

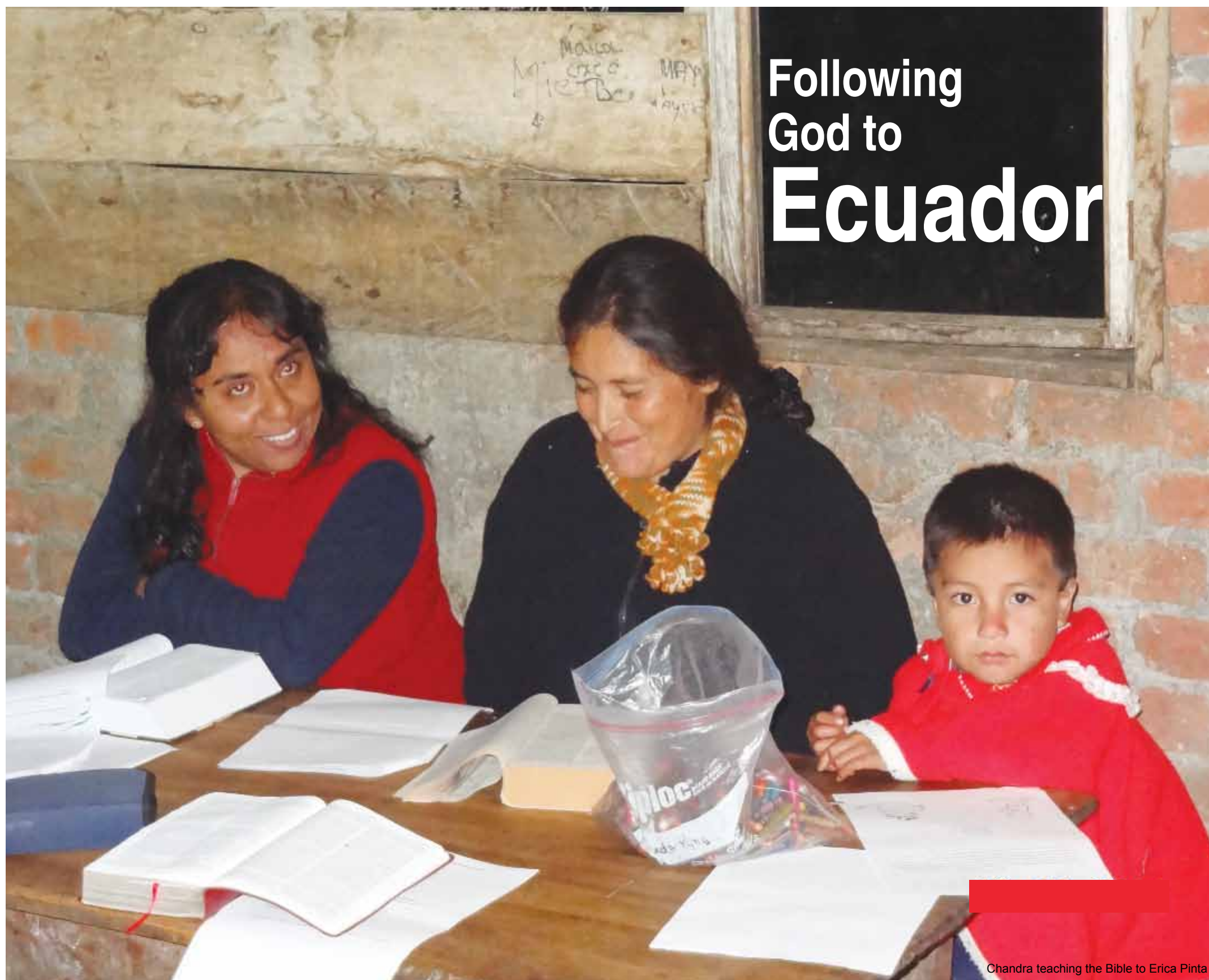
NEW



Volume 17 Issue 1 February/March 2013

DIRECTIONS

Bringing news, views and inspiration to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland



Following God to Ecuador

Chandra teaching the Bible to Erica Pinta

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ECUADOR, OFFICIALLY the Republic of Ecuador, is a representative democratic republic in South America, bordered by Colombia on the north, Peru on the east and south, and by the Pacific Ocean to the west. It is one of only two countries in South America, along with Chile, that does not have a border with Brazil. The country also includes the Galápagos Islands in the Pacific, about 1,000 kilometres (620 mls) west of the mainland.

The main spoken language in Ecuador is Spanish (94% of the population). Languages of official use in native communities include Quichua, Shuar and 11 other languages. Ecuador has an area of 258,238 sq km (99,706 sq mls). Its capital city is Quito, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the 1970s for having the best preserved and least altered historic centre in Latin America. The country's largest city is Guayaquil. With its international port and tuna fishing industry, Manta is the third most important city in the country economically. The historic centre of Cuenca, the third largest city in the country, was also declared a World Heritage Site in 1999, for being an outstanding example of a planned inland Spanish style colonial city in the Americas.

Ecuador is also home to a great variety of species, many of them endemic, like those of the Galápagos Islands. This species diversity makes Ecuador one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world. The new constitution of 2008 is the first in the world to recognize legally enforceable Rights of Nature, or ecosystem rights.

Ecuador is a presidential republic and became independent in 1830, after having been part of the Spanish colonial empire and, for a much shorter time, of the republic of Gran Colombia.

What it means to be a missionary in Ecuador

Hello, my name is Chandra Smith. I am a missionary currently serving with APWM and SIM in Ecuador. I have been a missionary in Ecuador for close to eight years. I would love to thank you all for your faithful support of me and the ministries God has here in Ecuador. It was suggested that I share with you about my work, what it entails and how things are progressing. Well I have to admit, if I did share all this, my article would fill numerous books. So I hope the following will give you some idea of what my life is here in Ecuador and why I chose to follow God to this small country in South America.

I LIVE in a valley approximately 2000 metres about sea level in the town of Gonzanamá, which has approximately 2000 people living in it. We, another missionary and I, work in this community and the outlying communities.

When I first arrived in Gonzanamá, foreigners were people to fear and not trust so it was difficult to make contacts; but with the help of local believers I started to make friends.

One ministry which I have been running since my second year in Ecuador is the Diet Club for Women.

This ministry was set up because Tania, one of the local believers, wanted to lose weight because she had noticed that I had lost weight.

I agreed to do something with her. The day arrived that we agreed to meet and talk about diet and exercise.

Tania arrived with five other ladies who were not believers but they were friends of Tania who all wanted to lose weight.

So I realized God had opened the door for me to get to know these women and to allow the local believers to show the community that they were normal people.

My goals for the Diet Club were, and still are, to help the women get physically and spiritually healthy, to provide a non-hostile environment where they can hear God's Word and ask questions, and a place where the local believers can make friendships with the women in community.

From then on, each week the women would come to be weighed and to talk about nutrition and listen to a Bible message. I would teach them low-fat, low-sugar recipes. Then we would exercise and they could taste the recipes.



Diet Club

I am pleased to say that we now have thirty women coming weekly, and over the last six years, as a result of the Diet Club, there have

been exciting discussions about God, women coming to study the Bible of whom a few have become believers. Also, a lot of women have lost weight.

The Diet Club is not the only ministry in which I am involved. One of my favorite ministries is teaching the Bible and helping people

read the Bible for themselves.

For many years, people here were too scared to read the Bible. They were told only the priests and nuns were chosen by God to read and interpret the Bible.

Little by little people are coming to ask to study the Bible, and through studying the Bible themselves, more people are becoming believers.

Over the past seven years I have been involved in the following ministries: Bible teaching in Portete, Gonzanamá, Mollepamba and El Fundo; youth ministry mainly in Portete; Craft Club for women in Portete and Gonzanamá; teaching First Aid in local primary and high schools and in small communities which have no medical presence; teaching the Bible in the local Christian church in Gonzanamá (I am grateful this is no longer my responsibility as we have a local pastor appointed); discipleship of new believers; medical caravans; and continued running of the medical project in Gonzanamá.

I know it sounds like a lot but, through faithful prayers of believers in Australia, He gives me the strength and energy to do these things.

The work here is progressing very slowly but it is progressing.

When I first came to Ecuador to the Loja province I was told only 0.1% of the population were believers. In recent studies this has grown to 1%.

Thank you all again for your faithful support. Without it, what I have been able to do would never have happened.

I am happy to share stories about my life here with any of you. Just email me at chandra.smith@sim.org.

Thank you again.



Gonzanama church members 2012



Teaching first aid



Craft Club in Portete 2012



Diet club group photo 2012



Craft Club, Portete



Girls' retreat with youth from Portete



Andrew and Marilyn Schache

Are we there yet?

HOW OFTEN have we asked the question "Are we there yet?"

Every journey has a beginning and an end. Sometimes they are short, easy trips. Others are long and arduous.

For Marilyn and me, that "journey" started about two years ago, when we both realised that God was calling us back to mission work.

This time it would be to Vanuatu, specifically in Maintenance and Administration roles at the Talua Ministry Training Centre run by the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

It's been a great journey so far, and as we pass milestones, we realise afresh how perfectly God leads and guides.

Our goal is to leave for Vanuatu in March 2013. To date we have 36% of our \$44,000 target pledged. Thank you to the churches and individuals who have pledged to partner with us in this journey.

This means that we need pledges totalling \$29,000 before we can leave. We need further pledges of \$2417 per month. That's 24 people pledging \$20 per week.

If you'd like to join our team then please contact Australian Presbyterian World Mission finance@apwm.org.au

Andrew and Marilyn Schache
rvltn7vs9@gmail.com

IN RECENT months my husband, Darryl, and I were asked to speak at South Toowoomba Presbyterian Church on behalf of our daughter, Chandra Smith, who serves in Ecuador, and is known to quite a number of people.

I decided to tell the congregation about how Chandra came into our lives and how God's hand was in all that has happened.

Thank you for inviting me to retell the story for *New Directions*.

For anyone who does not know Chandra – she is Sri Lankan by birth and we are not.

For me, the story began when I was a small child.

I pestered my mother for a black doll. I don't even remember this and in those days you couldn't buy coloured dolls (in Australia anyway) and the best poor mum could do was get me a Golliwog (not considered politically incorrect in those days).

So it was no surprise to my mum when I announced we were going to adopt a child of a different race.

At the time of our marriage the Vietnam war was in full swing and Darryl was called up for National Service.

His NS had been deferred while he finished an apprenticeship, and we were married, but it didn't make any difference – he still had to 'do his time'.

Of course the TV news showed Vietnam every night and the plight of orphaned children was heart breaking. I wanted to gather them all up and give them a home.

We thought we should start a family first before considering adoption and our first son was born.

We discussed adoption then, but our eldest daughter came along fairly swiftly so that put plans on hold.

The situation in Vietnam was deteriorating so we decided to apply for adoption through the regular channels in Queensland.

