



DIRECTIONS

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



Triumph in partnership

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A few years ago I went on a short-term mission. It was my way of 'testing the waters', seeing whether I was cut out for long-term mission or not, and also trying to help the missionaries and local people. While I found that I could handle being in a third-world country, I wasn't nearly as useful as I'd hoped to be. I didn't have relationships with the people. I didn't know their language. I quickly realised that I'd need to stay there long-term in order to be able to effectively minister to them. But when I heard about Proshikkhon, it made me think again. Read Kirsty's story on page 2.

(Kirsty is currently in her third year of the Bachelor of Divinity at Moore Theological College in Sydney. This was her second time on Proshikkhon, and she is planning to go back again this coming year.)

Going with someone and working in partnership

YOU MAY have heard it said that short-term missions are a “waste of money” and have “little impact on the community”.

Perhaps sometimes this is true. But the Proshikkhon short-term mission is different. And the key to its success is partnership.

I believe that Proshikkhon is one of the best short-term missions available, for several reasons:

#1 Tribal Leaders: Our major project in Bangladesh is facilitating three seminars for tribal church leaders. We minister to these leaders by doing the Biblical research to enable them to contextualize their faith. The second seminar is to teach them how to craft and use Bible storytelling for evangelism and discipleship. And the third is on the Biblical basis for Christian unity - inter-denominational rivalry in Bangladesh doesn't do much for the cause of the Gospel.

#2 Staff Training: We empower Bangladeshi pastors and Christian workers to do all the teaching. By modelling empowerment and the priesthood of all believers to the Proshikkhon participants, we are hopefully shaping their attitudes to ministry for the rest of their lives.

#3 Unreached People: Bangladesh is an example of a mostly unevangelized country with 340 unreached people groups. That makes it one of the neediest countries in the world. Through Proshikkhon we help the students understand the needs of the thousands of unreached people groups in the world. These could be reached in our generation if we put our minds to it.

#4 Poverty: Most Australians know very little about poverty. Bangladesh is a shock experience. At the same time we see some of the excellent work of Christian organisations involved in poverty alleviation.

#5 Cross-cultural Training: Through Proshikkhon, participants receive a variety of training in cross-cultural communication. This includes training in language



Learning to apply God's Word to culture

learning, anthropology, orality and Bible storytelling, contextualization and syncretism.

#6 Modelling Cross-cultural Ministry: We expect each Proshikkhon participant to build a prayer team who will undergird the whole ministry trip with prayer.

Proshikkhon was conceived back in 2006 when Keith Benn from Wycliffe Australia met with the General Secretary of the Bible Students Fellowship of Bangladesh (BSFB is a member of IFES).

He said, “Let's work together to run a short-term mission which will be beneficial for both Australians and Bangladeshis. It could include training for pastors and evangelists from the ethnic minority communities.”

BSFB agreed and said, “Let's work together. We also have a heart to reach out to the rural areas.” “What shall we call it then? Proshikkhon. It means ‘training’ in Bangla.” And so Proshikkhon was born.

What attracted me to Proshikkhon was that it isn't about the foreigners coming in thinking they know everything, evangelizing the country and then nicking off. Rather, it's about empowering the locals who are there long-term.

After I'd signed up though, I found out that we (Aussies) weren't going to be running the training. I thought to myself, “Well, what are we going to be doing then?”

It turns out that our part of the partnership isn't doing the upfront stuff. Right from the very beginning the BSFB staff were equipped to

run the training sessions. Our main hands-on role with the trainees is in small groups working on case studies, aided by a translator. They contribute cultural and language knowledge. We contribute biblical expertise and resources. They organise the logistics beforehand and follow up people afterwards. We bring the money to make it possible. That's partnership.

This year we also partnered with a local church in the north. The head of their denomination wasn't expecting much when we came. They've had many short-term mission teams before, and they didn't do much long-term good. But at the end of the Proshikkhon seminars he said, “What has happened here has been both unbelievable and unimaginable.” Each day participants went to Muslim and Hindu villages. When they came back they said, “They welcomed us in, put out seats for us and gave us tea. We asked them, ‘Can we tell you a story from the Bible?’ and they said, ‘Yes’.” Before this, their people had never shared the gospel with Muslims. What a difference partnership makes.

One of the other great things about partnership is that the work continues long after we're gone. The church asked BSFB to help them set up new Bible study groups in the area and to run a follow up Bible storytelling seminar. Staff from the Global Recordings Network (GRN) and the Evangelical Cell Church Trust (ECCT) have also partnered with Proshikkhon in recent years. Not only that, but in the months afterwards they send evangelists back to the villages where the gospel was shared during training.

Wycliffe Australia has also been asked to help support getting new Bible translation projects underway in Bangladesh. That's the body of Christ working in partnership.

It has been said, “If you want to go faster, go alone. If you want to go longer, go with someone.”

Proshikkhon has certainly seen the benefits of going with someone and working in partnership. Who can you partner with for the sake of the gospel?

Andrew Hutchens tells of his experience on Proshikkhon on page 8, along with information on how to sign up for Proshikkhon 2013/2014.



Good communication is built on good relationships



Quality Bible research is hard work



The hospitality of poor village Muslims was overwhelming



Everyone loves to hear a Bible story

New minister for Cairns



Dr Ian Putt, Moderator, Presbytery of North Queensland, and Rev. Andrew Richardson

CAIRNS PRESBYTERIAN Church celebrated the induction of Rev. Andrew Richardson as their new Lead Pastor on Wednesday 6 March 2013.

In talking about his aims in ministry Andrew said, “God has been generous to Cairns Presbyterian Church with a history of faithful ministry, state of the art buildings, and a strategic location in a city of 150,000 people.

“It’s my prayer that we will be able to work together to be a church that hears God’s Word through clear, Christ-centred Bible-teaching, lives out God’s Word in holiness, trust and loving service, and shares God’s Word with our city and beyond.”

Andrew also expressed his gratitude to the current minister, Rev. Harry Oh, and the congregation for their enthusiastic welcome since he arrived in mid-January.

During the induction service, Session Clerk Alex Farquharson observed that the church in Cairns has always had a growing healthy ministry when there has been two full-time ministry staff at work and so it was exciting to have Andrew joining Harry as the second full-time minister.

Please pray for Cairns Presbyterian Church in this new stage of its ministry.



View of Geneva from the bell tower of Cathedral St Pierre

Geneva - Cradle for the Reformation

by Dianne Parker

SWITZERLAND IS a beautiful place to visit and there is much for the tourist to enjoy with the combination of beautiful scenery and its ancient history with buildings which date back to the thirteenth century and beyond .

Travelling through the modern Swiss countryside reveals an interesting mix of modern manufacturing industries and traditional farms with their tiny chalets and large barns and the many cattle grazing in the fields.

Switzerland is also the country which was the cradle for the Reformation. Geneva was the city which gave the Reformers freedom to share their views and thus allowed their teachings to be spread, eventually impacting throughout the world.

The centre of Geneva’s old town is dominated by the Cathedrale St Pierre, built at the end of the 12th century and finished a century later as a Catholic cathedral.

By the mid sixteenth century, during the Reformation, all interior decoration and ornamentation was removed and the painted décor was covered over but the stained glass windows were spared.

Today the cathedral still dominates the old town and it is possible to see the pulpit from which Calvin preached and also a chair which is said to have been his.

This beautiful building is open to the public and a climb up the 150 or so steps into the tower gives a wonderful view of the city of Geneva; but it is not for the faint-hearted as the stairs up to the top of the towers go straight up by means of a spiral staircase – coming down is, if anything, more challenging than climbing up.

Adjacent to the cathedral is the International Museum of the Reformation which is housed in the headquarters of the Protestant Church of Geneva.

A visit to the museum provides a good overview of the Reformation told against the backdrop of the history of Europe at the time. The story is told in an imaginative way with the

use of objects, books, manuscripts, paintings and engravings and in the various rooms different aspects are emphasised and explained. Individual commentaries are provided so that visitors can explore the displays at their own pace.

The significance of the events is also presented using twenty first century technology. In several rooms, by use of media, characters of the time tell their story. Theological perspectives are argued as various Reformers are allowed to present their points of view with clever use of sophisticated audio-visual equipment, making the topics of the time current for those present.

The museum has thirteen different areas which begin with Martin Luther, the invention of the printing press and the translation of the scriptures into the language of the people. The spread of his teachings, with an overview of the arguments for and against, is presented clearly and concisely.

Calvin’s role and those of the many other Reformers is given. As well, the situation in Geneva and the way the expanding population impacted on the city is described.

The place of music and its place in worship throughout the ages is dealt with. Opportunity is given to listen to the way that the music of worship has developed to the present day.

An overview of the influence of the Reformation on world history up to the current time is also considered.

The museum is connected to an archaeological site beneath the cathedral and this area is also available to be explored. There are three separate areas in the same site and entrance prices allow for one or all to be visited. Entrance to the Museum alone is thirteen euros (\$13) and a combined ticket for the museum, church, towers and archaeological site is twenty euros (\$26).

A brochure for a walking tour, “In the footsteps of the Reformation”, is a good way of seeing the city and the Reformation Wall is testament to the place of the Reformation in the life of Geneva. Organized tours are also available.

David and I made our own arrangements with the help of an American tour company which specialises in Reformation tours and provided some suggested itineraries.

Websites for the museum and the Reformation tour company are as follows:

<https://www.musee-reforme.ch/english-version/>
<http://www.reformationtours.com/>



Calvin's chair

Queensland Presbyterian Church Buildings



NEW DIRECTIONS

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SEE YOU AT ASSEMBLY

NEW DAY - Saturday 22 June 2013

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND PRESENTS ...

CELEBRATION RALLY

Compelling love

VENUE - Clayfield College Assembly Hall
Bayview Terrace, Clayfield

3.30pm Ministry Displays/Tea-Coffee-Biscuits 4.30-6pm Barbecue 6.30-8pm Rally

Rally features your favourite hymns, guest artists, Rally Band and Singers. Come and bring your friends.



Our guest speaker will be Rt Rev David Jones, the Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. David grew up in Wales and became a minister of the Presbyterian Church there before moving to London. In 1993 he settled in Australia, becoming the Minister of St John's, Hobart. Since then he has conducted a fruitful ministry in Tasmania, planting several churches and taking a leading role in the development of many young ministers. He and his wife, Ruth, enjoy an active life of ministry in Tasmania and throughout Australia, and have three grown-up children. David, also a well-known speaker at many conferences and conventions, blessed us with his Biblical expositions and the preaching of God's Word at the 2008 Assembly. We welcome him back and look forward to being richly blessed once again.

