

# DIRECTIONS

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

## CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

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CONTRIBUTIONS of stories, ideas and images are welcome. Stories and advertising should be sent to the editor.

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## From the Editor

with Michelle Martin



Dear Readers

Welcome to the April/May 2015 issue of *New Directions*. Hope you enjoy its 'new look'.

Easter is here! Let us remember the greatest gift God gave to us in sending His Son, Jesus Christ to die on the cross and take the punishment for our sins and conquer death. John 3:16.

ANZAC Day is coming soon. This is a day for us to remember those who served our country in peace and war and those who are still serving. I am told that this year marks a century since the landings in Gallipoli. There will be a service at St Paul's Presbyterian Church to remember this on 25 April (see page 4 for further details).

Mother's Day is coming up in May. I am thankful for the mum God has given me; for her love and care as I was growing up and still gives now. I want to encourage you all to do something special for your mum this Mother's Day to show her she is appreciated. Don't even wait for Mother's Day, just do it now!

Here's a bit of history about how Mother's Day came to be: In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation that officially established the first national Mother's Day. It wasn't until Wilson lobbied congress in 1914 that Mother's Day was officially set for the second Sunday every May (see [www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-mothers-and-mothers-day](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-mothers-and-mothers-day)).

There's been a bit happening in a number of churches around the state. Check out the stories on pages 10-15.

Enjoy reading! Stay safe this Easter.

## Parents for the First Time

by Michelle Martin

In January 2014 Matt and Brooke Mullis were given the wonderful news of being parents for the first time...of twins. At first it was a shock to them that they were going to be the parents of twins, but soon their shock was replaced with excitement.

There were challenges and concerns for Matt and Brooke throughout the pregnancy, particularly for Brooke. At 19 weeks she went for a routine scan. That same day she had surgery and from that point on was on bed rest for the remainder of the pregnancy. They were told the twins would arrive early and the bed rest was to ensure this didn't happen too early. This was an uncertain time for them and they counted each day as a blessing.

During this time many people helped them through it, in various ways. Brooke's mother was there for them the entire time Brooke was on bed rest (people have proposed that the girls' impressive birth weights were due to her mum's care—Brooke and Matt agree!).

Their church family (Village Church) was an amazing support. The church family, not only upheld them and the girls in prayer, but also practically with meals, company, bible study, craft lessons and church via Skype. Matt and Brooke were so encouraged by their church family's support—"they persevered this storm with us through 11 weeks bed rest", says Brooke.

Brooke said, "We know that God is good and faithful and He would bring good out of everything that we were going through (Rom 8:28) even if the outcome wasn't what we had hoped. At many times we were fearful of the outcome but the Lord gave us peace in the midst of this storm and ultimately He calmed the storm and brought our girls through to 30.5 weeks."

The twins were welcomed into this world on 3 July 2014. They were named Emilie Kathryn and Philippa Gillian.

*continued back page*

# What's on...



You are invited to join us on Tamborine Mountain for the weekend of 24-26 July for Fire on the Mountain's (FOM) 20th annual Biblical worldview conference. Since 1995 FOM has provided Biblical teaching to encourage believers to develop their thinking and their living in ways consistent with a Biblical world and life view. Sound Biblical teaching, thoughtful engagement with culture and an honest and sensitive presentation of Biblical truth have been at the heart of the ministry of FOM.

This year we are happy to have two speakers who have both been with us before. Dr Ed Welch from CCEF will continue to develop the area of practical theology as he brings many years of counselling, teaching and writing to his sessions dealing with our identity and purpose as Christians. Dr Doug Green, currently professor of Old Testament at WTS, Philadelphia, will be looking at the humanity of Christ as he unpacks a variety of OT passages.

In the last several years we have also been holding a concert on Saturday night. This concert has proved to be a welcome addition to the weekend as it highlights the importance of cultural development and engagement, and the pursuit of excellence with the artistic gifts that God has given his people.

Please plan on joining us for this weekend. Camp Tamborine will be

available for residential attendees. Please contact the following for further info:

kdale7@bigpond.com  
rickncharissa@gmail.com  
tonychriswilson@bigpond.com  
or visit our website:  
[www.fireonthemountain.org.au](http://www.fireonthemountain.org.au)

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\*a dynamic and respectful confrontation with non-Christian thought and behaviour

\*a demonstration of truth through the practice of love and holiness in Christian fellowship

FOM teaching and lectures:

\*provide biblical commentary and analysis of cultural issues

\*equip and enable Christians as they develop a biblical worldview

\*encourage Christians to pursue maximum Gospel impact locally, nationally and globally



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**Ed Stetzer | 23 April | Church Growth**



Ed Stetzer is one of the world's leading Missiologists. He will be speaking at a one-day conference for anyone who is passionate to see the gospel growing in Queensland.

**Doug Green | 1 June | Psalms**



Doug Green has lectured at Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, for the past 22 years and has published a number of works on the Psalms. The first day of the MA Unit is open to the public.

**Don Carson | 20-22 July | Biblical Theology**



Over this 3-day conference being held at the Brisbane Convention Centre, Dr Carson will be sharing some rich insights into the history and nature of Biblical Theology.

**23 July | TGC Australia Launch**



Dr Carson will be joined by Peter Jensen, Peter Adam and Gary Millar at the launch of The Gospel Coalition Australia. Don't miss this landmark event being held at Brisbane City Hall

[www.qtc.edu.au](http://www.qtc.edu.au)

## Briefly

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND (PCQ)

Did you know PCQ has their own website? You can find out who we are, what we believe, what we do, what is going on in the life of the church and where the nearest church is to you. Check it out at [www.pcq.org.au](http://www.pcq.org.au).

### MODERATOR-GENERAL

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

### USED STAMPS

#### WE CAN TURN YOUR USED STAMPS INTO MISSION SUPPORT

The Presbyterian Womens' Missionary Union (P.W.M.U) is collecting stamps to support our missionaries. Stamps can be left at Church Offices, Level 4, 19 Lang Parade, Milton Qld 4064 or call Carole on 07 3324 9309 or Margaret on 07 3285 6146 for other options or more details.

### UNIT TO LET

CALOUNDRA, beachside units, from \$300/week. For details contact Ray on 0427 990 161 or [rayandjeane@hotmail.com](mailto:rayandjeane@hotmail.com)

### TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

Any charges wishing to make changes to their entry in the White Pages should contact Church Office on 3716 2800 or email [churchoffice@pcq.org.au](mailto:churchoffice@pcq.org.au).



## RECONCILED

### GOD - ME - OTHERS

Grow 2015: A day conference for women exploring 2 Corinthians 5 with Lesley Ramsay

8 August 2015  
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

[www.qcca.org.au](http://www.qcca.org.au)

grow qcca



## Gallipoli 100 – Special Celebrations at St Paul's

Each year St Paul's Presbyterian Church has special services on the Sunday immediately prior to both Anzac Day and Remembrance Day when all those who have served in peace and war are remembered. Anzac Day this year marks a century since the Gallipoli landings. This event was seen by diggers as the birth of Australia as a nation in its own right. Those there identified themselves as 'Australians' and not, as before Federation, as Colonials.

Some time ago, the Presbyterian Church of Queensland was contacted about an Honour Board from the Fortitude Valley Presbyterian Church. The Honour Board had been found in the garage of a newly purchased home. St Paul's offered to find a place for this board when it was generously given back to the Church. It is to be unveiled in the St Paul's Hall after the special service which will be conducted on 19 April by Rev Neil McKinlay, the current chaplain to 1 Signals Regiment at Enoggera.

This Centenary Service will include musical offerings sung by a Brisbane choir, 'Choral Connection'. National flags will be carried into position by Colour parties of Scouts and Girl Guides.

Featured also will be a piper playing the haunting tune of 'Flowers of the Forest', the now revered Ode, 'We Shall Remember Them', as well as the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille'; and the laying of wreaths at the church's Honour Boards for the two World Wars.

Through the wonders of the worldwide web, many of the descendants of those named on both the St Paul's and Fortitude Valley honour rolls, as could be found, have been contacted to let them know that their relatives are being remembered. The descendants have been invited, and in a quick response quite a few have indicated that they will be attending. Some are travelling some distance to do so.

St Paul's extends an invitation to all, especially those who have had links with St Paul's, and would like to attend, to join us for the service on 19 April at 9.30 am. Morning tea will be served in the hall and special historical displays will be on view.

### St Paul's Presbyterian Church

43 St Paul's Terrace Spring Hill

Invites you to attend a special service

To commemorate the Centenary of the first landing  
at Gallipoli on April 25th 1915.

**Sunday April 19th, 2015 at 9.30 am**



Family members of those named on St Paul's 1914-1918 Honour Board will be attending.

The 1914-1918 Honour Board from the Fortitude Valley Presbyterian Church will also be unveiled at this service.  
Family members of those on this board are coming.

Brisbane choir, *Choral Connection* will be enhancing the service with their singing

We invite you to join us for this special service!  
Come early for a seat



## Easter Message

by Rt Rev David Cook

There is great value in congregations affirming their common faith. To be part of a body of people affirming our common ground of fellowship “we believe...” is a moving and fortifying experience.

The New Testament has examples of First Century creeds—Philippians 2:6–11 is one, 1 Timothy 3:16 is another.

But at Easter time the one Paul includes in his letter to the Corinthians, chapter 15, is most appropriate.

You remember that the Corinthians had many questions for Paul. The last one he answers in 1 Corinthians is about the state of the dead and the reality of the resurrection. In verse 3, Paul introduces the creed with a statement similar to his introduction of the Lord’s Supper tradition:

*“What I received I passed onto you”* 1 Corinthians 11:23—but here he adds that these facts of the Gospel are of primary importance. And there follow four ‘that’s’.

Verse 3 ‘that Christ died’ the historical fact, followed by the reason for his death, ‘for our sins’ which is thoroughly consistent with the Old Testament.

Verse 4 ‘that he was buried’ he did not swoon or faint, but he really died, so dead that he was buried. The real death of Jesus is the necessary basis for his real resurrection.

Verse 5 ‘that he was raised’ having been dead three days, Jesus was raised, again according to the Scriptures.

Verse 6 ‘and that he appeared’ and Paul lists those to whom he appeared including Jesus’ half brother James

(verse 7), and finally to Paul himself (verse 8).

The four-fold creed is what we believe with all Christians. That, in First Century Palestine, a Palestine in as much turmoil then as now, Christ died, as a substitute, in payment for our sin, and because of his death guilt is gone!!