Quite a number of orphaned children were going to southern states, but in Queensland it was close to impossible.

You might remember seeing children thrown on aeroplanes as South Vietnam fell to the North and tragically many were lost.

Only nine children came to Queensland, but we were only getting our paper work started so this was not going to be the right time for us.

Our minister at the time knew where we were heading. He told us he knew this fellow who had been

involved with children in Vietnam/Cambodia right up to the end and he was visiting his mother-in-law in the district.

So we met Lindsay Nicholls whom a lot of people will know through the distribution of the 'Jesus' film. Lindsay was so helpful and remains a friend today.

He told us of a group in SA who had handled the Vietnam adoptions and who were also bringing children from other countries to join Aussie families. We were told that with adoption approval in Queensland they could help us.

We were truly blessed to have a child care officer who was a retired Presbyterian minister and who thought this was a great idea.

With our approval as adoptive parents we set the wheels in motion.

Our group in SA advised there were children needing families in Thailand.

Fine! We decided to go ahead, just as adoptions from Thailand closed – but there were children available and in great need in Sri Lanka.

Every mother envisages what her child would look like and for years I had imagined this almond-eyed little one – but now this country was a totally different idea altogether.

God had closed the doors in two countries to us and a child without parents needs the love of a family no matter where he/she comes from.

We sent our paperwork away at the end of the year and waited.

Our wait seemed endless (absolutely nothing like the time families wait today) and by June we had heard nothing.

In my emotional manner I was sure babies were dying while someone passed the paper work around.

One Saturday morning we went to an auction. There was a pianola for sale – wouldn't our family enjoy that!

We had been saving money for me to go to Sri Lanka but, as that seemed to be going nowhere, we bid on the pianola. Isn't God in control!! Someone outbid us and two days later we got a phone call to say we had a daughter in Sri Lanka! I have often told Chandra she was almost a pianola.

While Darryl managed the family at home, I set out for Sri Lanka.

I had never been anywhere on my own in my life, had never been in a plane, had never even been to an airport and had never had a lot to do with other races.

I arrived in Colombo in the middle of the night to a sea of black faces and

a taxi driver with a note for me to say I had to go with him. Oh my!

Travelling through the streets in a little Morris that didn't have windows and people streaming everywhere – my heart was pounding.

Eventually we arrived at my accommodation in a dead end lane with a high fence alongside and I distinctly remember thinking (as I was glued to the back seat of the taxi) 'God didn't get me this far to be bumped off'.

Chandra slipped into our family as though she had always been there. If all children were as easy to raise as she was you would have 20. She was two- and-a-half years old when she arrived but wasn't walking and weighed the same as our son did at 10 months.

Malnutrition and lack of opportunity of course had slowed her progress but she soon went through all the things kids do in their development.

She started Grade 1 at six years old and had almost caught up to all the others. When she was a teenager she went to a church camp and I knew the minute she came through the door that her life had changed and she told us she had accepted Christ.

Some years later she had the opportunity to go onboard the 'Doulos' when it was in port in Brisbane.

I asked her if this was something she would like to do. 'Yes,' she said, 'but not on the Doulos – I was seasick when it was tied up at the dock!'

Chandra decided her calling was to Ecuador – we had to find it on the map.

About the time she was to leave for her first short term, our friend Ann told us about the book 'Through the Gates of Splendour' and the missionaries who were massacred in Ecuador – just what every mother wanted to hear!

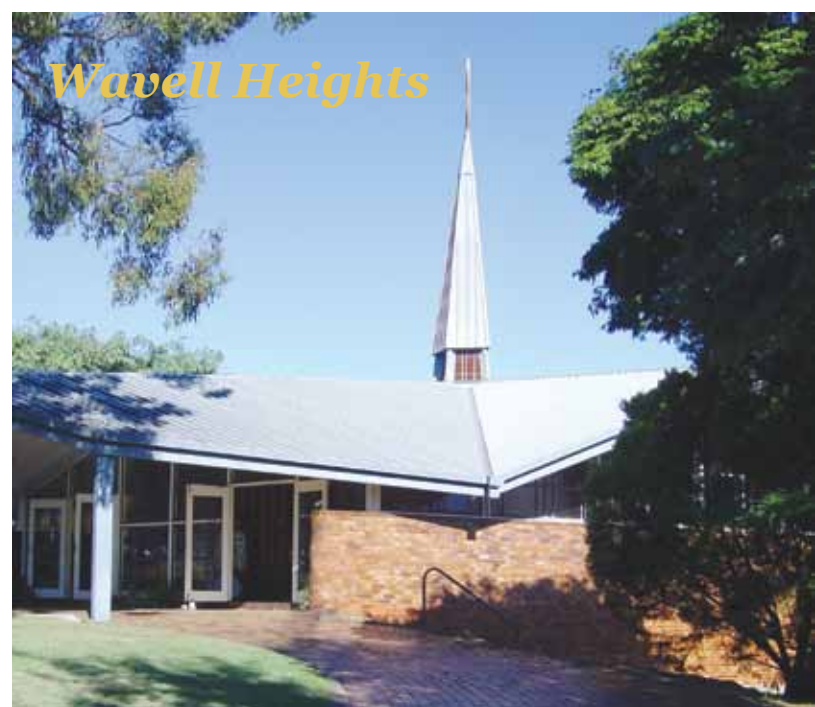
Then we discovered Chandra had been given that book at Youth Group years before and it had been part of her inspiration to go to Ecuador!

Being a missionary parent has its moments and we have had many anxious ones. We have had our tears at departure times and still haven't overcome that.

We are very thankful for the journey on which God has taken our family and how He was in control of choosing Chandra to be our daughter and to be where she is today.

Chandra's story may be more unusual than others, but in our family it all seems perfectly natural.

Queensland Presbyterian Church Buildings



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Pam and Darryl Smith (Stanthorpe) with John and Anna Strachan at St John's Toowoomba
PHOTO: Frances Tilley

St Paul's Presbyterian Church, 43 St Paul's Terrace, Spring Hill
invites one and all to these coming events,
as part of their 150th year celebrations

Sunday 3 March 2013 - 3 pm
HYMNFEST LED BY BRISBANE FESTIVAL MALE VOICE CHOIR

So close to St David's Day, be enriched by a sound reminiscent of the popular Welsh and Scottish male voice choirs presenting choral items and leading community singing of stirring hymns of faith and praise, supported by Guest Artists, ELAN Sopranos.

An offering will be taken for the work of St Paul's and the Choir.

Saturday 23 March 2013 - 7 pm
ST PAUL'S 150TH YEAR GRAND TRIVIA NIGHT

Come as you would have dressed 150 years ago (optional) and select a team name befitting for the times. Prizes for the best dressed team, most original team name. Drinks and nibbles on sale BUT bring your own table food if desired.

Form a team table of 8 - \$80 a table.

Auction: If you have something novel that is taking up space, bring an item for sale and we will auction it at half-time break.

Saturday 21 April 2013 - 1-5 pm
AN APRIL AFTERNOON CRAFT FAIR

Craft stalls, demonstrations, 'Make and Take' crafts

Entry fee includes afternoon tea and your choice of 3 Make and Take items - all materials supplied. Help will be on hand at each work table. Adults \$20 Children \$10

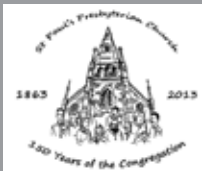
DATE CLAIMER

Saturday 18 May 2013 - 4 pm
ORCHESTRAL AND CHORAL CONCERT "In Glorious Company"

This joint venture will be a wonderful choral and orchestral delight in association with 4MBS Festival of Classics. The program will feature the vibrant Dettingen Te Deum by Handel performed at St Paul's in October 1934 and much more.

Email: events150stpauls@gmail.com Website: www.stpaulspc.org.au

*** Everyone welcome ***



Ken and Em Gardner celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at St David's Toowoomba on 1 December 2012. A church service conducted by Ron Pilkington with the sermon preached by Dr Gardner was followed by a luncheon in the church hall. Family and friends from past and present congregations attended this special occasion.

Focus on the Heart Seminars at Virginia/Banyo

By Noel Liddell, Session Clerk



At the end of the last session, a small celebration was held over lunch. The church Pastor, Andrew Bigg, and Mr. Noel Liddell, Session Clerk, handed out certificates of completion to all participants.



Eight participants while two were away sick on that day

"BECOMING A Godly Woman" is a course for women that took place at Virginia Presbyterian Church over the month of September 2012. Ten women from three different churches - Virginia, Banyo and Nundah - participated in that course. The course ran over five Saturdays from 9-12 noon. Sessions were interactive, in a small setting, where women were able to learn from the Bible, discuss, share, open up and clarify issues in life. The course covers down-to-earth applications based on the Biblical passage in Titus 2:3-5. One participant commented, "This course shows a clear picture of what a godly woman is and how to become a godly woman. The Bible verses that I studied during the course were very helpful to me in my life as a mum and a wife".

The course was facilitated by Miranda Nakhla, who has presented the same course overseas - in the Philippines and Fiji. "Becoming a Godly Woman" is the first of five courses that are offered by "Focus on the Heart" ministry. "Focus on the Heart" (FOH) is a women-to-women ministry of Ambassadors for Christ International - a mission organisation working for revival within the church. FOH's goal is to multiply the number of spiritually mature women as mandated in Titus 2:3-5. Women from many parts of the world were blessed by this simple, down-to-earth practical ministry. We are pleased that this course is the first to take place in Australia and praying for the spread of this ministry in Australia and all over the world. The goal of this ministry is for

women to grow in their relationship with God and with their family members, church family and the community around. Also, the course aims towards multiplication; where the women who go through the course and sense God's calling to share it with others, can themselves facilitate the course. The second course of this series called "ABC of Care Giving" is currently being presented at Banyo Presbyterian Church during the Ladies' Bible Study that takes place twice a month. Its goal is to help women learn more about effective ways of helping others and how to deal with issues in life such as forgiveness, fear and anger. For more information about running one of these courses for women in your church, please contact Miranda Nakhla on 0439 764 047.



Close friends at a happy farewell luncheon for Elder Harley and Flora Robinson (centre sitting) who, after many years of tireless work in a number of Presbyterian congregations, have retired from Caloundra, to Forest View Retirement Village in Childers, where they will be near their family. While they will be much missed, our prayers are that they will soon settle into their new home and enjoy their new adventure.

COME TO the waters, CONSIDER Christ and CHOOSE life!

THIS THEME from John 6 was developed amazingly over the weekend 2-4 November as 98 ladies gathered at Watson Park, Dakabin for the 14th annual Be Creative Ladies Camp!

Personal invitations were distributed to campers to attend the initial session on Friday evening to drink from the Living Water to relieve their thirst.

The Town Crier rallied campers on Saturday evening to attend the Medieval Banquet – ‘Come as you are’.