Barbecue numbers needed by 3 June - phone Guido on 3216 4151



Please pray for Incoming Moderator (Mr Greg Rodgers), Moderator's Chaplains (Revs Matt Viney & Garnett Swann), Clerk of Assembly (Rev. Ron Clark), Deputy Clerk of Assembly (Rev. Lesleigh Hall), Business Convener (Rev. Guido Kettniss) and the business of the Assembly

MEETINGS OF ASSEMBLY

Assembly Hall, Clayfield College

(The following order is subject to change. Agendas for each sederunt will be distributed at the commencement of each Session.)

Sunday 23 June 2013

- 5.00 pm Business Committee meets in Board Room (Room 4), Clayfield College
- 5.30 pm Dinner
(Buses will be arranged to take Commissioners to Wavell Heights PC)
- 7.00 pm Sederunt 1
WORSHIP SERVICE TO INDUCT THE MODERATOR (WAVELL HEIGHTS PC)

Monday 24 June 2013

- 7.00-7.25 am Prayer and Praise, Dining Room
- 7.30 am Breakfast
(Buses will be arranged to take Commissioners to Creek Road PC)
- 9.15 am Sederunt 2 at Creek Road PC
Public Seminar - *Engage Your World*
SEMINAR SPEAKERS & TOPICS
Engage or Disengage - David Jones
Engage on a Sunday - Steve Cree
Engage Australia - Karl Faase
Equipped to Engage - Gary Millar
Engage 2013 - Media presentation
Stories from the frontline
Morning Tea, Lunch & Afternoon Tea provided.
- 4.00 pm Close
- 5.45 pm Dinner
- 7.30 pm Sederunt 3
Devotions
- 7.40 pm Business
BUSINESS AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
CODE AND LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE & Return to Remits
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Tuesday 25 June 2013

- 7.00-7.25 am Prayer and Praise, Dining Room
- 7.30 am Breakfast

- 8.45 am Sederunt 4
Communion Service [Clayfield College Chapel]
- 10.15 am Morning Tea
- 10.45 am Sederunt 4 resumes in Assembly Hall
PWA Presentation
- 10.55 am PETITIONS AND APPEALS
- 12.00 noon Biblical Exposition #1 - Rt Rev David Jones
- 12.30 pm Close/Lunch
- 1.20 pm Praise
- 1.30 pm Sederunt 5
Devotions
- 1.40 pm WOMEN'S MINISTRIES PCQ
Presentation
PRESCARE
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRIES
RESOURCING (Inside Out Chaplaincy to address the House)
- 3.45 pm Afternoon Tea
- 4.30 pm Presbytery Presentations (Four Presbyteries)
- 5.00 pm Biblical Exposition #2 - Rt Rev David Jones
- 5.30 pm Close
- 5.45 pm Mission Barbeque - Tuckshop Area
- 7.00 pm Sederunt 6
APWM Qld will present their report, followed by the Mission Rally
- 9.30 pm Close/Supper

Wednesday 26 June 2013

- 7.00-7.25 am Prayer and Praise, Dining Room
- 7.30 am Breakfast
- 8.15 am Moderator's Nominating Committee (Room 5)
- 8.45 am Devotions
- Sederunt 7
O/D STIPENDS COMMISSION
MINISTRIES TRAINING
OUTREACH & NURTURE
- 10.15 am Morning Tea
- 11.45 am Introduction of Moderator-Elect
- 12.00 noon Biblical Exposition #3 - Rt Rev David Jones
- 12.30 pm Close/Lunch
- 1.20 pm Praise
- 1.30 pm Sederunt 8
Devotions

- 1.40 pm FAIRHOLME COLLEGE
PRESBYTERIAN & METHODIST SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION
GRACE COLLEGE
EMMANUEL COLLEGE
ST ANDREW'S TOOWOOMBA
HOSPITAL
COMMUNICATIONS
- 3.15 pm Afternoon Tea
- 3.45 pm OVERTURES
- 5.00 pm Biblical Exposition #4 - Rt Rev David Jones
- 5.30 pm Close
- 6.00 pm Dinner
- 7.20 pm Praise
- 7.30 pm Sederunt 9
Devotions
PUBLIC QUESTIONS - AP, Christian TV
AD HOC COMMITTEES
REMNANTS
- 9.30 pm Close/Supper

Thursday 27 June 2013

- 7.00-7.25 am Prayer & Praise, Dining Room
- 7.30 am Breakfast
- 8.45 am Sederunt 10
Devotions
- 8.55 am REMNANTS
- 10.15 am Morning Tea
- 12.00 noon Close of Assembly

MORNING DEVOTIONS

Chapel devotions will be led by Rev Jens Norved speaking on *Jesus Changes Lives: The revealing God (Psalm 19); The forsaking God (Psalm 22); The saving God (Psalm 37); The forgiving God (Psalm 51).*

BIBLICAL EXPOSITIONS

Biblical expositions will be delivered on Tuesday and Wednesday by Rt Rev David Jones, Moderator General, speaking on **THE MICAH CHALLENGE:**
#1 - *What is God like?* (Micah 1 and 2);
#2 - *The Shepherd King* (Micah 3:8-4:5; 5:1-5);
#3 - *What does God require of us?* (Micah 6:1-8);
#4 - *What's in a name?* (Micah 7).

Two Brave Young Women in Uganda

by Frances Tilly



FORTY-FIVE MINUTES outside Kampala, in the country of Uganda, two girls aim to set up a house for teenage girls who are victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse.

Toowoomba girl, Jane Andersen (27), whose family attends St David's Presbyterian Church, along with her friend, Anne Campbell Black (22) from Alabama, have responded to God's call to help these forsaken victims.

Their suffering is a violation of human dignity, yet it is sadly not considered out of the ordinary in Uganda. Statistics say that 1 in 5 women are raped in Uganda, however these are only the officially reported rapes; many go unreported due to the cost of the process.

Following nearly seven months of working and researching in Uganda, Jane and AC saw this great need and have set up their own organisation, I AM MORE THAN.

The name was inspired by the words Paul used in his prayer to the Christians in Ephesus that God "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us".

On 21 March, St David's congregation arranged an opportunity for Jane to tell the I AM MORE THAN story, sharing photos of some of the girls they had met during their time in Uganda and relating their tragic experiences.

Jane explained, "It is our aim to provide housing, rehabilitation, education, life skills and job training for young women, between the ages of 11 and 18 years, who are victims of sexual abuse and human trafficking, while advocating for the eradication of human trafficking and sharing the effects of sexual abuse to unreached people groups".

PHOTOS (left):
Top: Jane beside the map of Africa, pointing to the country of Uganda
Bottom: The Andersen Family at St David's - (Left to right: Ian, Laura, Jane and Lynne)

Thank You Guido

by Rev. Lesleigh Hall,
Moderator, Presbytery of Brisbane



AFTER NEARLY twenty four years of committed service to the Presbytery of Brisbane, the Rev. Guido Kettniss has concluded his term as Clerk of Presbytery.

Following the Clerkship of Rev. Hector Dunn and Rev Graham Lake, Rev. Guido Kettniss was appointed Clerk of Presbytery on 2 August 1989, relinquishing his then present role as Moderator of the Presbytery.

Guido has faithfully fulfilled the Oath of Office de fideli throughout this extended season of service and has successfully swamped the Presbytery in a sea of paper for its entire duration. His minutes were extensive and accurate; he circulated them first as an expanded agenda, with some provision for adjustment and amendment by the members of the Presbytery, before they became the confirmed and official record of the Court.

In the early years of his Clerkship, Guido received some secretarial support in order to achieve his responsibilities. However, in later years he fulfilled these responsibilities single-handed.

Anyone who knows Guido would wonder how he was able to fit this

significant responsibility into his already-crammed life.

He undertook his responsibilities as Presbytery Clerk while also serving as Minister of the Gateway Charge with a specific ministry to refugees and others in need of pastoral care; while serving as Manager of the Christian Reformed Bookshop; while heavily involved in the ministry of the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association; whilst serving as the Assembly's Business Convener; as well as serving as Convenor of the General Assembly of Australia's Reception of Ministers Committee. Guido is also the Presbytery's Mission Convener and has kept the Presbytery updated on mission-related issues throughout the world.

As Clerk, Guido has been a source of much-appreciated guidance and support for each of the Moderators who served during his Clerkship.

Guido has also been pivotal in co-ordinating special Presbytery events with the assistance of the Moderator, such as services of Ordination, Licensing of Candidates and funerals.

He was instrumental in organising special Presbytery meals commemorating significant events in the life of the Presbytery and its members, for example the twentieth or thirtieth anniversary of a minister's or elder's ordination.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of Brisbane in March 2013, the Presbytery appointed the Rev. Steve Blencowe as Clerk of Presbytery.

At this meeting members of the Presbytery were given an opportunity to personally acknowledge Guido's work as Clerk and to thank him for his extended period of service to the Presbytery.

As Moderator of the Presbytery, and a previous colleague of Guido who was "welcomed into the close proximity of the photocopier", I would like to place on record the sincere appreciation, thankfulness and indebtedness of the Presbytery of Brisbane to Guido for the tireless and sacrificial service he has given as Clerk.

Annual service of dedication and communion



State President Mrs Heather Ross welcomes the Rt Rev David Niven.
Back: Mrs Ailsa Kelly, Mrs Margaret Taylor, Rev. Chris Perona, Mrs Heather Burton, Mr Robert Thompson

THE ANNUAL service, held in the Ann Street Presbyterian Church on Tuesday 5 February, was conducted by the State Moderator, Rt Rev. David Niven. Mr Niven spoke on "Running for Jesus" from Hebrews 12:3.

Mr Niven commenced by talking about a race - how we prepare for it and that it is not over until it is finished. We need perseverance and he likened it to a marathon.

He made the comment that usually young people run sprint races and older people do the marathon races so "old age" is an advantage for a long race.

The Bible tells us that we can learn from previous runners - Gideon, William Tyndale, Jim Elliot. People like this are watching over us as we run our race. They groan when we fail, they cheer when we do well and we can learn from them.

There are many obstacles in running a race so we need to throw off anything that hinders us. He gave examples like too much TV, too much time on hobbies or an addiction to social media. Sometimes it is too hard to go to church socials.

Sin is a big obstacle in our race - white lies, gossip, being critical, speaking ill of others.