He was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea and from there, God the Father raised him up. He left an empty tomb, he appeared to Mary Magdalene, to the disciples, to Thomas who affirmed him “my Lord and my God”. He was really alive—he appeared to his half brother James. Imagine that! James along with all the family believed Jesus was insane (Mark 3:20–21) and yet James begins his letter:

*“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ ...”* James 1:1.

What would your brother need to do to prove to you that he was God? Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to James. James was convinced.

Here are the key events of our eternal salvation:

- Jesus lived a perfect life. He had no sin of his own for which to die.
- He offered a perfect life to God in death, as our substitute.
- His resurrection is the proof of his perfection—death could not hold him down—and the guarantee or warranty of God’s acceptance of his work on our behalf.
- His appearances indicate that this is not wishful thinking but attests the veracity of the record.

Because of these facts, all who are ‘in Christ’, by faith, know that their sin has been forgiven and they have an eternal future, beyond the grave, as children in the family of God, where there is a room prepared in the family home (John 14:1–6).

This Easter let us affirm our faith together in the words of 1 Corinthians 15:3–8:

**‘For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.’**



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Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association [www.pmsa-schools.edu.au](http://www.pmsa-schools.edu.au) A ministry of the Uniting and Presbyterian Churches, providing excellence in education in a Christian and caring environment.



# GRASS-ROOTS REFLECTIONS

## Why Works are Good for Your Salvation!

by Roland Lowther



Having gained your attention with this provocative title, I shall now re-state it with greater precision and in question form: What is the nature of the *relationship* that exists between good works and a Christian's salvation? Which, I might add 'is' a *necessary* relationship! We know that Paul does not hesitate to warn the Corinthians that their habitual immoral behaviour would jeopardize their salvation; the writer of Hebrews is continually exhorting his readers to give attention to their devotion to Christ lest they forfeit their inheritance; James challenges his readers not to presume that an intellectual form of faith will stand without practical validation; and John challenges Christians that without genuine love toward brothers, love toward God is effectively void. Therefore, it is not difficult to ascertain from these examples that there is a *necessary* relationship between good works and Christian salvation. However, what needs to be clearly understood is the *nature* of that relationship.

Interestingly, the same New Testament authors that promoted works as having a necessary connection with salvation are equally vehement in asserting that meritorious works cannot contribute anything toward a person's right standing with God. So what are we to

make of the paradox that can deny works as essential and then affirm them as necessary in a different context?

It is helpful to note the difference between what I call a *causal* relationship and a *consequential* relationship. The term *causal* denotes something that causes or contributes to the cause of another thing. *Consequential* relates to something that results from another thing or follows on from something, by way of a necessary effect. When these concepts are applied to the nature of the relationship between good works and a Christian's salvation, the conundrum is unravelled: Good works do not have a causal relationship with Christian salvation, but do have a *consequential* relationship with it. Simply put, good works are not necessary to the *cause* of my salvation, but are a *necessary consequence* of my salvation.

Let us consider the metaphor of a fruit-bearing tree. Good works will be compared with the fruit from the tree, and faith will be compared with the root and branches of the tree. The fruit cannot *cause* the root and branches to exist, although the opposite is true; the root and branches can claim to *cause* the fruit. We then may conclude that the fruit has a *consequential* relationship to the root and branches, and the root and branches have a *causal* relationship to the fruit. They are both necessarily related; yet as we have seen, the *nature of the relationship* is different. The salient point is this, if there is no fruit as a *consequence*, the legitimacy of the *cause* i.e. the health of the roots and branches should be called into question.

By way of application, then, a distinct lack of consequence (works) betrays a lack of genuine cause (faith). The veracity of Christian salvation is validated by, but not caused by, its works (fruit). Therefore, we may affirm that the absence of Christian works provides an impetus for a closer examination into



the causal legitimacy of one's faith in Christ.

This theological idea of *necessarily relating works and salvation* is not new. The 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformer, John Calvin, saw the need to defend his position against Roman Catholic counter claims of Protestant 'legal fiction'. Calvin wrote, 'For we dream neither of faith devoid of good works nor of a justification that stands without them.' For Calvin, justification and sanctification *cleave* together: 'Thus it is clear how true it is that we are justified not without works yet not through works, since in our sharing in Christ, which justifies us, sanctification is just as much included as righteousness.' (Institutes III: XVI)

The Reformers understood and applied the New Testament paradox well. They knew that the New Testament writers, in challenging a deficiency in works, were not imploring Christians to embark on a program of meritorious works-righteousness—far from it.

The New Testament offers a challenge for Christians to examine the legitimacy of the source of their salvation. Salvation toward eternal life is based on faith in Christ; faith that bears fruit, like Christ. Only a 'living faith' can bear genuine fruit, so what is really at stake is 'faith' and the inimitable quality of it. If a Christian's faith is authentic, then fruitful good works will follow as naturally as a healthy fruit tree bears fruit.

Therefore, Christians should not be afraid of considering good works as necessarily connected to salvation; rather, what needs to be considered more carefully is the *nature* of the relationship. When that is clear, it will become clear why works are good for your salvation!

# Pray, Live, Serve...but what if there's conflict?

by Naomi Reed



I usually try and avoid conflict. I find it uncomfortable... so I go through life deliberately aware of other people's issues, alert to any small misunderstandings and I try to respond quickly, to prevent full scale arguments or strained relationships. I don't want that! In fact, I'm the sort of person who will occasionally say sorry even before the other person has realised there's a problem... because I don't want there to be a problem!

Last year, I interviewed an Interserve partner who had worked in North Africa

for ten years in a pottery business. He had a very positive time, with opportunities to genuinely help the poor and share his faith, and on top of that, the company became the largest exporter of pots in all of North Africa.

But they also had their fair share of problems. One day, Scott was inspecting pots in the south of the country and he needed to reject 80% of them, either because the size wasn't right, or there was limestone contamination, or the pots hadn't fired well. So by midday, the leader of the producers was angry and started arguing with Scott. He said they'd put all their time and effort into making these pots and if Scott didn't buy them, the pots may not sell, and the families may not eat that night.

In fact, the producer was so angry he took a rejected pot and smashed it on the ground. Then Scott copied him. They both smashed pots on the ground. Eventually Scott walked away, but later he came back and bought the staff and producers a case of soft drinks.

"What happened next?" I asked, worried.

"It was okay," said Scott. "It sent a clear message to the producers. This is the standard we want in pots. Afterwards, we gave them specific measurements and descriptions... and eventually, the man who smashed the pots became our most reliable supplier—for 20 years. He's still producing good quality pots today... and I'm sure it happened through those years of conflict. As Christians, we often think that conflict is to be avoided, at all costs. But the business gave us an environment for constructive conflict and it became a means for mutual learning, for all of us."

Scott smiled and I agreed with him, even though it still sounded difficult. But his example reminded me to pray for all of our misunderstandings and issues, today, even the difficult ones, that we might use them as opportunities for grace and constructive conflict and mutual learning as we work together towards our goal of honouring Jesus.

*Naomi Reed is a speaker and writer who lives with her family in the Blue Mountains. For more information go to [www.NaomiReed.Info](http://www.NaomiReed.Info)*



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## WENDY HENRY CONTINUES TO TALK WITH CAROLYN RUSSELL ABOUT HER STORY—HER LIFE, WORK AND MINISTRY (PART 2)

**Wendy H:** *Welcome back Carolyn! Last time we talked about where you've lived, studied and worked; your life and family; your faith and how it grew; and how your work as a doctor connects with your life as a Christian. Now let's look at some other aspects of your life... First of all, what personal challenges have you had and how have you faced and overcome them?*

**Carolyn R:** Two significant challenges mark the past years of our lives. First, from 1987 to 1990, a 3-year illness for my husband was a time of learning that God in His mercy *leads into the wilderness and there speaks tenderly*. Hosea 2:14. It was a significant desert experience, as we also lost two parents during that time—my Mum to breast cancer, and his father with heart disease. Sadness and loss of people and function were our companions through this time.

The second was more recent. In 2011 I fell from my bicycle, severely injuring my right leg. Many complications later, I finally could put weight on my leg after 12 months, and then followed two years of rehabilitation. Now, after three years, I am mostly recovered. However, this was another of those desert times. Through this wilderness, the Lord showed us His love in so many ways, not least of these in His people, who accompanied us on this journey of suffering. One particular person—a friend who lives with a child

with severe disability—taught me how to praise even when I found it difficult. She told me to get a pad of paper and write out a praise song...and as I wrote I would find myself humming to get the words correct. Try it sometime when you are down, or finding life a struggle.

**WH:** *That's a powerful way to remind yourself who God is and what He can do! So how does knowing God make a difference?*

**CR:** Knowing the character of God who is present, full of grace, and mercy, and who grows a body of believers—whom He uses to support others—has been the most significant learning for us in these challenges. It has been important to ask for help, and to believe that when God says He is for us, He means it! And to **look** for the ways in which He provides!

**WH:** *Do you have any favourite scriptures, that others might find encouraging when facing seemingly overwhelming difficulties in their lives?*

**CR:** I love to recall the passage from Habakkuk 3:17. A really helpful thing to do is to substitute the words of your own situation, or struggles, into this passage, and then to remember that it is God the Lord who is our strength, not any of our possessions or qualities. This was particularly poignant during my injury time...*"though the bones in my knee are not healing, and there seems no end in sight; though there is no*

*income from work and there are struggles to manage there...etc."* Then, *"YET will I rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in the Lord of my salvation. God the Lord is my strength!"* Psalm 73 is also wonderful to meditate on, especially when faced with temptations to leave the Lord's path. Verse 15 particularly is special—*"If I had said 'I will speak thus; I would have betrayed the generation of your children."*

**WH:** *What about songs or books?*

**CR:** I love to sing the song 'Where Else Have I To Go?' by Nicky Chiswell, as it resonates with this Psalm in verse 25: *"Whom have I in heaven but you?"* A wonderful book for meditation and comfort is *Remember* by Rhonda Watson, and also *Relationships: a mess worth making* by Tim Lane, for when relationships are stressed. I also love anything by C S Lewis and appreciate his candid responses to life situations. We can easily identify these situations as we read his words, and are encouraged to search alternative viewpoints, and see the greater character of God as a result. I also love the books of David Benner and Dan Allender, both psychotherapists with a deep love of Christ and a ministry of counselling. My favourites are *Surrender to Love*, by the former, and *The Cry of the Soul* by the latter. It is hard to stop...there are so many great books around that challenge us to seek God more deeply IN life, not getting us out of the mess of life!