It was indeed a candlelit banquet with tables adorned with pigs’ heads and bowls of sumptuous delights. Sunday morning saw campers kneading and moulding their own bread rolls which created a fragrant aroma as we listened to Fiona Millar’s challenging message regarding responding to, and living out, a Christ-centred life.

Testimonies from local women and questions for reflections around the tables were greatly appreciated.

Several campers were welcomed to their first Be Creative experience – teenagers and more mature women. It seems age has no bearing on all things creative!

We were grateful for the hand embroidery expertise of two interstate tutors as well as many of our local ladies who taught a mix of workshops including acrylics and watercolour, knitting and crochet, scrapbooking and card making as well as a novel bag and a variety of patchworking techniques.

All these tutors give generously of their time in preparation throughout the year and we couldn’t have such an amazing time without them. Thank you so much!

The display of beautiful quilts was a real treat and great inspiration as we worked on our individual projects.

We were able to place bids in the Silent Auction during Saturday afternoon. The women from the Dorcas Centre had sent some of their work and many campers supplied handcrafted items as well.

We can now send over \$2800 to the Dorcas Centre to encourage their valuable work amongst women challenged by life.



Finished work from one of the electives



Be Creative Camp Committee - Back: Jane McClintock, Kelly Miller; Front: Lyn Nantes, Jan Langbridge and Miriam Sims

A ministry to teenage girls in the Caboolture area is another recipient of support from the weekend.

Campers also supplied draw string bags for Wycliffe Bible Society to distribute to girls and women in PNG

and Vanuatu to carry their Bibles.

All in all it was a fantastic weekend! Why don’t you plan to come next camp (1-3 November 2013) with your friend.

Training ‘forgotten’ church leaders on the Thai-Burma border

DODGING BULLETS and praying for peace is part and parcel of life for Karen refugees on the Thai-Burma border, where a CMS team recently trained local church leaders.

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

Sam McGeown, CMS Church Liaison and Missionary Development Officer, led the training team and attends Carina Creek Road Presbyterian Church. He said that “the pastors lead the members of a church that the world has largely forgotten about.”

“For 25 years the Karen people have been dodging bullets from the Burmese army, living in jungles and refugee camps, waiting and praying for peace and the chance to return to their homes and villages.”

Last year’s training brought together 55 pastors, Bible College students, children’s and youth workers, and mothers’ ministry leaders from refugee camps and outlying villages. They gathered for six days for teaching on Isaiah and basic Bible study tools from Sam McGeown, Rev. Richard Shumack and Tim Hill.

The CMS team worked alongside the participants from 9 am to 9 pm most nights, as the group wanted to get the most out of the time together.

The thanks expressed by one of the pastors sums up the impact of the training: “We would never have the opportunity to access the material that we have received during this week. The training has increased our competency and confidence in preaching from the Old Testament, especially from Isaiah. Thank you. When you come back again next year could we continue looking at the Old Testament?”

Seeing the impact the training is having over repeated years is a great blessing to Sam. This was his third time there, and he plans to return in 2013.

“Each time I have returned there has been renewed trust built and relational bridges strengthened”, said Sam. “The pastors and leaders are taking the training on board. We saw it in the sermons that they preached – in their growing ability and delight to handle God’s word, not just with care

but with delight.

“We saw it in the rhetoric and rich language used. We saw it in their wholehearted commitment to the gospel. There was a sense that the trainees were, after several years, not only getting the training but were using it to greater effect.”

Emphasising the role of partnership in mission, Sam said that he and his team were not on the Thai-Burma border to be ‘givers’ but to work together with the local church which is full of ‘givers’ like a young woman named Brickie.

“Brickie is a 28-year-old Karen university graduate from Burma who came to the training. She intentionally travelled across the border into Thailand in order to serve her people. She works in one of the six boarding houses run by the church.

“The house owner is also one of those givers. He got sick and after being admitted to hospital indefinitely, he gave the church the use of his house as a sanctuary for kids who have had to flee their homes in Burma”, Sam said.

“Now 24 children from the ages of 5 to 14 live in his house. Brickie is their mother. Being a parent for four kids of my own is hard work. How Brickie wakes up every morning at 5:30, cooks breakfast, gets kids ready for school, cleans the house, cooks lunch and dinner, washes clothes, picks up kids from school, cares for them when they are sick, shops, helps with homework, tells a Bible story, puts them to bed, 24/7 for \$70/month is way beyond my comprehension.”

Many of church leaders have lived in and around refugee camps for 25 years and have had few opportunities for ongoing training. The CMS training equips them to better serve their community, while Bible teachers like Sam appreciated learning from the local church leaders.

“It was exciting to see how the leaders have been putting into practice what they have been learning over the last three years”, Sam said. “The Karen leaders ended up teaching the trainers some valuable lessons in humility, sacrifice, commitment, contentment and hospitality.”

If you want to learn more about the work of CMS in equipping church leaders throughout the world, then visit www.cms.org.au or phone 07 3112 6530.

Pray, Live, Serve but what about the chameleon?

by Naomi Reed

WE TOOK the kids to the zoo during the holidays and, as usual, we stared at the incredible design and the extravagant detail – the grey beard on the chimp, the tiger’s eyes, the underbelly of the Red Panda, the wings of the owl, the colours on the water birds.

But this time, I spent an unusual amount of time watching the chameleon. He was crawling up the glass wall in front of us, but at the same time he blended in with the leafy branches at the back of his cage.

The design was amazing, I thought. He blends in so well that he can’t be seen and he definitely can’t be eaten – especially at the zoo, where there aren’t any predators. But he doesn’t know that ... so he blends in anyway. It’s the reason behind the function.

So then, of course, I thought about us and the reasons behind our behaviour. Often, serving as cross-cultural workers we aim to blend in. In Nepal, Darren and I ate, dressed, gestured and spoke as much as we could in the local ways – or we tried to!

We put our hands together to say hello, we handled money with our right hand only, we conjugated our verbs, we never touched each other in public, we enjoyed dal bhat and we always kept our knees covered. And that was just the beginning!

But most days, we weren’t doing it so that we wouldn’t be eaten. We were doing it so that we could fit in, build good relationships and

represent Jesus in small ways – but ways that were honouring to Him and not offensive – so that people wouldn’t look at us and think that Christians were irreverent, cow-eating westerners. Ultimately, we wanted to share the love of God through genuine relationships.

But sometimes I wonder whether it’s different now that we’re back in Australia. Here too, the motive behind our chameleon act matters.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians that he became like a Jew to win the Jews and like the weak to win the weak ... so that by all possible means he might save some.

For Paul, his behaviour and choices within different people groups were for the sake of the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:20-23) which, of course, is the ultimate motive for all of us, wherever we are.

I think the problem for me is that more commonly in Australia my motives are very mixed.

Sometimes I find myself blending in so that people will like me and approve of what I say or do or write.

I blend in so that I’ll be accepted and so that my opinions won’t offend. And sometimes, that’s a good and appropriate thing.

In Australia too, I need to work on genuine relationships that honour God. But there are other times when I feel like I’m so busy doing the chameleon act that maybe I need to re-read Paul in Philippians, where he reminds the reader to “shine like



Naomi Reed

stars... as you hold out the word of life” (Philippians 2:15-16).

This week, I’m going to think about that. Perhaps, unlike the chameleon, there are times when we need to be seen ... but not eaten.

[Naomi Reed is a returned missionary, author and speaker. Her four popular books and an audio book (The Promise) are available at Reformers Bookshop. She and her family attend Blaxland Presbyterian Church. For more information, go to www.NaomiReed.info or join ‘My Seventh Monsoon’ on Facebook.]



Richard Schumack, Sam McGeown and Tim Hill on the Thai-Burma border



Karen church leaders

Carols at Caloundra

ON SUNDAY 9 December the Caloundra congregation held what must have been one of our "best ever" carols services.

During the days leading up to the carol service the outsides of both church and hall were decorated with coloured lights.

This year a manger scene was also added on a wall that could be seen by every motorist or pedestrian that came past. Next year we hope to add either shepherds or wise men or both either side of the manger scene.

Meanwhile, inside the hall, the stage was filled with a beautiful manger scene complete with a full size ox, donkey, sheep and a liberal scattering of hay to give the appropriate effect.

As the day came, the interiors of the church and hall were decorated, the supper was prepared, the rehearsals were completed and we were ready for our special event – the 2012 Carols Service.

Our guests this year were Jim and Grace Vine, along with their son Bill. What wonderful musical talents they all have – all the more beautiful because they have been laid at the feet of their Saviour.

Grace had prepared a beautiful overview of the Biblical narrative entitled "Do You Have Room?", complete with a liberal sprinkling of well-loved carols, a solo by herself and another on DVD played through the digital projector.

The theme song for the evening, "Tell Me the Story of Jesus", was played at the beginning and the end of the service, along with John 3:16 which was also read aloud twice by narrator and congregation alike. Nobody could miss the message that was intended.

Several members of the church

played the roles of Mary, Joseph, the angel, a Roman soldier, the shepherds, the wise men, while Bill Vine participated as the song leader and Bill McClintock took the role of narrator.

And then, right on cue, first Mary and the angel, and then Joseph, arrived on stage, to be followed by a Roman soldier wearing all the right gear and laying down the law about a census.

On completion of his task, the Roman soldier went back to controlling the microphones and sound system, gear still intact, with helmeted head bobbing up and down as sound and microphone adjustments were being made.

Then there was a joyous procession down the aisle of three 70 something-year-old shepherds, each with a sheep or lamb in his arms; and then three wise men, also 70 something, who made a dignified procession down the aisle with their respective gifts.

A full-to-capacity congregation of about a hundred, many of whom were visitors and neighbours of members, enjoyed an hour of wonder as the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, and its significance, was again celebrated in word, action and song. The evening was rounded out by a message from Jim Vine, which left no one in any doubt about the good news of the Gospel and the need to come to Jesus Christ for salvation.

As everyone left to go to supper they were given a slice of Christmas cake beautifully wrapped in a brightly coloured cloth bag with a nativity scene on the front, complete with drawstring, so that when the cake had been eaten the bag could be hung on Christmas trees around Caloundra and beyond.

The evening was completed as people crowded into the Hall and enjoyed a generous supper. The members of the congregation who hosted the supper were prepared to cater for eighty people. But then members and friends brought some 20 extra plates of goodies so the tables were laden with food. There was enough food to feed the proverbial army, which meant that those who attended various other occasions during the week that followed (including a Session meeting on Monday), enjoyed the sandwiches, savouries, assorted cakes and biscuits that were left over from the Sunday supper.

One of our faithful members later observed that the Carols Service had about it such a sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit that much prayer must have been offered for the Lord's blessing on it and on the whole evening.

That was certainly the case, for not only was it preceded by a week of congregational prayer every morning at 8:30, but there must also have been much prayer in the daily devotions of many members in the quiet of their own homes.

