

NEW



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DIRECTIONS

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



IN THIS ISSUE ...

Children's holiday program at Ann Street	P. 3
Cross cultural mission in Thailand	P. 6
Girl Talk - Janelle Henderson	P. 15
Kingsford Terrace development	P. 16
Update from the Moderator	P. 17

IN JANUARY this year, a team of seven from the Caloundra Presbyterian Church left Australia to spend nearly four weeks in Kenya. This is quite possibly the first time that a mission team has gone overseas from the Caloundra congregation, but we trust that it will not be the last.

The team consisted of Eleanor Donaghey, Trevor Hamey, Erin Higgins (Eleanor's granddaughter from the South Toowoomba Presbyterian Church), Barbara Johnson, Margaret Kennedy, and Ian and Norma McIver. For five team members it was their first visit to Africa.

Every team member paid their own way and all gifts received from the Caloundra congregation and others were used exclusively to support the various ministries that we visited in Kenya. All decisions about the use of team funds were made after discussion by the whole team. We had a great team and a great time with everyone pulling their weight and entering fully into the activities.

The team had three main objectives. The **first** was to be involved in ministry in Nairobi at the Agape Hope Children's Centre, an orphanage on the western side of the city of Nairobi, in a large and heavily populated area called Kawangware. Ian McIver was also involved in Bible teaching in the same area and on the eastern side of the city in an area called Soweto. The **second** was to visit and encourage two church plants among the Dorobo and Maasai people on the western side of the Great Rift Valley, in the vicinity of Lake Naivasha and its town of the same name. The **third** was to enjoy a couple of days' relaxation in three game parks of northern Kenya and to visit a Samburu village in the same area.

This is the first of three reports and focuses on our visit to Nairobi.

Caloundra go on mission to Kenya: First stop, Nairobi



Norma and Ian McIver, Trevor Hamey, Margaret Kennedy, Barbara Johnson, Eleanor Donaghey, Erin Higgins

A Sad Beginning

Humanly speaking, our time in Nairobi did not begin well. Eleanor tripped on internal steps at Mayfield Guest House on our second full day in Kenya. The result was an upper right arm fracture and a week in Nairobi Hospital. However, the medical care during her week in hospital was excellent, as were the two weeks of daily nursing and physiotherapy care morning and evening that followed.

As a small compensation, team members were able to visit Eleanor on a daily basis to show their photos and share their experiences with her.

This ended happily when, in the third week, we were able to take her to River House, a fully-catered home for paying guests near Gilgil in the Great Rift Valley, about a two-and-a-half hour drive from Nairobi. River House is owned by Mrs Nann Barratt. Nann was originally from Northern Ireland, but she has lived in Kenya since she went there to get married in 1955. By her own admission she wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. As an added bonus for all who stay there, Nann is a cordon bleu cook – imagine it: cordon bleu cooking in the heart of Africa! Eleanor and Nann are both from Northern Ireland, so Eleanor was able to spend four restful days with Nann while the rest of the team visited two church plants on the western side of the Great Rift Valley.

Agape Hope Orphanage

We spent our first two weeks working at the Agape Hope Orphanage. After a slow start getting organised [we basically had to find our own way forward as no preparations had been made for the work we would be doing] our time was well spent.

Agape Hope was founded and is run by Olivier and Margaret Chirabo. Olivier originally came from the Democratic Republic of Congo, so he speaks French as well as English [plus his own tribal language and Swahili!]. Margaret comes from Western Kenya [she "only" speaks Luhya, Swahili and English!]. They met and married in Kenya and now jointly operate a home of compassion and love for some 75 children in the orphanage [and they won't turn away any who have need], and a school for some 300 children that backs onto the orphanage.

While we were staying with them, two of Olivier's nieces from the Congo were also staying. They are presently living in a refugee camp in Kampala, Uganda, while they wait for sponsorship to immigrate to a western country.

Stories from Orphaned Children

The children in the orphanage come from circumstances of extreme poverty and deprivation and it is not uncommon for them to come from homes where alcohol, drugs and prostitution have taken their toll. One little girl who stole Trevor's heart is there because her mother hanged herself and left her alone in the world.

While we were there a young girl was taken away from the orphanage by her "auntie" and used for "rituals" (practices that involve witchcraft). We

prayed fervently as a group during the evening when we knew she was back at her "auntie's". The next morning her story had a happy ending in that she ran away during the night and came back to the orphanage. For an attractive young girl of fourteen or so, such a night-time journey would have been fraught with danger in itself.

It was a new and sobering experience for many in our group, as we rarely experience the same levels of spiritual and satanic darkness in Australia that are experienced often in Africa. The young girl is now in the process of coming under the legal protection of Olivier and Margaret and the orphanage so the story has a happy ending. Several of the children, through no fault of their own, also have HIV AIDS.

Generous Gifts

Through the generosity of members of the Caloundra congregation we were able to bring a substantial amount of money for use in the ministry at Agape Hope and elsewhere as our team from Caloundra saw fit. Little did we know when the fund-raising breakfast was held at Caloundra on the first Saturday in January that the final amount raised would come to \$US4032 and that additional separate donations would amount to over \$1600! Many of us never cease to be amazed at the generosity of many members of the Caloundra congregation when they see a cause that they would like to get behind.

It was the wish of some among the congregation that the children be given a "special treat". However, during the course of our visit it became evident to the team that the provision of something as basic as electricity and proper facilities for doing their washing were both "special treats" that would far outweigh any small treat [often something that would not be good for them anyway] that we might have provided. As a result the children received a lot of "special treats" – things that we would take for granted at home but that were major events in the lives of the children and the orphanage.

Light in Darkness

As a result of the generous giving from the congregation we were able to accomplish a number of different objectives. The 8 or 9 classrooms in the primary school attached to the orphanage were very dark so we were able to provide alsynite skylights for each of the classrooms. The difference was amazing.

Lining and Painting the Rooms

Trevor proved very able at recruiting and training several older boys in the orphanage to operate paint rollers and brushes. As a result, two smaller bedrooms and the large girls' dormitory were all lined in plywood, which was then painted with two coats of bright white paint. An office was similarly painted and the filing cabinet skilfully repaired by Trevor.

Sewing, Knitting and Other Things

Meanwhile the ladies - Barbara, Erin, Margaret and Norma - helped with painting, sewing, teaching knitting and assisting with administrative matters with the new laptop computer that we were able to purchase for the orphanage. Erin, who is in Year 9 at Fairholme College and was our youngest member, formed an instant rapport with many of the children, which led to various games and much laughter.

Connecting up the Water Supply

There was no running water on the orphanage property when we arrived but during the course of our stay an arrangement was made by an aid agency for a mains connection to be put in. We were able to assist by providing water pipes, taps and other plumbing needs to connect the mains supply with the kitchen and laundry areas. Two large water tanks were also connected up to provide additional water as and when proper gutters and drainpipes can be installed.

Laundry Tubs and Benches

Washing laundry is a major activity and all of the children in the orphanage, some 75 altogether, are responsible for doing their own washing. This is done in buckets and plastic basins on a concrete area in front of the water tank. Even though Africans are completely used to working this way, the bending involved is backbreaking work.

Again, because of the generosity of members of the Caloundra congregation, we were able to have two wash tubs, made from a large plastic drum cut in half and mounted on stands, and three benches, all on purpose-built stands, made, delivered and installed on the grounds.

The project went from design to completion in three days, and cost a grand total of less than 20,000 Kenya shillings (about \$220). We never ceased to be amazed at the ingenuity and creative skills of Africans, who seemed to be able to make things in difficult circumstances with only basic materials.

Lights and Power

While all this was going on, Trevor and Ian went with Olivier, the Director of the orphanage, to buy a range of electrical needs, including fuse boxes, light fixtures, power point outlets and a considerable amount of good quality electrical cable. David, the electrician, and his assistant were able to do wonders with what they were given. As a result, by the time we left - in fact on our last day at the orphanage - the lights went on in most of the rooms, and especially in the various dormitories. Compared with what they had previously experienced the children would not have known themselves.

Buying the Kitchen Stove

The original breakfast fund-raiser at Caloundra had the aim of raising \$750 in order to buy a sawdust-fired kitchen oven for the orphanage. Our aim was well and truly realised.



Finishing the alsynite skylights on the classrooms



Norma teaching the children at Agape Hope Orphanage how to knit



Laundry area at Agape Hope after the new tubs were put in

We were able to watch the oven being built and then installed before we left for the next part of our adventure.

The oven works through a very effective use of compressed sawdust, which is then lit and the heat channelled through controlled and airtight ducting. The result is very effective, and the oven is able to heat two 50-litre sufurias [large round, flat cooking pots with no handles] in a very short space of time and with very little expense.

Days Off

Friday was our day off. Both days were well used and we were very grateful for the Christian grace and patience of our driver, Pastor Samuel, whose congregation is in Soweto, who spent each Friday driving us around and watching over the van for hours on end while we enjoyed various attractions.

It is such a joy and privilege to meet African Christians like Pastor Samuel.

Nairobi City

On our first Friday off we went into the city and visited an exhibition of Kenyan history and culture while also managing to purchase a laptop computer for the orphanage at a nearby computer store. (We were grateful for the help of Margaret's son-in-law Rob, who lives in Sydney and works in IT, who did a great deal of exploratory work on the internet on our behalf. As a result we only needed to go to one store when the time came to buy.)

During the afternoon we enjoyed a visit to the Nairobi Railway Museum, something that was especially close to Trevor's heart. Kenya is a nation that literally came into being because of the railway. As it said on a large sign in the museum grounds, with words to the following effect: "Many nations have built railways in order to open up the nation, but in Kenya's case it was literally the railway that built the nation".

Among a whole host of interesting exhibits (including the claws from the man-eating lions of Tsavo made famous in Colonel Patterson's book "The Man Eaters of Tsavo" and the film "The Ghost and the Darkness") we were able to trace the history of Africa's "Lunatic Line" from Mombasa on the coast to Kampala, now the capital of Uganda.

Those that wished to do so sat and had their photos taken on the "cow-catcher" seat that was fitted to the front of the trains that President Theodore Roosevelt (1908) and Edward, Prince of Wales (1928) both sat on.

There was also opportunity to sit on the white cane chairs that the Queen and Prince Philip sat on during their visit to Kenya in 1954; exhibits that would definitely be off-limits and behind ropes in Australia or England

(continued page 4)

‘Jesus is the King, Ruler of Everything!’



Children enjoying the program

This program has “done the rounds” recently and has been very successful at teaching children that:

1. God is the King
2. We pretend to be king
3. GUILTY!
4. SAVED!

Members of the Ann Street Presbyterian congregation have been planning this holiday program for months, even coming to visit Kids Weekender 2 Camp in October for ideas.

The hall had been transformed into a Medieval Castle and with Knight Darren, Joker Josh, King Peter and many other great characters the children were immediately drawn into the theme.

Those who gave of their time to run this program were joined by others from surrounding churches, including Josh, Phoebe and the legendary Anthony and Jamieson from Centenary Presbyterian Church, ‘puppeteers extraordinaire’.

So a big thanks to you all!

The two days consisted of just about everything you could possibly do in a hall!

Games, memory verses, puppets, singing, pick-a-box, craft, bookwork, food and even movies were all utilized to reinforce the message of the program and the great memory verse, John 3:16.

The children all left for home holding their own hand-crafted medieval castle.

The highlight of the two days was undoubtedly the daily performances by the evergreen Ron Clark, Magician and Teller of Bad Jokes. Two sessions of ‘Tricks and Talk’ were well-received by the children and adults alike.

The new hall adjacent to the beautiful church building on Ann Street is just perfect for holiday programs such as this, and it was a

joy to christen the hall with such a successful program.

The leaders spent many hours preparing craft, planning activities and praying for the program; and the seeds of the gospel were well and truly planted into the children’s lives.

What a joy to see a congregation of believers pulling together to present a program like this!

No doubt this program will be repeated again and again in the coming years.

The program concluded with an opportunity for the parents to come and see what we had been doing, and this gave a wonderful chance for the leaders to mingle with parents and families from within the community.

But hey, a picture is worth a thousand words, or so they say, so why not have a look at the photos and thank God for another church running a valuable children’s holiday program ministry.

‘Jesus is the King, Ruler of Everything!’

Elder Financial Abuse

RICHARD GALVIN, Relationship Manager with The Trust Company, provides some insight into a concerning issue which affects many.

“There are significant changes taking place in the retirement space which is no surprise in light of the ageing demographics in Australia, wealthier retirees and major government reforms in the pipeline.

As Australia’s oldest independent trustee company, we have been protecting the wealth of families for generations. And throughout that time, the desire to grow and protect one’s wealth for the benefit of future generations has not changed.

But what has altered is the complexity of that wealth. And that complexity can lead to abuse.

Elder financial abuse spans a broad spectrum of conduct and can include, through coercion or deception, getting an older person to sign a deed, will or power of attorney. People over 50 hold a majority of the nation’s wealth so it is clear why they are a target.

And with an ever increasing number of elderly wishing to remain in their own home for longer and recent government Aged Care reform proposals supporting this, the potential for financial abuse is growing. The abuse may be blatant misappropriation and break of trust, or as innocuous as buying a new car with the justification being, “I am going to get the money one day anyway”.

It wouldn’t come as a surprise to hear me say that the response is for the retirees to seek support and advice from a trusted independent advisor. And indeed we are seeing a growing demand for our services, including our holistic Lifestyle Assist service which means that our client’s entire needs are looked after.

But the key message we would press home, to both clients and their families is that they need to set these plans in place early to ensure they are empowered and make the decisions that best suit them early on. Of course, circumstances change but a trusted financial company will be on hand to take that journey with you.

At the end of the day we all want to have enough money to enjoy our retirement and live a comfortable life as we age. Planning now is central to securing financial stability and safeguarding from the many pitfalls of financial abuse.

If you would like to know more information to help make an informed decision, The Trust Company offers a free, no obligation discussion to discuss your unique circumstances.

Queensland Presbyterian Church Buildings



Windsor

IF YOU were in the city on January 17 and 18 you may be excused for thinking that you had travelled back in time.

Ann Street Presbyterian Church held the latest instalment of ‘Knights of the King’, a children’s holiday program designed at taking the themes of Knights and Kings and using these to teach children about the great promises in the Bible.