**WH:** *That's certainly an interesting way to look at things. What do you think is the most important thing we, especially women, can do to encourage one another?*

**CR:** Be together—intelligently and responsively—seeking to understand the Gospel and its ramifications in our lives, individually and corporately. Learn deeply of the Word, and let it do its work in us...and then serve others. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a little book about *Life Together*. Even though it is now over 50 years old, it still holds gems for all Christians, women and men, to encourage each other. He encourages us in Part III to be aware of the need for solitude, and for community. *"Silence is nothing else but waiting for God's Word, and coming from God's Word with blessing. But everybody knows that this is something that needs to be practised and learned, in these days when talkativeness prevails. Real silence, real stillness, really*



*holding one's tongue comes only as the sober consequence of spiritual stillness."*

He follows this chapter with questions to test the success of our true meditation and true fellowship...*"Has the fellowship served to make the individual free, strong, and mature, or has it made (her) weak and dependent? Has it taken (her) by the hand for a while in order that (she) may learn again to walk by (herself) or has it made (her) uneasy and unsure? This is one of the most searching and critical questions that can be put to any Christian fellowship. This is the place where we find out whether the Christian's meditation has led (her) into the unreal, from which (she) awakens in terror when (she) returns to the workaday world, or whether it has led (her) into a real contact with God, from which (she) emerges strengthened and purified. Has it transported (her) for a moment into a spiritual ecstasy that vanishes when everyday life returns, or has it lodged the Word of God so securely and deeply in (her) heart that it holds and fortifies (her), impelling to active love, to obedience, to good works?"*

I am finding this incredibly stirring at present, as I seek to encourage others to strong, vibrant faith, based on the real character of God as shown to us in Christ.

**WH:** *What amazing insight in that little book, about how to encourage others! Can you tell us now, something about your venture with Queensland Theological College (QTC) in providing training for Christian counselling?*

**CR:** QTC is committed to exploring what value lies in partnership with Christian Counselling and Education Foundation (CCEF) from Philadelphia, which has an online Certificate course in Biblical Counselling. So far the participants have thrived in the teaching and learning. The course is based around the teaching of applied theology, based in Westminster Theological College. It starts with 'Dynamics of Biblical Change' with David Powlison going deeply into the process of change, as identified in scripture. It then proceeds with a practical focus, illustrating how to understand people with whom we share our lives, either in community or in churches. We do an intensive with each subject—as the study modules are mostly online—where we look at practical challenges in supporting people, and the struggles

we all have as we sustain long and difficult relationships. The aim is to focus on the pitfalls that can arise in deep relationships around significant struggles, and to identify the need for intentional support and further knowledge if they are in 'too deep'.

The local church is seen as the starting place for 'counsel' (using the word more widely than may be understood in the community) as a posture of support, which may range from 'sought encouragement' to 'pastoral wisdom' to 'gentle exhortation' or to 'careful confrontation'. There is a strong focus on reading the Word and using prayer with each other, as well as 'looking at the log in my own eye' and being with others as a fellow-struggler, rather than an expert. We are introducing some connecting of local ministries with mental health supports, and working as a team for



Eco-dyeing

## WOMEN @ PRAYER

*Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stall, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. Habakkuk 3:17.*

- Pray for those facing challenges in their lives—illness (physical and mental), loss of loved ones, accidents, financial insecurity, relationship problems, disabilities, natural disasters, long recoveries and tough rehabilitation, etc.
- Praise God for his presence with his people, his grace, mercy, faithfulness, his power to heal and to save, and his comfort through the Holy Spirit.

the best outcomes for severely harmed people with long term struggles.

**WH:** *Sounds like a worthwhile and much needed project. So in those moments when you get a chance to relax and unwind, what is your favourite way of doing that?*

**CR:** Eco-dyeing in the back garden, listening to or playing music, cutting up 'perfectly good intact pieces of cloth' so that I can put them together again (in other words—patchwork!), riding my tandem bicycle with my beloved, or kayaking at the river at Maroochydore.

**WH:** *What a full life you have! Thanks so much Carolyn, for sharing your story. We trust that as the year rolls on, you will be renewed with God's strength, to serve Him in all that you do.*

- Give thanks for Jesus—the way, the truth and the life—for providing a means of salvation by dying on the cross for our sins, for being the truth in a world where we can trust no one else, and for offering us the gift of eternal life with Him.
- Praise God for his family of believers—our brothers and sisters in Christ—who care, love, help, support, encourage and exhort us, when we need it most.
- Thank God for Scripture—God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- Pray for women (and men), as they gather around God's Word—learning its truths and then serving others. Pray that their personal meditation will be rich, and their fellowship together will be productive in one another's lives.
- Praise God for the opportunity provided through QTC for the training of Christian counsellors to work among the people of God. Pray for Carolyn Russell as she plays her part in this work.
- Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in persecuted parts of the world (like northern Iraq and Syria) as they and their children are subjected to horrific cruelty including executions and even crucifixions. Pray that God might use his mighty power to intervene and grant them the strength to stand for Jesus even in face of such evil.

## New Elder at Burdekin Presbyterian Church

by Gavin Henderson

It's with great excitement that I'd love to share the induction of a new elder to the Burdekin Charge.

Menno Bokma was a member here in 2008-2009. Just before I could ask him to consider eldership, he moved to Townsville for work commitments. He and Marlene attended Willows and they were among the founding members of the Northside Presbyterian Church. Thankfully they did the hard

work of convincing Menno and training him in the Eldership.

Menno served as an Assessor Elder with us in 2014 and when he and Marlene moved back to the Burdekin last year, he took over the job as Treasurer. Menno then consented to serving as an elder with us and was duly elected. He was inducted on Sunday 1 February during a combined service of the Ayr and Home Hill Presbyterian Churches.



L-R: Elders Stuart McCubben, Blair Scott, Rev Gavin Henderson, Menno Bokma and Anthony Sturiale

## Top Citizen

by Derek Bound

Les Hotz, Session Clerk of the Monto Presbyterian Church was named Monto Citizen of the Year on Australia Day 2015. Since his conversion to Christianity early in life, Les has worked tirelessly with the Monto Presbyterian Church, particularly with youth ministry.

In January of each year he worked as part of a team that put on Inter School Christian Fellowship camps at Leslie and Somerset Dams which taught about 45 kids water-skiing and Christian study. He later developed his own campsite at Cania Dam.

"My passion is wanting to share my

faith and work with young people," he said. Throughout the state there are many young people serving in churches who either became Christians, or were disciplined through this local ministry.

During the terrible Australia Day floods, when Les was acting CEO of North Burnett Regional Council he worked diligently behind the scenes, manning phones non-stop for four days.

Many of his 88 staff supported Les receiving this award. Mr Jeff Seeney, then Deputy Premier, spoke highly of the work Les had done over the years in the community; in particular taking

## In Memory of Mr E V (Ted) Little

On 25 July 1955 it was decided by the Session of St Andrews Miles, Dulacca and Wandoan that three additional members needed to be added to the Session.

One of these nominated persons was Mr E V Little (who passed away last year). On 30 October 1955 the postal vote was finalised with all three being elected. Mr Little, along with the two other electees, was ordained at a service in Miles on Sunday 27 November 1955.

He served faithfully and well for 59 years, representing the church at Presbytery for several years and chairing many projects of the church including Committee of Management.

He was also a dedicated Sunday school teacher and youth leader; an approachable and willing listener for all who had cares or problems within the church; and an integral part of this church for his whole life, rearing a Christian family that has carried on his enthusiasm, conviction of faith and trust in almighty God.



the heat out of the debate with local councillors at rate payers meetings while showing the rate payers that the council took their concerns seriously.



Jeff Sweeney (MP) congratulating Les Hotz at Monto Town Hall on Australia Day 2015



## 30 Years Old and Finally Moving out of Home

by Ross Wilson



Southside Presbyterian Church turned 30 years old last year and it's time to move out of 'the old house', as it's affectionately known, and into something that will accommodate our growing family.

MacGregor Presbyterian Church, as we were known, was a church plant of Coorparoo in the MacGregor High School in 1984. In 1994 they purchased the one acre property in Eight Mile Plains with the old house on it. The dream of building a new church building never eventuated. The house, though, has been renovated as the church family has grown to eventually seat 80.

At one time we were running three services on a Sunday, including Shailer Park, to meet the needs with what

facilities we had. In 2012 we combined the services into one as we met in the Seventh Day Adventist building around the corner from the house. We are very excited to be purchasing a building of our own.

The old house and office out the back was used almost every day for some kind of ministry; it's old, has bits falling off, the paint is scratched, the carpet worn and it still has the spot where the old fuel stove used to be. But the old house was much loved and we're sad to leave it. For the last 20 years we called it home. In the last 12 years it has allowed us to grow from about 10 to 100 members.

Its non-pretentious appearance allowed everyone to feel welcomed. It has a friendly, non-threatening environment. Like your lounge room at home it had a level of intimacy that is hard to find in a church building—it didn't matter if it was a group of 15 or 60—it was a place where people could come hear the Gospel preached and see the Gospel lived out by the people beside you.

When we had the night service the Holy Spirit was particularly active in the rumblings above us, otherwise known

as the possum. Not to mention chasing the odd snake out with a broom (not joking).

God has been good to Southside. In a building where it was said that we would 'never grow a church', Jesus turned a possible road block into a stepping stone to greater things.

We look forward to sharing with you the journey into the new facility in future *New Directions*, but before we do we thought it was worth recognising the ministry of the past.

There have been many people over the last 30 years who have played a role in shaping Southside. Those people who had the drive to start the church in a school science room; the many volunteers who've spent many, many hours working on the house and keeping the large block tidy. Also, the Presbyterian Church of Queensland has encouraged this ministry and assisted it to move forward. Thank you!

It is a testimony how Jesus builds his church; many people, over many years, used by him to reach many more with the saving message of the Gospel.



## The Marshalls and the Marshes

by Frances Lilly

David and Wendy Marshall and family are home in Australia on Home Assignment from July 2014 to June 2015. They are based near their home Church in Redbank Plains.



On Sunday 8 February they visited St John's in South Toowoomba to share with the congregation their experiences over the past 14 years with Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) in Japan.

(David and Wendy were actually married in St John's in 1997). The congregation has partnered with them since they left in 2000 to serve the Lord as missionaries.

David teaches in the Christian Academy of Japan. He has recently achieved further educational qualifications, namely Master of Education. He teaches Science and Maths to students many of whom are the children of missionaries.

Wendy displayed the fact that besides being a wife and mother she wears the hats of Writer, Teacher, Friend, Project Co-ordinator and Editor of the quarterly magazine *Japan Harvest*.

They assembled a very good display of Japanese items and literature in the hall after the service.

Following the church service Roger and Anna Marsh hosted the Marshalls to a luncheon where many questions were answered about the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster which happened on 11 March 2011, on how the Christian

Churches struggled to minister to the survivors and co-ordinated the relief operations. There are still after effects where previous residents are only allowed to return for brief periods.

