among Many?*. The lecture was both a taste of theological education for Christians, and an opportunity for non-believers to consider why Jesus' crucifixion stands out from the hundreds of thousands crucified by Rome.

Hosting the team of QTC students was of benefit to the two partner churches in Gympie. Members of both churches appreciated spending time with the students, and were encouraged by their gospel focus and enthusiasm for Christian ministry.



The Parable of the Sower (scattering seeds)

Revitalisation of Warwick/Yangan Presbyterian Church now known as Rose City

In January 2017 a revitalisation work kicked off in Warwick—heart of the Southern Downs. The local church welcomed a new pastor with a 3-year plan and wife and kids, and another whole family from Brisbane in tow.

In partnership with the Darling Downs Presbytery, Committee on Ministry Resourcing and Creek Road, the tiny local congregation embraced the need for change and structural renewal.

In the eight months since the Lord has seen fit to grow His church amidst all the difficulties that wholesale change brings: new name, website, service format, preaching, new ways of relating... so many whole new ways of doing just about, well, everything.

New people have begun joining the church right from the induction service held in the Warwick Town Hall. Since January over 10 new families have joined us. From no kids in church, we now have over 20. Our little old building is creaking at the seams. We expected a teenager or two in the first year, but the Lord has brought us more than seven young people for whom we still have no real youth program.

In Term 1 *Kids Church* started.

In Term 2 growth groups stated—we now have four.

In July we inducted two new 'local' elders.

The church has grown from an average of around 20 to around 50, with the number of our whole church community now pushing 70: men, women, boys and girls—young and old-but-younger-at-heart—singles, couples, widows, widowers, even one blessing in utero—whom we hope to welcome later this year!

This term (3) began the search for a new location, and on 8 October our gatherings will change time and place to 9:30am at the much larger Dining Hall of the local Christian school. We are praying for the Lord to keep growing His people so that soon this new building too, will be creaking at the seams.

A regular celebration we have found ourselves enjoying every month or two has been welcoming new members. We try to make each induction unique, honouring the people God is gifting to us—each one a gift. Last week we heard the profession of faith of two more, just before he and his wife joined with our congregation in answering the questions for membership, we'd asked him to share on this question first: "What has God been doing in your heart this year, to bring you to the point of wanting to join His church here today?" This is what he said:

'I would like to share with you a couple of points why I believe the Lord has led us to this Church this morning.

'A number of years ago, both Lyn and I started to drift away from worship, and the more we drifted away, the easier it became. Satan was in control. And of course, I know God was very sad. Lyn's health had been far from good, and I was away driving long haul trucks, so excuses not to go to church became easy to make up—to the point I almost believed them myself.

'About last October we had both retired. I was now aware there was a lot missing in my life, and something had to be done about it—and quickly. Lyn's health was improving and I found I could no longer use my work as an excuse.

It was by chance that I met my nephew down the street one day, only to be told a new Pastor had been appointed here at this very church, and the invitation was made to us to attend one Sunday. We were also told the news that our new neighbours were the Pastor and his family.

'This of course made excuses more difficult for me to find.

'I agreed to attend—sneaking in late, then slipping out early, so no one could see me. I must say I felt very comfortable, once again worshipping amongst other believers, as I had done many years before. I firmly believe God's hand was guiding me and led me there that day.

'Soon after that, Lyn came with me, and we have been worshipping here with you folk since that day.

'Our current studies have been based around the seven deadly sins: Pride, Anger, Envy, Lust, Gluttony, Sloth and Greed. All of which I have to deal with, especially Anger. That really hit hard for me. And by worshipping here with you folk, I'm gradually dealing with that.

'God has been very gracious to both Lyn and myself as we've battled along. And so for you folk to hear how God has led us to this point, I am asking that you all might welcome us into membership of this church, that we can all grow as one in Christ Jesus'."

Please pray for us in Warwick—at the new *Rose City Presbyterian Church*—as Paul commanded the Thessalonians to pray: "That the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured, just as it was with you." 2 Thessalonians 3:1