The whole evening was a wonderful church family production, with many people joining together to participate in various ways, and the Holy Spirit adding that sense of His presence that can only increase the sense of wonder.

This not only ensured that it was successful in our eyes but that God was glorified through what was done and that the message of the gospel was presented to the community at large.

Truly, this must have been one of our "best ever" Carol Services.

Thank you, Lord.



Nativity scene in lights on church wall



Carol Service supper

Breakfast with a Difference

A Fund Raiser for Agape Hope Orphanage, Nairobi, Kenya



Gifts for the Agape Hope Children's Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

TWO MEMBERS of the Caloundra Congregation, Betty Hooper and Dorothy Cochrane, had a very creative idea to raise funds for Kenya when they planned a shared breakfast for members and friends of the Caloundra Church.

As a result they helped about seventy people have a good start to the year with a barbecue breakfast held on the first Saturday in January.

What could be described as "the usual work crew" (all well-known and well-loved in the Congregation) set up pergolas and tables, prepared food, set up the coffee and tea, and cooked eggs and bacon on the barbecues provided for the occasion.

Our purpose was to raise funds for the purchase of a special kind of kitchen stove and oven that is available in Kenya and that makes efficient use of sawdust for its only fuel.

Our target was approximately \$700, with anything more being a bonus.

Well, the target was more than reached. One faithful and faith-filled member said that we'd receive "double that amount" and so we did, and then some. The final total was over \$2100 and our thanks go to all

those members and friends of the Caloundra Congregation who gave so generously.

The seven members of the Kenya Mission Team left for Kenya on 21 January and will return home in mid-February.

We had hoped to buy just the oven/stove for the Agape Hope Children's Centre, but thanks to those who attended we will be able to do much more to encourage our Christian brothers and sisters in Kenya. Our thanks go to Betty and Dorothy and to all who helped make the occasion so enjoyable and worthwhile.

Meanwhile, thanks to the generosity of several members, another \$1000 has been given for use as needed. As a result of the Koorong New Year sale we have been able to buy \$1 000 worth of children's Bible story books (especially the Arch, the Me Too and the Jungle Doctor series) for about \$750. Hopefully we'll also be able to receive the 10% GST refund at the airport when we leave! 35% off isn't bad, especially when it's for such a good cause.

Each book was covered with contact by a team of volunteers who attended a working bee especially for the purpose. The books will be donated to two schools in Nairobi (one attached to the orphanage to which the team is going; the other in a slum on the eastern side of the city) and to two congregations on the edge of the Rift Valley, about 180 kms west of Nairobi.

Our prayer is that many children will be able to benefit from reading stories from the Bible as a result of the gifts of kind people in the Caloundra congregation.

When we give to the Lord's work not only is there blessing for the giver, but nothing is ever wasted. And when the recipients are so poor that they would not otherwise be able to see, let alone read, such books, there is blessing beyond measure.

Please pray for our team, who will be in Kenya from 21 January until they return home on 16 February. Five of our members have never been to Africa before so prayer for them will especially be appreciated.



Caste for Carol Service



Breakfast under the pergolas



Cooking breakfast



Children's books for Kenya being covered

Back to Nepal: Hope for Hearing



Ruth and Gordon Russell, CMS missionaries returning to Nepal in March 2013

CONSTRUCTING A hospital to help the deaf is just part of the vision of CMS missionaries Gordon and Ruth Russell, returning to Nepal after an absence of 15 years.

"Our vision is to see Nepali lives impacted by Christ's love through the use of our engineering and medical skills", said Ruth.

"Gordon will work with a Nepali colleague to construct a Specialist and Training Centre for Deafness. Surprisingly, moderate to severe deafness is the most common disability in Nepal, and more than half is preventable or treatable."

Gordon and Ruth are currently at St Andrew's Hall, the CMS training centre in Melbourne, prior to church deputation and their departure to Nepal in March 2013.

CMS Queensland with Northern NSW has had a long-term interest in Nepal, serving disadvantaged people through health and education, and supporting the indigenous church, particularly in training young Nepali leaders. CMS missionaries Libby and Bruce Hayes have worked in Nepal for 20 years, and a number of CMS short-term volunteers work at KISC (Kathmandu International Study Centre) where Libby is Principal.

"CMS will second us to a mission partner International Nepal Fellowship (INF) that is involved with health and development programs for marginalised communities, rehabilitation for people with disabilities, medical camps and clinics for people with leprosy and TB", said Ruth.

She said that the centre which Gordon will help to establish will provide year round treatment for hearing impaired people, and specialist training of Nepali medical

and paramedical staff. The centre will also launch community work and build up government hospital capacity.

"As Christians work there, the hearing impaired will have the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus", Ruth said.

Ruth and Gordon worked in Nepal for over a decade until the mid 1990s, and are very excited about the opportunity to return. They will be based in Pokhara, the third largest city. Ruth, a palliative care specialist who worked with The Prince Charles Palliative Care Service in recent years, is keen to use her skills there, as very little palliative care is available outside the capital city, Kathmandu.

The church in Nepal is growing rapidly, from no Christians in 1950 when this small Hindu mountain kingdom opened its borders to the outside world, to now approximately a million Christians. The indigenous church continues to reach out to remote parts of this land. There are many opportunities for mentoring and encouraging young Christian potential leaders in the maturing Nepali church.

Nepal has seen huge changes over recent decades. Formerly ruled by a king venerated as a god with absolute power, democratic change came in 1990. Maoist uprising followed by a decade of civil war with over 40,000 killed has left this beautiful mountainous land with many challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, significant poverty and unstable government.

To support the work of CMS or to learn more about mission opportunities, go to www.CMS.org.au or telephone 07 3112 6530.



Backpackers queuing

FEEDING THE (NOT QUITE) 5000 - Stanthorpe Style

TABLES AND chairs are ready, plates, serviettes and cutlery ready, barbecue plate hot and filled with sausages, other food hot (or cold as required), helpers (from Stanthorpe Presbyterian and other denominations) armed with serving spoons and ready for action.

As we look out into the hall at 6.30 pm, there do not seem to be many there.

Do we have too much food? Will they come?

This is the question we ask each time we hold a free dinner for the backpackers who arrive in Stanthorpe each fruit picking season to help bring in the 'harvest'.

Advertising brochures had been delivered to numerous sites around the district.

We usually cater for 120 young people from all around the world. We planned for the same number this time.

A quick check outside to see: now there are backpackers and backpackers queuing to be admitted; diminutive Taiwanese and lanky Germans dominating the crowd this year.

We never know just how many will come, so with 'doubting hearts' we prayed. Will there be enough food? Please, Lord, we do not want to turn anyone away with an empty stomach. More backpackers than we had soup for.

They are seated, a quick survey of countries represented among our guests, a blessing is said for the food being provided, and they are filing past the table where Bible portions and tracts are available in different languages, and then past the tables where they are served food.

More backpackers arrive. "How did you hear about this?" we enquired. "Facebook" was the reply. More chairs found. Some panic in the kitchen as more keep arriving.

At about 8.30 pm, the cleaning up is being done, rubbish thrown out, the hall (courtesy of the Anglican Parish) returned to the condition we found it in, and many helpers are taking their leave. They are leaving feeling tired, exhilarated and very blessed.

They have been part of the start of season Backpacker Dinner.

Helpers were from 11 to over 80 years old.

They (and others) provided food that fed 220 backpackers a three course meal of soup, meat and pasta dishes, vegetables and salads followed by fresh fruit salad, ice cream and apple crumble.

Some young people were able to have seconds of the desserts and some asked for the recipe for apple crumble.

Before we all left, our pastor, Greg

Fraser, prayed giving thanks that the Lord did stretch the food so that all ate well.

About 200 pieces of Christian literature were taken.

What a blessing and a privilege to serve in this way!

What will God do with this act of service in the lives of these young people?

We pray, and trust you will too, that they will be convicted of their need of a Saviour, turn to Jesus and return home a new creation.



Pastor Greg Fraser (standing) saying the blessing before the meal



Serving the international guests



Some Asian guests wanted a photo of helpers



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HOW THE WEST CAN AGAIN BE WON!

by Dr Marshall Foster

WESTERN MISSIONARIES continue to carry the teachings of Jesus to the nations as they have done for more than two centuries. Christianity is flourishing in many of those nations while at the same time, the Christian West (Europe, America, Australia, New Zealand) has been drifting from Christianity.

During the last 100 years, Western missionaries turned Africa from a continent of 9 million in 1900 to 400 million Christians today; this amounts to 59% of the population. On the other hand in the 18 years since 1990, Christianity has decreased in America from a nation in which over 86% identified themselves as Christian to below 70% today. Why is Christianity growing in many nations America helped disciple while she herself is declining?

For many Western Christians it has become more important to be American, or Australian than Christian. Some for instance have absorbed the culture of tolerance. I am talking about the new tolerance that requires all ideas to be considered of equal value. But to be Christian is to understand that Jesus, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (John 1:3; Hebrews 1:2-3), has the only ideas that will stand the test of time and eternity (Matthew 24:35).

Consider the difference between Post Modern tolerance and Christ's Great Commission. Jesus told his followers to be about the business of getting other people, whole nations in fact, to trade in their ideas for His ideas! – "teaching them to obey all the things I have commanded." Christians should never acquiesce in the idea that non-Christian ideas are as good as Christian ideas. Rather we Christians should help non-Christians junk their non-Christian ideas and replace them with Christian ideas and beliefs.

When it comes to non-Christian ideas Paul speaks in violent terms of warfare. He said we should "pull down strongholds," and "cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God," and bring "every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:4-6). This sort of thing is very un-Western, very politically incorrect!

When Paul spoke this way, he was not talking about his internal struggles as a believer. He was saying the job of ministers and of Christians is to pull down non-Christian ideas because they exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. The Christian worldview alone conforms to the real world of sin and redemption; this is the only world there is!

The Christian Worldview alone tells of creation out of nothing, of the fall of the human race into sin, and of Christ the only remedy for sin. These things are not just ideas, they are the realities of planet earth. Anyone who seeks to live life outside this Christian worldview lives in a fantasy world! In addition, to the degree the Christian consciously or unconsciously adapts to the non-believer's ideas, he himself is living partially in unreality.

The Bible and Christian doctrine apply to all people, to Adam's entire race! Those who are not conforming to Christian doctrine are living in lies, they live a fantasy! It is for this reason Paul exhorts us to "...not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

So why is the West declining? When Jesus directed, "teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you," He used a Greek word that comes from the same Greek root translated "doctrine". The Third World is growing in Christianity while the Christian West slides away for this very reason – doctrine is little

esteemed in the West, and in fact is commonly despised.

It is not uncommon to hear a Christian say something like, "I do not like doctrine. Doctrine divides people." Yet it is Christian teaching (doctrine) that defines the world as it really is. The Christian must be filled with Christian doctrine to understand the world, life, love, sin, death, eternity and everything else.