King Peter, Knight Darren and Joker Josh

NEW DIRECTIONS

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A Change of Course



ON 20 January 2013, a Commissioning Service for Rev. Graeme McKay was held at St John’s Presbyterian Church in Toowoomba. It was conducted by Rev. John Gilmour, Director of PresCare Chaplaincy, in the presence of members of the Presbytery, South Toowoomba and neighbouring charges. Representatives of PresCare were also present.

After ten years of being senior Pastor at St John’s, South Toowoomba, he is now employed by PresCare where he is serving as chaplain at Lake Sherrin within the Redlands.

Caloundra go on mission to Kenya: First stop, Nairobi (continued from page 2)

were freely available to enjoy, climb on and take photos of in Nairobi's Railway Museum. There was much for a train buff like Trevor to enjoy, but even the rest of us had a good time.

Karen

On our second Friday off we went to the suburb of Karen, which is named after Karen Blixen of "Out of Africa" fame. There we visited the Giraffe Manor, where everyone had the opportunity to "kiss" a giraffe. There is no fear of infection as giraffe saliva is completely antiseptic, and needs to be when you see the thorn bushes that form their staple diet!

We also visited the David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage and among others saw the latest arrival – a tiny bull elephant only a week old that had arrived in the orphanage the previous day.

After lunch, with friends Sukhy and Bee Soin, fifth generation Kenyans whose two daughters both went to UQ and live in Australia, we finished the day with a visit to the Kazuri bead factory. The factory provides employment for several hundred women who would otherwise have no work.

Everyone returned home not only with memories (who would ever forget that they had "kissed" a giraffe, or sat where the Queen of England once sat!) but also with various souvenirs, including plenty of necklaces, earrings and bracelets from the vast selection in the Kazuri factory shop.

Teaching

During our time in Nairobi, Ian McIver had opportunity to teach on two Wednesdays and Saturdays for the Systematic Bible Institute in Kawangware on the western side of Nairobi, and Soweto on the east.

The Institute is led by Pastor Edward Owino who also runs a congregation and a primary school in Soweto.

Edward has a vision for the school and the Bible Institute to operate out of their own premises and he has purchased a block of land in Soweto to that end. There is such hunger to know and understand the Word of God in Kenya that it would be good if others could also go from the PCQ to help deepen the insight of our brothers and sisters in Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and other countries of Africa.

Helping New Hope Education Centre

We were able to provide \$US 1000 towards this cause and it meant that Edward was immediately able to proceed to arrange for the installation of a mains connection and an electrical switchboard on the block of land. Nairobi City Council had approved this connection but the approval was for six months and was about to run out. Edward was on the verge of taking out an expensive loan of some \$800, a very large amount to a Kenyan. Our gift made all the difference and the loan was no longer necessary.

Our gift opened up the way, not only for connecting the electricity, but also for laying the foundations for the new building. The building will go up in stages as the New Hope Education Centre can afford it, and we were very grateful to be able to contribute at this early stage. The whole building will cost under \$118,000 but in Kenya that is a huge amount of money, so it may be some time before the building is completed and the New Hope Primary School and Bible Institute can move into their own premises.



The hardware shop in Kawangware



Kitchen before new stove

Books, Clothing and Toys

Thanks to the gifts of others in the Caloundra and Maleny congregations we were able to purchase over \$1000 worth of children's books – among them Arch books, "Me Too" books and Jungle Doctor books. The Christmas/New Year 25%-off sales at Koorong Books meant that we paid only \$750 for the books. The GST refund at Brisbane International Airport meant that we ended up paying only \$675. How good was that!

With so many books, our luggage allowance on Emirates was very finely tuned. We would have been allowed 222 kilos of hold luggage; we actually had 215 kilos! To Norma must go the credit for such astute and finely-tuned packing. Each of us also carried approximately 3 kilos of children's books in our cabin bags. As a result we were able to take a large amount of clothing, stuffed toys and books in our luggage. Much of the clothing and all of the stuffed toys that we took were new and hand-made by members of our congregation.

More than one person expressed amazement that our members had made such beautiful clothing and toys. The team felt very grateful for all the practical as well as monetary support for ministry that came from members of our church family.

Muddling Through

The team left Agape Hope after two weeks with a considerable feeling of satisfaction that, in spite of everything, much had been accomplished. (In Africa you tend to muddle through and come to understand that "time" in our western sense means nothing, and that people mean everything. There's something very healthy about that outlook, and one team member took it on board as a way of life while she was there.)

Making Progress

We had provided skylights for the classrooms, lining and painting for several of the dormitories and an office, the supplies necessary for running water and electric lights for the kitchen, laundry and most of the rooms of the orphanage. Above all we had provided an efficient sawdust-burning oven for the kitchen and laundry tubs and benches for the daily grind of washing clothes.

What Did We Receive?

In a very real sense we would have to say that we received intangible things that seem far greater than anything that we could give. We learnt to appreciate how blessed we are in Australia with things that we take for granted – electricity, clean running water, sanitary living conditions, good medical care.

We experienced a diversity of cultures that are still living and practiced that we simply do not ordinarily see in Australia – Kenyans of Indian and European background, a range of tribes and their different languages, ways and customs, and a vast, bustling, diesel-polluted city called Nairobi where a new Africa is being formed, often on the anvil of adversity and deprivation.

We experienced a depth of faith and love among our Kenyan brothers and sisters that we simply don't experience or understand at home. With that, on one occasion we also experienced by prayer the power of the Lord over the unseen forces of satanic darkness as we prayed for the safety of a young girl who had been taken from the orphanage by her "auntie" for the practice of the "rituals" of witchcraft. That was something else that we don't see at home, nor want to. And yet the experience, while sobering, was also part of God's plan for our time in Kenya.

We had the infinitely enriching experience of

meeting children who have literally nothing of this world's goods except the clothes that they stand up in, but who immediately responded to us with a warm welcome and with childlike and unselfish love.

Rich Memories

We were very grateful for the gifts that we were able to bring from our own church family in Caloundra. We were also grateful for what we were able to do.

However, on balance, it could be said that we left with far more than we came with – rich memories of the love, and the faith in action of those beautiful Kenyan Christians and children that we met at the Agape Hope Children's Centre in Kawangware and at the Bible Institute and New Hope Primary School in Soweto.

Overarching everything else was that wonderful sense of the providence and safekeeping of the Lord, and of the prayers of His people, as we undertook our "Safari Ya Imani", our "Journey of Faith" in that beautiful land called Kenya.

How thankful we were for our home church, for the Session and their permission for us all to go on behalf of the church, and for the prayers on our behalf of our church family in Caloundra.

Blessing Beyond Measure

We trust that the Lord has blessed those folk through us. We certainly know that He has blessed us through them; and that He has done that more abundantly than we could ever have imagined. Time to begin to plan our next visit!

Next Time

The adventure continues ... all about altitude sickness and visiting Dorobo and Maasai church planting ministries high up [very high up!] on the western side of the Great Rift Valley.

An April Afternoon **CRAFT AFFAIR**

Saturday 20th April 2013

1pm - 5pm

St Paul's Presbyterian Church
43 St Paul's Terrace, Spring Hill

St Paul's Presbyterian Congregation, celebrating 150 years of God's providence - then, now and to come.

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The Keys to the “King of Instruments”

Celebrating our amazing pipe organ



ON SATURDAY, 2 February 2013, St Paul's Presbyterian Church held a celebration of our pipe organ.

Around ninety visitors were in attendance as Elder Doug Milne made a presentation which included a Powerpoint slide show, a display of how the different types of pipes work and a practical demonstration of the way in which the use of the stops changes the sound of the organ.

Amazingly, the organ is older than the church building, having been brought to Brisbane in 1883 to be installed in the church building in Creek Street.

The first ever organ recital in Brisbane was held in July 1883, and was reported in the *Brisbane Courier* as a great event.

When the Creek Street congregation moved up the hill to Leichhardt Street

and built the new Sabbath hall and church, the organ was brought too. Initially it was positioned under the arch in the middle of the church, but was later moved to the side where it is now.

Other changes have been made over the years, including changes from a hydraulic pump, to man power to an electric blower to provide the air for the pipes to sound, and the action changed from tracker action to electro-pneumatic action. The console has been moved, extra notes, pedals and stops added and the tuning has been altered to A440, requiring a huge amount of work to adjust the length of the pipes.

The Powerpoint presentation included a detailed explanation and photographs of the work – a fascinating experience.

There were (small) pipes of the various types, which had been borrowed from another organ, so the visitors could see the look and the sound of them.

Retiring organist of forty years, Neil Taylor, demonstrated the intricacies of playing the organ with interest and expression, using the various stops, pedals and combinations thereof. There is even a tricky knob which cancels everything – a disaster for an inexperienced organist!

After the presentation, visitors had the opportunity to look at the bellows and electromagnets working while the organ was being played. Many people took up the offer, and one 13-year-old visitor played a Toccata and Fugue, including the pedals, from memory! After that, visitors enjoyed a delicious brunch in the Hall.



Original position of organ

SINCE 2007, organist Neil Taylor, Elder Doug Milne and organ builder Bert Jarrott have been working on the organ, repairing, improving and restoring it, with a view to making sure it can last another 130 years.

Although there is more to be done, the achievement of the tuning to A440 is momentous.

Saturday's celebration was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the “King of Instruments”, and importantly, it was an occasion to

celebrate forty years of Neil's playing the organ in our church. He officially retired after the evening service on the following Sunday.

On two further occasions this year, the organ will feature prominently; firstly on 18 May at a choral and orchestral concert and then on the 28 July, at the Grand Organ Concert, to celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the instrument.

It is sure to be a wonderful day.



Celebration cake

Pray, Live, Serve but what's the deal with hot showers?

by Naomi Reed

WE'VE BEEN back from Nepal for a few years now and I'm still really enjoying hot showers! Every day I hop in there under the water and thank God for such a wonderful thing.

And then sometimes (while I'm in there) I think about our struggles in the West ... which seem quite different to the struggles of Christians in the majority world.

It seems that the more I travel around churches in this country, the more I realize how good we are at getting the externals right.

Maybe it's precisely because of the hot showers (and the hair dryers and the clothes and the latest products from the pharmacy) but we seem to be really good at creating an external appearance of looking okay. And then once we're all clean and nice on the outside ... we're all set for church.

And then, not only that, but when we arrive at church, we become very skilled at putting on Christian veneer. We use a nice tone of voice while we set up the microphones or the chairs or the coffee cups. We greet the newcomers pleasantly. Then we speak in a measured and smooth way to God during corporate prayer times, to the point that we can even fake our relationship with Him. But a few hours later, when we're alone with Him, we have nothing to say.

And this week I was reading again from 2 Corinthians 4:7, “We have this treasure (the gospel) in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”

It struck me again that our goal is not to be the most beautifully decorated jar but to hold the treasure.

In Nepal they don't tend to use banks, so they keep their treasures in a tin box under the bed. The tin box itself is not important, it's not even attractive to look at – more often it's covered in dents and marks because the tin is so weak. But what it holds is very important.

And maybe here in the West, we also need to keep reminding ourselves of what's important in our lives ... it's the message inside us.

Maybe the problem is that the more we focus on the externals, the more we neglect what's inside. And because we're so good at getting the outside right, we can fail to see what lumps of clay we actually are, dented with bitterness and coldness and complaints and insecurities.

But God has done something amazing ... He's made us new, given us life forever through the death of His Son. And not only that! He's actually choosing to work through us, even through our lumps of 'baked dirt' – to show that this all-surpassing power is from Him and not from us.

In the leprosy hospital in Pokhara, some of the most devout people were the most deformed.

They were the ones who had come too late, whose fingers were already gone and there were no tendons to reconnect. They didn't look good on the outside but they contained the treasure.



Naomi Reed

We're not called to be the treasure. We're called to contain the treasure.

And maybe we need to learn from those who are less together externally so that we too can display the incredible treasure of the gospel.

[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.]

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - ORGANIST ST PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 43 ST PAUL'S TERRACE, SPRING HILL

St Paul's is seeking expressions of interest from experienced organists to fill this position.

The Kirk Session of St Paul's maintains a traditional, Scottish-originated Order of Service, applying an established sequence of hymns, prayers and readings directed to a related sermon topic.

There are two services conducted each Sunday - 9:30 am and 6:30 pm (summer months) 5:30 pm (winter months). Services are also held at 6:30 pm on Maundy Thursday, 8:00 am on Good Friday and 8:00 am on Christmas Day. In addition the organist may be required to play for weddings and funerals.

Competent students may also apply.

The Organist is responsible to the Minister for the discharge of his/her duties.

About the Organ

St Paul's Presbyterian Church is home to an 1882 Hill & Son, London (Job No. 1834) Pipe Organ. It has 20 ranks of pipes with 2 manuals and a full pedalboard.

The Organ was rebuilt in 1963 by Whitehouse Brothers and altered from tracker action to electro-pneumatic action with extended console. The keyboards were extended from 56 to 61 notes and the pedalboard from 30 to 32 notes.

Some restoration work was carried out by Bert Jarrott in 2008 including a new “Ventus” motor and blower from Germany, plus the refurbishing of two sets of bellows and some other structural work.

Applications

Persons interested in applying for this position, either on a full-time or part-time basis should contact:

Mr Vivian Kitt, Session Clerk, St Paul's Presbyterian Church
PO Box 156, SPRING HILL Q 4004
Telephone: 07 3266 3752 Email: vivianjkitt@gmail.com

Cross Cultural Mission in Thailand

PAUL AND Jenny Rayner from Central Church Ipswich, have been accepted as APWM Partner Agency Missionaries to serve with Pioneers in Thailand. They are currently trying to raise Partnership Support to enable them to commence service overseas. I recently asked them about their ministry.

Kevin Murray, Australian Presbyterian World Mission

Paul, you'll be teaching at Grace International School in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Why is this school so important for the work of cross-cultural mission in Thailand?
The school supports around 350 missionary families. This means that 350 couples are able to continue with their work of spreading the gospel, not only in Thailand but in South-East Asia. They could be in church planting, using Business As Mission, doing translation work, or aiding people with micro loans so that they can try to get out of poverty. Thailand is in the centre of this region and within 2½ hours flight from Chiang Mai you have 1/3 of the world's population. In this area there are fifteen closed countries. The presence of the school enables families to base themselves in Chiang Mai so that parents can enter those closed countries while their children continue with their education.