Summing up Wendy says, "Serving the Lord in Japan is a challenge because the Japanese have no understanding of a Mono Theistic belief. To them religion/Christianity is more like an insurance policy than a devoted, dedicated way of life."



L-R: David and Wendy Marshall, Christine Jones, Ron and Jean Lyons

## Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia (Qld Unit) Annual Service of Dedication and Communion 3 February 2015

by Heather Burton

Numbers were down for this year's service, but not so the warmth and fellowship enjoyed by all. Beautiful hymn singing and organ music echoed through Ann Street Presbyterian Church, hopefully spilling out into the busy streets of Brisbane. This year Mr Bruce Lang played the organ as we sang 'Crown Him with Many Crowns', 'Great is Thy Faithfulness', 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross', and 'Take my Life'.

The service was conducted by our State Moderator, the Rt Rev Phil Case and he was assisted by one of his chaplains Mr Robert Thompson. He dedicated the Presbyterian Women's Association ladies to the service of our Most High God. The Bible readings came from Ezekiel 36:22-32 and Philippians 1:3-11.

The sermon was entitled 'Enthusiast for Christ' and Rt Rev Phil Case encouraged

all present to remember that as Christians we are running a marathon and not a sprint. As Paul commended the Philippians for staying focussed on Christ, we must do too.

Our time together closed with a 'Bring and Share' lunch which was most delicious. Praise God that we may gather together as like-minded members of the body of Christ in love and harmony.



L-R: Pat Cupit, Betty Gadsby and Joy Woods enjoying the 'Bring and Share' lunch



L-R: Heather Ross, Heather Burton, Rt Rev Phil Case, Ailsa Kelly, Bev Horgan, Margaret Taylor, Betty Gadsby, Robert Thompson



## Planting Providence

by Mikey Tai



By God's grace, a new church plant by the name of Providence, will be launched this coming Easter Sunday 5 April. The plant will be an evening church under

### QTC Family Keeps on Growing

by Naree Keighly

The Queensland Theological College (QTC) held its annual Retreat for all staff, students and family in February and had a record number of people attend. There were 220 adults and kids there on the Saturday and they had a great time getting to know each other.

Adults spent the morning listening to a talk by Principal Gary Millar, praying together, thinking about mission and hearing what's new at QTC. Meanwhile the kids went to a program run by QTC graduates, Adam and Helane Ramsay, who are preparing to go to Japan with Church Missionary Society (CMS).

We then spent the afternoon playing sport, cooling off in the pool or just enjoying a chat under the shade of the trees.

It was a great chance for our first year students to meet upper year students and be welcomed into the QTC family.

the ministry of Southside Presbyterian with a 5pm start and located in the heart of Sunnybank.

The vision is to be a church of God's people who glorify and enjoy God in Christ-like communities that display a culture of grace defined by the Gospel. The church plant aims to build a people essentially with the vision of loving God, loving each other, and loving our world.

Sunnybank and Brisbane's southside is an area which is known for its diverse multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-faith demographic. More than half of the families in Sunnybank were born overseas. With the suburb Sunnybank having that marketplace appeal and being a social hub for young adults, Providence Church aims to have a Gospel presence so that more people and new people in the area can have the opportunity to attend a Gospel-Centred, evangelical church.

The current team is made up of young university/tafe students and young working adults from different cultural backgrounds. Church gatherings will be Bible-based, relaxed and contemporary with the goal of reaching the emerging generation.

The Providence Church plant will be led and pastored by Mikey Tai and his wife Heidi who have recently flown back to Brisbane after being away in Sydney. While there, he pastored as an assistant at GracePoint Presbyterian Church and

also received his training at Sydney Missionary Bible College.



With any church plant, Gospel servants are needed to be part of the core launch team to proclaim the Gospel and serve both the church and newcomers. Providence is growing, but is also still looking for mission-minded Christians who have been transformed by the Gospel of grace, love Jesus and have a passion to be part of a church, reaching Brisbane's southside. If that is something that you or someone you know would be interested in, we'd love to hear from you.

Please pray for the leaders and the team as we begin this new and exciting plant so that God can be made known and glorified, with more people hearing the Good News of Christ!

Contact and find out more on our facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/providencebrisbane](http://www.facebook.com/providencebrisbane)



## New Assistant Pastor for Graceville

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by Caitlene Cooke

New things are happening at Graceville Presbyterian Church, including the arrival of Assistant Pastor, Rohan Pieris. Rohan made the move to Graceville along with his wife, Heather, and their one-year-old daughter, Jasmine, and is looking forward to his new role.



"I love seeing God at work, transforming people's lives as his word is taught faithfully", says Rohan. "As I pastor I have the amazing opportunity to help people apply the Gospel to the details of their lives, and I think that's a real privilege."

Rohan previously worked as a corporate lawyer in Sydney, before he and Heather studied theology together at Sydney Missionary and Bible College. For the past two years they've been serving in young adults and kids ministry at Darling Street Anglican Church in Balmain, but were open to the possibility of going further afield and stretching themselves

in their desire to serve Jesus. It was difficult for the Pieris' to leave their church, family and friends in Sydney, but after prayerfully considering the move they knew it was worth it for the sake of the Gospel.

"We have always had on our hearts this desire for mission anywhere and everywhere", says Rohan. "We felt like, in this particular church, in the city of Brisbane, there was real opportunity for us to serve."

Rohan will be supporting Senior Pastor Ian Spence at Graceville with a focus on young adults, families and outreach, and has already started a young adults' growth group.

Although the couple both come from Christian families, Rohan explains, "Uni was the time we really grasped what it looked like to follow Jesus as adults and to take responsibility for our own walk with Christ." It was the birthplace of their passion for outreach, and also where they met each other. "We're keen to see young people make the most of this time in their lives. Whether they're working or studying, we'd love to help them discover how Jesus satisfies more than anything else and really grow in their passion for serving him", says Rohan.

Rohan and Heather are just one of the new happenings at Graceville. The church hosted a State Election Polling Booth for the first time in January this year. Hundreds of people came through the doors to vote, creating an opportunity to live out its vision to be *in Graceville, for Graceville*, as congregation members served food and chatted with voters. The couple are keen for the church to keep finding authentic and creative ways to engage with the Graceville community.

The newly installed glass doors on the front of the church building are another tool for that task. "I love that the church looks transparent, open and welcoming to anyone walking by", says Heather.

"The renovations say to the community, this is a church where you are welcome, wherever you are at. That we're doing something, we're going somewhere, we're active and alive", says Rohan.

Graceville Presbyterian Church, now with Rohan and Heather, is excited about reaching people who don't yet know the love of Christ and becoming a more visible witness to him in their local neighbourhood—being *in Graceville, for Graceville*.

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## Cyclone Marcia in the Callide Valley

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by Andrew Purcell

On Friday 20 February 2015 Tropical Cyclone Marcia crossed the coast North of Yeppoon, and proceeded south, causing widespread damage. Yeppoon, as well as Rockhampton, and the communities of Biloela, Jambin, Monto and others further south were affected. Whilst most of the damage in Yeppoon and Rockhampton came from the cyclonic winds, a significant amount of the damage in the Callide Valley (Biloela, Jambin, etc.) was caused by widespread flooding.

In our town of Biloela, the eye of the cyclone passed by between 7 and 8pm. We received between 9 and 12 inches of rain over about six hours. This caused flash flooding in many of the local creeks

and gullies. When the local Callide Dam reached capacity in a very short period of time, this triggered the automatic floodgates which added to the deluge. Many people on properties adjacent to Callide Creek were flooded in the early hours of the morning. This coincided with power outages due to the cyclone, as well as gale force winds bringing trees and branches to the ground. Downstream, the community of Jambin experienced major flooding later on the Saturday.

One of our members, a young mum with three small children, only just escaped a wall of floodwater as it descended upon her property. With her husband on night shift, she had an alert from

her neighbour to get out just before the wall of water struck her house. They are praising God that they were able to get out in time. The floodwater went through the house about waist-high and the force of the water moved the house from its original position. They are now waiting for assessors from the insurance company to inspect the damage.

Others from our church have had floodwaters through their homes, sheds, vehicles and machinery, with major damage to crops and fencing. Quite a few homes have been condemned as a result.

*Continued on page 25*



## Cyclone Marcia in Rockhampton

by Rev Mike O'Connor

The truth is no one was expecting a Category 5 Tropical Cyclone to hit the Capricorn Coast on Friday 20 February, and for Rockhampton, a city of 85,000 people to be decimated by the same weather system as a Category 3 or 4. The assumption that cyclones are expected as part of life in the tropics is fair enough, but that such a major cyclone would hit Rockhampton, is completely unexpected. It's not common to have a cyclone hit this far south, certainly not one the size of Marcia, so whatever the category was, it is of little comfort knowing the number—we've still been hit by a cyclone!

It's fair to say that the city that I've come to call home looked like it had been hit by a cyclone! Everywhere you looked in Rockhampton there were trees down—some landed on cars, houses and fences—homes lost roofs—damage and destruction was everywhere.

Everyone in Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Biloela has been affected by Marcia to varying degrees. Unlike flooding events that we've had in recent years, all of us are victims, and it has been rather overwhelming to know what to do and how to help.

The sense of helplessness was high as was the growing indication of desperation—people waited for up to three hours for fuel. There were reports of punch-ups and stolen goods, mainly generators, and some looting—rising temperatures meant rising tempers.

Some people in our church sustained damage to their homes, though thankfully this damage was not extensive and should be assisted by insurance. However, many people became displaced because of Cyclone Marcia. Sustained power outages meant that, for many, their home became uninhabitable. Rising temperatures into the high 30s everyday following the cyclone, coupled with unbearable humidity, the smell of sodden carpet and spoiled food, meant home was not an easy place to be.

Our church became a 'home' of sorts to many families in our church family who could not go home. Not only was power out but so was running fresh water; the disruption to schools and workplaces, meant life was far from normal for most of us.

Our church property sustained some damage to the roof and carpets. The church-owned campsite at the Capricorn Coast lost its roof.

On the Sunday following Cyclone Marcia we met as a church at Rockhampton Presbyterian Church; we were small in number and the lights were dimmed, but we gave thanks to God for his goodness and prayed God would use us to love others, and each other. We heard stories from one another about what the cyclone was like 'at your place'. We laughed, cried and sang songs together which reminded us of our hope because of Christ's resurrection.

As churches in Central Queensland we are hoping to love our people and community as best we can through these circumstances, and to use these events to contact people in our city for the good of the Gospel. We are very thankful for the generosity and prayers of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have supported us during Cyclone Marcia and aided us in seeking to love others with the Gospel post-Marcia.