We need the grace of God to say "no" to certain things and to enable us to get rid of what is hindering us from running and finishing our race.

We need perseverance to "fix our eyes upon Jesus". He ran a great race to the cross and He did it for us. We all have different races and we need to remember to always look forward, never backward. We need to never lose heart and remember that no-one can take prayer away from us.

If we do this we will not grow weary and we will not lose heart.

Pray, Live, Serve but what about the storm?

by Naomi Reed



Naomi Reed

BOOK CLUBS are the best audience.

I turned up at Vaucluse last week and even before I sat down I realized that it was going to be a good night.

They were all carrying a copy of 'No Ordinary View' under their arms and they had a list of questions longer than their arms. Then I realized that not only had they read the book more recently than I had ... but they also knew my stories better than I did!

Luckily for me, their questions weren't related to details and facts as much as to concepts and feelings. "How did you adjust back to Australia?" "Do you still have a go-bag?" "Were you really that calm during the evacuation and revolution?" I laughed at that one. Did I sound calm? No ... I wasn't calm.

It's funny though, isn't it? The way we respond to emergencies can often be quite different to the way we expect to respond, or to the way we respond to more mundane matters. Maybe God gives us extra grace and courage for the moment. Maybe He knows what we need. Maybe He enables us to keep going, for the sake of the children. Or maybe He just knows more about emergencies than we do. He certainly knows how they end up!

But, as always, there were some harder questions. "Why do you think God answers some prayers amazingly and not others? For example, He allowed you to contact your mother-

in-law during the state of emergency but he didn't heal Jalpa."

That's right. He didn't heal Jalpa. In 2005, she died of a brain tumour and left her husband and three small children living in Nepal, in a tiny room with a broken window.

Why didn't he heal Jalpa? I don't know. I really don't know. All I can say is that I sit with the pain ... as we all do. And as we sit with the pain, we get that feeling that we must be seeing only the underside of the weaving that God is making beautifully - with our lives and with this world.

During the storms of life we often ask God to make it smooth. Of course we do. "Please Lord, calm the storm, heal my friend, stop the pain, ease her tears."

And we believe in a sovereign God Who can do that. We also believe in a sovereign God who wants to conform us into His image (Rom. 8:29), slowly and painfully, to get us ready for heaven. And amazingly, He knows what it takes to conform each of us, to make us more like Jesus and to get us there.

So sometimes, He speaks and the storm is stilled. Other times, we look up and meet Him there in the middle of it.

The storm carries on ... we bury our friends and weep over them; but somehow we find His grace, presence and love right there.

And then He gives us the strength

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



QTC represented at the Gospel Coalition Conference 2013

AS OTHERS were enjoying the Easter holidays this April, Gary Millar was packing his bags and boarding a very long flight to Orlando, Florida.

This was not to enjoy a week-long break on the shores of the USA; rather Gary was heading to the Gospel Coalition's National Conference for 2013.

The conference, which ran 8-10 April, had the theme 'His Mission – Jesus in the Gospel of Luke'.

It was a very busy few days for attendees with keynote talks from a number of speakers, including Tim Keller, Don Carson, Kevin DeYoung, John Piper, and QTC's Gary Millar. Attendees also enjoyed music from Keith and Kristyn Getty, panel discussions with many of today's foremost theologians and apologists, and a range of workshop strands from which to choose.

Gary preached from Luke 22 and 23 and shared that as we draw close to Jesus' execution, the pace of Luke's account slows right down. We are made to pause, think, linger and gasp, as Luke painstakingly explains the significance of the unthinkable events unfolding before our eyes.

He highlighted that Luke's account contains echoes of the Old Testament, but is carried along by Jesus of Nazareth's final encounters with people - friends, enemies and strangers - as the Messiah dies in our place, that we might taste life with him.

Gary's sermon was enjoyed by the audience there, as well as an audience back here in Australia with many QTC students staying up late to watch his sermon live online.

Although the week was tiring Gary enjoyed representing QTC at the conference and found the time very encouraging. For anyone interested in hearing Gary's sermon or workshop strand, or any other session from the conference, these were all recorded and will be made available online free of charge at <http://thegospelcoalition.org/>

PUBLIC SEMINAR - ALL WELCOME



ENGAGING YOUR COMMUNITY WITH THE GOSPEL

Seminar Speakers:

ENGAGE OR DISENGAGE
DAVID JONES
CHURCH PLANTER, TASMANIA
A REAL CHOICE OR A 'NO-BRAINER'?

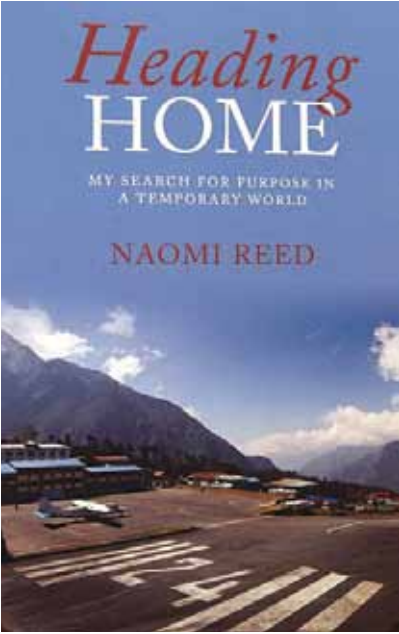
ENGAGE ON A SUNDAY
STEVE CREE
SENIOR MINISTER, CREEK ROAD
EXPERIENCE A SUNDAY WHERE NON-CHRISTIANS ARE ENGAGED WITH THE GOSPEL

ENGAGE AUSTRALIA
KARL FAASE
SENIOR PASTOR, GYMEA BAPTIST CHURCH
ENGAGING THE AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

EQUIPPED TO ENGAGE
GARY MILLAR
PRINCIPAL, QTC
DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

ENGAGE 2013 - MEDIA PRESENTATION
HEAR STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINES OF OUR QUEENSLAND CHURCHES
9.15AM-4PM MONDAY JUNE 24TH, CREEK ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CNR FURSDEN RD CARINA.
EASV PARKING. LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY PRESCARE.
SEMINAR SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY RESOURCING AND OUTREACH AND NURTURE.
REGISTER BY 17TH JUNE AT WWW.THINGSCOMINGUP.COM OR THROUGH YOUR LOCAL CONGREGATION.

Heading Home - a book review



I CONFESS this is the first book that I've read by Naomi Reed. I think my mother and Fiona have read them all, and I'm just disappointed that I've waited this long. *Heading Home: My Search for Purpose in a Temporary World* is her third in an autobiographical series of books, following on from *My Seventh Monsoon* and *No Ordinary View*. I'll need to catch up on these stories later.

This was a book in season for me, because we've spent a year working through where we belong, who we are, what we should be doing, why we do and don't feel at home, and constantly being confronted by the Bible's message that we are not at home until we are home with the Lord.

Naomi tells the story of returning to their 'home' in the Blue Mountains, near Sydney in Australia, after being overseas for some time, mainly in Nepal. The account is full of humour and pathos as we're given a window into the confusion of reverse culture shock. After living through a revolution in Nepal, and being without many of the things Aussies take for granted, it was overwhelming to visit supermarkets and department stores with the complete over-indulgence of choice. And no time is worse than Christmas with it's red and white pimping of the season. The real message of Christmas barely gets a look in. I've spoken to other returned missionaries, coming back from economically poorer countries, who've found this so difficult. One family vowed to never return to Australia in the lead up to Christmas. They found the whole experience obscene.

I'd suggest that returning missionaries would be helped and encouraged by reading this book, and knowing that those who support them have read it too. So why not read it yourself, encourage others in your church to do the same, and send a copy to your partners overseas before they return.

Heading Home is a mosaic of themes and ideas that paints the bigger picture of discovering and living out who we are in union with Christ. It's a profound message that raises real issues for all who claim to follow Jesus. I believe that Naomi is well placed to write such a book for a number of reasons: (1) she has the advantage of looking at different societies both as an insider and an outsider; (2) she has taken the time to reflect, meditate, and have her

thoughts informed by Scripture; and (3) she has an endearing humility that comes across in each chapter.

As I reflect on the impact of a year of cancer and treatment, the book has had much to say to me. Who am I? Where do I belong? What am I to do with my life? Why don't I feel settled? Naomi's shared experiences have rubbed a little salt into a few of my wounds – and I'm glad she has. It's easy to think that I really should be in Darwin, planting a church for God, making a difference, finding fulfilment in the challenge of 'exotic' and recognised ministry. But I'm reminded that it's not a matter of which particular vocation, or which particular location. It's about being content in the fact that God is in control, and He will use us wherever, and however, to fulfil His purposes, and for His glory. Naomi writes of dreams and plans coming to an end, and feeling loss of purpose upon returning to Australia. I could relate to this and was moved to pray her prayer also:

Lord, there are times in our lives when we feel purposeless. The dream is over. We don't even know what do anymore or why ... But Lord, when we feel like this – lost and directionless and lonely – please remind us that we find our living in you; we find our focus in you ... (p20)

This leads to a highlight of the book for me. Every chapter finishes with a heartfelt, well-considered prayer to God. Naomi is not satisfied with raising the dilemma, or even with finding resolution in the words of God – she brings these matters to God in prayer. This is an excellent model to us all as we grapple with issues in our lives:

- observe our circumstances
- analyse and consider what we're going through
- reflect on Scripture
- change our attitudes and actions
- talk to God about it

Naomi models this, and her prayers give a head start to those of us facing similar issues in our own lives.

Heading Home is a helpful book for people who are not sure where they belong, or who are going through significant, even unwanted life changes; people with illness that's not going away; people who are experiencing significant job changes, redundancy, unemployment or retirement; people suffering bereavement and grief; people finding themselves strangers in a foreign place (that they might even know well). Its helpfulness and hope lies in applying God's Word into our lives, and then helping us to bring this to God in prayer. Ultimately, this book succeeds by reminding all Christians that God deeply understands our circumstances and this world is not our true home – heaven is.

So Lord, today, when we are surprised by being the outsider or by a myriad of choices or misunderstandings or falling in between two worlds, or not belonging anywhere, help us to comprehend the fact that you have walked our road and felt our pain and suffered for us, so that every day, here, we belong to you and that's enough. Lord be glorified in all we do and are, today. And remind us that there will come a day when we will never be outsiders again. Lord, thank you. Amen (p46)

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An April Afternoon Craft Affair



Silk painting

IN PERFECT autumn weather on 20 April, St Paul's Brisbane hosted an Afternoon Craft Affair where an array of creative talent was on show. From lavender to lace, papercraft to paintings, quilling to quilts, sewing to spinning, sequins to silk painting, tapestries to turned timber – and a host of other crafted creations – the grounds and church of St Paul's were ablaze with colour and a hive of activity with patrons busily putting their fingers to work on the Make and Take crafts on offer.