You both have a safe and comfortable life in Ipswich. Why do you want to leave that behind to go to Thailand? What has led you to this point?
Paul: I became a 'follower of Jesus' because of other people's input into my life. Being a teacher allows me to have a positive input into other's lives. We both do not feel called to be on the front line but feel called to help assist the spread of God's Word. By teaching the children of missionaries, we can do that. This calling allows for families to remain on the field because children are able to receive the same standard of education as they would receive in their home country.

As you've been preparing to serve, what have been some of the joys?
We've been to the school and seen the positive influences teachers have on the students. That is a real joy. Another joy is that our two daughters want to go even though they know it will be hard to leave family (grandparents and cousins) behind.

What challenges are you facing?
As we've talked to family and friends about what God has put on our hearts, we haven't always received positive responses. That has been hard. As we've contacted some churches, we've found that they don't support any missionaries at all. Sometimes they are too busy to allow us to come and share with them and that means that we cannot connect with the individuals within the congregation. At the moment our support level is at 16%.

When do you hope to leave?
July 2013. This will allow us to get some intense language study in before the new school year starts in August. It will also allow us to set up things like obtaining drivers' licences, finding a house to rent and setting it up etc. This date is flexible and will depend on God's meeting our need for financial support.

How can people find out more about what you hope to do?
They can contact us at therayners@internode.on.net and we can then contact them to talk about what we are doing. For those without email, phone us on 07 3129 1622 or write to us at 12 Kentia Circuit, Flinders View Q 4305. We are happy to email or post out information as needed and we try to send an update newsletter about once a month.



VOTE ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE PASSES IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT

AFTER PASSIONATE argument the British parliament has voted to legalise gay marriage. The bill passed its second reading with 400 in favour and 175 against. It will now go to a committee for detailed examination starting this week. After that, it is predicted that it will pass the House of Commons with strong support from Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs. Britain already has civil partnerships between gay and lesbian couples. The new law would allow marriage in civil ceremonies and in religious ceremonies if a church allows it. Prime Minister David Cameron allowed his colleagues a conscience vote on the issue.

Many Conservative voices, and several Labour ones, were raised in opposition to the proposed law. Some said they were angry that opponents of the bill were being branded homophobic. Australian gay marriage activists plan to seize on the vote to lobby for a similar move in Australia. Rodney Croome, national convener for Australian Marriage Equality, said the fact that David Cameron had allowed a conscience vote for the Conservative Party increased pressure on Tony Abbott to do the same in Australia. "The UK vote will figure prominently in our lobbying of Coalition MPs" he said.

The bill is predicted to get a less wholehearted welcome in the House of Lords, which is dominated by life peers. However it can only reject the law once: if the House of Commons passes it again in the next session, it cannot reject it a second time. The vote exposed deep divisions within the party. Benedict Brogan in the Telegraph called it a "political error" by the PM. "Mr Cameron is unable

to command majority support within his party for a change that he says is needed to modernise the party and make it palatable to an electorate beyond its core of ageing activists," he wrote.

Responding to the vote Dr Dave Landrum, Director of Advocacy for the Evangelical Alliance, commented: "The government wants to reduce marriage to just another lifestyle choice - like fashion or joining a club. They want minority groups to define it for themselves. But the problem with introducing free market thinking to marriage is that it is changed from a unique social institution that is primarily about children to just another contractual agreement between consenting adults. The government has no right and no mandate to privatise marriage like that.

"Civil partnerships will eventually have to be opened to heterosexual couples; individual rights claims will inevitably erode most of the so-called protections for religious groups; and multiple forms of marriage will begin to appear thereby undermining the institution itself.

"What is so contradictory about this is that by applying free market principles to marriage the state will also need to enforce a new social orthodoxy by dramatically interfering in family life, religion and society. A redefinition of marriage will require vast and incalculable changes to local government, the legal system, health, welfare, employment and education.

"There is no legal protection for the majority of the ordinary non-religious public who insist that marriage is only between a man and a woman.

"Equality is not the same as

uniformity, and the debates around adultery and consummation show that if we change the meaning of marriage it will no longer be marriage. In the long-run, this would be unsustainable because the distinctive integrity of the social institution of marriage is essential if we are to build a civil society in which we can all live with our deepest differences. The campaign to protect and promote marriage has only just begun."

The government wants to quickly force the bill through in the hope that the controversial changes will be forgotten by the next election. The plans were omitted from the manifesto of both members of the governing alliance, absent from the coalition agreement and ignored in last year's Queen's Speech. The government also ignored the overwhelming public opposition to the proposals in its own consultation. The Evangelical Alliance criticises the government for not being upfront about their plans, failing to give the people a say in a referendum and for continuing to promote misinformation and false assurances.

Meanwhile in Australia the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) said it expected it would only be a matter of time before protection of religious freedoms in the UK would diminish. ACL's Managing Director Jim Wallace said that although the UK bill allows religious organisations to say 'no' to conducting same-sex marriages, a challenge to this in the European Court of Human Rights has already been flagged, even before the bill has been voted on in the House of Lords. "Legal opinion suggests that the court could rule that if same-sex marriage is normalised in law, any

church would be obliged to marry same-sex couples", Mr Wallace said. "The passing of this legislation redefining marriage in the UK is yet another demonstration of governments failing to protect freedom of religion and conscience for churches", Mr Wallace said, "In fact it creates a vulnerability that activists are indicating they will pursue. He said the Australian

Parliament made the right decision in rejecting same-sex marriage last year. Our parliamentarians should not be bullied into creating another debate on marriage when it was so decisively defeated late last year", Mr Wallace said.

Courtesy of Australian Prayer Network - International News 11th February 2013

The Evans Seven has become The Evans Eight



John, Rose, Asher, Isabelle, Lily, Ivy and Jairus are thrilled to welcome Boaz Joseph into their family. They are so grateful to God for this precious gift and a safe arrival. Boaz was born at 9:18 am on Tuesday 19 February, weighing 10 lb 9 oz (4.97 kg). Rose and Boaz are both doing well. Thank you for your prayers.

Suffering for God in the Golden Land

"AMIDST GOLDEN pagodas and paddy fields, God is at work in Myanmar (Burma) despite the challenges of past Colonialism and decades of civil war", reported the Archbishop of Myanmar at the CMS Summer School at Tamborine Mountain in January 2013.

"The power of God is important in Burma, because we don't have funds or mission personnel", said Archbishop Stephen Than Myant Oo. "God himself has been doing the mission. We are just his instruments. Our aim is to extend the kingdom of God, wherever and whenever."

Part of CMS's new vision launched at the Summer School is to equip Christian leaders for church and society. Speaking as an international guest at the mission conference, Archbishop Than told of the need to train leaders for the Church in Burma, which is a poor country with continuing conflict.

Tensions amongst ethnic groups and adjusting to many political systems have given the people of Burma an "immune system to bear and resist all these painful struggles and sufferings", he said.

Of the population of 60 million people, 87% are Buddhist while only 6% are Christian. Since the first united kingdom in Burma was founded in the 12th century by King Anawrahtar of the Burmese (Bahma) ethnic group, Theravada Buddhism has been the religion of the majority. With more than 135 ethnic groups, the Burmese (Bahma) group makes up about 70% of the total population.

"The influence of Buddhism on the Burmese people is so strong that they identify nationalism and the religion as one identity. It has been difficult

for them to think of nationhood apart from Buddhism as it welded the Burmese together", Archbishop Than said.

"Christianity is still regarded as the religion of colonists."

In the past, Myanmar's rich natural resources such as fertile land, oil, timber and precious stones attracted many races over thousands of years. Following the bombing of Burma by the British and Japanese in World War II, and economic problems in more recent decades, Myanmar is now regarded as one of the least developed countries in the Asia Pacific region.

In 1948, Burma became an independent republic, ending 62 years of rule by the British. Military rule has been in place since 1962. In recent years there have been moves towards reform and democracy, but conflict prevails in parts of the country along with new struggles.

"Rapid changes in recent times are bringing new challenges and opportunities for Myanmar. With the dawn of democracy we are breathing in fresh air, but we are also breathing in viruses, like materialism, modernism and liberalism", Archbishop Than said. "Yet the church is growing under these pressures and challenges."

"The faith and sense that God is with us also becomes stronger and stronger. These sufferings turn out to be blessings for the church and it gives the church the great immune system to resist all challenges in future."

CMS (Church Missionary Society) works with churches to set apart long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For more information about the work of CMS, visit www.cms.org.au or phone 07 3112 6530.



Archbishop Stephen Than Myant Oo with wife Nan at CMS Summer School



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VISION TOWARDS 2020 – A WORLD THAT KNOWS JESUS

CMS LAUNCHED a new vision to see 'a world that knows Jesus' at Summer Conferences across Australia in January, including Summer School 2013 at Mount Tamborine. CMS is asking for a renewed commitment from the Australian church to engage in cross-cultural mission.

"In a world that often seems hopeless we want people to see that they can find meaning in this world and hope in the world to come through knowing Jesus", said Rev. Jeremy Gehrmann, General Secretary of CMS Queensland with Northern NSW. "CMS is here to serve local churches in Australia as they seek to be part of God's world mission."

Reaching 'gospel-poor peoples' for Christ is a key priority in the new vision. The gospel-poor are those people who would have little or no opportunity to hear about Jesus without outside help.

"From the historically Christian countries in Europe, to the politically and socially complicated Middle East and beyond, there are many millions of people who need to know Jesus", said Rev. Peter Rodgers, Federal Secretary of CMS Australia.

In focusing on reaching gospel-poor peoples, CMS is placing a stronger emphasis on evangelism and church planting.

CMS will continue to place workers in countries like France, Spain and Slovenia and throughout the Muslim world.

The new vision also places a greater focus on reaching Australia's near neighbours for Jesus Christ. This year, new ministries will begin in Fiji and East Timor.

"On our doorstep are countries like Indonesia and Cambodia, where millions of people urgently need Christ", said Mr Rodgers. "CMS hopes to place more workers in neighbouring countries like these – to further grow ministries of evangelism, church planting, Bible teaching and training, as well as to start new ministries."

In this rapidly changing world, there remains a strategic need for CMS to work alongside the Church in Africa, Asia, Latin America and post-Christian Europe to reach their own communities through equipping Christian leaders for church and society.

"The impact of mission is multiplied through equipping local church leaders in solid biblical teaching and giving them skills for sharing God's word effectively", said CMS-QNNSW General Secretary, Rev. Jeremy Gehrmann.

More than 670 people travelled from as far as Darwin, North Queensland, Tamworth, Canberra and the NSW South Coast to attend Summer School at Tamborine. Hundreds chose to 'stick up for Jesus' as a symbol of their love for Jesus Christ and their commitment to God's mission worldwide.

"I stuck up for Jesus today because God has a heart for the world and the world needs to know that", said Summer School attendee, Sam Chiswell.

CMS-QNNSW launched the vision for 'a world that knows Jesus', with videos, information brochures and sessions throughout Summer School to support churches in their own vision and strategic plans for mission.

CMS-Australia has 200 long-term missionaries serving in more than 30 countries.

As part of CMS's partnership with churches, the organisation will also be expanding its cross-cultural ministry training program across Australia by offering cross-cultural ministry apprenticeships.

For more information about CMS's Vision, phone: 07 3112 6530 or visit www.knowsjesus.org.au

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

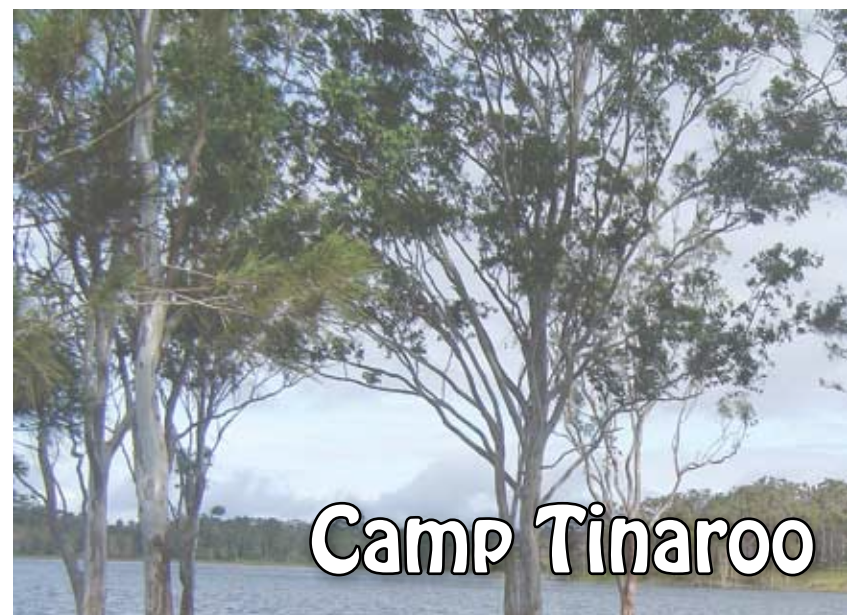
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CMS Church Liaison and Missionary Development Officer, Sam McGeown, speaking about mission with Summer School attendees and church representatives



'Sticking up for Jesus' – Summer School attendees committed support and prayer for the world to know Jesus



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Jottings from Maleny



LtoR: Andrew & Emma Jackson with son Ewan, Rev. Norm Bartlett, Elder Lawrie Matthews, Rt Rev. & Mrs David Niven

AFTER THE wild weather the Blackall Range and other parts of Queensland suffered on 27 January, the sun shone on us for the very welcome visit of the Moderator of Queensland when he visited our church on 3 February.

Rev. Norm Bartlett introduced Rt Rev. David Niven to the congregation as a friend of long standing.

We enjoyed and learnt much from his sermon, *Truth to Tell*. Christians must remember that the Bible is the truth of God.

We praise God for the dedicated men we have in the Presbyterian Church.

After the service, a delightful morning tea was held in the hall and our folk had the opportunity to talk to the Moderator and his wife and get to know them on a more personal level.