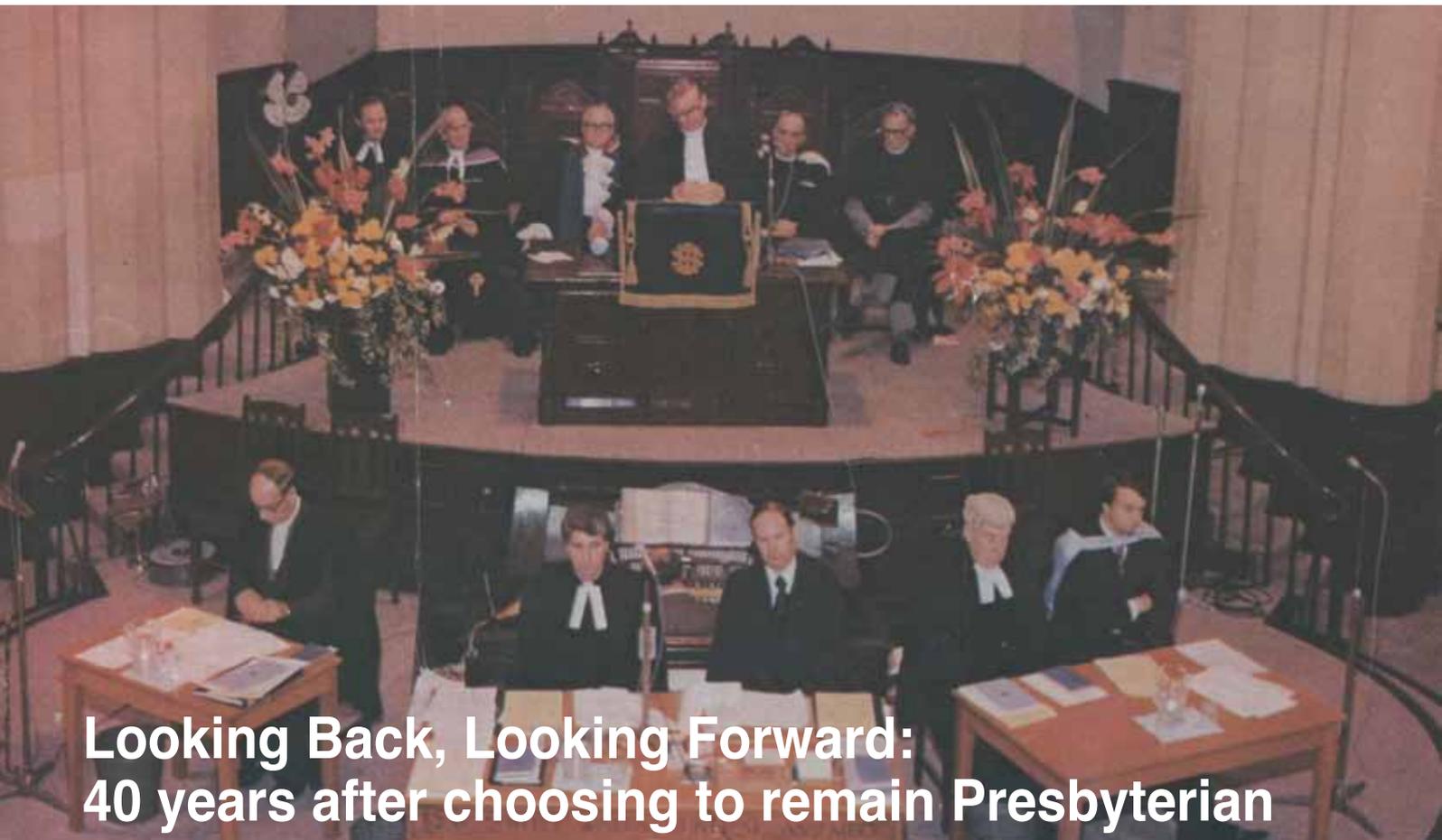


Rose City congregation



Kids' Church

Anecdotes from Archives



Looking Back, Looking Forward: 40 years after choosing to remain Presbyterian

On 22 June 1977 two-thirds of the Presbyterian Church of Australia together with nearly all the membership of the Congregational Union of Australia and the Methodist Church of Australasia, joined to form the Uniting Church in Australia. Much of the third who did not join the Uniting Church did not agree with its liberal views, although a number remained because of cultural connections.

HISTORY OF VOTE

- 1936 GAA vote on whether to unite with Methodist and Congregational churches. Lost.
- 1954 GAA vote to resume negotiations (Queensland 6245 for; 1139 against).
- 1957 Commission formed to draw up draft Basis of Union.
- 1960 Draft Basis presented to GAA. Rejected because it was based on Uniting Church of South India Constitution which had government by bishops.
- 1963 New Basis presented to GAA.
- 1971 Basis of Union adopted and sent down to State Assemblies, Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions and Congregations.

QUESTIONS OF VOTE

These were the two questions put to congregations in 1972 to decide on whether or not to unite with the Methodist and Congregational churches to form the Uniting Church.