The best thing you can do for us from a distance is pray.

Please pray we can love our church families who have struggled and are still struggling with destruction caused by Cyclone Marcia; that Christians in Rockhampton, Yeppoon, Biloela and Monto would be known as Jesus' disciples by our love for one another, a sacrificial love that gives to others despite the cost to self.

Pray we would love our communities, neighbours and friends by pitching in and helping out, showing Christ's love in the many inconveniences caused by Cyclone Marcia; we would stand ready to give a reason for the hope we have.

Pray we would be humbled by the realisation again that we are not in control of our lives or the events that happen in them but that we would be thankful to a sovereign and gracious God who is in control of all things, and because of his mercies to us.



## Keeping Our Elderly Connected

Financial and psychological abuse are the most commonly reported types of abuse experienced by older Australians. It is also not unusual for these two types of abuse to go hand in hand. For example where family members could be accessing an elderly parent's bank account, while at the same time isolating them from other family members and their friends to avoid discovery. The impacts of isolation can go well beyond loneliness.

PresCare continues to work towards mitigating the impact of social isolation through a variety of programs to help the vulnerable and elderly. From friendship groups to outings to Men's Sheds it's vital that these avenues remain open for older Queenslanders to access.

Even if it is once per month, it is still an opportunity to build relationships and avoid being isolated and withdrawn from society where there is more chance

of being taken advantage of. Quite often older persons who are isolated may not necessarily know who to contact for help.

In an increasingly fast-paced world where people are struggling to stay in touch with their families, friends and even neighbours, now more than ever it is important that we keep our elderly socially connected.

## Kingsford Terrace Taking Shape

Despite the wet summer season, construction of Kingsford Terrace is powering ahead with both ground floor and first floor concrete slabs poured, the lower units in particular taking shape and window frames currently being installed.

Concurrently, the outline of the roof is also emerging behind the scaffolding by way of the structural steel frame going up. It's great to see the building's outline and it gives a better perspective of how the Kingsford Terrace community will look once complete.

As construction diversifies and ramps up, the workforce has increased; currently 31 personnel are on site with this number expected to grow as level two of the units begin to be built.

Grindley Construction continues to deliver a cohesive working site where they have completed 22.5 per cent of the contract works.

Don't forget to come down to have a look at how the dream is fast becoming a reality. Whilst you are there feel free to ask Safiya and Matt, our sales team, any questions about the development.



Left and above: Construction progresses on the Litchfield building at Kingsford Terrace.



**KINGSFORD**  
TERRACE

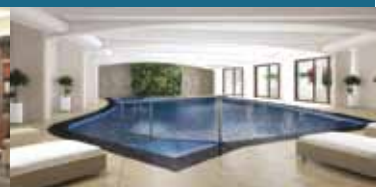
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With phase one due for completion in September 2015, Kingsford Terrace embodies security, support and choice with the peace of mind that comes from knowing it is operated by PresCare - a Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.



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## Professional development for Chaplains & Pastoral Carers

PresCare's chaplains and pastoral carers gathered once again at their annual professional development conference in mid-february. This year the group welcomed speakers from across the PresCare organisation, who talked to them about what's going on in their part of the business.

PresCare board member Anneke Bull presented on ethics and spirituality in the fourth age—the final years of adulthood. PresCare Chief Financial Officer Peter Lynch educated the group on the world of RADs and DAPs (Residential Accommodation Deposit and Daily Accommodation Payment). Service Improvement and Innovation Manager Dee Jeffrey shared with the group what was happening with palliative care at PresCare and the roll out of training for PresCare community carers. Michelle Leonard from our Community Care team gave an important update on Consumer Directed Care.

Director of Chaplaincy John Gilmour

pulls this conference together each year to help keep his team connected to the wider PresCare business, and ensure they are up to date with changes, new projects and exciting news from parts of PresCare they may not interact with on a daily basis.

"Chaplaincy and pastoral care is becoming more and more a core part of what we do here at PresCare," John says. "It's important that the team understands how things operate at PresCare, in community and residential, at our Day Therapy Centre and in our corporate office. This ensures we are fully integrated into the business so that our support becomes a natural component of what PresCare offers clients."

The work that PresCare's chaplains and pastoral carers do is quite diverse. On any given day they may organise or participate in a Friendship Group, organise a morning tea or bible study group at a residential or community site, or simply provide counselling or a

friendly ear to a client or staff member in need. Getting together once a year in this way also allows them to share their own stories and experiences and learn from each other.



L-R: Graeme and George



L-R: Wayne, Jason, Desiree and Robyn

## B&W Masquerade Ball


The inaugural PresCare Black & White Masquerade Ball will be held at the RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane on Saturday, 9 May 2015. PresCare is proudly supporting *beyondblue* to help raise money for both organisations' respective programs to combat social

isolation in the local community, particularly the elderly.

This will be a wonderful night, whilst providing much needed funds to help a good cause. If you would like to buy tickets please visit [www.blackwhitemasquerade.com.au](http://www.blackwhitemasquerade.com.au),

or call 1800 773 722.

Alternatively, if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities or donating auction items for this event; please contact Julie Lee, Marketing Communications Manager on 0418 780 978.



# Black & White Masquerade Ball

PresCare presents the inaugural  
**Black & White Masquerade Ball.**

Proudly supporting  
*beyondblue*, PresCare aims  
to raise funds to support  
initiatives designed to  
mitigate the impact of social  
isolation, including depression.


This will be a magical evening with  
performances from **Luke Kennedy** (of the  
Voice) and **Soul Mystique** with special guest hosts  
**Sofie Formica** and **Kylie Lang**.

**Don't miss out on what promises to be a night to remember!**


**Purchase your tickets or make a donation at**  
[www.blackwhitemasquerade.com.au](http://www.blackwhitemasquerade.com.au)

**Saturday 9 May 2015**  
**7pm**  
**RNA Showgrounds**  
**600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills**

**A Black Tie and Masquerade Mask Event**  
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**Includes dinner & drinks**



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



2015 #2

## Firmly Planted in God's Word

*John Woldhuis serves with SIM in Loja, Ecuador where he and his wife Karine are involved in theological education.*

Three years ago 30 men started meeting together to study God's word. Six months later 15 women started meeting together for the exact same reason, to study God's word and learn together how to interpret and better understand these wonderful words that God has laid out for us in the scriptures.

On Saturday, 24th January we stood, 37 in total, amazed that we had travelled through so much of the bible together. We had studied the book of Romans over two years followed by 1 and 2 Timothy and Acts. We had discussed issues of doctrine and christian life as we worked through the 15 books in the program including authors like R. C. Sproul, John Piper, Richard Baxter, Jerry Bridges and a number of others.

This was a momentous occasion. One that many are proud of having completed, and rightly so! We praise God for how we have seen people mature and grow in their faith and their ability to teach others his life giving word.

Take Diego and Tania, both especially requested



to be included in the ESI program. Diego still has six months to go, but as a family they have committed to going out to Gonzanamá twice a month to invest in the church plant there.

Take Cristian, now almost finished his university studies, quiet by nature but solid in his faith, he has taken up the leadership of the university group at church along with significant investment of time to help out at church where he can. He doesn't want ESI to stop.... asking can I repeat? Only in order to help lead, responded John!

God is using ESI to raise up people for his church so that they are firmly planted in God's word. Praise God for these men and women who want to learn more of Him.

## Caught Between Two Worlds

Greetings from Australia! I'm currently in Canberra having driven from Melbourne at the end of January. On my first morning back I went for a walk around Yerrabi pond in Gungahlin. It was one of those beautiful clear, crisp Canberra mornings with a bright blue sky and rising sun - offering such promise for a glorious summer day. I breathed deeply as I felt the warm sun on my face and soaked up the experience. There were no calls of "Batouri or Yovo" or kids singing silly rhymes at me about being a white person. No potholes or goats or chickens to dodge. I was



SIL RUDDLE

walking on a tree-lined, paved path with no rubbish or stalls lining the streets. There were others out and about too - walking, running, riding their bikes, paddling on the lake. I was doing something completely normal!

After about 30 minutes though, I felt a blister

forming on my heel. New sneakers and the fact that I've only worn sandals for the last 2.5 years tend to have that effect. It started to take the shine off my experience and in an ironic way brought a smile to my face. "How good am I getting", I thought, "at holding things in tension".

There are many tensions in returning to Australia on Home Assignment. There is the joy of being home and reconnecting with family and friends, but at the same time missing people and the work I've left behind in Benin. The ease of being home with familiar streets and favourite foods, but there are so many new faces at church and kids (or should I call them young adults) that I hardly recognise. And since when did self-check-out become the norm at supermarkets? And can someone please explain what this "tap and pay" thing is all about?

In many ways, I'm caught between two worlds. But that's okay. It's a Biblical idea! The cost is worth it, and we have much to be thankful for.

*Sil serves with SIM in Benin*

## PresAID Easter Appeal: Malawi

Some people don't know that the Presbyterian Church of Australia has an aid organisation — PresAID\* (Presbyterians Assisting in Development). Each year PresAID holds an Easter and Christmas Appeal that is organised through local congregations.

This Easter the appeal is for our partner Presbyterian Church in Malawi – Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP). The funds collected will be used to:

### Provide Relief following recent devastating floods

At least 176 people lost their lives and another 200,000 were displaced when heavy rains submerged homes, schools, and in places, washed away an entire village.



### Upgrade to CCAP Offices

The CCAP has at least 4 million parishioners. Its General Secretary is Rev Colin L M'Bawa, a graduate of PTC Melbourne. The office is in desperate need of refurbishment to enable better coordination of a Church whose ministry stretches over five countries (Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zambia & Malawi).

For more details see [presaid.org.au](http://presaid.org.au)

\* PresAID is a committee of the General Assembly of Australia

CCAP OFFICE BEARERS



“ 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) ”





## UPDATES



JOHN &amp; KARA DEKKER

### VANUATU

**John & Kara Dekker** (APWM National, Aspendale VIC, Talua Vanuatu). John and Kara recently completed their preparatory training and were commissioned at Frankston Presbyterian Church on Saturday 14th February. Please pray for them following the sudden death of John's mother shortly before their commissioning. This delayed their arrival at Talua. We are still seeking people to partner in this ministry in prayer and finance. If you would like to join their support team then please use the form on the last page of this newsletter or contact the APWM National office.

### TIMOR LESTE

**Lauren Crase** (Browns Plains, QLD, APWM, Timor Leste). Lauren was recently approved as an APWM Partner Church missionary and is preparing to serve in Timor Leste. She is currently undertaking theological study and is seeking to develop her partnership support. From early 2016, Lauren will be teaching English as a second language, providing medical aid and helping disciple a small group of believers in Timor Leste. If you would like to join Lauren's support team please use the form on the last page of this newsletter or contact the APWM National office.