It was of interest to us to know that Mr Niven has been an Army Chaplain and was able to comfort and encourage our troops.

Both David and Dianne were interested to hear of our missionary support, especially the work Lyndal Maxwell is doing for children in Peru.



Rev. John Gilmour with Rev. Norm Bartlett, the Elders and members of the congregation

ON 10 February we had the pleasure of welcoming Rev. John Gilmour from PresCare to our service.

It was very interesting to hear how many facilities PresCare operates and how they are hoping to provide more care in the future.

It was also encouraging for us to hear that they have a presence on the Sunshine Coast to do home visits to older people.

We pray that God would continue to bless the work that PresCare and its wonderful staff are doing in the communities that they touch.

Mr Gilmour preached on Matthew

3:1-17 and put a different perspective on the baptism of Jesus. It really made folk look at its meaning in a different light.

After the service, Mr Gilmour spoke more about PresCare and its services down in the hall before morning tea was served.

Later people were able to speak with him and ask questions about his involvement.

Those of us who knew Rev. Gordon Jackson from his time in Nambour were so pleased to hear that he is well and retired early February from his work as a Chaplain with PresCare.

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FEATURE TRACKS

An update from the PIM

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BY WORD AND DEED

From Dalby to Inland Australia

Newly appointed PIM padres, Greg and Janet Cripps, know that true hope is only found in Jesus Christ. Recognising that there are many hurting and troubled people in isolated and inland Australia they are both excited to be able to work with the PIM. Their desire is to communicate the gospel in both word and deed to people who might ordinarily have no contact with a church, or even a Christian.

Greg and Janet have followed the work of the PIM for many years but were challenged to think about the possibility of becoming padres when their children were getting to the stage of leaving home. They knew that it was an appropriate time to rethink the direction of their own lives, whether to focus more on their farm and business or to move in to a more focused Christian ministry.

A passion to help serve and minister to people in the bush as well as having suitable gifts to achieve this meant that working for the PIM needed to be seriously considered. After discussion with former PIM padres and then a visit to Laurie and Gwen Peake, Greg and Janet knew it was a ministry of the Presbyterian church that matched their ministry burden. So, after further talks with friends and the Session at Dalby Presbyterian Church (where Greg is an elder) they decided to apply. They also travelled to Melbourne to be a part of the PIM centenary celebrations and met other padres, mission church workers and committee members.

The PIM were pleased to appoint them as patrol Padres to SW Queensland where they will start in April this year. Because of ongoing farm commitments, Greg and Janet plan to predominately undertake their patrols between the months of April to October and then return to the parol area during the summer months as needs and ministry priorities necessitate. Their plan is to remain based on their farm in Dalby and not live in Charleville as former Padres have done.

Developing strong relationships will be an early priority for the Cripps. Greg

states that as you get to know people you are then privileged to be able to understand their needs and be able to speak of the hope we have in Christ. When talking about his ministry approach he specifically asked if people would pray that he and Janet would have the sensitivity to take discussions to a deeper and more spiritual level as the situations presented themselves. He also said that he understood there would be people he would relate to more easily, and that he hoped that these people would be brought in to contact with him quickly.

The Cripps' believe that their many years of Christian service have helped prepare them for the unique ministry challenges with the PIM. Greg has worked as a home group leader, taught scripture across varying age levels, worked as a family counsellor and marriage course coordinator. He has regularly preached, mentored and undertaken the work of an elder. Janet, too, has wide ministry experience and has particularly enjoyed any opportunity to engage in Christian service with Greg.

Greg and Janet both have a rural background. Together they have worked their own farm and run a seed business near Dalby in Queensland. Janet also worked as a registered nurse with many years spent engaging in community nursing. Her particular interest in nursing is palliative care and wound care. Greg has also worked as a motor mechanic, agricultural machinery agent and as an agronomist.

In addition to their mature faith and many practical skills, both Greg and Janet are qualified in Christian counselling and family therapy. Together, Greg and Janet have three adult children who are all supportive of their new area of ministry and Christian service.

One of the positive aspects of the Cripps continuing to be based in Dalby while engaging in work for the PIM throughout SW Queensland is that they will be able to receive a strong level of support from their home congregation. The mission committee of the Dalby Presbyterian

Church have established levels of pastoral, practical and prayerful support.

The PIM encourages ongoing prayer for Greg and Janet as they commence their first patrol later this year. Please pray for wisdom and sensitivity as they meet many new people, for courage as they engage in a lot of 'cold calling', for spiritual strength to overcome doubts and discouragements, and for a readiness to communicate the love of Jesus to all they meet.



Greg and Janet Cripps



Alice Springs Presbyterian Church Plant

Do you know anyone moving to Alice Springs? Have you considered Alice Springs as a holiday destination? What about Alice Springs for a 'sea change'? It's questions like these that Keith Bell has been asking repeatedly as he visits different congregations each week to talk about the church plant in Alice Springs commencing in June this year.

During PIM's centenary year, 2012, Keith and Jenny Bell were appointed to establish a Presbyterian congregation in the nation's central most city. Since then they have been busy getting the news out about the church plant and seeking to establish a support group of those who will assist prayerfully, practically and financially.

Keith is enthusiastic about the opportunities for the gospel in the Alice but is realistic enough to know that there will be many challenges. That's why he is calling upon congregations all over Australia to get behind this pioneering work.

"To seek to establish a Presbyterian congregation is both an awesome

responsibility and a fantastic challenge," Keith said while speaking to a congregation in Melbourne last year. "If anyone can help in any way then please speak to us. Even if you're just interested in what's happening, let us know and we will put you on our 'mail-out' list".

When speaking about the proposed work Keith and Jenny can hardly contain their excitement. "We just can't wait till the first service which we plan to hold at Easter," he said. "We will be meeting in the AIM building in Parke Crescent, so come and join us if you can".

A part of the overall vision of the PIM is that once a congregation at Alice Springs is established, this will provide the much needed pastoral support base so that a patrol work out of Alice Springs can commence. The PIM, as a matter of policy, always seek to link a patrol team to a local congregation.

Keith is a minister of the Presbyterian



Rev. Keith Bell speaking in Melbourne.

Church of Australia with vast experience and a real pastoral heart. Ordained in Queensland in 1982 he also pastored congregations in South Australia and Victoria. He has worked as a Police chaplain, CFA chaplain and Army chaplain. He leaves a long term ministry of hospital chaplaincy to commence the work.

Further information about the church plant in Alice Springs or how to contact Keith and Jenny Bell directly can be found at www.pim.org.au

John Flynn Life and Ministry

For those wanting to know more about the Rev. Dr John Flynn, founder of the Australian Inland Mission, then PIM's latest resource will be just what you're looking for.

During 2012 Robert Benn travelled throughout Australia speaking on the life and ministry of this faithful servant of God. Due to an overwhelming demand, his talk has been recorded to DVD and is available now from the PIM office.

The talk covers Flynn's early years, call to ministry, his life of faith, achievements with the AIM and much more. Robert Benn's presentation is engaging and is certain not to disappoint.



The DVD retails for \$15. Orders can be made on-line at www.pim.org.au or by ringing the PIM office on (03) 9876 1941.

No Experience Wasted

While on patrol and engaged in ministry with the PIM, I often reflect on how our loving Heavenly Father has taken Roger and I through experiences and situations which have refined, matured and equipped us for this work.

Nothing is wasted in God's sovereign plan & purposes. We came to know and experience both our Lord's grace and provision as we cared for our disabled sons, Stephen & Jonathan. Both were taken to their eternal home by their Heavenly Father in 2003. The experience of burying our sons has clearly enabled us to get alongside many, mainly in the older group, who, for one reason or another have buried their children.

The experience has also spurred us on to build relationships with so many young men & women, often with their own children, who do not know & love the Lord. What a joy it is to share the love of God with them. Will you pray & support us?

Other issues of life have also helped prepare us. Experiencing the enabling and sustaining of our Lord through breast cancer & major heart surgery have provided numerous opportunities for us to witness and speak for our God. All of life is lived under His rule and can be used in discussion points on patrol to give glory to HIM

I'm sure we all have a story to tell to point people to our awesome God; the only One who is worthy of our praise and worship, and the only One who can



Roger and Margaret Crane

truly satisfy the deep longings of every human heart. As we speak of God's providential care in our life, speak to those you meet about his care for you in your life, and pray that God will move

mightily by His Holy Spirit, to bring many into His Kingdom and grow them to maturity.

Margaret Crane
North Queensland Patrol



Views Beyond the Furthest Fence



Photographs communicate, but skilfully composed photographs can capture the imagination and communicate even more. In the centenary year of the Australian Inland Mission (AIM), and its successor ministry in the Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM), it was appropriate that some of the best photographs taken over this remarkable hundred year period be brought together.

Not only did John Flynn pioneer a remarkably successful ministry to the people of the Outback, but also his own personal interest in photography has

ensured that many early scenes and significant moments related to his ministry were captured and preserved for future generations.

Stephen Dyer was commissioned by the PIM to bring together a collection of historical and contemporary photographs in the form of a Coffee Table Book. For years Steve Dyer has been photographing many aspects of the work of the PIM and sourcing photographs to complete an historical record of the AIM and the PIM. Many of the photographs in this compilation have been sourced from the AIM collection at the National Library of Australia. With great patience, skill and attention to detail, Steve has digitally enhanced them so that again they can vividly communicate. We know that Flynn himself would have taken many of the earlier photographs; however, insufficient records fail to allow the credit to go to him. It is likely he would be happy knowing that those who look at those collated here will be drawn to

the Outback and the Gospel work conducted there, rather than to himself and to his talent.

The book also contains an historical account of the work of the AIM written by Rev. Stuart Bonnington. Rev. Bonnington is the Superintendent of the Presbyterian Inland Mission and Pastor of the Fremantle Presbyterian Church in Western Australia.

The work and ministry of John Flynn cannot be ignored. By the grace of God he achieved much for this nation, especially for those who lived and worked in the remoter regions of this vast continent. Be inspired as you read this book and spend time reflecting on the outstanding photographic images. Lift your heart in prayer and thank God for the many workers he both raised up, and then sustained, to carry out this ministry. Also, take time to pray for those men and women that the Presbyterian Church of Australia continues to send out 'beyond the furthest fences' to communicate in both word and deed the love of Jesus Christ.

Where was the Local Man? The need continues

"We haven't seen people like you for years", was the response as he climbed down from the grader and walked across to our vehicle.

Now PIM had not had a team in the area for some time, and the nearest church was nearly 100km away so you would think we could, in a way, accept such a comment.

BUT..... when you had been informed, some way "up the road" that the family on this particular property had suffered a severe personal tragedy some time previously, your heart just aches and you inwardly scream "Where was the local man? Why wasn't he out here ASAP? Was there a local man anyway?" Sadly, in many many places there is not a local man, of any denomination.

It was a couple of years and some three visits later that the man on the place finally opened up and we could talk. It was a special, indeed a very intense and personal, occasion.

Through our own circumstances and in response to a clear call from God we are privileged to be serving PIM in North Queensland. As you travel for thirty minutes (if that) to church next Sunday, think of those for whom church attendance is a major logistical exercise, if not a practical impossibility. Ours is an important ministry as we seek to take the Gospel "Beyond the Furthest Fences". In whatever way you can, please, would you join with us?

Roger Crane.
North Queensland Patrol



Preached, recorded and now a 'must read'

The historic Smith of Dunesk Mission Church at Beltana in South Australia was the Parish where the Rev. John Flynn was appointed as an exit student in 1911.

As a part of the Centenary celebrations of the PIM last year, a service of worship was held there. Hundreds of people from all over Australia converged on the tiny town that normally does not have a population in double figures.

The **Rt Rev. David Jones**, Moderator of the GAA, preached on Isaiah 55:6 and challenged all present to acknowledge the forgiveness of personal sin as their greatest need and to call on the Lord Jesus Christ who is able to forgive and restore.

His message was based on the text written across the back wall of the church. The verse was placed there between 1916 and 1918 when significant renovations, repairs and alterations were done to the building.

Many who heard the message were so struck by its clear explanation of the gospel that it has been published and made more widely available.

Read a transcript of the sermon and download a PDF version from www.pim.org.au. Printed copies suitable to be given away are also available from the PIM office upon request.

All profits from the sale of the book will go to support the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

Orders can be made on-line at www.pim.org.au or by ringing the PIM office on (03) 9876 1941

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Partnership

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION



8 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, NSW 2213

[02] 9792 1373 • national@apwm.org.au • www.apwm.org.au

WHOSE CHURCH?

Late last year I had the privilege of travelling to Japan and was able to spend a day at the Presbyterian Church in Japan's Assembly. It was encouraging to be with church leaders who are determined to see the gospel go out among people who are resistant to its life-giving message.

I was also able to meet various church planters ranging from those in the heart of Tokyo city, to those in the outer suburbs, to those in areas affected by last year's devastating tsunami.

Only 0.55% of the Japanese are Christian and only 0.22% attend church regularly. What does Satan say to a church like this, that is relatively small? "Give up. You'll never get anywhere. This church won't grow." Satan repeats that message time after time across the earth wherever the church seems small.

But what does Jesus say to churches like these? What does he say to us? "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matthew 16:18). That promise of Jesus sustains the church in any location and in any age.

Yet if we are honest, there are times when we think: "Jesus, why don't you build your church much faster or in a better way?" But it's not our church. The church belongs to Jesus. He is the one who is building it and we have the marvellous privilege of being involved in the greatest task ever given to anyone — making the name of God known everywhere.

To those who pray, to those who give — thank you! Jesus is using your prayers and your gifts to build his church. What a marvellous day it will be when we are able to see the final product! What a glorious day of praise to God that will be!



KEVIN MURRAY

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the most effective things that we can do in cross-cultural mission is train nationals to minister to their own people.

APWM does this primarily through supporting theological education. Please consider sponsoring a student from one of the following countries.

BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh we support the Presbyterian Theological Centre in Gazipur which is the Bible College of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Bangladesh. We have no resident missionary, however from time to time we send Australians to teach short courses for ministers and evangelists. The cost of a scholarship for a student is \$1200.



PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL CENTRE, BANGLADESH

INDIA

Vijai Tagore is a lecturer at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehradun, India. APWM has brought Vijai and his family to Australia to study for a Master of Theology



VIJAI TAGORE, PTC SYDNEY

degree at PTC Sydney. They have ongoing support needs.

VANUATU

In Vanuatu we support the Talua Ministry Training Centre, the Bible College of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, where the Connors and Williamsons serve. The four year Bachelor of Ministry program is Vanuatu's first indigenous Bachelor-level program. It offers a higher level of training at a fraction of what it



TALUA MINISTRY TRAINING CENTRE, VANUATU

costs to send an individual or family overseas for training. A full Bachelor of Ministry scholarship costs \$4000.

MYANMAR

In Myanmar we support the Reformed Bible Institute, the Bible College of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Myanmar led by the Rev Dr Thang Bwee. We have one resident missionary, Martin Eagle, who teaches at the college. We are very grateful that through current sponsors, the cost of student scholarships has been met. In addition we provide support for rural pastors for whom we only need a few more sponsors at \$480 for each pastor.



REFORMED BIBLE INSTITUTE, MYANMAR

If you would like to sponsor a student or contribute toward a scholarship then please contact APWM National on 9792 1373 or email national@apwm.org.au

UPDATES

THEY'RE OFF!

Please join with us in praising God for those that have recently commenced serving overseas:

- J & R (Camden PC, NSW) SIM, East Asia.
- Brian & Judy Cullen (Stanthorpe PC, QLD) APWM National, Vanuatu.

WIRA & DEBBY DHARMA

Wira & Debby Dharma are from Beecroft PC, NSW. They serve with GRN as part of the home staff team. They have recently been accepted by APWM National as missionaries.



DEBBY & WIRA DHARMA

JOHN & ROSE EVANS

John and Rose Evans and family are settling in well to Japan. Rose and some of the children have returned to Australia for Rose to give birth.

If you would like to watch an interview with them then please go to www.vimeo.com/55045822

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

We currently have missionaries who are available to visit churches to build partnerships.

KYM AND STEPHANIE SCHWARZ (EPPING, NSW) SIM

are seeking to depart for Ethiopia in early 2013 to serve in the areas of psychology and IT support. You can contact them at kym.schwarz@sim.org



KYM & STEPHANIE SCHWARZ

PAUL & JENNY RAYNER (CENTRAL CHURCH, IPSWICH, QLD) PIONEERS, THAILAND.

Paul and Jenny have been visiting churches to build partnership support. They will be serving at the Grace International School in Thailand where Paul will join the teaching staff. Grace International is a school where many missionaries send their children, so Paul and Jenny's



PAUL & JENNY RAYNER

role will enable other missionaries to reach out with the gospel. They can be contacted on 0413 451 140 or therayners@internode.on.net

EAST TIMOR – LAND!

One of our prayer points over the last few years has been the need for land and a building for the congregation in Dili, East Timor. Each Sunday the congregation meets in the driveway of a church member under a blue tarpaulin. Rob Duncanson writes "Many blocks of land were investigated until finally a block was found which was in a suitable location and large enough for the church's purposes. From that time you might think that it would be simple. All that would be needed would be to negotiate the price then go to the lands office and arrange the transfer of title, right? Not in Timor Leste.

Until recently there was no such

thing as a written property title deed. That would not be a particular problem, but in a country where 30-50% of the population has died or been displaced in the last quarter of the last century and where land has been forcibly taken by invaders and perhaps squatted upon by locals, it is a problem. There is a barely imaginable tangle of land-rights issues and disputes which cover the whole country.

Local negotiations over price with the local landholder, his family and his village were fairly straightforward, but then the whole process had to wait in a processing queue in government departments for two years while they



DAVID BURKE & YAS SHIMIZU ON THE SITE OF THE LAND

tried to cope with their overwhelming backlog of land rights issues."

In early December we received news that the sale has now been finalised. Thank you very much to those who prayed and gave gifts to make this possible.

WORKPARTNERS VANUATU JULY 2013

When: 28th June to 14th July.

Paama Island: Building a Presbytery Resource Centre

Cost: Approximately \$2,100 (ex Sydney or Brisbane). We suggest that participants pay 1/3 themselves, approach their church seeking a contribution of 1/3 and then fundraise the remaining 1/3. Full payment due by 24 May 2013.

Who can go? Committed Christians, minimum age 18 years (Paama).

Closing date: Workpartners & Visa application forms due by 10th May 2013.

Contact: APWM (02) 9792 1373 or national@apwm.org.au or go to www.apwm.org.au and click the 'Workpartners' page to find and download an application form or to get more details.

SHORT TERM MINISTRY IN JAPAN?

Have you ever considered serving as a short-term missionary in Japan? The Japan team which APWM belongs to has many needs:

Covenant Community School is a small school of approximately 30 students. The school needs the following teachers for at least 2 years:

Principal – someone with teaching and educational administration experience.

Infants, Primary and High School Teachers.

Teaching Assistants

Handyman or Skilled Carpenters: Handyman skills can be put to use here, especially in the earthquake area.

Music Therapy: Plans are in hand to carry out a "pilot program" for music as a way of reaching and healing Japanese children traumatized by the 2011 earthquake.

Counselling: Japanese language would be helpful, but skilled Biblical counselling is sorely needed in Japan. Counsellors could train local church leaders or do direct counselling.

English as a Second Language Teachers. Applicants need to be mature Christians with at least a bachelor's degree, outgoing and enjoy teaching in a fairly informal setting. Ideal team members would serve for at least two years.

Musicians and Artists: Community Arts Tokyo is growing an English Language Arts teaching and outreach program in Tokyo. Musicians and artists of all kinds can serve brief internships up to two year or longer. Chiba also has active music outreach programs including Gospel Music clubs.

Make an offer: Many interests and skills can be put to work here. The team enjoy finding ways to put committed Christians to work in areas they love.

You would either serve at your own expense or raise team support to cover your costs. To find out more, contact APWM National or email Kevin Murray: kevinmurray@apwm.org.au



BIBLE TEACHING IN EAST TIMOR

by Yas Shimizu

In early December 2012 a small team from Sydney: Rev David Burke, Rev Wilson Fernandes and Mr Yas Shimizu, travelled to East Timor to conduct a Preaching and Bible-Teaching Conference.

Yas is married to former APWM missionary Nerida (Bell) and is a student at PTC Sydney. We asked him to share his reflections on the Conference.

"Those who attended the conference were young & old, male & female, and eager to learn. There were some cultural similarities with my home country, Japan: politeness, shyness, group-orientated & humid weather. Not everyone seemed to own a complete Bible, some had very thin Bibles which were probably not the whole Bible. All meals were prepared by church ladies using wood fires to cook in an outdoor kitchen.

During the teaching sessions I saw the importance of getting feedback from locals and adjusting teaching

plans each day to meet the local people's level of understanding and needs. I saw the importance of knowing the Bible well to teach others. I had the opportunity to preach in public for the first time, and received very encouraging feedback.

It was interesting to hear that a number of people had been sent overseas for theological training. A Brazilian missionary family had sent two young men from Dili to a Presbyterian Seminary in Brazil for 5 years on scholarships. This family's 10 year-old ministry will end soon because two trained young ministers will take their place. The majority of local Presbyterian churches don't have church buildings in the villages. Most ministers and preachers are full time workers in secular fields.

Another thing I learned about cross-cultural mission is the importance of being flexible when facing the difficulties of cultural and language differences, and also the inconvenience of the physical environment such as no clean drinking water, flushing toilets and the risk of disease."



MINISTRY IN JAPAN: FOUR CHURCH PLANTING SNAPSHOTS

GRACE CITY CHURCH

At the moment Pastor Makoto Fukuda leads the Grace City Church. The church is seeking to reach out to the younger generation to show them that Jesus Christ can answer their deepest questions. The congregation meets in a popular but expensive area of Tokyo which has many affluent married young couples. However many of these people are so busy with work that there is little opportunity for them to hear the gospel. These people dream of working in the very heart of Tokyo but then discover that such success doesn't answer their deepest questions about life.



TOKYO'S GINZA DISTRICT

Many Japanese think that Christianity is a western religion. However there is a growing interest in Christianity especially among young people. In the last 3 years many non-Christian magazines have written about the connection between art, architecture and Christianity. The Japanese who live a more traditional life are more involved in religious ritual and harmony in life but they too find that these things fail to answer their life questions.



CHURCH PLANTERS MAKOTO FUKUDA & GEERT DI BOO

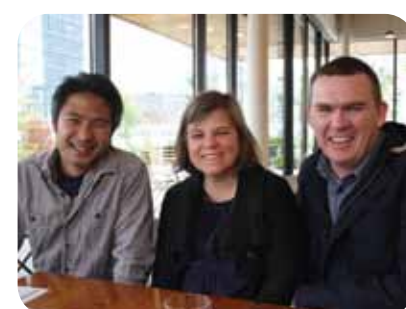
How does Grace City Church reach out? Through events such as a ballet that explains the Christmas story. Through music which connects with people because of the Japanese appreciation of beauty. Through stress management seminars for the business community. Christmas is a good time for outreach because at that time many Japanese are more open to finding out more about what Christians believe.

Ministry in the city is very expensive and so many churches are reluctant to conduct ministry in the city centre. Grace City Church rents a modest floor space on a Sunday afternoon for 4 hours and pays AUD 1,000 per week!

GRACE HARBOR CHURCH

Japan is a nation of 127 million people and yet there are very few Christians. Consider Seima Aoyagi's story. Seima is from a Buddhist background. As a 17 year-old high school student, he met a fellow student who was the very first Christian he had ever encountered. As they discussed the claims of Christ, Seima came to see that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. It's hard to believe - he did not meet one Christian for the first 17 years of his life.

Today, Seima is a Church Planter serving amongst his own people. Under Seima's leadership, Grace City Church is planning to plant a daughter church "Grace Harbor" with the aim of reaching out through church plants to the Tsukishima/Toyosu/Shinonome area. Seima is in the process of putting together his team as they pray and plan to commence the church at the



SEIMA AOYAGI, ROSE & JOHN EVANS beginning of 2014. The team recently rented an entire restaurant for an evening so that church members could invite their friends along to an informal meal and presentation. 150 non-Christians showed up and wanted to know more about the Church's plans.

SHIN URAYASU CHURCH

Craig and Ree Colbourne from the USA are long term missionaries to Japan. What keeps Craig going? The promise of Jesus that He will build His church! However this takes time. There's a Japanese proverb "Three years on a rock," meaning that you have to be in a place and stay there to be eventually accepted. Perseverance is respected in Japan.

Craig and the team he works with are seeking to reach out with the gospel to the people of Shin Urayasu, many of whom live in high-rise apartments. The church doesn't meet in a purpose-built building but in one of



SHIN URAYASU

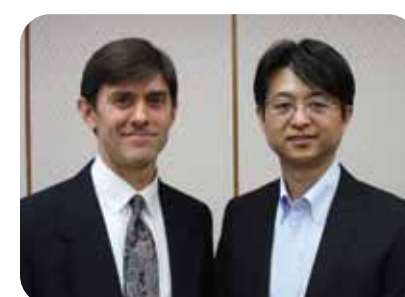
the apartments in a high-rise. On Tuesday mornings a playgroup is held which involves singing, games and a story from the Bible read by Karen Darda (Church Missionary Society, Australia). The team is aiming to start 3 more churches over a 10-15 year period.

SENDAI

Daisuke Kimura served as a pastor in Tokyo for 7 years before God led him to Sendai, one of the parts of Japan that was so badly affected by the tsunami on Friday, 11 March 2011. Kent Muhling from the USA, has been in Japan for 7 years, working first as a church planter and then as a pastor in Kansai before also going to serve in Sendai.

The city has largely recovered from the devastation caused by the tsunami. However there are still many people who don't have homes and who don't have any work. On the inside there is still a lot of pain and sadness caused by the tsunami. Many people who lost homes on the coast have moved into Sendai city itself. These people not only lost their homes but also their communities. Family, work, home and community were all lost at the same time. For many of these people, life has lost its meaning.

Daisuke serves with Kent and together they are planning to plant a Church in Sendai. Daisuke says "We anticipate starting public worship in about two years. First, I want to get to know the city very well and know the things that happen here. I want to taste the pains and the joys of the people who live here. After that we'll be preparing for the sort of ministry presented by the opportunities before us."



KENT MUHLING & DAISUKE KIMURA

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www.apwm.org.au



A getaway for QTC staff, students and families at Watson Park



QTC Students and Staff recently enjoyed two days away to start another fantastic Academic Year at College. The Retreat gave staff, students, and their families, an opportunity to get to know each other as we shared meals, listened to interviews of staff and students, heard two talks from Gary Millar, and enjoyed free time too! 2013 sees the largest number of students enrolled with QTC. There are 118 students studying a range of courses from one and two year Diplomas, three year Bachelor degrees, the Wordworks youth course to post-graduate courses such as the Master of Arts (Theology) course. Of these 118 students, 52 are in first year. These new students are excited to study at QTC and come from a variety of backgrounds and locations including Cairns, Toowoomba, Allora, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Ipswich and even Eurasia and Sudan!



“But the word of the Lord endures forever”

by Christine Campbell (nee Jenkins)

THIS VERSE meets the eyes of the small but faithful band of Presbyterians in Maryborough each Sunday at worship. Its truth is an encouragement as they look to the future after celebrating the significant milestone of 150 years of Presbyterian witness in the town.

Though their numbers and the place of worship are very different from pre-Church Union days, the past was celebrated with joy and thankfulness to God on the weekend of 16 and 17 February 2013.

History often repeats itself. Just like the weather back in February 1863 (detailed in the opening lines of the sesquicentenary booklet) when Maryborough had some of the worst weather in its young history with days of torrential rain, so it was for this celebratory weekend. However, neither then nor on this occasion were the spirits of the people dampened.

The celebrations began on the Saturday afternoon with worship led by Rev. Wallace Brown from Bundaberg in what is now St Stephen's Uniting Church. It is the sanctuary that the Presbyterians in Maryborough called home for ninety-six years up until Church

Union in 1977. As a Maryborough born-and-bred baby boomer with St Stephen's as my home church during my formative years, it was special to be back on home territory and to re-connect with some familiar faces and to read greetings from others who were unable to attend.