"It was the best day I've had for a long time" was the feedback from

more than one source. The church was adorned with gorgeous quilts and how peaceful it was to stroll around the church and admire these works of art, while the gentle strains of exquisite choral music could be heard through the brand new sound system. One could have been forgiven for thinking they were in Notre Dame. The garden café area on the lawn was adorned with red checked tablecloths for the 'taking of tea', and all in all, it was a most enjoyable, happy and positive April Afternoon Affair.



Jewellery Make and Take



Brisbane Festival Male Voice Choir at St Paul's HymnFest

Reflections on HymnFest

by Annette & Ivan Brown

THE WELL-LOVED words and tunes of the traditional hymns of our faith soared throughout the historic walls of St Paul's Brisbane Presbyterian Church at the recent celebratory HymnFest. Led by the fine voices of the Brisbane Festival Male Voice Choir and the stirring pipe organ accompaniment, the congregation quickly warmed to this opportunity to raise their voices in praise to our Lord, inspiring minds, uplifting souls and exhilarating the hearts of all who participated. May many repeats of such a rousing occasion resound throughout this beautiful place of worship well into the

future, as the congregation continues to bear Christian witness, as begun by its founders 150 years ago. *"Sing lustily and with good courage; lift up your voice with strength"* - John Wesley 1761 "Directions for Singing in Worship". Two hundred and twenty people from various denominations and parishes, braved the elements on a very wet Sunday afternoon on 3 March to sing praise to God. Though some heavy rain fell during the program, our gracious God caused the rain to cease as people arrived and departed.

An added touch to the feast of sacred music was the Elan Sopranos duo, Alyssa and Annika, who captivated the audience with their sensitive rendition of *Amazing Grace*. A 'choir wife' summed up the HymnFest in this way ... *I thought last Sunday's presentation at St Paul's would rate at the top of any I've heard the choir do since I've been a 'choir wife'. It truly was a beautiful afternoon. The sound was awesome in that splendid old building and the whole presentation I believe, certainly did bring glory to God.*

Jerusalem, Athens, and Evangelism

by Roland Lowther

EVERY AUTHENTIC Christian agrees that the Gospel should be willingly shared with the lost. "That" we should share it is largely undisputed; "how" we share it is another matter altogether. Even if you only have a passing familiarity with the Emerging Church Movement, you may have encountered terms such as "attractional" and "missional" (don't you just love those Americanisms?). Simply put, these terms are generally used with reference to the methodology employed by particular churches, in their quest to evangelize non-Christians. As you might have guessed, "attractional" refers to an approach that aims at drawing the "seeker" into the communion of the faithful where they might hear the gospel; and "missional" is more orientated toward reaching unbelievers by sharing the gospel in their own context. I am sure the devotees of each school-of-thought could marshal cogent arguments in support of their particular method. However, what may be of greater importance than the question of "how" is actually the question of "where". Perhaps the first question the evangelizing Christian or church should ask is, "In what context has God placed us or me?" To make the point more clearly I shall refer to two examples of evangelistic endeavours from the New Testament: Jerusalem and Athens. At the time of Jesus and the Apostles, Jerusalem was a religious epicentre for Judaism and monotheism, Athens, the centre of the world's

most sophisticated pagan culture and home of polytheism. Two very, very different cultures! Jerusalem, following the ascension of Jesus and during the Pentecost event, was what you might deem a "God-receptive environment". The vast majority of people already had a strong monotheistic belief in the God of Judaism, and it would be a fair assumption that most people would have heard of Jesus; many would have heard His teaching and witnessed His miracles—some may have followed Him. When the events of Pentecost unfolded and the emboldened Peter preached his famous sermon, the audience was already highly-primed to act on the claims of the gospel. Moreover, notwithstanding the fact that 3000 came to faith in one day, the reality that many continued to be added to the ranks of the fellowship (Acts 2:27) should come as no great surprise, given that they were accustomed to coming to the temple anyway! Would such an environment be a great place for an attractional church? I don't know about you, but I am leaning toward a strong yes! Then there was Athens: home of rationalism and hub of paganism. Monotheistic Jews were thin on the ground and even the mission-hardened Paul was deeply distressed by the degree that pagan idolatry had gripped the city (Acts 17:16). In contrast to Peter's Pentecost message, Paul's preaching fell on hard soil with few comprehending his message. Whilst you could argue that

Paul's speech at the Areopagus had an attractional dimension, Paul nevertheless found himself very much on the front-foot and in missional mode. There was no passive acknowledgement of monotheism here; Paul had to look hard for subtle clues to mount a case for it—hence his clever appeal to the "unknown god". Following a rather eloquent speech, well-reasoned, and seasoned with a nice touch of pagan poetry, Paul presented the gospel better than anyone could. Yet, 3000 did not come to faith that day! And those who registered interest, at best, agreed for an encore hearing. In the end, when Paul left, only a handful of Athenians accepted Jesus. I wonder, would an attractional church "fly" in a culture like Athens? Put it this way, I wouldn't be investing in a huge sound and light system! I don't wish to mount a case for or against "attractional" or "missional" churches. In fact I am not too sure that evangelistic approaches can be so clearly delineated. However, I want to make us think about "where" God has placed us. In what cultural context do we find evangelistic endeavour? So, when you are next contemplating your methodological approach to evangelism, let us ask ourselves these simple questions, "Where has God placed us? And is our context more like Jerusalem or Athens?" If you are like me, (to use another Americanism) it's a no-brainer!



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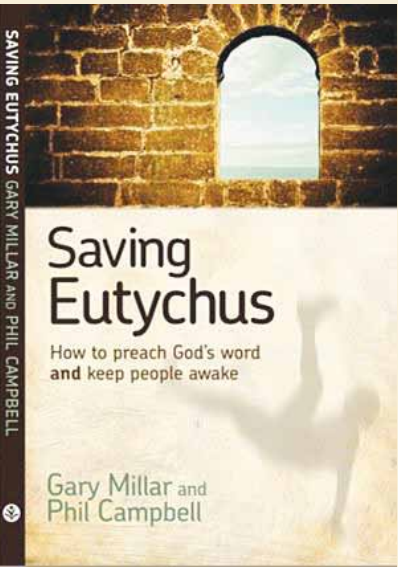
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Saving Eutychus



QTC STAFF Gary Millar and Phil Campbell have been very busy this year. Alongside lecturing and being the Principal of QTC (Gary), or running a church (Phil), our staff have put together a book on preaching. It's titled 'Saving Eutychus – How to Preach God's Word and Keep People Awake'.

Eutychus is a reference to the unlucky man who falls from a third floor window when he nods off during a sermon given by Paul (Acts 20). Maybe that's a warning for listeners – but Gary Millar and Phil Campbell see it as a lesson for preachers instead. They have put together a challenging, practical, and sometimes light-hearted book, to help both new and old preachers keep people awake long enough to hear the transforming words of God. Don Carson says “I have read books on how to make sure your sermon is interesting, and I have read books on how to make sure your sermon is faithful to the text, but this book wants your sermon to be both. “If I could, I would make this little book mandatory reading for seminarians everywhere, and then urge them to read it a couple more times during the course of their ministry. “It avoids cutesy and manipulative suggestions, and makes its practical points while urging integrity, faithfulness, and imagination. “Many books on preaching are published every year; this one is a ‘must.’” The book is being published by Matthias Media and will be available in Australia from June.

YNET CONFERENCE 2013
Sharing in Ministry Together



Leaders attending YNET Conference



YNET Conference Speaker - LT Hopper

YNET CONFERENCE 2013 – it came, it went, it was great. Though there is far more to the story than this. Each year around 200 leaders from children's, high-school and young adults ministry congregate on Mt Tamborine for YNET Conference. They hear great Bible talks, participate in electives relevant to their ministry and network with other leaders from around the state. This year L T Hopper spoke from Jonah, reminding leaders of the relentless God they serve whose grace is the great motivator in ministry. The electives also provided great food for thought as attendees considered a variety of topics such as the Foundations of Children's Ministry, Teaching Teens to Love the Bible, Work, Big Theology

and Everyday Life, and Creating Connections Across Age Groups. However, the unique part of YNET Conference remains the ability for ministry teams to connect with other groups and share their diverse experiences together. The mutual encouragement is invaluable and continues to encourage teams that we do not work in isolation or competition, but as one body in Christ. YNET Conference would not happen without the support of local churches across the State, so thank you for sacrificing your leaders so they can be better equipped to serve. We look forward to next year's conference which will be shifting to the ANZAC Day long weekend, but will remain at Mt Tamborine.