REAL WORLD VS. DREAM WORLDS

Contrary to the Post Modern claim that all ideas are of equal value, there are ideas that conform to reality and many that do not. Ideas that do not conform to reality are lies and fantasies. Jesus came to redeem us from the Lie. Jesus spoke doctrine to people as a means to that end. He said to his listeners, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority" (John 7:16-17).

One of the doctrines Jesus taught is that the Old Testament is God's Word, saying, "...the Word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). Jesus endorsed the entire Old Testament as the Word of God. Jesus told His Apostles that the Spirit of God would come and lead them into all the truth.

We believe that as the OT prophets were directed by God to write what God wanted written, so also were the New Testament writers directed. We have God's Word to mankind, the Bible. From the Bible we derive Christian doctrine which is doctrine in conformity to Christ's teaching and this is always in agreement with the entire Bible. It is Christian doctrine from the OT and NT that enables us to live in the real world. It is by Christian doctrine that we are delivered from the Lie.

Consider this – Australia and the West are in a life and death struggle. Vishal Mangalwadi recently observed that the sun is setting on the west. But, says he, and I believe it, the West can be turned around. We need to pray that God will pour out His Spirit in revival and restoration, and that Christians may see a new Great Awakening which God in His mercy could very well send in this generation.

By knowing the only True God and Jesus Christ whom He sent we know ourselves and also the world around us. God who made the universe is the starting place and ending place for thinking. Thinking not in conformity to God's thoughts is mistaken thinking, sinful thinking!

God made reality and we cannot re-make it other than it is. I do not mean we are unable to change things on planet earth; there are many things we can change. However, we cannot change the reality of gravity, nor can we change the standard right and wrong, nor judgment for sin. We cannot change the fact that this is a fallen world, that sin is pervasive in the human soul, and that the only answer to this devastation is Jesus.

Adam and Eve chose to not live in God's reality. They chose to attempt to live in a world not real. The devil said, "You will not surely die!" Now they certainly knew that God who created the Forbidden Tree and also created themselves could accurately tell them whether or not eating such a tree would cause death. Yet they chose to believe the Lie! They rejected the reality God made and accepted the Devil's suggestion that the penalty of death would not come. Death came!

[Dr Marshall Foster is the President of the World History Institute, which has been set up to help Christians in their quest to understand the world and its meaning in the light of Biblical teaching.]



Can you identify these photos?

These photos are part of the collection in archives and we are hoping that someone is able to identify the church buildings and people. If you can help with any information, could you email Dianne Parker on archives@pcq.org.au or phone Lynda on 07 3251 4173.



The staging of the development will enable the continued operation of the Theological Centre during the building phase with minimal disruption. The first stage is expected to be completed late 2013 with stage two scheduled for completion late 2014.

The multi-million dollar development will also accommodate 42

by Hannah Bailey

Are you ready to ignite?
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The Moderator, Rt Rev. David Niven, attended a farewell function for Dr Sue Farley, the Principal of Grace College, on 2 December. David is pictured with Sue and the Moderator of the Uniting Church, Queensland Synod, Rev Kaye Ronalds. David was able to speak at the function and express the gratitude of the PCQ to Sue for her commitment and dedication over the years during which she has held that position, and to wish her well in her retirement. She has done a wonderful job. David and Diane took the opportunity to have a holiday during January and the Moderator's Update will be back next edition.

The Lord provides a new home for the Darling Downs Easter Convention in Warwick

DURING THE early part of the new millennium, Darling Downs Easter Convention Committee was advised that the property in Warwick where they had met for Easter for the past 50 years known as "Kingswood Camp" was to be sold because of financial reasons.

It was a time of upheaval and sadness for the Convention organisers. What to do? Where to go? Did the Lord want the Convention to continue? Was the season finished?

The Lord was very clear that He desired for it to continue and that He would provide a new home for the Convention. Over the next few months, the Lord raised up people to carry out the task and also provided The Senior Citizens rooms in the centre of Warwick CBD as the new meeting place.

For the next few years this venue was to be a blessing and people came and enjoyed the teaching, fellowship and praise along with youth activities and primary school meetings. We began to grow and we were starting to outgrow the facilities at the current venue. Along with this, there was a strong desire to find a venue that would have accommodation attached at a reasonable price. This would

take us back to the original vision of being a family – eating, sleeping and worshipping together over the Easter break. So, the Lord then began encouraging the committee to take the next step in the journey for a larger home for the Convention.

In 2011 it was brought to the committee's attention that the Warwick Christian School Board was interested in purchasing the Anglican Slade School property which had everything we needed: dormitories, industrial kitchen, large dining hall, plenty of meeting rooms for all our requirements as well as sporting fields etc.

Thus the negotiations began to see if the journey for DDEC was to move to this new site. Over the past year we have seen the Lord working out the details and putting into place all the requirements for the move to Slade Campus in Warwick.

Our new home is at Warwick Christian School Slade Campus, 70 Horsman Road, Warwick.

Please come and join us as we celebrate Christ and His faithfulness to us over the Easter break in March 2013. For more details, look on our website www.ddcc.net.au



What is Estate Planning?

A SIGNIFICANT number of Australians have never heard of an estate plan. Up to 40% of Australians do not have a valid will and even fewer have an estate plan.

But what actually is an estate plan and why do people need one?

According to Richard Galvin, from The Trust Company: "An estate plan is more than just a Will and Enduring Power of Attorney, it encompasses your superannuation, life insurance, an Advanced Health Directive and provides strategies to help you in later life. In short it is a comprehensive plan detailing your future wishes."

"And unfortunately the consequences of getting it wrong can be very serious. The reality is that a Will can be contested and without a properly worded Will and thorough estate plan your intended beneficiaries may not end up with what you wished. Other considerations include how to leave a bequest to an organisation which is close to your heart and having a Binding Death Benefit Nomination with your Superannuation Trustee."

"Two significant changes in the retirement space are making the need for a comprehensive estate plan even more pressing. The first is that we are living longer – retirement is now at least a two staged process with early retirees enjoying the traditional retirement activities such as trips abroad. The second stage, the one perhaps we wish to think less about, is the later stages when we are slowing down and need help."

"To ensure your later years are comfortable and how you wish them to be there are plans you should put in place now, such as an Enduring Power of Attorney. This document enables you to nominate who you wish to manage your financial affairs when you are no longer able to."

"Whoever you nominate under the Power of Attorney must be somebody you trust and have confidence that they will have the ability and willingness to step into your financial shoes. Another option is to engage a trusted organisation specialising in this service. Many clients of The Trust Company use the Lifestyle Assist service to help them in managing their day-to-day financial affairs."

"Our clients find that this assistance helps them obtain peace of mind and retain their independence for as long as possible. We find that families value this service too as it enables them to focus their time and energy on their relationship with their loved ones rather than getting bogged down in administrative work. In many cases, the burden of managing their parents' affairs usually rests with one sibling or the parent does not want the family to know how much money they have and try to go it alone."

"As the financial management is handled by an independent party there are no conflicts of interest, you can be sure you won't outlive your nominated attorney and every dollar is accounted for."

"The second biggest change the estate planning industry has seen over the past twenty years is the rise in blended families. With a third of all marriages ending in divorce the reality is that provisions need to be built into an estate plan. While most people won't face the legal complexities of Peter Brock's estate or the Rineharts', deaths, births, marriages and divorces all have a major impact on estate plans. Again, seeking the appropriate advice is essential to ensure your intended beneficiaries are looked after according to your wishes."

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WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH BREEANA HOPPER AND JESSICA HOPPER ABOUT FAMILIES, FINISHING SCHOOL, FUTURE PLANS AND FAITH

Wendy: Welcome Breeana and Jessica, to the first Girl Talk for 2013. Let's start by talking about families. You both have the same surname, but are not sisters ... so how are you related to one another, Breeana?

Breeana: Our dads are brothers, so that makes us cousins.

W: And you don't live in the same place, do you? Tell us about that Jess.

Jessica: Well, actually, we officially do now because we have moved from Townsville to the Gold Coast, where Breeana lives.

W: But you both finished Year 12 at the end of 2012. Right? And there is another family member that has done the same. Who is that and where does she live?

J: So Nicole, our "second cousin" (well that's what we call her), has recently finished school as well. We see her when we go to our grandparents for Christmas, because they all live at Bell, which is half-way between Kingaroy and Dalby.

W: What did you all do together to celebrate the end of twelve long years of school?

B: Jess and I decided to go to JumpStart Schoolies at Straddie, even though both our dads would be attending. Then I convinced Nicole to come with us ... and how could she resist a week on the beach?

W: So all three of you were there with your 2 Dads as well ... a real family occasion! What was the very best thing about JumpStart for you Jessica?

J: Mmmm ... relaxing on the beach and having a week of nothing after having a stressful year of schooling ... clicking with girls our age and even though Sophie (one of the girls we met) moved far away, Dakota (our new friend) is close enough to visit.

W: And what did you think, Breeana?

B: Schoolies was a time I could catch up with many friends I met that year and to meet new ones. It was a time I could listen to God's Word through Danny Mitchell and relax with Jess.

W: Why should every Year 12 student consider going to JumpStart instead of "schoolies" at Surfers?

J: Having a week you can remember with friends you'll keep!

B: It's a time when you can get some friends together and chill on the beach and do the pay-as-you-go activities - you can choose to do some activities and not do others.

W: "Pay-as-you-go"? What kinds of activities were they?

B: These included sea-kayaking, surfing, golf, sand boarding and much more.

W: Sounds wonderful! I believe you've both been to several other camps run by the Pressy church. What were they like and what challenges did they provide for you? Breeana?

B: YNET - it was good for learning how to help in Kid's Church and Youth Group. LAUNCH was another great camp where we learnt how to be leaders. FUN AND ADVENTURE was a challenging camp as Christianity isn't the main focus, so being an older Christian girl, it was good to show the younger girls (and some boys) that it's ok to be open about Christianity. Learning to create an environment where we share God's love was a challenge. NQ EXTREME in 2011 gave me an idea of what that looks like and really encouraged me to want these people to have the love I've been given and that we all have in Christ.

W: What about you Jessica?

J: "Several" is a understatement of how many camps I've been on, because of my dad Dave's involvement. NQ EXTREME has become more of a home than a camp, as we have all grown up together, reuniting several youth groups across North Queensland each year. It has been challenging, as a young Christian teenager, to listen to the talks each year and then apply what I had learnt back home. But with the new friendships that I made each year we were able to keep in contact and encourage each other when times were tough.

W: Now that Year 12 is behind you, can you reflect on what it was like and share any tips you have for those about to begin this important year ... the things you wish someone had told you back then ... Jessica?

J: I was never the one to stress about school work, about getting that A and being above everyone else. It was more about "if you get a C - you celebrate!" But something I wish I had realised was ... that the moments you have with your friends are going to be harder to come by ... and those boring English lessons (that I never understood) are now actually just memories!