There was much conversation and catch-up over afternoon tea, served by the local Girls Brigade. The beautifully-decorated cake featured an image of the burning bush crest in the centre.

Over dinner that night, both visitors and locals enjoyed a relaxed time of fellowship with the Chinese Restaurant abuzz with friendly conversation.

At the Sunday morning worship, there was standing room only in the beautified wooden church which the Maryborough Presbyterian family now calls home. The augmented congregation gave thanks and praise to God for 150 years of faithful Presbyterian witness in the town and surrounds. Prayers were offered for God's guidance and strength to maintain their Christian influence in this heritage city.

The sumptuous spread for the barbecue banquet lunch on Sunday was evidence of the commitment and cohesion of this small congregation. Their endeavours to make it a truly memorable weekend were obvious and were very much appreciated. The blue and yellow colour theme carried through from the printed Orders of Service and Souvenir Book to the cute table decorations.

Our State Moderator, the Right Reverend David Niven and his very supportive wife Diane, shared in the weekend events. David preached on both Saturday and Sunday and celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the Sunday service. It was his privilege to cut the celebratory cake at the Saturday afternoon tea.

Although the congregation is without a resident Minister, God's word is preached each week. Difficult times can test but also strengthen any congregation and these celebrations gave the Maryborough flock a focus and a great reason to lift their spirits and to work together. The least we can do as the wider church is uphold this small band in prayer and pray that God will raise up a man to lead them into the next 150 years.

A celebration at St Andrew's Meals on Wheels, Townsville



Mrs Doris Moore OAM - Photo courtesy of Townsville Bulletin

RECENTLY, ST Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Townsville helped to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs Doris Moore OAM who, for the last 45 years, has been one of the loyal volunteers at Meals on Wheels, a community service provided by St Andrew's.

Most weekdays, Mrs Moore delivers up to 15 meals to the frail, elderly clients living in Gulliver, a suburb of Townsville.

This service does not only ensure that the client receives a healthy meal in their own home, but also provides a social contact and, for some people

living alone, it is a way of checking that all is well.

The church is grateful to the many volunteers who make this service possible.

St Andrew's Meals on Wheels started operating in the 1960s delivering three meals per day to members of the congregation.

Currently, 160 meals are delivered with extra frozen meals for the weekend.

This is an invaluable community service which enables many elderly people and those with disabilities to remain in their own homes.

INVITATION TO MODERATOR OR MODERATOR-ELECT

If you are holding an important event in your church and wish to invite the Moderator or Moderator-Elect, contact details are as follows:

Mr Niven as Moderator, contact details are email: david.r.niven@optusnet.com.au (preferred); phone: 07 3851 0815 (home); Mob: 0407 468 701

Mr Greg Rodgers as Moderator-Elect, please contact Rev. Matt Viney (Chaplain) at pcq2013@gmail.com or mobile 0411 462 734.

Proshikkhon Opened my Eyes

by R'Jaye Rojas*



R'jaye tries his hand as a rickshaw driver



R'jaye Rojas

Mudgeeraba Presbyterian Church is seeking a new Minister

The congregation of Mudgeeraba Presbyterian Church is seeking a suitably qualified person to fulfil the full-time position of Minister in their Church.

The position will focus on preaching the Word of God, religious education and visitation ministry to families and individuals within the Mudgeeraba and surrounding communities.

Mudgeeraba is a friendly community located in the Gold Coast hinterland.

For information regarding the position including conditions of employment, congregation membership and activities please contact:
Moderator Alan Radloff on 07 5530 5758
arccc@bigripoffpond.com.au or
Elder Mark Gallagher, Session Clerk, 0755251291
gallfamy@optusnet.com.au

-o-o-o-

Scots Presbyterian Memorial Church Clayfield is seeking a new Minister

Clayfield is an inner-northern suburb of Brisbane under ten kilometres from the CBD. Scots Presbyterian Memorial Church has been part of the fabric of Clayfield for over a century. We are a small but growing church family with a range of ages and backgrounds. We want to serve Clayfield and Brisbane's north-east and to grow a loving Christ centred community. Church on Sunday morning includes Sunday School and creche. Mid-week there are Growth Groups and a healthy and over-flowing play-group.

Scots has enjoyed ten years of healthy revitalising ministry and is now ready for a new minister who will continue faithful Bible teaching, purposeful leadership, training and equipping.

For further inquiries please contact
Rev. Steve Blencowe (Interim Moderator)
by phone 3305 0256 or email steve@kpc.org.au

Introduction: "There are oodles of people out there who are willing to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, if only we are willing to tell them."

Reflection: The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only hope for anyone to be saved. It is a proclamation of Jesus as Lord and King who is willing to forgive those who come to Him in repentance and faith. (Romans 1:16-17)

Eye Opener: Proshikkhon has helped me to see that there is so much work to be done in Bangladesh but we have a Great Saviour. If we trust Him, He will provide what we need to accomplish His purposes through us.

A Useful Tool: One big way God has provided is the evangelistic tool - Bible storytelling. Each day on Proshikkhon we accompanied tribal Christians to villages where they told Bible stories. That opened my eyes to the idea that storytelling is an effective and non-threatening way to witness. Even more impressive was the fact that Muslim people were willing to hear stories from the Torah (the books of Moses) and the Injil (Gospels). This gives me hope that God is working in their hearts. I realised that our job is to tell the stories; they are God's stories. I must also be willing to tell the stories in my own context in Australia.

Equipping the Teachers: Our goal must be to equip, empower and transform Christian leaders so that they will be able to equip and empower ordinary believers to be able to tell the Bible stories themselves. Proshikkhon achieved the first step. Christian tribal leaders were equipped and, through prayer and encouragement, they were also empowered. God's Spirit moved so that neither fear nor worries was manifest in any of the tribal leaders. And as we saw the tribal leaders 'own the stories' and 'tell the stories' we knew that it was because they trusted in Jesus.

Sustainability: My prayer now is that these tribal Christians will continue to learn new Bible stories and continue to tell them both to the non-Christians in their communities and also to their fellow believers, so as to empower the body of Christ as the priesthood of believers. I pray that through Bible storytelling God will continue to work in Bangladesh so that more doors will be opened for those who are willing to tell the Good News.

Contextualisation: On Proshikkhon I also saw the benefit of contextualisation for the church leaders. Contextualisation gives them the tool they need to look into their own culture to identify which cultural practices and rituals can be accepted within the church, which practices must be rejected by the church, and which cultural practices must be transformed before being followed by believers. In this way a truly Biblical church will form and the Christians will be seen to be good people by their

fellow citizens. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine, that they may see your good works ... and glorify your Father in heaven". In this way, traditions that don't clash with the Bible may be kept and practised within the church to glorify God.

Cultural Research: Contextualisation is hard work! It really is! But oh how it opens doors into the ways a culture can use and apply God's Word. On Proshikkhon I learned how to do Biblical research on the different aspects of the culture of the tribal participants with whom we worked. I discovered that the level of detail is so important. First, we had to make sure the tribal belief we were researching was accurately stated. It must be the tribal group participants who state the belief in their own words, and then it is translated into English. Then it had to be translated back to make sure that we had understood their belief correctly.

Biblical Research: Next we had to search in the Bible for passages of Scripture that speak to that particular tribal belief. The Scripture must speak as directly as possible. That is no small task! It is very hard. Biblical commands are the most effective in targeting a tribal belief. If we cannot find specific commands, then Biblical principles derived from commands will suffice. The godly actions of godly people come next. But sometimes godly people do ungodly things, so each of these must be carefully analysed to make sure they are in line with Scripture!

We were often truly out of our depths! But we knew how important it was to get our Biblical research right. I was so thankful that we had a good team to support each other, so we could discuss the finer points of contextualisation. I am grateful that I could see God at work in Bangladesh in the contextualisation seminar. It was truly an eye-opener for me. I am also thankful that this year I am at Bible College so I can better equip myself!

Open Eyes: With these two seminars, I witnessed God at work in Bangladesh. And I can also apply what I learned in my context in Australia. I will be asking people to listen to Bible stories. And I will analyse the culture I've adopted to see if there are things that need to change so I also can think and worship in the most Biblical way.

Daily Preparation: On Proshikkhon I was also reminded that as the family of God we belong to each other and we are to be a prayerful family. "A family that prays together stays together." That's a popular slogan in my home country - the Philippines. Starting each day on Proshikkhon with prayer at 6.30 am was a real blessing. But before we were up, the Muslim community was at the mosque next door, praying at 6.00 am! I suddenly realised, "Wow! We are late."

On Proshikkhon I came to know how much we can learn from our

Muslim friends. They pray much more regularly than we Christians. We tell ourselves that we are the family of God, but then we sometimes only pray when we need something from God. Would not God want us to come to Him in every situation? We so easily take prayer for granted instead of constantly seeking God in all that we do. As Paul said, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus". 1 Thessalonians 5:15-17

So one of my lessons from Proshikkhon was to learn to depend on God in prayer much more than I did. I was struck by the fact that Christians don't pray as much as Muslims. Wow, that hit me. How much more could God accomplish through us if we spent more time in prayer, expecting God to be at work through us.

These times of prayer and devotions each morning in Proshikkhon, plus the testimonies we heard from each Proshikkhon team member, together with the daily interaction and encouragement we received, really built up my faith. I heard of the many ways God had blessed my fellow team members, whom I definitely now know as friends, with the great satisfaction that they are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Partners at Work: Finally, I will also be praying for the different organisations we worked with in Bangladesh. Each have different ministries, but we worked together as a team. The work they do has inspired me to tell my church and my friends and family here in Australia. I will let them know how we can help and pray for them.

Final Prayer: My final prayer is that God will continue to open doors for the tribal groups of Bangladesh to know Him better through the Scripture. They can then do the work of transforming their own cultures to align them more with God's Word, without the tragedy of totally rejecting their cultural practices that have embedded within them values that the Bible affirms.

*R'jaye is a student at the Presbyterian Theological Centre at Burwood in Sydney.



Each day the Australian team worked with Christian tribal leaders to research their cultural beliefs



WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH JANELLE HENDERSON ABOUT LIFE IN NORTH QUEENSLAND AND LIFE IN GENERAL

Wendy: *Welcome to Girl Talk Janelle! It's always great to be able to talk to someone from the North. So first, tell us when you moved there and where you came from.*

J: We moved to Ayr in January 2008 and just prior we were living in Bexley in Sydney. We moved to Sydney some eight years earlier for my husband's (Gavin) job. Before that we lived in Brisbane for 10 years.

W: *Now what about you and your family what does an average day look like for all of you in Ayr?*

J: We have two children - Angus who is 4 and Millie who is 1 (almost two). They are delightful and I spend my days mostly looking after them, which is the most wonderful and hardest thing I have ever done. Angus just started kindy this year. He loves it and has already brought home one vomiting bug!! Millie and I go to PCYC Kinda Gym and story time at the library on two of his kindy mornings. I also learn the piano and made it through my first year. One of the joys of living in a country town - kindy, the PCYC, our doctor, my gym, the library and our dentist are all located less than two blocks from our house. Angus could have gone to kindy just across the road from us but I signed him up around the corner just to broaden his horizons!

W: *Good idea! And I can see how all that would tend to fill up your days. What about Gavin? What does he do?*

J: Gavin is the Pastor for the Presbyterian churches in Ayr and Home Hill. The district we live in is the Burdekin Shire and about 18 000 people live in the region. It takes about an hour to drive to Townsville, just to give people some perspective.

W: *Is there an opportunity for you to get involved in ministry in any way, even though you have two little people to look after?*

J: There are always opportunities for ministry, I find, no matter what life stage you are at. I lead a weekly women's Bible study and we are in the second year of our Sunday School at church. Our Sunday School has five children. Three of the children are new to church this year, so it is a great beginning. I recently had a morning tea for kindy parents at the manse too, which was a nice way to have a chat and invite people into our home.

W: *Before this latest stage of your life, where did you grow up, go to school, study, work etc?*

J: As a child I only moved twice. Two houses in Biloela in Central Queensland. I then moved to the heart of Brisbane and studied Home Economics at Uni in Kelvin Grove. Then I had a series of food technology jobs in Brisbane and did things from inspecting frozen peas from Spain, to dealing with customer complaints about eggs, to developing soups and pasta sauces for large companies and dreaming up new recipes for a Fresh Chicken Franchise company. Moving



Janelle and Gavin Henderson with Millie and Angus

W: *How has that changed your life or the way you live?*

J: Well, thanks to God, when I left home and went to Uni I realised my life was at a crossroad and I could go either way - following Jesus, or not. Praise God I chose His way. Marrying a strong Christian also meant that we helped each other along the way in our early years of marriage and through hard times.

W: *Has your knowledge of God and his Word helped you with the challenges of life ... either personally or in walking beside others? Do you have a favourite scripture?*

J: Gav and I had fertility issues for six-and-a-half years before we had Angus. It was one of the hardest times in our lives. Holding on to God's word was, at times, all I had. Especially Romans 8:28-29, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose...." and Psalm 31:14-15 "But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands...." No matter what happened I knew God was in control and that He would work out His purposes in our lives.

W: *And He has ... and He does! Sometimes God actually works through His people. How have others encouraged you in difficult times?*

J: Through our years of infertility most people didn't understand our heartache. Often people said hurtful things because they just didn't know what to say. I had a lot of hurt to deal with at times. But those people who did encourage us usually did so with a Bible verse or telling us they were praying. Practical things too like a friend who dropped around a meal after I had day surgery one time.

W: *It's so important to take these opportunities to encourage one another. Do you have any other closing thoughts that might inspire women in their daily lives?*

J: It's pouring with rain outside and it has been yet another hot and humid day. Millie is running around the lounge room screaming at the top of her lungs (with delight but it is still deafening). I must say I don't feel very inspired. However, I have been encouraged this week as I prepared our Bible study on Lydia, the woman who sold purple cloth and was the first convert in Europe (Acts 16). We must keep reaching out with the great news of the Gospel. We shouldn't doubt that God can use us. We need to be open to His direction through reading the Bible and talking with Him.