LAUREN CRASE



ANDREW &amp; MARILYN SCHACHE

Our team in Vanuatu has undergone considerable change in the last few months. **Glen & Rachael Connor** and **Andrew & Marilyn Schache** and **Brian & Judy Cullen** have permanently returned to Australia. We thank each member of the team for their sacrificial service for the work of the gospel in Vanuatu. Please remember them in your prayers as they readjust to life in Australia.

In late April 2015 **Andy & Rosemary Williamson** will be returning permanently to Australia and will continue to serve with APWM until 30th June, 2015. Andy will then serve as the minister of the Beecroft Presbyterian Church, NSW.



JOY HILL

### HUNGARY

**Joy Hill** (Donvale, VIC, Pioneers, Hungary). Joy was commissioned at Donvale on Sunday 15th February for service in Hungary as the Personal Assistant to Todd Price. Todd oversees the production of the Roma Bible in Hungary.

Todd writes 'The work in which we are engaged – bringing God's Word to the Roma (Gypsies) of Europe – is not a battle against flesh and blood, but is spiritual in nature and must be fought through prayer. All the money, staff and time in the world will not avail unless the God of all creation steps in

and acts. As Paul asked the believers of his day, so we ask you, "Brothers, pray for us." Would you make a New Year's resolution to pray daily for us? Perhaps there is no greater commitment you can make for this ministry.'

Joy is currently in Australia seeking to raise her partnership support. You can contact her at [wjhill@pmbx.net](mailto:wjhill@pmbx.net)

### EAST ASIA

**S & M** (Burwood/CPC, NSW, SIM, East Asia). S & M have recently been accepted as APWM Missionaries serving with SIM. S serves as an Area Director coordinating ministry in East Asia and providing Member Care.



### AUSTRALIA

**Joshua Ling** (Macquarie Chapel, NSW CMS, Australia) Joshua is married to Valerie and was recently approved as a Partner Agency missionary. Joshua works with the Church Missionary Society (NSW & ACT) raising support for CMS missionaries and equipping churches for cross-cultural evangelism and ministry.

JOSHUA &amp; VALERIE LING



SURENDRA &amp; MAY WESLEY

### MOUNT MAGNET

**Surendra & May Wesley** (APWM/PIM, Western Australia) are now serving in outreach and discipleship in the remote mining town of Mount Magnet. They were recently in Sydney where they received some training and met with supporters before travelling to Perth for further training. Please pray for them as they settle into Australia and adjust to life in Mount Magnet.





# FOCUS ON MYANMAR

*Kevin Murray was recently in Myanmar to visit Martin Eagle, hold talks with the leaders of the Evangelical Reformed Church and do some teaching.*

**Martin Eagle** is our resident missionary in Myanmar and serves with the Evangelical Reformed Church. Martin has just celebrated 4 years of service in Myanmar and says "I'm enjoying interacting with national colleagues in ministry and those whom God has given to me to disciple. Some of the people who are in the church have a tremendous zeal to see Christ made known."



MARTIN EAGLE

"Some of the spiritual battles I face are very real with little respite. For example, from time to time some key relationships experience conflict. That calls for patience and much prayer for wisdom as I seek to move forward.

"I admire the pastors in rural Chin State who have to juggle ministry, family life and day to day living. Amidst some very difficult conditions they keep on witnessing for Christ.

"The church itself faces a struggle between what it can and can't do, largely because it lacks the necessary funds.

"Thank you to those who pray for this ministry and support it. Without you this ministry would not be possible."

God willing, Martin will be in Australia for home assignment in February 2017. One way of keeping up with Martin's news is via Facebook [facebook.com/MartinEagleMyanmar](https://www.facebook.com/MartinEagleMyanmar)



EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH BOARD

**Rev Dr Thang Bwee** is the leader of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Myanmar. He also serves as the Principal of the Church's Bible College, the Reformed Bible Institute. When asked about the life of the Church he said:

"I am most encouraged when I hear that our pastors are doing evangelism. It's good when we go to new areas and establish churches. We're different to many of the other denominations in Myanmar who plant churches in areas that already have churches. We often go to areas where the church does not yet exist.

"In some villages they welcome church planters but in others there is opposition if there is already a church there. We also face opposition if there are many Buddhists in a village.

"There are times when we struggle because our churches are attacked by false teaching. Some of our rural pastors struggle with these things because they have limited Bible knowledge.



THANG BWEE



REFORMED BIBLE INSTITUTE STUDENTS

"One of the problems that Christianity has in Myanmar is Pentecostal prosperity teaching.

(This teaches that God rewards faith and hefty tithing with financial and other blessings.) They teach that Christians are entitled to a healthy better life. This means that they don't say much about the salvation of souls.

"We thank the Presbyterian Church of Australia for its partnership with the Evangelical Reformed Church of Myanmar. Please pray for Myanmar that the truth of the gospel would be taught here. Please come and visit us so that you can encourage us."

**Peter Barber**, minister at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Townsville has been to Myanmar nine times. Each time he has delivered guest lectures at RBI and this year spoke on Pastoral Care.

For him, the highlights of his visits include relationships with the students and the graduation ceremonies.

"I get to see the fruit of this ministry carried through the lives of the students who come forward and stand up for the Lord."

"The biggest highlight happened last year when I was asked to preach at a wedding for one of the students. It will happen tomorrow again at another wedding and it's totally unplanned!"



L TO R: PETER BARBER, AN RBI GRADUATE AND THANG BWEE

What has encouraged Peter over his nine visits? "There hasn't been huge numerical growth but what has been encouraging is the growth in faithfulness in the lives of pastors who have stuck it out for many years. Ministry in Asia is just so much harder compared to Australia."

"There are very strong cultural incentives to not stand for Christ in this society. How do you apply the gospel to particular situations? This year there were real life questions among the church in Chin State about what a man should do when he becomes a Christian and has two or three wives. Should he just keep one wife? They concluded that they should maintain their wives. What do you do when someone dies in an animist village and you are called on to slaughter a pig for yourself, for the atoning blood to be off your hands? These are the sort of questions that they have to face Biblically and seeing them stand firm in situations like this has been a real highlight."



PASTORS AND STUDENTS AT AN RBI BIBLE TEACHING SEMINAR





# JOHN KNOX: THE TRUMPET BLAST OF SCOTLAND (4): GENEVAN PASTOR (c.1556-59)

by **Steven J. Lawson, Pastor, Christ Fellowship Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama, USA**

The fourth of nine articles published by *Banner of Truth* to commemorate 500 years since the birth of John Knox. For those wishing to read the additional five articles they can be found in the May-December 2014 issues of *Banner of Truth*.



Hidden below street level on the grounds of the University of Geneva, founded by John Calvin in 1559, stands a monument that pays lasting tribute to the Protestant Reformation. Known as the 'Monument International de la Reformation' or the 'Reformation Wall', the imposing memorial of statues and bas-reliefs rises 30 feet high and stretches 325 feet in length. Built in 1909 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Calvin's birth and the 350th anniversary of the establishment of the University of Geneva, it stands as a stark reminder of the great movement that transformed the ancient city of Geneva more than five hundred years ago.

Emerging prominently from the chiselled stonework, standing 15 feet tall, are the four leading figures associated with the Genevan Reformation. On the left is the fiery evangelist William Farel (1489-1565), who first lit the match igniting reformation flames in Geneva. Standing beside Farel is the pastor-scholar John Calvin (1509-64), who stoked the flames of reformed truth through his biblical expositions and extensive writing. To the right of Calvin is his successor, Theodore Beza (1519-1605), the first principal of the Geneva Academy. On

the far right is John Knox, dressed in Genevan robe, standing resolutely, Bible in hand, steely-eyed and sober-countenanced. It would be this exiled Scot who would carry the Reformation torch back to spread its fire throughout his native land by his Gospel preaching.

While in Geneva, John Calvin played a key role in shaping the future ministry of John Knox. Iain Murray writes, 'It was during Knox's exile, and especially in the final years in Geneva, that the master-principles which governed his thought on Reformation came to maturity.' In other words, the coming Reformation in Scotland had its roots in the time Knox spent in Geneva.

This fourth article on the life of John Knox focuses upon his stay in Geneva, the international city of refuge made famous by Calvin and the Reformation. Though he lived in the city for relatively short periods of time, these proved to be pivotal for his ministry and left a deep and lasting impression on both his life and thought. Calvin sowed the seeds of Biblical truth into his willing co-labourer which in due season would produce a bountiful harvest when Knox returned to Scotland.

## **Pastor of English and Scottish exiles in Geneva (1556)**

Returning to the European continent from Scotland, Knox arrived in Geneva and was formally admitted to the membership of the English speaking congregation on 13 September 1556. Although it had been understood that Knox was to be one of the ministers of this congregation on his return, he did not in fact take up his office again until 6 December 1556 when he was re-elected along with Christopher Goodman, who had served in this post while Knox was absent in Scotland during the previous year.

By 1556 the long period of trouble that Calvin had endured at the hands of his enemies the Libertines, was over. In the face of implacable opposition Calvin had held his nerve and his strong leadership

prevailed. Geneva now enjoyed a period of stability under a reformed government.

Based upon his own experience of life in the city during these years Knox famously declared that Geneva under Calvin's leadership represented 'the most perfect school of Christ that ever was in the earth since the days of the apostles'. The life-changing effect of Calvin's preaching of the Gospel upon the people was such, Knox exclaimed, as "I have not yet seen in any other place beside".

A close friendship quickly developed between Calvin and Knox. Calvin enflamed within the Scottish reformer an even greater passion for the glory of God. According to John J. Murray, Calvin's towering, transcendent view of God emboldened Knox into a spiritual force: 'At the heart of his [Knox's] Christian experience was a vision of God on his throne. Like Calvin, his great mentor, he lived coram Deo, before the face of God.' This theocentric worldview had been first ignited within Knox in Scotland by George Wishart (c. 1513-46). However, it was now fanned into full flame by Calvin during this stay in Geneva. In due course Knox would take it with him on his return to his homeland.

The flock of displaced exiles which Knox pastored in Geneva grew to more than one hundred members. In October 1555 they had been granted permission to meet for worship in the church of Notre-Dame-la-Neuve (now known as the Auditory), which they shared with a congregation of Italian Protestant refugees. Included were many reform-minded Englishmen from Knox's previous church in Frankfurt-am-Main who had left Frankfurt after the earlier conflict there.