B: I was a bit of a "stress head" (different to Jess) but I had a close friend to always remind me of Jeremiah 29:11, that God has a plan! My advice would have to be ... don't get too caught up in school work or friends or part-time jobs ... but make time for doing something you enjoy... and let Year 12 be about celebrating the 12 hard years you have being slaving away and knowing that you have done it!

W: And while we're reflecting, can you share a bit about what it's like to be a Christian teenager among so many others who are not? How hard is it to share your faith with them ... Breeana?

B: Really hard! Going through school, not everyone knew I was a Christian, and it was very easy to let the "what-did-you-do-on-the-weekend" question slip by instead of using it as an opportunity. But it was really encouraging going to youth group and having a time when people talked about how they shared Christ ... and thinking "Next time I'll have an answer!"

Jessica and Breeana Hopper

W: Jessica?

J: Everyone at school knew I was a Christian, so sharing my faith was never really an issue. However living my faith out was very difficult when there are loads of influences that drag you away. I tried hard to be in a non-Christian environment and show them the love God has for them. From this I had many opportunities to share the "two ways to live".

W: So now, what are your plans for the future? More study? Work? A year off? How about you, Jessica?

J: We are waiting and waiting and waiting ... to see if we are accepted into university.

W: Waiting is so hard! What are your plans, Breeana?

B: Yeah, definitely waiting, but it would be better if we had some knowledge on how this whole uni thing worked because we are the first kids in our immediate family to go through this process.

W: So with what is left of your holidays, how do you intend to relax and/or prepare for the year ahead?

J: Working to earn a bit of money and head out to our grandparents' farm with all the family for Christmas.

B: Yeah, Christmas with the family will be good, especially Grandma's cooking. Then relaxing and taking it easy.

W: Thanks, girls, for sharing about this exciting time in your lives. We pray that God will bless you with His grace and peace, and that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

"Be strong and courageous.....The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."
Deuteronomy 31: 7-8

- As we take up our respective responsibilities in this new year, pray for strength and courage to face the challenges of life at all its levels.
- Pray for little girls beginning school for the first time, for students at high schools wanting to share their faith in Christ with their friends, for others who are graduating from school and going on to further education or starting work, for women entering a new season in their lives as wives, mothers, grandmothers, and for those who are longing for those seasons to begin.
- Pray for women who are facing new and unexpected situations (or perhaps continuing ones) like unemployment, financial difficulties, broken relationships, coping as a single parent or a working mum, caring for an aged parent, managing a serious illness, or grieving the loss of a loved one.
- Thank God that He has promised in His Word that He will be with us always and never leave us or forsake us.
- Pray for those we know (and others that we don't) who do not yet know Jesus as Lord of their lives and therefore do not have the hope of the promises He gives. Pray for opportunities to share our testimonies with them, read the Word with them and encourage them to trust their lives to the One who can rescue them from the darkness of life without Him.
- Praise God for the relative safety and security we enjoy, living in a country like Australia. Pray for our governments, as they make decisions affecting our personal welfare and the way we, as a nation, assist those in and from other countries. Give thanks that women here are mostly treated well and pray for women in other countries where this is not the case.
- Give thanks for Christian homes, families, churches and schools in Australia, where girls have opportunities to grow, learn and develop into young women, within a framework of Biblical womanhood. Pray for little girls in other parts of the world who are treated badly simply because they are girls and not given opportunities for education, health care, or to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ask God for wisdom in how we might offer encouragement and assistance in these situations.
- Also pray that we might show compassion on women worldwide who are abused through sex trafficking and forced prostitution, gender-based violence (like honour killings and mass rape), and for those who are destined to become statistics in the maternal mortality rate (one woman per minute!). Ask God to give us strength to challenge these injustices in appropriate ways, and at the same time acknowledge that domestic violence and sex trafficking are occurring even in our own neighbourhoods! Pray for courage to stand against actions that are not God-honouring, in ways that are helpful and not merely empty words.
- Pray for women in ministry as they work alongside men as part of God's plan to reach all the nations with the gospel message of hope and forgiveness through Jesus.
- Keep on praying for the WMPCQ committee in 2013 as we face the challenges of reflecting on and rejuvenating our work with the women of Queensland. Pray that God will raise up many women who have a passion for ministering to other women and that they will express an interest in wanting to be part of this important work (see contact email below). Pray that God might grant us all the strength and courage to use our gifts to grow His Kingdom according to His plan and for His glory.



Footnote: Be Connected with WMPCQ through the website + newsletter www.wmpcq.com or email pcqwomen@gmail.com Visit WMPCA website www.gaawomensministry.com

JumpStart Schoolies

Reaching the Kids: Shoving the Gospel down Gen Z’s Throats

Chapter 11: ... BUT I CAN STILL ENGAGE THEM; RIGHT?

‘The root of all evil is not money, it’s boredom.’ Paris Hilton

CONGRATULATIONS. YOU’VE managed to wade through all the theory and you’ve finally arrived at the practical section. *(Either that or you cheated and skipped straight to this chapter.)*

It’s important to remember that through all the doom and gloom of the various long words that I’ve attempted to explain throughout the course of this discussion, there is still hope for our kids. Ramesh Manoch says, *‘Parents and sensible people can take control of the situation ... The message is not social apocalypse. But if we remain as passive observers of the assault on childhood it will overwhelm members of the younger generation.’*

I’m a parent and a reasonably sensible person. It’s time to take control of this situation. Let me remind you of the strategy that the apostle Paul used to engage a culture and point them to God.

When Paul spoke to the Colossians, he showed them how much he loved them (Colossians 1:3-14), reminded them of the supremacy of Christ (1:15-23), and then chastised them lovingly for being taken ‘captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy’ (2:8).

Look at it this way. Paul reminds them of the fact that he has worked hard on building their relationship (1:3-14); therefore he has earned the right to speak to them about the things they are struggling with. He reminds them of the ultimate truth (1:15-23) and then he encourages them to steer away from deceptive philosophy, such as the philosophy which we’ve looked at throughout the course of my reflections (2:8).

This strategy or philosophy doesn’t need to change when dealing with kids in the 21st century. We must follow the same procedure: earn the right to talk to them by building relationships, reminding (or indeed teaching) them of the truth (seeing as ‘the search for truth’ is the all-consuming idea of post-modernism), and encouraging them to steer away from materialism, consumerism, hyper-reality, addiction (to technology, communication etc), pluralism and lots of other deceptive philosophy (and long words!).

There are seven strategies that I want to bring to your attention in this chapter that may help you with the wondrous, yet often petrifying, task of shoving the gospel down Gen Z’s throats’. These seven strategies will hopefully sit nicely in the framework that Paul uses as he battles with the Colossians.

I’ve had the opportunity to develop these strategies through my work as a youth leader, children’s worker, youth and children’s camp co-ordinator and director, high school teacher and, more recently, parent of small children.

I have taken these ideas from books, DVDS, colleagues, friends and even family members. All I’ve done is put them altogether in print so that we might all have a permanent record of some strategies that just might work as we seek to explain the gospel clearly to the kids.

Are you ready? Here they are:

1. Kids need relationships
2. Kids need time
3. Kids need structure
4. Kids need to be engaged
5. Kids love technology
6. Kids need creativity
7. Kids need love ... Christian love!

In other words, we need to build relationships with the kids by giving them time and structure. We then earn the opportunity to speak to them about the gospel, and show them the gospel by the way we live. To do this we must engage them. We can engage them using technology and creativity, and we can convince them of the truth of the gospel if we can show them godly, Christian love.

1. Kids need relationships

Before I begin this section, I wish to clarify something. The word ‘relationship’ is not a great word to use here. I have a relationship with my wife, and I want to have a relationship with the kids I come across, both girls and boys. The connotation of the word can unfortunately be that of a sexual predator. I most certainly don’t want to be that. If I announce that I am ‘actively pursuing a relationship’ with a female student or youth group member, then I am treading in very dangerous territory. As a responsible Christian man, I want to develop relationships firstly with my

male students for the sake of the gospel. In our current society, this is my first point of call. I can build a ‘relationship’ with a male student much more safely than a female student.

This shouldn’t mean though, that I ignore girls, or leave them up to the women. And so I’ve invented my own terminology. I wish to engage in *a gospel relationship* with the kids I come across. This is where I actively pursue a friendship with any kid where I can share my faith for the sake of the gospel. So perhaps I should change the title of this section to:

1. Kids need gospel relationships

The author of a recent book, *God in MySpace*, is a guy named Derek Knoke. He writes about the problem of relationships in this technological age. In fact, the rest of the title of his book is - *Answering Questions of Loneliness and Identity*. He explains how he got to the point where he felt he needed to write a book on relationships.

‘A recent church plant in our area began with an informal neighbourhood survey. The pastor asked people what they felt they needed more than anything and the recurring response was, ‘real relationships’. Immediately, something in those words resonated in my spirit and with the numerous stories of loneliness expressed by searching young adults and masked in the deviant behaviours of youth.’

So many kids feel disconnected from those around them in their immediate world. This is why kids need relationships.

Before you earn the right to speak the gospel into the lives of the kids you come across, you must first earn their relationship. This has always been the case, but it is perhaps harder than ever in the 21st century. The kids that we come across are often:

- (a) not good at forming relationships, or
- (b) not interested in forming relationships.

If the kids are not good at forming relationships, we need to be teaching them how to make friends at the same time as we befriend them. These two strategies work hand-in-hand. If we’re helping them to form positive relationships with others, then we will always come out at the end as someone with whom they wish to have a relationship with. If the kids are not interested in forming relationships, then this is where the struggle really begins.

Here are some ideas and things to think about as you begin the quest to befriend a kid who is not interested in forming a relationship.

(a) Seek them out

Kids love it when you make your way through a crowd to find them. This strategy can be very useful.

Firstly choose a kid with whom you wish to pursue a gospel relationship. Seek them out through the crowd (either at church, school, camp etc), make your way to them and engage them in positive conversation. Once you move on, this particular kid will no doubt be excited that you chose to make a beeline for them.

One way I like to do this is to choose a kid whom I have had a run in with. Once I have made my way over to him (it’s usually a boy!) and he thinks he’s in trouble for something that he’s probably done, I encourage him by engaging in conversation with him.

‘How was your weekend champ?’

Once he gets over the preliminary shock, he will no doubt enjoy the positive attention I give him. Our gospel relationship will hopefully take a step forward.

(b) Tell them stories

One of the best ways to allow a gospel relationship to bloom is to show the kids that you are human too. This can be done very easily in the form of stories. Over the past twelve months in my Biblical Studies classes at College, I have been amazed by the reaction of the students to the stories that I tell about me. The kids were in fits of laughter when I told them the story of my one year old puking into my open mouth.