W: *Thanks, Janelle, for encouraging us all by sharing the ups and downs of your life and faith. We pray that God will continue to bless you with his grace and peace.*

PRAYER POINTS FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

After a few weeks attending the "Ministry to Women" course at the Queensland Theological College, it seems the following brief points might be appropriate issues for us all to be praying about

As women, let's PRAISE God together for:

- Loving us and saving us through His grace and the sacrifice of His Son Jesus on the Cross in our place
- Creating us in His image - equal to, but different from men
- Assigning us the task of being God's agents on earth in partnership with men
- Giving us access to the gospel through His Word
- Sending the Holy Spirit to live in us and to be our counsellor in all things
- Granting us the potential to be mothers - "life givers" - like Eve and Mary, the mother of Jesus
- Giving us all wide and varied spiritual gifts, to equip us to serve in His Church and grow His kingdom
- Showing us the hope of the resurrection through Christ
- Giving us the joy of looking forward to Jesus' return and a new heaven and new earth

As we minister to one another, let's PRAY for:

- An attitude of humility, like Jesus
- Confidence in the gospel to be what we need most
- Sensitivity and compassion towards others and their need for the gospel as well
- Wisdom in our words, actions and thoughts
- Willingness to study God's Word regularly and diligently, reading what it actually says and listening to God
- Boldness to not hold back in sharing the gospel or in using our gifts to serve the Church



Cane fire - a rare sight these days



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

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Much-loved radio broadcaster dies

by Billy Diehm, Community Partnership Manager, 96five Family Radio

IT IS with much sadness that 96five mourns the death of Haydn Sergeant.

Haydn Sergeant was a very popular broadcaster in this city on several radio and television stations in his working career.

After his retirement from paid work he became a tireless advocate for 96five Family Radio being both a station manager and serving on the Family Radio Board for many years, including as Board Chairman.

He was instrumental in 96five finally achieving a full-time broadcast licence in 2001.

My favourite Haydn story during his time at 96five happened in December 1997.

Haydn with his wife Norma left for a European tour holiday.

Haydn had made it his mission to try to ensure we got our licence after some 20 years of trying and failing.

As he sat on the airplane in Sydney, ahead of their long flight to Europe, he introduced himself to a man sitting beside him. When Haydn asked the inevitable question of what he did for a job, the passenger replied he had

just been made redundant from the Australian Broadcasting Authority where he was in charge of assessing community radio applications. Haydn's jaw dropped.

On the flight across to Europe, Haydn picked his brains on why Family Radio had been unsuccessful for all those years.

It also turned out the man was in the same tour group. By the time the holiday was over Haydn had formulated our licence application which ended up being highly successful.

It is amazing what God did and how faithful Haydn was in asking God for His wisdom.

Haydn was a man who was a great encourager of people throughout his whole life and many people in this city and country have been touched by his kind words and support, whether it was in a career in broadcasting or they were struggling with life issues at the time of meeting him.

96five staff and board members are quite sad at the news of Haydn's death but we are very thankful that we

could call him a friend and his legacy is reflected on the influence this station has on families throughout this city today.

When I first started at 96five as an announcer some 15 years ago, I felt quite intimidated being interviewed by Haydn at my job interview.

Here was someone who was the best in the business asking me what I could bring to 96five as announcer.

But in true Haydn-form he was incredibly encouraging during the interview and then subsequently throughout my career.

He would always have something encouraging to say which always helped me to do my best and he took a great interest in me, not just as a work colleague but as a person, always asking about my family etc.

I described him once as a man for the people and I truly believe it. I will miss his wisdom, encouraging words and infectious smile.

God bless you Haydn because that's what you did to me and thousands of others.



In June 1928 the inspirational Capt. Charles Kingsford Smith (second from right) piloted the "Southern Cross" on the first ever trans-Pacific flight from the USA to Australia. Photograph by H.B. Miller, National Library of Australia

Kingsford Terrace set to take off in style

Wouldn't it be wonderful to know that your retirement is all about you and the things that matter most to you in life.

PresCare's newest, and most prestigious community is called Kingsford Terrace and will surely set a new standard for quality retirement living. Named in honour of another Brisbane icon, legendary aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, the \$100 million Kingsford Terrace development will soon begin construction on the Hopetoun site at Corinda.

With demolition complete, early works are scheduled to begin in May and 68 stage one apartments are due for completion in early 2015. These stunning, balcony apartments have been designed from the ground up to suit a modern lifestyle.

Beautifully laid out, with spacious design and easy care living in mind, residents will have direct apartment access from the secure underground car park. A little bit of luxury at a time when you deserve it most.

Perfect for entertaining, the apartments are full of light, and the designer kitchens come complete with stone bench tops and European appliances. Master bedrooms feature built-in storage and well-equipped ensuite bathrooms. Many of the apartments offer impressive views of the city skyline and the surrounding district. This is the best in modern urban living.

These stylish apartments have been designed as part of a wider, supportive community. At the heart of the complex is *The Southern Cross* – a social hub offering a range of facilities to make life at Kingsford Terrace as full and rich as it can be. Named after Kingsford Smith's famous trans-Pacific aircraft, the design includes spacious lounge areas, a café, purpose-built chapel and a sensational indoor pool.

A range of modern health facilities and classes is available, as well as a hairdressing salon, billiards room and a delightful dining area. The spectacular garden terrace is ideal for barbecues and alfresco dining, especially on those warm, balmy Brisbane evenings. All these shared spaces and leafy gardens are especially designed to be enjoyed by all – without the worry of having to maintain them.

Most importantly, Kingsford Terrace is about community. With so many activities on offer, and a group of like-minded friends at hand, you can be as active and as social as you choose.

The community has been designed so that you can simply get on with enjoying life the way you want. A range of services will be available – anything from a daily meal to cleaning and laundry. It's just a matter of choice.

Located less than 20 minutes from central Brisbane, Corinda is a well-established suburb bordered by a number of parks and several golf courses to the east. There will always be activities in the surrounding community to take your interest. The Brisbane River and Indooroopilly Shopping Centre, home to over 220 fashion and specialty stores, and the only Myer in the region are also close by.

Kingsford Terrace is a premium development by PresCare – a ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland that has been proudly caring for Queenslanders in their communities for more than 80 years.

The ultimate in modern retirement living, Kingsford Terrace is a place for living life to the full and for spending time with those who are most important to you.

Update from the Moderator

by Rt Rev David Niven



The Moderator with Revs Jens Norved (Maroochydore) and Wal Brown (Bundaberg)

AFTER A refreshing break during some of December and January the new year commenced with a visit to St John's Presbyterian Church Toowoomba on 20 January for the setting apart by the Darling Downs Presbytery of the Rev Graeme McKay as a PresCare Chaplain. PresCare CEO, Mr Greg Skelton, and his wife, along with several other members of the Board also attended.

I preached at The Gap Presbyterian Church on the following Sunday and the week after Diane and I visited Maleny Presbyterian Church. It was good to catch up with the Rev Norm Bartlett as we spent some time together at Theological College and were also part of the Darling Downs Presbytery during our early years of ministry.

It was also a delight for the three of us to have a lovely lunch with an ex-Army Chaplain who now lives at Maleny. It was great fellowship in the Lord.

On 5 February it was a pleasure for my Chaplains and I to be involved in the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia (Qld Unit) Annual Service of Dedication and Communion at Ann Street Presbyterian Church.

We enjoyed a delightful lunch with the ladies following the service in the new facilities that are now part of the Ann Street complex. It is well worth a visit to see the re-development, which is a far cry from the old hall and Interior House.

On 10 February, Diane and I visited the Warwick Yangan Presbyterians with the service being held at Yangan. It was a great time of fellowship with the folk there and an opportunity to stay with the Session Clerk and his wife, Nick and Diane Prins, who had previously been members at The Gap.

Later that same week I was off to the Gold Coast for the annual PresCare Board Retreat and then it was off to Maryborough for the 150th anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in that town and district. Well attended services were held on

Saturday 16 February in St Stephens Uniting Church and on Sunday 17 February at the Presbyterian Church to mark the occasion. I preached at both services and conducted the Lord's Supper on the Sunday.

The congregation and many guests enjoyed an informal dinner on Saturday night and a BBQ lunch on Sunday. It was a wonderful celebration of the faithfulness of God. Diane and I visited Caboolture Presbyterian Church on 24 February where I again had the privilege of preaching.

It was great to catch up with John and Lyn Nicol as we have known them for many years. It was exciting to see God's Hand at work in that church.

I should be reporting at this point on our most recent visit to St George Presbyterian Church. We didn't make it there unfortunately.

The Warrego Highway between Toowoomba and Dalby had sheets of water flowing across it in many places. Once we were on the Moonie Highway we soon encountered water across the road south of Dalby and after successfully crossing it were advised by a friendly person on the other side to turn around as there was deeper water further down the road.

We took that advice and as rain kept pouring down in the catchment and the creeks and rivers kept rising we turned our heads for home.

We made it safely back some nine hours after leaving, thankful for the Lord's protection. Diane said that it was a long drive to have breakfast in Toowoomba!

During this period I have also been involved in PresCare, Finance and Administration and Fairholme College Board meetings, Standing Committee meetings, consultation meetings, a Commission of Assembly and an Appeals Commission.

It has been a busy few weeks but the Lord has been gracious, as always.

Thank you to those who pray regularly for the Moderator – it is appreciated very much.

Speaking the Gospel in our sexually broken world

IT'S HARDER than ever to be clear about the relationship between sexuality and identity for Aussies. It's even more difficult to relate sexuality to who Jesus is and who God calls us to be. How do we take part in a public conversation where there's a clamour of voices trying to be heard? How do we proclaim Jesus to a world saturated with the false message that you're defined by your sexuality and your relationships with other people?

Macklemore's hip-hop hit *Same Love* has been one of Australia's top ten songs for the last two months. It presents a powerful voice for those who have been hurt by the way Christians have spoken about sex, sexuality and homosexuals. The song is powerful. Hum a few bars and you might just find yourself agreeing with the song's central thesis:

*"Whatever God you believe in
We come from the same one
Strip away the fear
Underneath it's all the same love"*

The message of *Same Love* is that God has created people as they are – and we're wrong to judge people for what is just "love". This is one of those false messages bombarding us.

The message of the Bible is that God created people as male and female, in His image – and that like a reflection in a shattered mirror, this image has been broken by our rejection of God's place in creation. Everything that seems natural to us is subject to this brokenness. The message of the Bible is that we're all sexually broken, because we're all broken in every facet of our lives – it's just that this brokenness expresses itself in different ways for each of us. Underneath, it's all the same brokenness – not the same love. What we all so desperately need is the 'same love' shown to us: God's love.

God shows His 'same love' to broken people in the Gospel. He shows His love to broken people by sending Jesus – a whole person. A person who bears God's image. A complete person – and the only person uniquely unbroken. So it is Jesus Who brings the only possibility of true transformation – He unites people to Him by giving us His Spirit so that we start being shaped into a new image – the image of Jesus. The broken is made whole. This is the transformation the gospel offers to how we think about sex and identity.

This message of the gospel, when it comes to sex and identity, has always been counter-cultural. The apostle Paul didn't pick random disconnected examples when speaking about the types of sexual immorality people were leaving behind when they turned to Jesus. He wrote in a world saturated in broken sexual imagery. He was writing in a world where sex was used as a transaction or to demonstrate social power.

Moses wasn't pulling examples of sexual brokenness from the air when he wrote down God's Law in Leviticus – we're told Israel is not to be like the nations around them, and part of their difference will be expressed in a commitment to marriage, as created by God, as a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman as the only appropriate place for sexual expression.

In the pages of the Old Testament we see how hard this difference is for us to maintain – even the leaders of God's people are sexually broken – look at Abraham – who gives his wife to Pharaoh, Judah, Samson, David, Solomon ... We live in a world where sexuality and sexual expression are a constant reminder that our humanity is broken and we're unable to meet the standards God created and calls us to.

The message of the gospel is a message of transformation. It calls us to base our identity in Christ, which calls us to transform how we think of every aspect of our lives – including our sexuality.

This sort of transformation is hard – so hard that our world is prepared to write it off as impossible. Macklemore isn't alone when he says that trying to change who we are is dangerous. He sings:

*"The right wing conservatives think it's a decision
And you can be cured with some treatment and religion
Man-made rewiring of a predisposition
Playing God, aw nah here we go."*

If the rewiring is "man-made" or playing God, rather than a rewiring offered by God, then the process is more dangerous than Macklemore thinks. But God rewires us when He changes our hearts through His Word and Spirit. This transformation is hard work – and the great news of the gospel is that God continues to offer His forgiveness, freely, as we stumble towards a future where we are "glorified" and conformed to the image of Jesus (Romans 8). It's not a change that happens overnight; and for the same-sex-attracted Christian who wants to follow Jesus, it's not a change where a switch is flicked from "gay" to "straight", any more than it's a switch for heterosexuals to change from "broken" to "cured". For many same-sex-attracted Christians this process will be a lifelong struggle, as it is for all of us, between the desires of the flesh and the work the Spirit does in us.

But how do we speak of this transformation, and this struggle, in a way that points people to Jesus, and not sexuality, as the ultimate basis of human identity? We live in a world where songs change hearts and minds more powerfully than rules,

and where real stories are much more powerful than assertions of fact that are disconnected from our daily lives. Stories of broken lives changed by the gospel are a vital communication tool – and we each have one, if we're prepared to be open, honest, and vulnerable.

Matt Moore is a Christian blogger in the United States. His story is a story of the pursuit of an identity based in Jesus through a struggle with his same sex attraction. Matt has, for some time, been bravely and publicly sharing his story – that he has left his homosexual identity behind, and is firmly convinced that trusting Jesus, and consequently enjoying his restored relationship with God, is the right basis for his identity, and self-worth. This doesn't mean changing his sexual orientation, but it impacts his sexual expression. In February this year, Matt was "outed" by some secular blogs because he had been caught out looking for casual gay sex using an online service. Matt's repentant, Christ-focused, response when questioned about his accuser's accusations that he is "suppressing his true nature" and that his private life doesn't match his public statements was:

"We don't point to ourselves as models of perfection, but point to Christ as the only perfection. On the Cross, Christ took on our sinful identity, and suffered the penalty we deserved. In turn, He offers his righteous identity to all who believe in Him."