Don't Put God in a Box

Reflections on Proshikkhon 2013 by Andrew Hutchens*



Andrew building relationships with a man on the bus

Introduction: From the moment I arrived in Dhaka I felt completely out of my comfort zone. From odorous drop toilets, to people with missing limbs and deformities banging on our car window for money so that they can simply survive, to rubbish lining every street, to the shouts of stall holders only being overpowered by the Muslim call to prayer blasting from every speaker on every street corner; it's what every documentary depicts and it's exactly the reason I never wanted to come to Bangladesh. One month suddenly felt like a life sentence. Actually jail in Australia all of a sudden sounded very attractive. **A New Perspective:** Two weeks later, as I walked along the path besides the river in Birisri, holding my Bangladeshi brother's hand, I could not wipe the smile off my face. We had just entered another extremely poor Muslim village and had been overwhelmed again by their hospitality and acceptance of another Bible story, this time about Jesus performing His first miracle. The air smelt fresh, the sun was shining on our backs, and we laughed along the way as we struggled to understand each other. **Reflecting on Preconceptions:** Our preconceptions and surface level evaluations often do us no good at all, as they are generally far from the truth. Bangladesh at a glimpse is a poor, neglected, over-populated country without much hope. The reality, however, is that Bangladesh is full of hard working, patriotic, loving people, searching for hope. Their doors are open, and as we experienced, their hearts are also open to the Gospel. Like their luscious green rice fields, Bangladesh has an extremely

rich harvest which God has been preparing; all it needs is the workers. **Reflecting on Retirement:** One day as I walked through the fields I saw a magnificent building that looked like a palace. As we walked closer, a man came out to meet us. “Hello, my name is Kobil.” He invited us in. Kobil was born in Bangladesh, but worked his way up and got a green card to the USA. He worked in New York for 35 years, and travelled the world in luxury. Even though he is still a US citizen, he chose to return to Bangladesh to retire in comfort. He looked very young still for 70. I asked him, “So what do you do now?” He said “Eat!” In fact he grows his own ginger, turmeric, vegetables, and even peanuts from which he extracts cooking oil. He said, “Everything I eat is organic”. Kobil is very happy with his current lifestyle. I thought, “Wow, wouldn't it be so nice to put my feet up and retire like Kobil?” The same day we met a man called Bongkim, who at the age of 85 still walks kilometre after kilometre, praying in the name of Jesus for Hindu and Muslim village people, and they love him. And he has no plan to stop any time soon. I had to ask myself, “Which is the preferred retirement plan?” **Changed Perceptions:** Again and again, God altered my preconceptions and ignorant evaluations of Bangladesh and Bangladeshis. Before coming on Proshikkhon I was really struggling with the question, “How can I truly and genuinely love my neighbour, and what would that look like?” Time and time again, we were stopped in the street just to chat. We were invited into tea shops and homes. We were told that we were

appreciated in Bangladesh. So often we heard, “Please come and stay at my house and meet my family, here are all my contact details”. And the surprising thing is that most of these invitations were from Muslims. God was teaching me what loving your neighbour looks like through them. Not only that, but He also smashed my puny worldview of Muslims, and also challenged my view of Him and of the priesthood of believers that we have globally in Jesus Christ. **Reflecting on The Harvest:** One day in our wanderings we ended up at a Christian shop in a Christian village. We sat down and many village people surrounded us. Our Bangladeshi companion, without notice, told the Creation story and started giving applications of that story for daily life. Everyone seemed tuned-in to listen. We ordered chai tea. After we finished our chai we started to make our way back home, but suddenly realised that we had walked out without paying! We went back feeling like dills that we hadn't paid. Then a Hindu widow, who had been standing next to the shop listening to the Creation story, came up to us and said, “I would be very happy for you to come to my village to discuss these things with me”. So we did. She had lived in the same house in the same village for 55 years since birth. Her husband was a freedom fighter in the 1971 war between Bangladesh and Pakistan, but had passed away in 2000. She has 3 daughters who have all moved away, so she is very lonely. She was more than happy to have us come and chat with her about the things we learn from the Bible. I was reminded that Jesus said, “There are plenty of people who would be willing to hear the Good News, if only there were people willing to tell it.” **Conclusion:** I cannot really pinpoint what impacted me most on Proshikkhon, because only time will tell, but if I felt like God was telling me one thing it would be, “Don't put me in a box! And don't ever become complacent with being a Christian in Australia.” God is limitless in every way, and His ways are not our ways, so instead of seeking theological perfection when I get back home, I will endeavour for relational wholeness, with God and with His people. We are all made in the image of God, be it man or woman, Christian or Muslim, Hindu or something else, and it is God's desire that we all come to a saving knowledge in Him, through Christ. Basic truths such as these have become deep truths for me during Proshikkhon because they have gone past my head and penetrated my heart. Proshikkhon has been a priceless time of self-discovery, people-discovery, Christ-discovery, and mission-discovery. It's amazing what God can teach us and do, when we are willing to step outside of our comfort zone. *Andrew is a ministry apprentice at the Soul Presbyterian Church, Hobart.



Applications open for the Proshikkhon 2014 team. Leaving Australia 27 December 2013, returning 30 January. Email proshikkhon@wycliffe.org for details.

FEATURE TRACKS

An update from the PIM

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BY WORD AND DEED

PIM Patrols and Remote Church Ministries

Southern Patrol (WA)

PIM's AIM heritage in this Patrol includes past medical centres at Lake Grace (1926) and Esperance (1930).

The Southern Patrol includes the WA Goldfields and associated settlements, a section of the Nullarbor Plain, a very remote northerly section as well as stations and good farming country closer to the coast.

The Albany congregation (now part of the PCWA) was initially organised by the PIM. The congregation remains very supportive of the patrol work. A small PIM congregation at Denmark is associated directly with the Patrol.

The Patrol is in territory ceded to the PIM by the Presbytery of WA.

Mid West Patrol (WA)

PIM's AIM heritage in the Mid West Patrol goes back to work of Rev. W.H. Cooper who served the inland based out of Carnarvon at the end of the First World War.

The Patrol covers territory from the Great Sandy Desert to the Indian Ocean.

The PIM Patrol base at Mt. Magnet allows for ministry to be conducted to all points of the compass as well as congregational ministry in a very remote town and area dotted with very small mining communities, indigenous settlements and stations.

The Patrol is in territory ceded to the PIM by the Presbytery of WA.

North West Patrol (WA)

The North West Patrol while today much larger, is conducted in the area of the original Nor' West Mission of the Presbyterian Church in WA which dates from 1908.

In 1915 the AIM founded the Port Hedland Hospital.

The Patrol stretches from the boomtowns of the Pilbara to the vast interior of the WA and includes on its southern boundary the PIM Church at Meekatharra.

The Patrol is in territory ceded to the PIM by the Presbytery of WA.

Kimberley Patrol (WA/NT)

This Patrol area includes some of the most remote and isolated parts of Australia. Many indigenous people live within its boundaries.

PIM's AIM heritage dates back to the Halls Creek Hospital (1918), the Victoria River Downs Hospital (1922), Fitzroy Crossing Hospital (1939).

The Darwin PIM Church (currently meeting in three congregations) is closely associated with this Patrol.

The Patrol is partly in territory ceded to the PIM by the Presbytery of WA.

North Australia Patrol (NT/Qld)

The Patrol area includes the Barkly Tablelands, mining settlements, many indigenous communities and small towns. It stretches from the waters of the Gulf to the desert interior of the Northern Territory.

Central Australia Patrol (NT/Qld)

The Alice Springs PIM Church is associated with the Central Australian Patrol.

PIM's AIM heritage in the Central Australia Patrol includes the Oodnadatta Hostel (1912) and Adelaide House (1926).

The Patrol area includes the Simpson Desert, the Birdsville Track, the old Ghan Railway route, the Cooper Creek and Lake Eyre (North and South)

John Flynn Patrol (SA)

It was largely from the ministry experiences in South Australia (which included what we call the Northern Territory until 1911) that all subsequent Presbyterian Church work in Outback Australia emerged.

The John Flynn Patrol shares with the Central Patrol NT a heritage of 118 years of patrol ministry, and thereby ensures that as the PIM moves into its second century of its existence, that these historical links are preserved and built on.

The northern boundary of the Patrol begins approximately at Coober Pedy to William Creek to Marree down to Leigh Creek and up the Strzelecki Track to Innamincka and the Queensland border. The boundary then follows the Queensland-NSW border to the Barrier Highway adjacent to Broken Hill and west back along the Barrier Highway to Peterborough to Port Augusta and up the Stuart Highway to Coober Pedy.

PIM's AIM heritage is especially strong within the John Flynn Patrol. This includes the fact that nearly all of the great names linked with the formation and foundation of the Australian Inland Mission were directly associated with work within areas covered today by the John Flynn Patrol. The first Patrol work commenced with the labours of the Rev. Robert Mitchell from 1894 as the first 'Smith of Dunesk Missioner' based out of the Port Augusta congregation. He was followed by the Rev. Frank Rolland, who came up with the idea of complementing the padres work (at Beltana) with that of the deaconess nurse (at Oodnadatta). Deaconess Alice

Main was the first appointee there. John Flynn himself served in this Patrol as 'Smith of Dunesk Missioner' and Bruce Plowman ('The Man from Oodnadatta') the very first AIM Padre was based in this Patrol and out of Beltana. The Smith of Dunesk Mission Church (which remains part of the Port Augusta congregation) has been the venue for worship services since its opening in 1895 as a Christian Church building.

AIM medical centres were opened at Beltana (1919) and Leigh Creek (1945). This Patrol has a network of tracks along which visitation can occur. The northern boundary of the John Flynn Patrol is the southern boundary of the Central Patrol, NT. To the west lie the South Patrol, Qld and the Darling Patrol, NSW. The Patrol falls within, and exceeds the bounds of the Presbytery of Torrens.

The Patrol has been closely associated with the Port Augusta and Wyhalla Presbyterian Churches and includes the Smith of Dunesk Mission PIM Church.

North Patrol (Qld)

AIM heritage within the North Patrol includes it being the 'birthplace' of the AIM Aerial Medical Service or as it became the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The first flight – between Cloncurry and Julia Creek – took place on May 17, 1928. The Patrol lies in the southern area of tropical Australia, with the associated wet season (approximately between December to April). It is bisected by the Flinders Highway and has a ring of developmental roads that give reasonable access to the all areas of the Patrol.

The Patrol falls largely within and exceeds the bounds of the Presbytery of North Queensland and is closely associated with the Presbyterian congregations in Townsville.

The southern boundary of the North Patrol is the northern boundary of the Central Patrol. The western boundary of the North Patrol is the eastern boundary of the North Patrol, NT.

Central Patrol (Qld)

Wedge between PIM Patrols north, south and to the east, the Central Patrol stretches from Emerald along the Capricorn Highway to the historic outback town of Longreach. The large eastern area of the Patrol includes sections of the Barcoo, Thompson and Diamantina Rivers. The Tropic of Capricorn runs through the full length of the Central Patrol. Many Stations and Properties are found with the Patrol. 'This is the country that inspired Banjo Paterson to write of a 'vision splendid of sunlit plains extended. He peopled it with heroic figures like Clancy of the Overflow, who sang with the sheer joy of living as he rode along behind a mob of cattle.' (Ewan McHugh) Part of the Patrol lies within the Federal Electoral Division named after John Flynn.

South Patrol (Qld)

This Patrol has a reasonable network of roads along which visitation can occur. Pastoral and mining activities are found throughout the South Patrol. The Patrol falls within, and exceed the bounds of the Presbytery of the Darling Downs.

The PIM has a Manse and a Patrol base in Charleville at the heart of the Patrol area.

The Patrol has been closely associated with the Charleville-Blackall Presbyterian Church.

The southern boundary of the South Patrol is the northern boundary of the Darling Patrol, NSW. To the north, the western boundary of the South Patrol forms part of the

Views Beyond the Furthest Fence



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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eastern boundary of the Central Patrol, NT and to the south, part of the eastern boundary of the John Flynn Patrol, SA.