I play a game at the start of every term called, ‘My Holiday Story is Better than Yours!’ The game works as follows; I tell the kids the funniest or most interesting thing that happened to me on my holiday and then they try and beat it with a story of their own. If they’re funnier than me they win.

It’s a great chance to build a relationship with the kids that you are trying to share the gospel with.

Storying is a skill in itself. Telling a great story is all about delivery, timing and confidence. When you have a really neat story to tell a room of Gen Zs, make sure that you deliver it with suspense, plenty of actions and hand gestures, and a nice loud voice. When you get to the punch line of the story, whether funny or not, make sure that you react – laugh, groan, roll your eyes, etc.

Look to incorporate stories into devotions, Bible studies, upfront programs and even lessons as often as you can. You’ll be amazed at how the kids respond.

(c) Don’t cross the line

Keep in mind that building relationships with kids can be a liturgical minefield. It’s important that you are there for the kids, and want to get to know them without crossing the line.

Don’t give kids access to your Facebook page. Don’t counsel them one-on-one, particular across genders. Don’t tell them secrets and don’t let them tell you secrets.

However, be willing to ask the tough questions – how did you hurt your arm? How come you’ve been away for a week? Why don’t you talk to the new kid?

Word of warning: be careful that you don’t invest all of your time into a kid who is clearly rejecting your attempts to befriend them. Sometimes personality clashes or timing (I’m not interested or ready to be a friend with someone who I know wants to shove ‘God stuff’ down my throat) means that the harder we push the friendship, the further we push them away from it.

Kids have usually got plenty of mates. They’re not looking for another mate from those who are in charge of them. We don’t need the latest gadgets and products to be accepted by the kids. What they need is someone that they know they can lean on, who sets good, firm boundaries, and someone who won’t let them down.

The biggest thing that they need is someone who gives them time.

2. Kids need time.

Without wanting to get bogged down I do want to draw your attention to some government legislation that has crept into our welfare system in the last few years. The government has decided that a sole, or primary care-giver (ie the mother or the father who stays at home to look after the kids) is only to be given suitable welfare payments until their youngest child is six years old. At this stage the caregiver is to return to work. This new legislation has snuck into play since 2005 when the Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Amendment (Welfare to Work and Other Measures) Bill 2005 and the Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare to Work) Bill 2005 was originally enacted.

Dr Elspeth McInness of the University of South Australia proposes that *‘unpaid care work... [is] at once essential to human existence, and... invisible and taken for granted. Contemporary society is thus far oblivious of the consequences of reducing and preventing unpaid care provision in families.’*

Basically, what Dr McInness is implying is that the ramifications for caregivers returning to work at such an early stage in their child’s development (just six years old) are going to greatly increase over the next few years. These ramifications are understated now, but in the future they will be enormous.

This legislation shows the government’s hand; they no longer hold as a priority the notion that our children need to be cared for at home, by their parents, for as long as possible to prevent a myriad of social problems.

‘One of the key known elements for children’s development is having consistent parental presence and involvement, with a school, community and Government standing behind in total support and encouragement. The current legislation demonstrates a disregard for the value of parenting in a child’s development.’

What does all this mean for us as gospel-promoters? As I’ve already mentioned, our children are more under-parented perhaps, than any other time in history. The kids are spending more and more time alone, or in the company of similar-aged friends

and neighbours. They need quality time with adults who care for them. How can we give kids time?

(a) Just chillax

I’m involved in the organisation of a group called B.O.B.S. at the College where I work. It stands for Building Outstanding Blokes. We spend an hour-and-a-half every Friday afternoon hanging out with about a dozen boys.

At the start of the third year in which I was involved in this group, I was talking to another staff member about how we might modify the program so that we could actually teach the boys things like taking responsibility, dealing with parents, acting like a man etc in a structured and explicit format. We very quickly came to the conclusion that this is not what the boys needed. They didn’t need worksheets and group times. What they needed was time. In many cases their own fathers didn’t give it to them, and they were crying out for someone to give them the time of day. So that’s what we continued to do, and I believe it was the best decision we could make.

In your dealings with kids, don’t feel like you always need to get a workbook out, or plan a structured study etc, rather just spend time doing fun stuff and showing them how to live as a Christian, rather than telling them. It’s easy to fall into the trap of planning programs, activities, lessons and events for our kids that are chock-full of excitement action and movement. We must make sure that in our planning we are consciously attempting to incorporate time where we just sit and chat with the kids we are trying to build a gospel relationship with. Kids don’t do this very much anymore. Grab two cans of Coke and meet a kid under a tree for a spontaneous and unplanned conversation. Give them some time to express themselves and enjoy their company.

(b) Ensure you are listening as much as you are talking

I often find myself thinking of the next thing that I want to say while the other person is talking. It’s possibly my worst habit and one that I’m keen to reverse. It’s important that when you are spending some time with kids that you are concentrating on what they say.

(c) Be a role model

When we do manage to find time to give the kids, we need to make sure that we are modelling Christian behaviour.

One of the current debates filtering through talkback radio across our country is that of the definition of a role model. Football players, swimmers, actors, politicians, celebrities, parents; nobody is quite sure who is a role model and who is not. It’s important that we differentiate between who is a role model and who is a hero. For example football players are heroes, not role models. However, if we as adults (parents, teachers, youth leaders et al) don’t take responsibility to be role models for our kids, then the kids will start imitating the actions of their favourite football player, singer, movie star etc.

We can be a role model by ensuring that the way that we live imitates scripture.

‘What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?’ James 2:14

The most important thing to remember is that we shouldn’t just be imitating scripture in the company of kids but across all aspects of our life. If we behave like monkeys when we think that the kids aren’t watching, we’ll end up with banana all over our faces when someone ‘accidentally’ sees us. Regardless of that though, we know that at all times God is watching and sees how we live. Jesus speaks constantly in the gospels about the hypocritical behaviour of the teachers of the law; we don’t want to fall into the trap of saying one thing, but doing another thing, right?

3. Kids need structure

Now I know that under the heading, ‘Kids need time – Just chillax’ I spoke about the benefit of ‘unstructured conversation’ with kids but there are two aspects to structure which I wish to expand on here.

The first aspect relates to the fact that kids these days live very unstructured lives. Generally speaking, home life is hectic and busy and structure is the first thing that goes. Dinner is a different

time each night. Kids spend a week on and week off with separated parents. Nobody really knows what’s happening on the weekend and often there’s no one home when the kids get home from school.

Even structured recreational and extra-curricular activities are non-existent for a high number of households. An American report states that less than one in ten children could be described as over-scheduled, and 40% of kids do not participate in any out-of-school activity. The structure of weekly soccer practice or morning band rehearsals is important for the development of a well-rounded individual, but this structure has gone out the window as parents get busier and busier.

Dr Laura Markham says this about structure and change:

‘A predictable routine allows children to feel safe, and to develop a sense of mastery in handling their lives. As this sense of mastery is strengthened, they can tackle larger changes ...

While helping children feel safe and ready to take on new challenges and developmental tasks would be reason enough to offer them structure, it has another important developmental role as well. Structure and routines teach kids how to constructively control themselves and their environments.’

Structure in the home allows the kids the chance to feel safe and comfortable. This same philosophy can be adapted to ministry.

When the class or group time that you are promoting is structured in such a way that the kids know what they can expect, they feel safe and comfortable.

Therefore, if you are trying to engage the kids, use structure. Structure is a normal and healthy part of life. When a kid knows that at 6 pm the entire family will sit down for 30 minutes for dinner, they can look forward to spending time with their folks. When a kid knows that every Tuesday afternoon is soccer training, it gives them something to look forward to.

When a kid knows that the Bible Study starts at 7:30 pm and finishes at 8:30 pm, they are comfortable with the structure and more likely to participate.

When designing lessons or activities for kids, try using structure in the following ways:

Start the same way each time.

Teach good habits: Before you launch into a series of Bible studies, teach your students how to read their Bible.

Structure the layout of the room. It may feel relaxed and hip to have the kids lounging around the room during the lesson or group time, but if you have them sitting in a circle, or on chairs, the kids can see that there is a structure in place that allows them to learn. As a rule of thumb, ensure that all members of the group can see all the other members. You can do this easily by all sitting at the same level.

If we can assist the kids to develop an understanding of how much better a structured life can be, they might take some of this and incorporate it into their lives as they move into adulthood.

The second aspect of structure is that kids have shorter attention spans than ever, and can be resistant to learning about anything to do with the Bible.

To combat this, make sure that you start on time and finish on time. Don’t go 20 minutes over the stated finish time because this will turn the kids off coming the next time (if it’s optional).

Follow a regular format: welcome, prayer time, Bible study, game, food each time and structure the timing. Start your lesson the same time each day/week etc and ensure that in the first few minutes of your lesson or activity you give the kids a basic run down on what will happen today.

‘Today we’re going to read through Mark 2 and then discuss it in small groups. After this we’re going to have some fun doing a role play and then we’ll wrap up with an all-in prayer time.’

This way, the kids know at all times where you currently are in your overall scheme. They are more likely to pay attention when they know that the end is nigh, and they will be less resistant if you ensure that you stick to the timing that you announce.

4. Kids need to be engaged

Ever taught a lesson or Bible study and realized that you’ve lost the kids in the first five minutes? After this,

CEO celebrates 10 years



PresCare’s CEO, Greg Skelton, celebrated 10 years of service in November at a special morning tea at Corporate Office. He began working for PresCare as Chief Financial Officer in 2002, taking over as CEO in February 2010. Greg has been instrumental in leading the organisation through the development and opening of Vela, its new residential aged care facility at Carina, and the approval of the redevelopment of Hopetoun. Pictured here with Kristine Wobcke, Jody Spurrier and Vicki Mannion who have shared his 10 year journey.

New Day Therapy Centre officially opened

PRESCARE DAY Therapy Centre was officially opened on 6 December by CEO Greg Skelton.

Day Therapy Centre Manager Elaine Vermeulen said guests from PresCare’s Board and Corporate Office, local service providers and clients attended the opening.

“We had over 50 people join us to celebrate the Day Therapy Centre’s relocation to Coopers Plains. It was wonderful to be able to share what we have accomplished since moving.”

The Day Therapy Centre receives Federal and Queensland Government funding to provide services to frail aged and people with disabilities; as well as offering privately funded services.

It provides services that support older people to stay at home and be more independent in the community.

Elaine said the services the Day Therapy Centre provides to clients in south-east Queensland include speech pathology, physiotherapy, balance and weights groups, and other allied health services.

“Our services are vital in helping people optimise their day-to-day quality of life, degree of independence, and risk of further problems.

“We have a fantastic team of experienced professionals, who work with their clients to keep them at home longer”, Elaine said.



Below Rt Rev David Niven at the opening of Day Therapy Centre



Greg Skelton and Elaine Vermeulen at the opening of Day Therapy Centre

For Community Services enquiries, call 1-800-PRESCARE (1-800 773 722) or visit www.prescare.org.au



A place for blokes



Lake Sherrin's Men's Shed

LAKE SHERRIN has a new meeting place, just for blokes, with the opening of a new Men's Shed.