1. Do you wish your congregation to become part of the Uniting Church in Australia? Yes/No
2. In the event of the inauguration of the Uniting Church in Australia, would you remain in membership of any Presbyterian Church continuing to function on the previous basis? Yes/No

RESULT OF VOTE

After two votes, 22 June 1977 was date for consummation or division to take place.

QUOTES FROM INAUGURAL ADDRESS TO GAA BY THE MODERATOR-GENERAL, RT REV K J GARDNER:

"We believe that the present standards of our church—the Westminster Confession of Faith with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms—are far more decisive and consistent, and in addition, more in accord with our only rule of faith and practice which is the Bible.

"Our future is secure because it is grounded on God's stability, not on man's instability, on God's unchangeableness, not on man's changeableness."

Thirty years later, Very Rev Dr Ken Gardner wrote on the Continuing Church following Union, "If the Presbyterian Church is to not only survive, but also to grow, it is essential that certain actions be put into practice. They are:

1. There must be total commitment by the members.
2. We must practise what we believe.
3. We must act with integrity at all times.
4. We must show by the way we live that Reformed Theology is not a dead theology, not just one to be believed, but one by which to live.
5. We must love one another with no conditions or strings attached.
6. We must fight with all our might to uphold the Bible as the Word of God."

Photo above: General Assembly of Australia taken as the House continued its business following the departure of those who had joined the Uniting Church.



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www.qtc.edu.au/about-qtc/apply

A ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland

Paul Tripp and Carl Trueman at QTC

Carl Trueman, Professor of Church History at Westminster Theological Seminary, joined us in July speaking on Martin Luther and the Reformation as we celebrated the 500th anniversary of Luther nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church door. (If you couldn't make it to QTC or Creek Road the audio is available on the QTC website).

In August Paul Tripp spoke to about 1000 people on the dangers of ministry, the joys and challenges of marriage and the way in which God uses all of his people as instruments of grace.

These events offered a great opportunity to the wider QTC community to grow in our faith in Jesus, being encouraged to stand firm in him as we proclaim him to the world.



Save the Date
Kevin DeYoung
at QTC
26-30 November
2018





APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2017

This Christmas why not give gifts to your family and friends and at the same time help someone who doesn't have the basics that we take for granted? The items below can provide for the needs of Christians and others in our Overseas Partner Churches.

MOSQUITO NET (ETHIOPIA) A gift of \$7 will provide a mosquito net for a blind person in a South Sudanese Refugee Camp in Ethiopia.

NUER BIBLE (ETHIOPIA) A gift of \$10 will provide a Nuer language Bible for someone in a South Sudanese Refugee Camp in Ethiopia.

NUER HYMN BOOK (ETHIOPIA) A gift of \$10 will provide a Nuer language hymn book for someone in a South Sudanese Refugee Camp in Ethiopia.

BLANKET (ETHIOPIA) A gift of \$15 will be a blanket for a blind person in a South Sudanese Refugee Camp in Ethiopia.

SLEEPING MATS (ETHIOPIA) A gift of \$20 will provide sleeping mats for people in a South Sudanese Refugee Camp in Ethiopia.

PRISON MINISTRY (MALAWI) A gift of \$30 will be used to purchase much-needed blankets and other living essentials for prisoners in Malawi who live in very difficult conditions.

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

APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2017 ORDER FORM

HOW IT WORKS

1. 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) (www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance).

Bank: Westpac

Account Name: Australian Presbyterian World Mission

BSB: 032 260 **Account #:** 151207

For Direct Deposits, 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
MOSQUITO NET (ETHIOPIA) \$7		
NUER BIBLE (ETHIOPIA) \$10		
NUER HYMN BOOK (ETHIOPIA) \$10		
BLANKET (ETHIOPIA) \$15		
SLEEPING MATS (ETHIOPIA) \$20		
PRISON MINISTRY (MALAWI) \$30		
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (MYANMAR) \$60		
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 _____ Postcode _____

Phone _____ Email _____



ON TRACK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

SEPTEMBER 2017

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
BY WORD AND DEED

NO GOLDEN ARCHES

The McDonalds are now "Going where no McDonalds (golden arches variety) have gone before!"

David and Gae write: We have been concentrating on the area between Brewarrina and Bourke and north to the Queensland border. We are learning some of the local 'lingo': Brewarrina is locally called "Bree", Weilmoringal is "Wheel" and Goodooga is still called Goodooga.

The station people are very happy to see us. There are two separate station social groups that we have been invited to be part of. We are now on a group email list for one of the groups that meet at least monthly. We are looking forward to building relationships with these people.

One of the differences between the Darling (NSW) and Flynn (SA) patrols that we have

noticed so far is that the stations are a lot closer together, so they act as mini communities. Geographically in the NW NSW – there are more trees, fewer mountains, more fences and fewer dry river beds to camp by.