In this English church were such notables as William Whittingham, William Williams, and John Bodley, whose young son, Thomas, would later found the famous Bodleian Library at Oxford. Likewise, a few Scottish



exiles worshipped in the congregation alongside their English brethren. One of them was Sir John Borthwick, who had fled Scotland in 1540 rather than stand trial for heresy before James V.

Unlike the church in Frankfurt, which insisted on Anglican worship, this congregation in Geneva willingly followed a reformed order of worship. Everything that resembled the practices of Rome was forsaken. The Lord's supper was observed without kneeling. Written prayers were abandoned. The primacy of the sermon was established. Singing was of the inspired words of the Psalter.

This decisive break from the echoes of pre-Reformation practices of the Church of England led Scottish historian Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) to speak of Knox as 'the chief priest and founder of... Puritanism'. Jasper Ridley made the same assessment in his biography of Knox, identifying him as 'one of the founders of English Puritanism'. Martyn Lloyd-Jones went even further, arguing that Knox was the founder of the English Puritan movement.

In Geneva, therefore, we have the first truly Puritan Church amongst English people... John Knox is the founder of English Puritanism. It was also while at Geneva that he formulated his view with regard to Princes, and the attitude of the Christian towards 'the powers that be'. Here he was ahead of Calvin, and this is again a sign of his true Puritanism. I maintain that one cannot truly understand the revolution that took place here in England in the next century except in the light of this teaching. Here was the first opening of the door that led to that later development.

This season in Knox's life proved to be the most peaceful time he would enjoy. He took great pleasure in married life with Marjory, who bore him their first son, Nathaniel. Marjory's mother Mrs Elizabeth Bowes also lived with them in their happy home. Knox was free to study Scripture and theology, to preach the word and pastor his flock.

In contrast to his earlier experience in Germany, his spiritual leadership was well received in Geneva. Gone were the constant conflicts he suffered in Frankfurt. Knox relished this period of his life. Nevertheless, in the midst of this peace and joy the spiritual needs of

Scotland were never far from his mind.

In May 1557, not long after Nathaniel's birth, two messengers from Scotland arrived unexpectedly in Geneva to see John Knox. James Syme, Knox's host during his last trip to Edinburgh, and James Barron, a leading merchant of that city, had made the long and perilous journey to Switzerland. In their possession was a letter signed by four Scottish nobles—Archibald Alexander the Lord of Lome, John Erskine of Dun, Lord James Stewart and Alexander Cunningham the Earl of Glencairn—requesting his return to Scotland in order to establish a reformed church based solely upon the Scripture. The letter to Knox read:

*We heartily desire you, in the name of the Lord, that ye will return again to these parts, where ye shall find all faithful that ye left behind you, not only glad to hear your doctrine, but will be ready to jeopard lives and goods in the forward setting of the glory of God, as He will permit.*

Knox consulted his congregation and also talked the matter over with Calvin. Should he accept the invitation to return or should he stay and continue his ministry in Geneva? Both were in agreement: Knox must return to Scotland. As he later wrote, 'he could not refuse that vocation, unless he would declare himself rebellious unto his God and unmerciful to his country'. After all, was this not an open door for the extension of the Gospel in Scotland? Therefore, only eight months after arriving in Geneva, Knox prepared to return to his native land once again.

#### **Dieppe (1557)**

In September 1557 Knox set out from Geneva on the long and dangerous journey back to Scotland through France and by way of Dieppe. His family and friends bade him a tearful farewell. None of them knew if they would ever see him again. It took about a month for him to traverse the long distance to Dieppe, which he reached on 24 October. Upon his arrival he anticipated boarding the first ship to Scotland.

However, waiting for him at Dieppe was a second letter from Scotland. This one informed him that the Protestant leaders were having second thoughts about the wisdom of his coming to Scotland at this particular time. The letter urged Knox to

stay at Dieppe for further instructions. Also at this time, Knox was shown yet another letter, which was written by a Scottish Protestant gentleman to a friend in Dieppe. The friend was asked to let Knox know about the indecision of the Protestant nobles in Scotland and their reluctance to take any action. In fact they were reconsidering their previous invitation to Knox.

A rather 'delicate' political situation had developed back in Scotland. The Queen Regent was negotiating the marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to the Dauphin of France and matters had reached a critical stage. To ensure a satisfactory outcome for the Queen Regent, it was widely expected that generous bribes would be offered to any Scottish lord who supported the project. For Knox, this was just another indication of the greed and self-serving attitude of the nobles. Deeply disappointed and not a little angry, Knox responded with a letter of his own. He appealed to the Scottish Protestant leaders to move forward with the mission for reformation. He waited for a response but none was forthcoming.

During his stay in Dieppe Knox also received deeply disturbing reports from England. Bloody Mary was relentlessly pursuing her merciless policy of burning Protestant 'heretics'. Enraged by such injustices, Knox took up his pen and wrote his most impassioned book, *The First Blast of the Trumpet against the Monstrous Regiment of Women*. His intent was to denounce Mary I who was suppressing the cause of Christ's Gospel within her realm. By 'regiment' and 'monstrous' Knox meant 'government' and 'unnatural'.

This forty-five-page treatise was aimed at the unnatural reign of women monarchs. Although Knox "expressed himself in his usual colourful language so that his essay is guaranteed to infuriate all but the most docile of his modern female readers", says Rosalind K. Marshall, "it was not his attitude towards women's place in society that surprised his contemporaries... for it was no different from their own." Marshall goes on to explain the nature of the real offence caused by the book:

"Knox never meant *The First Blast* to be a polemic against women in general, and to see it only in that light is to miss the

point. His overriding concern was the reign of Mary I in England, the martyrdom of so many Protestants as a result and the likely prospect of even worse times ahead as a result of Mary's marriage to Philip of Spain. ...Although formerly convinced that passive resistance was the only way to deal with ungodly rulers, [Knox] had come to believe that this led to too much suffering, too many deaths and, in order to justify his controversial new view that Mary I must be deposed, he had hit upon the notion of piling up all the evidence that the rule by any woman at all was illegal. This is what *The First Blast* did and this is how it was read by his contemporaries. They passed over the familiar Biblical texts about women without a qualm but were brought up short by the explicit instruction that it was their duty to depose their ungodly female monarch."

#### **Return to Geneva (1558-59)**

With no reply likely to arrive from Scotland, Knox left Dieppe in March 1558 and rode all the way back to Geneva. Upon his arrival, the congregation of English exiles promptly re-elected him as one of their ministers.

In Geneva, Knox poured his substantial energies into preaching the word and caring for his flock. He also published *The First Blast* anonymously at Geneva soon after his return, much to the embarrassment and annoyance of Calvin and many of the English exiles.

The same year Knox published another treatise, concerning the right of citizens to revolt against their ungodly and unjust rulers. Other tracts addressed to Scotland and calling for the implementation of Protestant worship were also written around this time.

Of far reaching consequences was another work with which Knox was associated. We do not know whether Knox had any direct role in the translating of the Geneva Bible or in the composition of its marginal notes. Although published in 1560 under the direction of William Whittingham (c. 1524-79)—its dedication to Elizabeth I was dated 10 April 1560—much of the work was done during 1558 when Knox was back in the city. "What is certain", as Ridley points out, "is that the marginal notes were very largely inspired by Knox's writings and political doctrines.

The Geneva Bible was the work of the leaders of the English congregation at Geneva, and they put forward in the notes, the political ideas of the two pastors of the congregation, Knox and Goodman."

In an assessment of the impact of this important work, Ridley maintains that the "Geneva Bible became the most important instrument of propaganda of the radical Protestants in England and Scotland. Between 1560 and 1644, over 140 editions were published, and it was read in every Presbyterian and Puritan home in both realms. More than Foxe's Book of Martyrs or Knox's History of the Reformation in Scotland, it influenced the opinions of the English Puritans and Scottish Covenanters." This then was the Bible of choice of Reformers and Puritans for the next one hundred years. It was the Geneva Bible that accompanied the Pilgrims to the New World in 1620. This is another evidence of Knox's far-reaching influence.

Late in 1558, Knox also began an extensive theological Treatise on Predestination, which was also published in 1560. This would be Knox's longest and most elaborate work, running to 468 pages, with some 170,000 words. In it Knox refuted a number of Anabaptist doctrines. It is one of the great Reformation polemics against the Anabaptists.

On 17 November 1558, the political landscape of England dramatically changed. The staunchly Catholic Mary I died, and her half-sister, a moderate Protestant, Elizabeth I, ascended to the throne. This newly crowned queen proved to be far more sympathetic to the Protestant cause, and the persecution of Protestants immediately stopped. She issued a royal proclamation that decreed all Protestants be released from prison. The English exiles in Europe, including Geneva, were filled with new hope.

About this time Knox received further letters from Scotland requesting that he return to his homeland. A group of Scottish Protestants desired reformed preachers to teach them the Scriptures in their private homes. They specifically requested Knox to come and lead this Protestant movement. These Scottish leaders also sent a letter to Calvin, urging him to persuade Knox to respond positively to their appeal.

Moreover, with Elizabeth I now upon the throne, the congregation of English exiles in Geneva requested permission from the city officials to return to their homeland. This was duly granted and so the exodus began.

By January 1559 most of Knox's congregation was in England. On the 28th of the same month Knox also left Geneva to champion the cause of the Reformation in his homeland. But on this occasion he left his wife, mother-in-law, and two sons behind (his second son Eleazer was born a couple of months earlier and was baptised on 29 November 1558, Miles Coverdale, the venerable Bible translator, being his godfather).

#### **To Dieppe once more (1559)**

Knox travelled once more to Dieppe, arriving on 19 February 1559. Upon his arrival, he discovered that a spiritual awakening was taking place and that the Gospel was spreading among the local citizens and officials. He chose to delay his departure for Scotland in order to encourage this work of the Spirit of God. For about six or seven weeks Knox preached at secret services and presided over private prayer meetings in the town. With every sermon, Knox demonstrated unflinching courage in the face of threatened arrest, imprisonment and even martyrdom at the hands of the French Catholic authorities.

As the revival intensified, the Protestant services could no longer be conducted in secret and were now held in the open. Many were converted and admitted into the church, including numerous prominent citizens.

While at Dieppe Knox wrote to Elizabeth I, requesting permission to travel through England en route to Scotland. She refused because of the offence she took from his revolutionary teaching in *The First Blast of the Trumpet*. Further attempts to secure safe passage through England were also unsuccessful, including two appeals by Knox written to Sir William Cecil, Secretary of State under Elizabeth and a sympathizing supporter of the Protestant cause.

Enough time had been spent waiting for a positive reply. Knox therefore decided to board a ship bound for Scotland and on 22 April 1559 he sailed out of Dieppe. He arrived in Leith, the port of



Edinburgh, on 2 May 1559. "His greatest hour had come", according to Ridley. His return would mark the beginning of an unprecedented era in the history of Scotland. A new day of Protestantism was about to dawn. None could foresee what God's providence had prepared for Knox.