The Men's Shed program is a modern version of the backyard shed where men get together to create and build – and to connect with other men.

Quickly becoming a national phenomenon, the number of Men's Sheds has doubled from 400 to 860 since 2010.

Lake Sherrin resident Bill Wilson is the heart behind the Thornland-based Men's Shed. A man with a strong community spirit, Bill is passionate about people and finding ways to bring them together.

Bill said the Shed is a way to get men together to talk. “If a man has problems at home, he can come here to talk with other men. If he has medical problems he can't talk to a woman about, he can come here.”

The Lake Sherrin Men's Shed meets every Wednesday morning for a cuppa and to work on various projects.

Bill said the projects they work on vary depending on people's skills. “Some people can use a lathe or make

toys; projects are worked on in their own time at their own pace,” he said.

“We can make things for people in the community; they just need to ask.”

Members of Men's Sheds come from all walks of life - the bond that unites them is that they are men with time on their hands and they would like something meaningful to do with that time.

Bill said there is no age limit for members. “We welcome all men with all skill levels. The Men's Shed is a place for men to spend time together, keep busy and know they have somewhere they can talk and be heard,” he said.

The Lake Sherrin Men's Shed currently has an application with the Federal Government to secure funds to purchase more equipment for the Shed.

“We have bought some equipment from the money raised at BBQs held at the local Bunnings (we have three more in December); we need to raise \$3,000 to put power on in the big shed,” Bill said.

Welcome to new volunteers



Volunteers trained up - LtoR Laurel Mooney, Julie Hoffmann, Robyn Sansbury, Joan Grayson, Paulette Walker, Beverley Hamey

A NEW team of volunteers underwent training at the Caboolture Presbyterian Church on 26 September ... and are ready to make a difference in the lives of the people we care for.

Laurel Mooney and Paulette Walker will be visiting Seasons at

Bribie Island together to see our clients.

Joan Grayson and Beverley Hamey will be helping Robyn Sansbury, PresCare's Pastoral Carer, on social days for Caloundra clients.

What's on ...

briefly

INVITATION TO MODERATOR

If you are holding an important event in your church this year and wish to invite Mr Niven as Moderator, contact details are email: david.r.niven@optusnet.com.au (preferred); phone: 07 3851 0815 (home); Mob: 0407 468 701

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

Any charges wishing to make changes to their entry in the White Pages should contact Church Office on 3251 4100 or email churchoffice@pcq.org.au

HELP FOR ARCHIVES

Since the refurbishment of Church Office the books kept by archives are needing to be sorted into order. If anyone has library experience and would be willing to help catalogue these books, could they please email Dianne Parker on archives@pcq.org.au or contact Church Office on 3252 4173.

INVITATION TO MODERATOR-ELECT

Mr Greg Rodgers will be inducted as Moderator at the upcoming Assembly in June. His chaplains will be Revs Garnet Swann and Matt Viney. If your church is wanting to invite Mr Rodgers to an event, please contact Rev. Matt Viney at pcq2013@gmail.com or mobile 0411 462 734.

UNIT TO LET

CALOUNDR, beachside units, from \$400/week. For details contact Ray on 0427 990 161/ rayandjean@hotmail.com.

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March 12-14

QTC

Getting Messy with Messy Church

COME AND meet Lucy Moore, founder of Messy Church UK, as she presents “Messy Church Explained” workshops in four centres across Queensland in 2013.

“God’s the wave under the surfboard and most of the time we’re just hanging on for dear life wondering where he’s going to hurl us next!” comments Lucy Moore about God’s part in the UK-founded Messy Church phenomenon she leads.

Lucy began exploring the idea of making a deliberate mess of church in 2004. The ‘mess’ was an attempt to engage children and their families, together, in church services.

“When we started Messy Church, it was obvious that not only was this going to be messy with glue and paint - it was reaching the messy edges of our community and people whose lives are in a mess”, Lucy reflects.

Lucy is returning to Australia in February 2013 as part of a national tour sponsored by the Uniting Church in WA, SA and Queensland and in partnership with the Queensland Children’s Ministry Network.

Messy Church, in essence, is a multi-age congregational planting strategy that focuses on connecting with ‘unchurched’ children and their families.

With over 1,400 registered Messy Church expressions around the world this ministry strategy is making genuine and lasting connections with local communities.

The 70+ registered Messy Church expressions in Australia are expected to grow rapidly as a consequence of Lucy’s visits in 2012 and 2013.

A typical Messy Church takes place monthly at a time and place chosen intentionally to encourage local community participation.

All are welcome: single, widowed, childless, divorced. Church is inclusive, not exclusive.

Messy Church invites people into an experience of Christian community, helping people of all ages to feel that they belong in church and to each other, and introducing them to Jesus through hospitality, friendship, stories and worship.

A Messy Church expression could be a great way for your community to engage with the children and their families in your local community.

Come and meet Lucy, be warmed by her enthusiasm and passion and benefit from her down to earth wealth of knowledge about the church and families.

‘Messy Church Explained’ workshops will take place in the regional centres below.

Each participating church will receive a FREE copy of Lucy’s book *Messy Church*.

Cost: \$20 pp or \$15 pp with a booking of 3 or more from the same church (dinner provided).

Register online at www.event.goregister.com.au/messychurchqld2013

MESSY CHURCH WORKSHOPS

TOOWOOMBA:

Tuesday 26 February
5:30-9:00 pm
@ LifeWorks Uniting Church, 202 Russell Street

MARYBOROUGH:

Wednesday 27 February
5:30-9:00 pm
@ Maryborough Baptist Church, 168 Fort St

GLADSTONE:

Thursday 28 February
5:30-9:00 pm
@ Gladstone Baptist Church, 4 Archer St

BRISBANE:

Lucy will present ‘Messy Church Explained’ as a Master Class at the IGNITE Children’s Ministry Conference and EXPO on Saturday, 2 March. Information and registration at www.igniteexpo.org.au

Planning Team:

Tim Griggs | Youth & Families’ Minister, Uniting Church | tim_griggs7@yahoo.com | 0417 706 304
Paul Clark | Senior Pastor, Redcliffe Uniting Church | paul_bec@dovenetq.net.au | 0404 856 778
Terry Williams | Children’s Ministry Specialist, SU Queensland | terryw@su.org.au | 0403 187 070

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REGISTER ONLINE
www.event.goregister.com.au/messychurchqld2013

BRISBANE
Lucy will present *Messy Church Explained* as a Master Class at the IGNITE Children’s Ministry Conference & EXPO Saturday 2 March 2013. Information and registration at www.igniteexpo.org.au

Come and meet Lucy Moore, founder of Messy Church UK, as she presents Messy Church Explained workshops in 4 centres across Queensland in 2013.

“God’s the wave under the surfboard and most of the time we’re just hanging on for dear life wondering where he’s going to hurl us next!” comments Lucy Moore about God’s part in the UK-founded, Messy Church phenomenon she leads.

Lucy began exploring the idea of making a deliberate mess of church in 2004. The ‘mess’ was an attempt to engage children and their families, together, in church services.

“When we started Messy Church, it was obvious that not only was this going to be messy with glue and paint - it was reaching the messy edges of our community and to people whose lives are in a mess,” Lucy reflects.

Lucy is returning to Australia in February 2013 as part of a national tour sponsored by the Uniting Church in WA, SA and Qld and in partnership with the Qld Children’s Ministry Network.

Messy Church, in essence, is a multi-age congregational planting strategy that focuses on connecting with ‘unchurched’ children and their families. With over 1,400 registered Messy Church expressions around the world this ministry strategy is making genuine and lasting connections with local communities.

A Messy Church expression could be a great way for your community to engage with the children and their families in your local community.

Come and meet Lucy, be warmed by her enthusiasm and passion and benefit from her down to earth wealth of knowledge about the church and families.

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The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNDICATE

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Jumpstart Schoolies 2012

AS I sit here pondering the end of 2012 and just how quickly it arrived, I remember just how great Jumpstart Schoolies was this year.

With the madness and chaos that comes with the close of a year, enjoying a week at beautiful Stradbroke Island with four dozen excited and relieved school leavers is about as good as it gets.

You see, these school leavers are young adults who have already made a great start to adulthood by electing to bypass the Schoolies traditions at the Gold Coast and spend a week celebrating around good food, new friends and the Word of God. These are the young people who will lead our churches in the future and it’s great to spend time with them at this special time of their life.

Sure, it’s nice to sit and chat to them, but it’s even better to do this while flying down sandhills at night, sea kayaking through the mangroves, face-planting on a surfboard, enjoying delicious gelati, and playing a game of pool or two. Of course, this year, Zac Brown managed to do all of this the best, winning all the Jumpstart Schoolies trophies. But, let’s not tell him that we let him win, eh?

Although it’s ‘tough work’ for the leaders who come to sit through the most relaxing week of their year, their contribution was valuable and

important. The role of camp leader on Jumpstart is really a mentoring role, as the young adults that attend are looking for advice and reassurance for the years ahead. Whether the schoolies are planning to attend uni or heading into the workforce, the leaders are able to offer advice and support. Of course the incredible food simply adds to the vibe of the week, so to all of our leaders and caterers we say THANKS!

This year, Danny Mitchell (Arundel Presbyterian Church) took us all through the idea of REST in Scripture. A very apt theme for the week. We basically took a tour of the Bible, looking at this theme that starts on the seventh day of creation and climaxes in the book of Hebrews, and concludes in Revelation.

It was a great balanced set of talks that spoke the gospel clearly to any new Christians, and yet challenged those who have known Christ for a while to re-think this idea. So Danny, thanks mate! Some great electives on Christian Manhood/Womanhood and life at Uni/Work from a Christian perspective were also provided.

To those who are heading into their final year of schooling, can I encourage you to take a Jumpstart into your future by electing to come along to Jumpstart Schoolies 2013. You won’t regret it, that’s for sure!

Here is what one parent said after her daughter returned from Jumpstart Schoolies:

*Hi Schoolies Leaders,
Thanks so much for organising such a fantastic week of activities, fun and fabulous Christian messages for our graduating Seniors. My daughter has been able to give me lots of stories of some of the highlights filled with squeals of delight (if you know her at all you know what I mean). She also passed on a quick summary of the Christian messages that were covered by the Guest Speaker from Brisbane and remembered their reference points in the Bible. I could not be happier with this positive alternative to Schoolies for our precious young people.*

Thanks also for organising the transport ... Thanks again for the tremendous time my daughter experienced.

*Wishing you the Lord’s richest blessing from a grateful mum.
Thanks heaps.*

Be sure to register early and secure your place at Jumpstart Schoolies 2013. Places are limited.

www.y.net.org.au/jumpstartschoolies

John Mansfield
Schoolies Coordinator