He says Christians base their faith, not on our own ability not to fail, but in Christ's ability to be perfectly obedient. When asked what he'd say to others who experience same sex attraction he says: "Jesus is better than sin. It doesn't matter what the specific sin is, Jesus is better. He is more valuable, comforting and satisfying than homosexual behaviour, and I can say that from experience. If you fall, get back up and keep pursuing Him. If Jesus went as far as to die for your sin, why would He not help you up when you stumble?"

The Gospel in Society Today (GiST) team has produced a position paper outlining a gospel-based response to issues of sex and sexuality, including homosexuality. This will be available from the PCQ website (pcq.org.au).

If you are interested in reading or thinking further about ministering to those who experience same sex attraction, or sexual addiction, we recommend contacting Liberty Inc. Liberty offers gospel-centred pastoral care and counselling to individuals. They can provide training and resources for Christians bringing a gospel-centred approach to issues of sex and sexuality.



On their way to Caloundra for a holiday break, on Sunday 10 February, Roger and Margaret Crane visited their home congregaton at St John's, South Toowoomba. Between them, they conducted the morning worship service. As PIM Patrol missionaries based in Charters Towers, it was again mentioned that 2012 marked 100 years since John Flynn founded the Australian Inland Mission. During the "cuppa time" following the service, they showed photographs of some of their adventures and people they met on their patrol ministry last year.



Rt Rev. David Niven (Moderator) cutting Maryborough's anniversary cake

January Australia Day weather

THE AUSTRALIA Day long weekend is normally a time of celebration and relaxation; families enjoying the sunshine and the many activities that go along with the national day.

However, ex Tropical Cyclone Oswald wreaked havoc across Queensland dumping hundreds of millimetres of rain causing widespread flooding and destruction.

All of PresCare's services were affected in some way, however damage was limited and our staff and clients made it through the Australia Day weekend. Many of our staff went above and beyond the call of duty; staying overnight to ensure continuity of care.

Prior disaster management planning ensured processes and procedures were in place to help staff manage during the crisis and after. This is a brief summary of how PresCare services fared.

Prior to Rockhampton being hit by the wild weather, Fitzroy Community Care Coordinator Gina Yarrow was on the phone to all clients and families organising alternative arrangements.

While client care is our priority, this advanced warning allowed PresCare to also ensure the safety of our carers. With destructive winds and flash flooding it was important to keep carers off the road until it was safe.

All of PresCare's Community Care Services (except Cairns) were affected by the weather.

Residential Care General Manager Helen Watkins said staff pre-empted the weather and were fully prepared in case of flooding.

"Our staff have dealt with situations like this before and for them, it is business as usual. Their main priority was and is always the people in their care. They worked hard over the past week to ensure our residents' safety and wellbeing."

Sandra Thomson, Alexandra Gardens Facility Manager, said in 48 hours Rockhampton had 949 mms of rain. "It started around midday on 24 January and did not stop until just after midday on the 25th", she said.

"The rain was so heavy some of the gutters just gave way and the staff car parking area was just a sea of water."

"We had to do without some supplies for a while and no power but with the goodwill of many of our staff, we were able to maintain the comfort and care for our residents."



Alexandra Gardens gutters give way. Right: Mary River, Groundwater



Eagle Heights Road, Mt Tamborine



Celebrating 47 years of service to caring

ALEXANDRA GARDENS lost one of its most dedicated employees after retiring in March after 47-1/2 years' service

Lorraine Black was farewelled on Friday 8 March at a special morning team celebrating her time with PresCare and the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

For the first 13 years, Lorraine worked at St Andrew's Hillcrest Hospital and then moved into aged care for 34-1/2 years.

"I was just doing what I love to do and that was working with our residents and staff", she said.

"I came to, and stayed in, aged care because I wanted to be able to develop a rapport with the people I was looking after."

Facility Manager Sandra Thomson said despite experiencing health issues, Lorraine has "soldiered on".

"She has dedicated her time to making our clients feel cared for and she told me, after retiring, she wants to come back as a volunteer", Sandra said.

Lorraine worked in the kitchen at Alexandra Gardens.



Roslyn Lodge to the rescue

MT TAMBORINE resident Mary Perkins lived on one of the nicest tree-lined streets on the mountain until the wild weather in January when the street was transformed into a scary place.

Ms Perkins, a school teacher, lost power during the storms and sought refuge at Roslyn Lodge.

"I drove around the mountain for two hours looking for somewhere with electricity", she said.

"I rely on a CPAC machine for breathing at night. Without power and no place else to go, Roslyn Lodge took me in", she said.

"I turned up on the door step. I was grateful to have electricity. They were happy to have me and I was happy to be there", Ms Perkins said.

Roslyn Lodge also took on two other residents, providing them with care.

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

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Quit smoking today.

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PresCare
Compassionate Care

A joint Australian, State and Territory Government initiative under the National Partnership Agreement on Tobacco Use.

Sharon kicks the butt

WHEN VELA'S Sharon Johnson took up smoking 30 years ago, little did she know it would become a lifelong habit.

Three decades on, with the help of a 16 week quit smoking program, Sharon is ready to give up ... and be PresCare's ambassador for the program.

PresCare has partnered with the Queensland Department of Health to deliver *Just Do It...Quit It!* for staff, volunteers and contractors.

The Health Minister, the Hon. Lawrence Springborg, officially launched the program on Tuesday 12 March at Vela.

The evidence-based quit smoking program, delivered by Queensland Quitline (13 QUIT), provides smoking cessation behavioural counselling and Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) such as nicotine patches and/or gum/lozenges to participants.

Sharon thought smoking was "cool" when she started at 16. "My dad and friends were all doing it", she said.

"I have tried to give up a few times but with little willpower and no real desire to stop the habit, I kept going. I can't really answer why I keep smoking; I simply don't have an answer. I believe it is just a 'habit' that I am so used to having in my life."

"This time I am going to be successful because there is nothing good about smoking. I am grateful to PresCare for making *Just Do It...Quit It!* available", she said

Revving it up at Lake Sherrin



Hilda Newton, Lake Sherrin

AS THE roar of motorbike engines echoed through Lake Sherrin's grounds, residents gathered thinking a notorious bikie club had arrived.

Instead it was members from the 59 Club Australia (Queensland) branch to share their love of motorbikes and their passion for community.

The event was organised by Lake Sherrin's diversional therapist Lisa Craig as one of the activities for residents.

Hilda Newton, who recently moved into Lake Sherrin, said it was an event she looked forward to.

"The club members were all nice and I really appreciated their visit", she said.

"The day was a real stand out; it was something different."

The 59 Club President Roy Wyss said the residents were really excited to see them when they pulled up.

"The ladies were all lovely. They made us feel 10 feet tall", he said.

"One of the ladies was sitting on the back of the bike. She did not want to get off; she wanted to go for a ride."

"Bikies are always deemed to be bad boys but we are really softies at heart. The 59 Club and visiting places like Lake Sherrin gives us reason to ride our bikes. At the end of the day it is all about helping others. We do charity work, have fun and help where and when we can."

What's on ...



DATE CLAIMERS

St Paul's
150th Anniversary Celebrations



SATURDAY 8 JUNE 6pm

Scottish Evening *

A night to enjoy all things Scottish – food, highland dancers, traditions and tartans.

SUNDAY 23 JUNE 9.30am

Kirkin o' the Tartan

Gathering of the clans for Worship and in celebration of their Scottish heritage.

SATURDAY 13 JULY 12.30pm

Brisbane History Group Half Day Seminar *

ABOUT St Paul's AT St Paul's.

- Expand your Brisbane history
- Explore the sanctuary and its stories
- Enjoy the organ music

SUNDAY 28 JULY 2.30pm

Grand Organ Concert *

Celebrate the 130th anniversary of Brisbane's first ever organ recital, given on this historic Hill & Son (1882 London) organ on 31 July 1883.

SUNDAY 3 AUGUST round about noon

John Flynn and the A.I.M.

Over lunch after Morning Worship, be inspired by the John Flynn story with Guest Speaker the Very Rev Robert Benn.

An open invitation is extended to one and all for any of these events. (* = ticketed event)

Enquiries:

Phone: Christine 3273 2159

Email: events150stpauls@gmail.com

Website: stpaulspcevents.blogspot.com.au

briefly

UNIT TO LET

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

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.

PREPARE - CUSTOMISED VERSION

PREPARE and ENRICH have been used for many years by those working with couples planning to marry, couples wanting to strengthen their relationship and facing new challenges, and couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. The inventories have a reputation for accuracy, reliability, sensitivity and relevance. PREPARE-ENRICH CUSTOMIZED VERSION has been used to great effect for four years now. It is accessed via the internet and is customised to suit each couple.

Training in the use of this new resource will be available at Brisbane Boys' College, Toowong on Thursday 6 June. For registration details, contact the trainer, Graham Cole, on 3309 3558 or at gcole@bbc.qld.edu.au.

GOLDEN JUBILEE SERVICE OF ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BUILDING

On Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 June 2013 the Goondiwindi Presbyterian Church will be celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the opening and dedication of the present building. The weekend celebrations kick off on Saturday evening from 7pm to 9pm with "A Walk through the Years" at the St Andrew's Church Hall adjacent to the church – Herbert Street Goondiwindi. Guests will be treated to coffee, cake and entertainment. There will also be an opportunity to look at old photos and memorabilia.

On Sunday morning a service will be conducted at 10am and the guest preacher will be State Moderator, Rt. Rev. David Niven. Luncheon will be served in the church hall after the service.

Anybody who has photos or information on the church opening and dedication, or who would like more information can contact Pastor Bert Richards or Rev. Peter Playstead, 07 4671 3654 or email bertandbev@bigpond.com.

Fairholme College Indian Mission Team visit Caloundra PC

FOR FIVE years now, commencing in 2008, Year 11 girls from Fairholme College have visited Mizpah Orphanage in Ootacamund, Tamil Nadu, in the Nilgiri Hills of South India.

So far exactly one hundred girls and 14 staff members have gone from the school on these annual visits to South India.

For the second year in a row, in what is fast becoming an annual event, a team has visited the Caloundra Congregation. This year, members of the December 2012 teams visited for the Sunday morning services on 17 February.

The 2012 Teams

Altogether 38 girls went in two teams [20 in one team and 18 in the other] to Mizpah in December 2012. We were fortunate to have four girls from each team visit us to share their experiences with those who attended our services. The team consisted of Georgia Devenish, Katie Richards, Honor Moore, Sybylla Matthews, Catie Bartelen, Meg Pegler, Laura Andersen and Rhiannon Stone. The team was accompanied by teacher Alison Scott and Chaplain Richard Jessup.

Former Students of Fairholme

We were also grateful for the attendance of fourteen or fifteen former students from the school, twelve of whom attended the 10:30 am service and joined the present students for a photo after the service. All of them enjoyed the morning, including lunch, and spoke appreciatively of their visit. We are very grateful for this additional link with the College and so glad that even on a very wet and windy day so many former students took the time to attend.

Ministry at Mizpah

Four girls spoke at each of the morning services, and it was evident as they did so that the tour had made a major impact on their lives. A good deal of painting and maintenance work was done, but above all the team enjoyed relating to the children and learning more about them and their needs. All of the children in the orphanage have a story to tell and many have had harrowing experiences that are almost unimaginable in Australia.

Ministry at Smyrna

Apart from working at the Mizpah orphanage, the students also spend time at the Smyrna Rehabilitation Centre. Smyrna exists to provide support and care for those suffering from the effects of polio, stroke, Downs Syndrome, cerebral palsy, limb disfigurement and other maladies. Patients are offered free specialist care from OTs, doctors, nurses and physiotherapists. Another ministry of Smyrna is caring for the poor and homeless women of Ooty and offering shelter to the older and frailer women in town. There is also a hostel for young girls who have been rescued from difficult, and often dangerous, situations.

Stories from Mizpah and Smyrna

Particularly telling was the story of one young girl who was rescued from a pending forced marriage when she was just eight years old and who has found refuge at Smyrna. She is now ten years old, safe, happy and attending school. Another story concerned the marriage of a young woman of 23, Teresa, who had been at Mizpah since the age of nine. Her very new husband, an aeronautical engineer from Bangalore, had prayed specifically that the Lord would give him a wife who had grown up in an orphanage. The Lord has answered his prayer and the two are now lovingly and happily married. The Fairholme girls from one team had the privilege of attending the wedding and enjoying a wonderful celebration!

Highlights of the Visit

Major highlights for the Fairholme girls included the Christian love of Jennifer and Mohandas, who lead the ministry of the orphanage, spending time with the children at Mizpah, and participating in the work of Smyrna. One child in particular at Mizpah aspires to be in the Indian cricket team one day. He dressed daily in his Aussie cricket helmet and pads (that are about five sizes too big for him!) which one of the teams brought to Mizpah as a gift for the children.

Lunch

The weather was such that the lunch on the lawn, which we often share on such occasions, was out of the question. However, the hall provided a good alternative venue. With the help of the PWA, who provided the cold dishes, and two



Catie, Meg, Georgia and Sybylla with Chaplain Richard Jessup speaking on their experiences in India

or three of the men who cooked the barbequed meat, a good meal was had by all. The willingness of the Fairholme girls to pitch in and help to clear the tables and do the washing up made a big impression on those who noticed. Quite unconsciously and without show, they provided such a good advertisement for the school.

As a result of the lunch about \$800 was raised towards supporting the 2013 team. Richard advised us that last year's gift provided a much needed wall for the orphanage compound; we hope that our gift this year will be equally useful.

Looking forward to 2013

Thirty girls have already expressed an interest in going on the 2013 team visit to India. If that number increases it will become necessary to send three groups this time; one in September, one in December and the third in January (2014). Richard and the other leaders have decided that it is necessary to limit each group to a maximum of fifteen girls. We very much hope that some of the 2013 team members will be able to visit us early in 2014!

This was the second time that we have hosted Richard and the Fairholme College team and we really do hope that it will become an annual event. It is so good to have a report on such a rewarding ministry.

It is also good to sense the Christian ethos and encouraging ministry of a school of which we can feel justly proud as it shapes the lives, and we pray, the Christian character of succeeding generations of young women.



Fairholme College students, present and past



Former students and present teachers at morning tea



Enjoying lunch together