Leichhardt Patrol (Qld)

This Patrol is based out of Wandoan, and bears the name of the famous explorer Ludwig Leichhardt who passed through the area in 1844. The town is a service centre for the wheat and cattle properties which surround it and it is among these properties that the PIM offers its ministry of proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ by word and deed.

Darling Patrol (NSW)

Inland mission heritage is strong in this Patrol. It is a little known fact that the PCNSW was conducting Inland patrol work long before the formal organisation of the AIM in 1912. '...In 1906 the North-West Mission was inaugurated by the Assembly after several exploratory trips by the Rev. P.A. Smith in the Gospel car. This movement merged the settled

charge of Bourke in a wider track of country extending from Nyngan (omitting Cobar) north-west to the borders of Queensland and South Australia...' (CA White p. 172) The North-West Mission continued until 1920.

With its massive size, the Patrol area contains a wide range of people and activities. The Patrol falls within, and exceeds the bounds of the Presbyteries of the Central West and Moree.

The Patrol has been closely associated with the Warren Presbyterian Church, which is the closest congregation to the Patrol boundary. The southern

boundary of the Darling Patrol is the Mungo Patrol. The western boundary of the Darling Patrol is the eastern boundary of the John Flynn Patrol, SA.

Mungo Patrol (NSW/Vic)

Named after the Mungo National Park which lies almost at the centre of the

Mungo Patrol area, it extends from Broken Hill in the north west to Ivanhoe to Deniliquin across to Kerang up the Murray River to Robinvale and across to the Victorian/NSW Border with South Australia. In the past the Mungo Patrol has been associated with the Presbyterian Church in Mildura (Sunraysia) and Kerang.

Mackersey Patrol (Tas)

A number of the PIM Patrols are larger than Tasmania, so the PIM work in Tasmania is at the opposite end of the spectrum in terms of geographical extent seen on 'the north island'. But the importance of the spiritual support and practical assistance is still the same even though the driveways of the properties visited many not be 80 kms long. Following the Midland Highway between Launceston and Hobart visitation ministry is conducted in the districts to the east and the west. The Patrol is named after a pioneer Minister in Tasmania.



PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

Mid West Patrol/Mt. Magnet Church Western Australia

PADRE/PASTORAL WORKER

The PIM and APWM are seeking to appoint a suitably gifted Minister/Christian worker

to provide ministry throughout the Mid West Patrol and in Mt. Magnet Church.

Ministry experience with indigenous people essential.

A commitment to the Reformed-Evangelical faith as held by the Presbyterian Church of Australia is also essential.

Further details from Stuart Bonnington PIM Superintendent
08-9398 1304 superintendent@pim.org.au

PIM PATROL TEAMS AND PASTORAL TEAMS

- 1 Chris and Sandra Woonings
- 2 Chris and Sandra Woonings
- 3 Bert and Penny Pierce
- 4 Bert and Penny Pierce
- 5 Vacant
- 6 Vacant
- 7 Vacant
- 8 Rob and Jeanette Duncanson
- 9 Rod and Dawn Mallinson/
David and Kathy Allsop
- 10 Vacant
- 11 Keith and Jenny Bell

- 12 David and Gae McDonald
- 13 David and Gae McDonald
- 14 Roger and Margaret Crane
- 15 David and Kathy Allsop
- 16 Greg and Janet Cripps
- 17 Laurie and Gwen Peake
- 18 Vacant
- 19 Vacant
- 20 Vacant



Presbyterian Inland Mission 2013

Partnership

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION



8 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, NSW 2213
[02] 9792 1373 • national@apwm.org.au • www.apwm.org.au

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

SOUTH SUDAN: HOW DO YOU RE-BUILD A CHURCH?

How do you go about rebuilding the Church when your country has been traumatized by decades of civil war and you have broken away from the northern part of the country? That's the challenge that faces the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.

How do you go about rebuilding the Church when your country has been traumatized by decades of civil war and you have broken away from the northern part of the country? That's the challenge that faces the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.

On July 9, 2011, South Sudan gained independence from Sudan as the outcome of a 2005 peace agreement that ended Africa's longest-running civil war.

For the Presbyterian Church that has meant a huge rebuilding effort. The members of the Church have been scarred not only by war but by the deaths that were involved. In some cases church buildings bear the bullet marks of war.

Their theological college, the Nile Theological College, has now had to relocate to Malakal in South Sudan. Church leaders are currently touring



RHYS AND RHONDDA HALL

the country in an attempt to make an assessment of the current state of the Church.

Owing to the attitude of the North toward the South much of South Sudan wasn't given the sort of infrastructure that is present in the North. The New York Times recently produced a video entitled "How to Build a Country from Scratch." All this has made the Church's task in basic communication much harder. While

mobile phones are everywhere, the internet is practically nonexistent in Malakal, South Sudan's second largest city, where the Church has its headquarters. Outside the capital city sealed roads are a rarity. This means that during the 9 month long wet season travel is very difficult.

The South Sudanese are composed of three main tribes, the Dinka, the Nuer and the Shilluk each with their own language. Many congregations are based on tribal languages but amongst some of the younger congregations the tribes are mixed and worship in Arabic.

The link between the Australian Church and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan has been strengthened by the large numbers of Presbyterian Southern Sudanese who came to Australia as refugees. A number of these have now returned to South Sudan to provide leadership and assistance in rebuilding the country.

The APWM missionaries in South Sudan are Motor Yat and Rhys & Rhondda Hall. Rhys and Rhondda serve with ACROSS in the Sudan Literature Centre Project and in the production of community and Christian teaching programmes through the use of radio, film and digital players in a variety of languages.

Motor is engaged in a ministry within the Presbyterian Church by training elders and is based in Malakal.



REV MICHAEL & MRS KERRY JENSEN, REV CHUOL YAT

Recently an Australian team consisting of Michael & Kerry Jensen, Chuol Yat from the Clayton, Victorian congregation and Kevin Murray travelled to South Sudan to learn more about the Church and see where the Australian Church could be of assistance. What they found was very encouraging.

There were opportunities to run some workshops for ministers in areas such as (a) an overview of the Bible (b) Biblical marriage (c) the message of Habakkuk. Each of these

areas addressed pressing needs within the Church.

One minister publicly commented "We've had many workshops before on leadership but never anything about the Bible." The ministers asked the team to return in the near future and provide more teaching. There is a genuine hunger in the Church for the word of God. Many ministers lack formal training in the Bible.

The team was greatly encouraged by the attitude of some of the ministers toward outside aid. One said "We need to put up a new church building. For us to own it we must pay for it. If we don't pay for it then we won't take care of it."

As part of the visit the team was able to renew our Partnership agreement with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.

These are critical days for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan.



MALAKAL SEMINAR



NILE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

INDIGENOUS MINISTRY: APWM & PIM WORKING TOGETHER

"Working together and maximizing every opportunity for indigenous ministry." That was the heart of the message APWM communicated to the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) Committee when it met in Sydney during January. The meeting was told "This is what we have been doing for years, let's now formalize it in a very clear way".

Within the Presbyterian Church, responsibility for Indigenous Ministry has been given to APWM. Naturally this is a challenge that is beyond the capacity of APWM.

For this reason, APWM has agreed that PIM's patrol padres and mission church pastors should feel free to engage Indigenous people with the gospel whenever they have an opportunity to do so.

As part of this APWM has entered into a partnership with PIM where it will help PIM raise the necessary support for PIM ministry based at Mount Magnet in Western Australia.

There are increasing opportunities for indigenous ministry in areas such as Mount Magnet, Darwin and the new Alice Springs church plant led by Keith and Jenny Bell.

For the time being APWM is focusing on helping to raise \$75,000 support for the patrol based at Mount Magnet, Western Australia. If you would like to support this patrol please go to <http://pim.org.au> and click the 'Support' tab on the left hand side. Alternatively you can send a cheque to Presbyterian Inland Mission, P.O. Box 4014, Croydon Hills, VIC 3136. Please make your cheque payable to "Presbyterian Inland Mission".



MOUNT MAGNET CHURCH BUILDING



MOUNT MAGNET MAIN STREET



MOUNT MAGNET

UPDATES

CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE

Thank you to those who 'bought' items from our Christmas Catalogue which helped our brothers and sisters in Myanmar and East Timor. Approximately \$20,000 was raised as follows:

70 Toiletries (East Timor)
169 Mosquito Nets (Myanmar)
107 Blankets (Myanmar)
44 Umbrellas (Myanmar)
87 Bags of rice (East Timor)
74 Bags of rice (Myanmar)
29 Bible college book resources (Myanmar)
16 Stationery packs for a rural school (Myanmar) 39 Education for one child (Myanmar) 21 Vitamins & Medicines for a rural village (Myanmar) 19 Medicine for Bible College Students (Myanmar) 11 Guitar (East Timor) 41 Goat or Pig (East Timor) 11 School Equipment (East Timor) 6 Generator for a Rural Villages (Myanmar) 2 Computers for a Bible College (Myanmar)

These gifts have now been sent to our sister Churches in East Timor and Myanmar. Thang Bwee of the Evangelical Church of Myanmar writes "Christmas gifts are really great helps to our people." Daniel Marcal of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of East Timor writes "Thanks very much for Christmas Gift that God gave by hands of brothers and sisters in Australia."

PAUL AND JENNY RAYNER



PAUL AND JENNY RAYNER

Paul and Jenny Rayner from Central Church Ipswich, are preparing to serve with Pioneers in Thailand. Paul will be serving as a teacher at the Grace International School in Chiang Mai. The school supports around 350 missionary families. This means that 350 couples are able to continue with their work of spreading the gospel not only in Thailand but in South East Asia.

1/3 of the world's population lives within 2½ hours flight from Chiang Mai. In this area there are 15 closed countries. The presence of the school enables families to base themselves in Chiang Mai so that parents can enter those closed countries while their children continue with their education. Paul and Jenny are currently trying to raise Partnership. If you live in northern NSW and would like to have them speak at your church they can be contacted at therayners@internode.on.net or 07 3129 1622.

KYM AND STEPHANIE SCHWARZ



KYM AND STEPHANIE SCHWARZ

Kym and Stephanie Schwarz and family from Epping NSW are now in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia serving with SIM. Kym is serving in IT and Stephanie is serving as a psychologist. Thank you to those who are partnering with them. Please pray for the family as they settle in.