John Knox is rightly associated with John Calvin and Geneva in the unfolding influence of the Reformation upon western civilization. During the brief time Knox spent with Calvin, the great Genevan reformer's teaching took root within his fertile mind. Though Knox's stay in the Swiss city was relatively short, he nevertheless experienced something of the reality of the city's official motto, *post tenebras ltx*; or 'after darkness light'.

Under Calvin's expository ministry, the light of the flaming torch of truth broke through the thick fog of popery and superstition that had long shrouded the city in darkness. At last, the true Gospel of grace was shining brightly upon the people. Their hearts were illuminated by its transforming truth. Knox had witnessed this first hand, and he would never forget what he saw.

With this blazing torch in hand, Knox set his face toward Scotland. Rightly has biographer Thomas M'Crie called Knox

'the light of Scotland'. The dark night of Biblical ignorance had prevailed for far too long. This tenacious torchbearer would journey back to his beloved homeland and ignite a new reformation with the saving message of sovereign grace.

On Geneva's Reformation Wall, Knox is the only figure who appears twice. This leading Scot features largely, as we have seen, in the middle section, along with Farel, Calvin and Beza. But Knox is also depicted on a side stone mural, preaching before an awed congregation in St Giles' Kirk, Edinburgh. The sculptor's hammer and chisel has portrayed Knox as if he was about to come flying out of the pulpit in zealous passion for God's truth.

May this portrayal of Knox in stone on this famous wall be a reminder that such unction is needed in this present hour upon men not frozen in stone, but living preachers whose lips pour forth life-giving words of grace.

This article first appeared in the *Banner of Truth* magazine 2014. Used by permission of Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh.

*Continued from page 14*

Some workmen have lost most of their power tools—damaged in the floodwater. Some have lost livestock.

Our church community have been helping by providing meals and supplying emergency housing in the short term, cleaning mud out of homes and sheds; pulling up carpet, repairing fences and clearing flood debris, as well as fallen trees from yards and fence lines. We've talked with people who have survived 'near miss' situations in the flash flooding, and have drawn near to people as they come to terms with the devastation.

Please pray that we would continue to remind people of the hope we have in Jesus, and for opportunities to share the Gospel with them. Praise God that no lives were lost in the floods. Praise God that local and state government have been very supportive, and that our local council have worked hard to clear the fallen branches/trees from our streets. Pray for continued strength and stamina for those who are both physically and emotionally exhausted, but still have much more to do in the clean-up. Also, please pray for wisdom in the best way to help people after the immediate issues have been dealt with.



The Reformation Wall in Geneva

# insideout

## CHAPLAINCY

### Imprisoned at 18...and You Gave Me New Life

by Jesse Caulfield



Alison Dines tells how Presbyterian Churches in Queensland are actively playing a role in reducing youth recidivism.

As we focus on national youth week, it is sobering for us to read the statistics of young people in Queensland detention centres and prisons. For example, in Woodford Correctional Centre (near Caboolture) there are over 550 young men aged 18 through to 21. The average stay for a prisoner in Queensland is now only seven months, therefore, for them to have an opportunity for change, it is going to look like a long term community based response, not a program in prison.

This means the Church has a very active part to play in solving issues of youth recidivism. But why should the Church get involved? Sadly the statistics tells us that the average 18 year old male who goes to prison will spend approximately the next 22 years going 'in and out' at a cost to the Queensland tax payer of

A\$1.5million—before we look at extra police, legal costs, and not to mention insurance claims!

Brett\* is now 22 and continues to remain a free man in the community. He works and studies part time. His newfound Christian faith has given him a fresh outlook on life, where he now has hope and a purpose.

This was not always the case for Brett, as he grew up in a dysfunctional family; an alcoholic father, a very depressed mother and siblings that would, like himself, wander off track.

In his teen years Brett drifted into the drug and alcohol scene which led to criminal activity. Breaking and entering and burglary were his source of money which enabled his illicit habits. Just like so many of his peers his lifestyle revolved around being 'in and out of prison'. Brett had absolutely no regard for authority or his fellow man. In essence he lived a selfish and arrogant life.

The crossroads of Brett's young life came when at age 18 he found himself 'inside' for the third time.

It was during this time of imprisonment that he encountered prison chaplains. After several months of spending time with chaplains, attending chapel services and doing simple Bible studies, he decided to make a commitment to Jesus. He was referred to Alison Dines, the Post Release Coordinator of Inside/Out Chaplaincy as a likely candidate for their mentoring program, Inside/Out Connection.

Alison sought out a welcoming church in the area where Brett intended to reside after release, and with the help

of leadership at that church found two mature Christian men who agreed to become his mentors. Brett received encouragement from their letters and he felt a real sense of belonging within that church family even before he was released.

After several more months Brett was released and Alison took him along to meet his mentors and the Pastor. He chose to be 'up front' with the congregation and on his first Sunday he spoke to the people about his life thus far and asked them to accept him as a new creation in Christ. The congregation came alongside him with great encouragement and love as he sought to do all the things necessary to leave his past behind.

Brett's new walk has not been without its challenges but with the encouragement of God's family he strives toward his vision of staying out of prison and being a worthwhile member of the body of Christ, and of society.

There is an increasing need for our church families to be willing to accept young people like Brett; this includes a need for people of all ages to volunteer as mentors. All that is required is a Christian maturity and a heartfelt desire to befriend one whom Jesus has redeemed out of his/her past as they grow in Christian discipleship.

If God is asking this of you, please speak with Alison Dines.

Email: [alijoy4@bigpond.com](mailto:alijoy4@bigpond.com) or  
phone: 0417 618 809.

Alison is a member of Peace Presbyterian Church, Deception Bay.

\*Name changed for privacy.





## DIRECTOR OF CHAPLAINCY

**Work with experienced, committed and passionate peers to create new and innovative solutions to address social isolation of older Australians for a leading ministry of the Presbyterian Church**

Due to the retirement of our current incumbent Director of Chaplaincy in June 2015, we have an exciting 5 year contract opportunity for a Director of Chaplaincy, commencing in July 2015.

PresCare is a Ministry of the Presbyterian Church, and has been caring for Queenslanders in their communities for over 85 years. At PresCare we are passionate about working together to build and maintain a happy, harmonious, caring, compassionate, and innovative environment for our employees and clients alike.

As Director of Chaplaincy you will lead a diverse and dedicated team with a rich background of life and work experiences. The chaplaincy team comprises 16 chaplains and pastoral carers, and volunteers who connect with and care for PresCare's aged care community of over 7000 culturally diverse clients, spread across Queensland from the Gold Coast to Cairns.

As an appointment of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, you report directly to the PresCare Board. You are also an integral part of PresCare's executive management team, and on a day-to-day basis are operationally accountable to PresCare's Chief Executive Officer.

With a clear strategic vision, strong leadership and executive management skills you will work with your team to support and connect PresCare's people and clients with the business of PresCare, through integrated services and programs.

You will identify opportunities to develop and implement innovative solutions to address social isolation and depression affecting older Australians, and grow the PresCare pastoral care team and its associated programs.

To be successful in this role, the following qualifications and/or experience are essential:

- Ordained Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia/or a Minister able to be received as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia
- A Ruling Elder of the Presbyterian Church of Australia

### Preferred

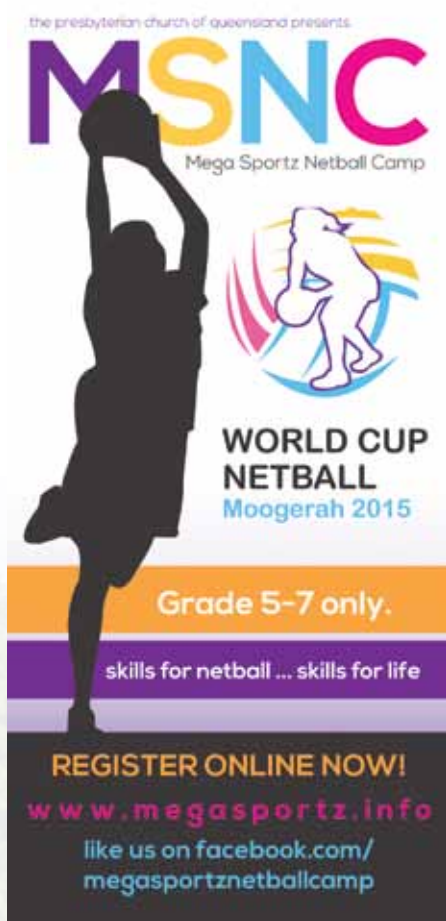
- Relevant experience in an aged care context
- Management experience prior to Ministry
- Experience leading a pastoral team
- Hold/or can obtain a current National Criminal Check
- Hold/or can obtain a current Queensland driver's licence

Joining PresCare, some of your benefits will include:

- Being part of a culture that makes a daily difference in the lives of PresCare's clients and employees
- Wellness Program initiatives
- Salary Sacrificing options
- Relocation costs considered on a case by case basis

For further information please visit [www.prescare.org.au/prescare-people/vacancies](http://www.prescare.org.au/prescare-people/vacancies) or contact Reverend John Gilmour, Director of Chaplaincy on 07 3223 4460. PresCare is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church.

## Presbyterian Church of Queensland Kids and Youth Camps



*continued from page 2*

Matt and Brooke said that "motherhood/fatherhood has been a joyful and humbling journey so far. There have been challenging times, especially when the girls were still in hospital. Emilie and Philippa stayed in the Special Care Nursery for eight weeks. In the first few weeks it was a rare and special event to be able to touch and cuddle our girls. It was these moments that helped the eight weeks pass by so quickly.

"Now the girls are growing and developing so quickly! It is a privilege to see them grow and change—their smiles, interaction with each other and moving around everywhere."

When asked what advice they would give to other parents, they said, "We don't think we are qualified to give advice just yet but are enjoying the double cuddles and cries as we work this out."



Mega Sportz Soccer Camp	29 June-3 July 2015
Mega Sportz Netball Camp	6-10 July 2015
Register online @ <a href="http://www.megasportz.info">www.megasportz.info</a>	
Spring Camp	18-21 September 2015
Fun and Adventure Camp	27 September-3 October 2015
NQ Extreme	28 September - 3 October 2015
Register online @ <a href="http://ynet.org.au">ynet.org.au</a> once the relevant camp registration becomes active	
Jumpstart Schoolies	23-27 November 2015
Register now @ <a href="http://ynet.org.au/schoolies">ynet.org.au/schoolies</a>	