The common aspects of both patrols – still very few churches, friendly country people, their nearest town is hours away, families often live beside each other for generations and some still remember being called upon by their Inland Mission Padre/Patrol Team. More importantly, we all have the need for Christ Jesus and His saving grace.

The congregation at Narrabri Presbyterian Church has been very welcoming and supportive with regular prayer time and sharing around different kitchen tables.

Our patrol schedule has been put out of



kilter in recent weeks with rain closing outback roads, flood damage at our Lismore property and a run in with the 'flu. Please pray that the barriers to being out on patrol will be removed so we can get back out amongst the people we are seeking to serve.

Thank you to all who have helped us and cared for us in so many different ways. It has been great to be reminded of the joy of being part of God's family.

PROCLAIMING CHRIST IN TASMANIA

Kim Jaeger writes:

After carrying out deputation visits to churches in Tasmania, the work of the Tasmanian Patrol has begun in earnest. I frequently conduct services at St. James Presbyterian Church in Stanley, North West Tasmania and patrol ministry in the Midlands.

On one sunny day, unusually warm for May, I enjoyed three lengthy conversations on first time visits, with invitations to call again. However, it isn't always like this. Though people are generally polite and willing to receive my contact card, these are encounters of the first kind and often last just a few minutes. My hope is to build relationships over repeat visits, requiring the commitment of time and prayer, similar to most outreach work.

The Midlands encompasses the length of

the highway between Hobart and Launceston and the land to the east and west of the road. Some of the area is predominantly larger farms, while other regions are a mixture of commercial properties and hobby farms. The hobby farmers either work away from their properties or are retirees. Some of the commercial properties have been in the same family for several generations, originating from land grants given by the State Government back in the 1800s.

It's great to have the Holden Trailblazer with its ground clearance as I have already negotiated some driveways that better resemble a four wheel drive track, with deep holes filled with water, and one gravel driveway so steep I engaged low ratio four wheel drive. Mostly patrols are a mixture of sealed and gravel roads reasonably maintained, though Tasmanian weather

frequently dishes out wet muddy conditions and fog or ice on those bitterly cold mornings all too frequent in the depths of winter. On occasion snow settles in some of the higher Patrol areas.

Though the distances are not as great as some of the other PIM Patrols, it is surprising how remote some of the Midlands can feel and how lacking it is in the witness of a Christian church. Please pray that meaningful relationships are built and the Good News can reach across the paddocks and bring joy to solitary homesteads.

Kim is still building a team of financial supporters to help make this ministry sustainable for the long term. If you would like to join that team, please contact Kim or the PIM Office for information on how to give.

PresCare news

Seniors Week 2017

At PresCare, our residential and respite care centres deliver comprehensive programs of activity year round for our clients and care recipients to remain social and active in their communities. In Seniors Week, we arranged a number of special events to put the spotlight on the valuable contribution Queensland's older people make to our society.

Our care recipients at Lake Sherrin participated in a ballroom dancing session hosted by dancing duo, Cheryl and Brian. They waltzed down memory lane to some great old-time songs and encouraged everyone to get involved – there were some fantastic dancers in the group.

At Inala Place Respite Centre, we also held a dance where clients conga-lined their way to a BBQ lunch and visited the onsite market where there were loads of delicious home-made cakes and bargains to be had.



Inala Place

At Sherwood Place Respite Centre, guests made new friends with the visiting baby animal farm, including lambs, goats, chicks and pigs. The staff couldn't help but get involved with all the cuteness as well!

The celebratory week ended with a lunch cruise on the Kookaburra Queen for guests at our Day Therapy Centre in Coopers Plains and the Sherwood Respite Centre.



Sherwood Place

This event was sponsored by COTA as part of their work to recognise the valuable contribution seniors make to our lives and we thank them for their support. Everyone enjoyed the two hour cruise up and down the Brisbane River with a delicious lunch and onboard entertainment.



Kookaburra Queen

Golf Day change of date

After much consideration, we have moved the 2017 Charity Golf Day at Sanctuary Cove to 14 November. Now in its eleventh year, this important event raises vital funds to combat social isolation amongst Queensland's older people. We look forward to hosting the event in November in partnership with Woollam Constructions.

For more information, or to register please visit www.prescare.org.au/charity-golf-classic-2017

PresCare is a Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland and we've been helping older Australians live the way they choose for almost 90 years. We provide a range of residential and community services that are tailored to people's specific needs. At PresCare, we understand that people want to have freedom to make personal choices about the way they live. We're not aged care, we're PresCare.



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