ANDREW AND MARILYN SCHACHE

Andrew and Marilyn Schache from South Toowoomba, Queensland are now in Vanuatu at the Talua Ministry Training Centre, serving in maintenance and administration. Thank you to those churches and individuals who are partnering with them. Please pray for them as they settle into their new roles. APWM now has four families serving in Vanuatu, the largest number we have had for some years.



COMMISSIONING OF ANDREW AND MARILYN SCHACHE

MEAL FOR MISSION

Each year a number of churches run a 'Meal for Mission' event or Sunday. What is 'Meal for Mission'? It's an opportunity for a local congregation to deliberately focus on the work of cross-cultural mission both here and overseas through ministries such as:

Rick and Kayleen Manton serving the Indigenous people in Mount Druitt, Sydney;

The **Presbyterian Theological College** in Bangladesh;

Martin Eagle, serving with the **Evangelical Reformed Church** in Myanmar;

John and Rosemary Evans serving in Japan;

Malawi: **Presbyterian Church Central Africa**

The **Evangelical Presbyterian Church of East Timor**;

Andy & Rosemary Williamson and **Glen & Rachael Connor** and **Andrew & Marilyn Schache** serving at the Talua Ministry Training Centre, Vanuatu;

Zambia: **Presbyterian Church Central Africa The Staff** in our National Office.

We ask churches to pray for these ministries and for each member, where possible, to contribute the cost of one meal to support ministry in these cross-cultural settings.

We are continually attempting to use our website as a source for information. If you would like to download information on these ministries and some PowerPoint presentations then please go to our website www.apwm.org.au and click the tab 'What We Do' and go to the page 'Meal for Mission'.

MINISTRY IN SOUTH SUDAN: MOTOR YAT

Motor (Isaac) Yat serves as an APWM Missionary in Sudan and works with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. I was recently in South Sudan and took the opportunity to ask Motor about his ministry. He will be back in Australia for Home Assignment in July 2013. Motor needs more people to support him in partnership. If you would like to assist in supporting Motor in his ministry then please contact our office.

Kevin Murray



How long have you been serving in South Sudan?

I'm just entering my fourth year. I arrived here in 2008.

What is your main ministry?

First, I train church leaders. I train them in the area of eldership — the role of elders, the qualification of elders, the election of elders and the call of elders. The church benefits from this training. The other area is witnessing about Christ to other people.

What are some of the challenges that face the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan?

One of the challenges is that there are many people coming to church and yet the people are not able to build a church for themselves. Many are coming to church but they end up praying in the heat. Another challenge is the theological training of ministers. The church is not able to support it's candidates for the ministry.

How has the war affected the church?

The church has been greatly affected by the war. It destroyed church buildings, schools and even the people. People are now coming back to church and building from zero. People lost some of their ministers. Recovering from war is hard and to spiritually rebuild the nation is not easy. People have been living in exile in different places and in different camps. Now they are coming to church and the church has been affected spiritually. We need to pray that the church can do its task of reaching out to such people. People are traumatised by war.

How much theological training have ministers had?

When you go to the rural areas you find churches that are being looked after by people who are not trained. The people who have been trained

have a certificate in theology and are usually serving as ministers. A few have been trained at the Nile Theological College here in Malakal. We need more training for ministers to be able to deliver the Word of God in the churches that they are serving.

How is the Presbyterian Church in South Sudan different from the Presbyterian Church of Australia?

First, in Australia, people look at their watches and expect church to last for one hour. Here people are very keen to listen to the Word of God and you can preach for an hour! Secondly, people in Australia support their local church and are good at tithing, even with 25 people. Here you may have a big number in the church but they are not able to support the minister. Third, in Australia, ministers are trained and qualified. Here we don't have many qualified ministers who can train others. Fourth, the people here are not good in tithing. Many people in the church in Australia are employed. Here, half of the church is not employed and are unable to support the minister.

What things are encouraging you?

People are listening to the Word of God. You can share the Word of God, you can share your faith and testimony with someone in his home or in the street without any problem. It's an open door for the gospel! In Australia people don't have time. You may share your testimony or the Word of God with somebody but they don't have time. Here there is time. You can sow here because people are hungry and thirsty to hear the Word of God. You can pray with them and they with you. People are waiting to hear more about Jesus Christ. When I do training in churches for young people and elders I see many people whose hearts are willing to listen to the Word of God. It's very encouraging as you feel that you are helping to build the church.



PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION Mid West Patrol/Mount Magnet Church, Western Australia PADRE/PASTORAL WORKER

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Ministry experience with indigenous people essential.

A commitment to the Reformed-Evangelical faith as held by the Presbyterian Church of Australia is also essential.

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www.apwm.org.au



Update from the Moderator

by Rt Rev David Niven



A meeting of old friends - Rt Rev. David Niven and Elder Bill McClintock, now of Caloundra, formerly a member of The Gap congregation

THIS WILL be my final Moderator's Update because, by the next edition, I will no longer hold that office. Greg Rodgers will be inducted as Moderator on 23 June at Wavell Heights PC.

I hope that, by giving you a glimpse of my activities during the past year, you have a better appreciation of the role of the Moderator.

I spent 8-13 March visiting the Central Queensland Presbytery, which included Mackay, Fitzroy, Yeppoon, Biloela, Monto and Gladstone. At each centre I was warmly welcomed and either preached or gave a short talk and a devotion. I was especially grateful for the hospitality that was extended to me wherever I stayed.

Other churches that I visited were Caloundra for a service of covenant renewal, Eatons Hill and Mt Isa, where I conducted a teaching session, the Lord's Supper and received a new member by confession of faith. All of these visits were wonderful times of fellowship and encouragement.

During the past few weeks, I attended the Queensland Theological College Graduation and also attended a chapel service and had morning tea with students and staff.

There were also the regular monthly Board meetings of PresCare and Fairholme College, two Commissions of Assembly and meetings of all the Standing Committees to attend.

It was a privilege to be able to share in an ANZAC Service at Vela and to

join with some of the staff for lunch.

Some readers may be interested to know that several Army Chaplains (myself included) marched as a body on ANZAC Day since this year is the centenary of the establishment of a Chaplains' Department within the Australian Army. It is an important milestone, and many Presbyterian Ministers have served as Chaplains, not only in the Army but also in the other two services.

The remaining few weeks of my Moderatorial year are sure to go quickly. Visits are planned for Charleville, Browns Plains, Dalby, Goondiwindi and St George.

I will also be involved in regular monthly Board meetings and in some ground-breaking ceremonies for new developments being undertaken by PresCare.

It would be remiss of me not to thank publicly the Assembly for the opportunity afforded me to serve as Moderator, those churches that welcomed both me and Diane so warmly, the Church Office staff for their assistance, PresCare for the provision of a vehicle and arranging travel and accommodation, and last, but by no means least, my wife Diane and my family for their support and encouragement.

It has been a busy twelve months and I give thanks to God for His grace and sustaining power during this time and I wish Greg every blessing for his time as Moderator.



With the Mt Isa congregation following Sunday worship



At Biloela with Roger and Margaret Crane (PIM) and Andrew Purcell

Timor Leste: Multiplication



Previously we had only met around the Throne of Grace, but now we have met face to face

PICTURE THE scene: There are well over 5000 people. How can they be fed? There's one boy with five loaves of bread and two fish. He gives them to Jesus who multiplies it and multiplies it and multiplies it until 5000 people are fed and there is plenty left over.

Do you think that boy ever forgot what happened to his five barley loaves and two fish that day? Of course not!

Sometimes the grace of God works in unexpected ways, but if there was anyone who you would expect to have been blessed through this event it must have supremely been this young boy. As Jesus said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'. (Acts 20:35)

The people within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste pray for you. They pray in their regular church services. They pray in their prayer meetings. They pray that the Lord would richly bless us who are in the Australian Church.

The words of one young man are imprinted on my mind. He is from a very poor area, and when we met for the first time he said, "Previously we had only met around the Throne of Grace, but now we have met face to face".

I don't know his name. He did not know my name, and he does not know yours; but he did know that there are

brothers and sisters in Australia who cared for him, and he was faithful in seeking our blessing.

I don't invite you to give to me or to APWM, but I do invite you to give some of the resources that the Lord has given to you.

It may be the value of two small buns; or you may be able to give much more than that. It does not matter how much because God can work with much or little.

Maybe you will give to Timor Leste or to PIM or to other of the Lord's ministries - that is up to you to decide. BUT, I will tell you what the needs are currently in Timor Leste and then simply leave it in your hands.

Currently the Presbyterian Church of Australia gives the Church in Timor Leste \$4000 each quarter to use for ministry purposes. We have agreed on the type of expenditure for this money, but we do not involve ourselves in the details.

At the end of each quarter the church in Timor Leste reports to us exactly where the money went. This allows us to give them an appropriate degree of autonomy.

They take up their responsibilities faithfully before the Lord and we preserve ourselves from any colonialist arrogance which would suggest that we know better than they do what is the best way to minister

within their culture.

We currently have money set aside for Bible translation and also for a building in Dili. This money has been given for these purposes and will be spent for these purposes.

We presently have no funds at all for sending a teaching team to Timor Leste in June. We expect that this will cost around \$2500. We also have no funds at all for the next quarterly grant which is due in June (\$4000).

We have mission teams going from Darwin Presbyterian Church at the end of May and another one from Western Australia in July. Both are funded by the participants.

We are not worried, because we know that the Lord is not short of money - far from it.

We do, however, encourage you to be faithful with the resources that the Lord has given you. Whether that be through giving here, there or elsewhere, or praying with us that the Lord will send His provisions, and multiply them for effective witness in the land of Timor Leste. What He sends will be just the right amount.

Rob Duncanson, Minister at Darwin Presbyterian Church, and APWM Coordinator for Timor Leste APWM 8 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, NSW 2209

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Presbyterians “story” the Easter message at the Redlands Easter Family Festival

OVER THE Easter weekend, twenty-three experienced and trainee Bible storytellers prepared themselves to partner with the Redlands Easter Family Festival (REFF) Committee for the Easter Monday extravaganza at the Redlands Showground.

Among the experienced storytellers were Russell Harden (Mt Tamborine PC), Peter and Ruth O’Loughlin (Southside PC), and Peter and Ann Brown, Peggy van Buuren and Keith Benn (Creek Road PC).

Each year, for the last thirteen years, the churches in the Redlands area have worked together to provide the community with a fun day where families can be together as well as hear the Good News of Easter.

Two weeks before the event, the storytelling staff recorded a set of nine Easter stories, beginning with the death and resurrection of Lazarus.

The set finished up with two resurrection stories – the first where the tomb guards were paid off by the religious leaders to spread the news that Jesus’ disciples had stolen his body; and then the final one where Jesus eats a piece of grilled fish and commissions his disciples to take the Good News to every ethnic group.

The REFF Committee took these stories and put them together with some songs and a message which asked, “What if it’s true?” Then they prepared about 5,000 CDs to be given away at the Family Festival.

On Easter Monday, people from many ethnic groups came to the Family Festival to enjoy a day of entertainment, merry-go-rounds, train rides, food and drinks.

Many people waiting in the long queues for free food were interested to hear Bible stories told by the team.

Two Chinese girls were happy to hear an Easter story from a storyteller who was standing in their food queue.

He told them about Jesus’ trial before Pilate. They asked to hear another one, so he followed with the crucifixion story. They said, “We’ve never heard these stories before”.

After hearing the Caiaphas trial story, one girl responded, “Oh, then he died, didn’t he?”

One storyteller went to the face painting section and offered to tell a family the Easter stories. The father said, “No”. Then the mother also said, “No”. But then the kids said, “Yes, please!” As the Easter stories unfolded, the parents listened in!

A large number of New Zealanders turned up for the day. One couple came into the storytelling tent, listened to all nine Easter stories



Story Telling Team

and joined in the Bible studies. They commented, “This is wonderful! Which churches are participating in this event? We would like to connect with a local church here.”

After hearing one or two stories, two girls stayed on to hear all nine stories, even when everyone except the storytellers had left. One of them said, “I went to a Roman Catholic school, but I never heard the whole story before”.

One storyteller reported, “I was standing in the line, going to get scones, and I asked the woman in front if I could tell a story. As I was telling it, I could see a few other people were interested. In the end there were three or four people listening.”

Another said, “I started telling a lady a story in a food line, and the lady behind came around, and was really close, like a sponge, absorbing what was happening”.

Many of those who heard stories also asked if they could have a CD.

The storytellers appreciated the

opportunity to practise their newly-learned skills. One reported, “As I began telling a story to a couple, a group of boys came over and said, ‘What’s going on here?’ They listened to the start of the story, then weren’t interested, but really wanted the CD. Later on I ran into them and they said, ‘Oh, the storytelling guy!’ And they wanted a photo with me!”

The storytellers worked in three teams and the three groups (23 people in all) told 189 Easter Bible stories to over 300 people in either 1-to-1 or small group scenarios. They also told the nine stories eight times during the day to hundreds of people.

By the end of the day the storytellers were exhausted and exhilarated. They knew that hundreds of people had heard the Good News, and at least 2,000 families went home with a CD from which they could learn much more, and even commit themselves to Jesus as Lord.

What could be better than that?

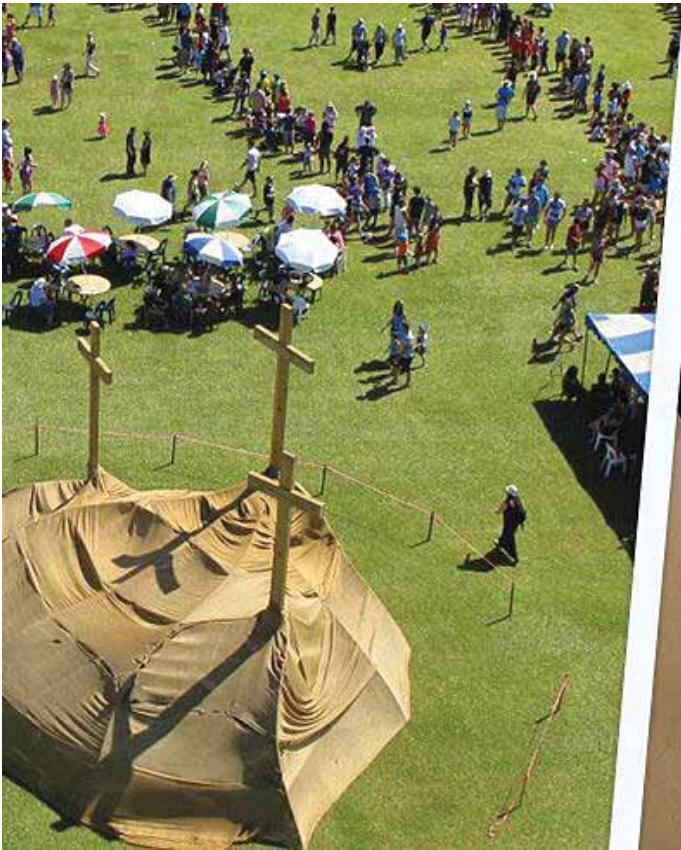


Story Tent

ARE YOU THINKING OF MOVING TO MOUNT ISA?

The Mount Isa church’s manse will be available for leasing from August.

For details call Cheryl on 0400477661 or Bob on 47432642.



Redlands Easter Family Festival



WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH ROBYN BAIN ABOUT M2W - A NEW COURSE FOR WOMEN AT QTC

Wendy: *Welcome Robyn! Can you start by telling us exactly what M2W is and how did it come about?*

Robyn: M2W is designed to encourage women to be comforted, convicted and transformed by God's grace in His gospel. And, of course, to help those women encourage other women to be transformed by the gospel too! Similar courses have been run elsewhere around Australia but Gary and Fiona Millar wanted to design something specifically for the Queensland context.

W: *What has your role been in all this and who else was involved?*

R: I've been helping Gary and Fiona to design and run the course. We've also had some wonderful input from QTC lecturers and some wise and godly women from around Brisbane.

W: *How many women enrolled for this first course?*

R: About 60 – far beyond our expectations! It's lovely to see so many women keen to serve.

W: *Can you tell us a little about what they've been doing? What does a morning at M2W look like?*

R: We spent the first seven weeks mainly learning to read and understand the Bible well. Over the next five weeks we built on those foundations and thought about identity, relationships, practical Word ministry and evangelism. Each session runs for three hours with morning tea in the middle. We spend

our time interacting with the Bible in lots of different ways – listening to talks, searching the Bible in groups, talking through practical situations and praying. Each week there is a bit of pre-session prep to stimulate thinking and reflection. We've certainly tried to make the sessions challenging, but helpful, for women at any level of biblical knowledge!

W: *Robyn, what outcomes are you personally hoping for, from a course like this?*

R: We really do want to see women deeply comforted and transformed by the gospel. Women who love Jesus and love reading God's Word can make an enormous impact on those around them. There may be some women who find M2W gives them the confidence to go on to further training at QTC. But we are hoping there will be many who simply feel more confident to encourage others.

W: *What about the future ... is it likely that M2W will be repeated or perhaps expanded in some way?*

R: We are hoping to develop M2W and run it as long as it serves and helps women!

W: *Has there been a highlight for you?*

R: I've loved plumbing the depths of the gospel in such good company!

W: *Thanks, Robyn, for introducing us to M2W. We pray that God will be gracious in renewing a passion for sharing the gospel in all those who have been involved.*

Comments from some of the M2W women on what they learnt, how they changed, highlights of the course ...

Christine:

I learnt

- That we have messy lives (still) and that God is always working to make us more Christ-like. And still He wishes to work through us!
- That the gospel message can be found throughout the Bible and it is exciting to look for it.
- That our personal walk with God is vitally important. Our heart attitude is what God sees and He is chipping away at it to make us more like Christ – renewing us over and over – a work in progress.

Mardi:

For me, M2W has been a journey of discovery. I feel as though I know my sinful self much better, know Jesus better and I want to know Him even more. I am a woman in need of change, who is looking forward to helping other women in need of change, clinging to the Cross all the while.

Cathy:

I really enjoyed the M2W training. The course has strengthened my faith and deepened my understanding of God. The presenters were outstanding. The lecturers from QTC, who presented the more complex theology and doctrine topics, made the content easy to understand. I highly recommend the course to other women.

Sue:

To be able to spend a block of three hours a week focussed on the Word of God, leaving the distractions of life at the seminar room door, has been amazing, encouraging and rejuvenating.

Colleen:

I loved M2W and would recommend it to other women! It has confirmed to me what I already believed. I loved the discussions and personal challenges and being with a group of women who love God. The leaders were transparent with their own walk with God, which encouraged me and taught me how they apply God's grace to their own lives. The Bible teaching was great (I wish I knew Greek!). I need to work hard at applying God's Word to my life and do what it says! Praise God for M2W!



Robyn Bain



Hard at work behind the desks

WOMEN @ PRAYER ...

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

Psalm 63:1-5

- Thank God for the privilege of prayer and begin by praying Psalm 63 (above) as your own personal prayer.
- Thank God for the gospel of Christ! Thank Him for the way He has presented it to us in His Word – both Old and New Testaments.
- Praise God for the M2W course and the amazing effect it has had on the lives of the women who were able to attend.
- Give thanks for the presenters who gave of themselves in sharing their wisdom, experience and love for the gospel and also for the Queensland Theological College for taking the initiative to provide such a course for women.
- Pray that after the course concludes and the women go back to their respective churches and their messy lives, that they will find many opportunities to share the great gospel message of hope with others, who also have messy lives.
- Pray for those who may be considering further study, that there will be an opportunity to make that part of their journey, if it is God's will.
- Pray for the future of M2W, however God chooses to develop it, and that it will continue to provide for women who want to be equipped and encouraged in ministry at whatever level is appropriate for them.
- Praise God for the Be Nurtured retreat in May where women were encouraged by Lesley Ramsay's teaching. Pray that they will be refreshed and nurtured as they return to their daily lives, taking with them the blessings and encouragement of learning from God's Word.
- Pray for our church as its leaders meet at Assembly in June. Pray for unity, wisdom and humility. Pray for the women's events too, and especially for Fiona Millar as she shares her passion for the gospel at the WMPCQ gathering.



Deep in discussion over morning tea



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

Mission to Kenya – Part 2 – The Great Rift Valley

Leaving Nairobi: “Mission Accomplished”

After two very busy weeks working in the Agape Hope Orphanage, our team was ready for a change of pace and place. We were all glad that we were able to leave Nairobi for the next stage of our Kenyan adventure with a sense of “mission accomplished”.

We had been able to see substantial improvements at the orphanage. Indeed, it seemed as though everything was being made “light, bright and white”. Skylights in each of the classrooms brought light into what had previously been very dark rooms. The main office was painted, and three of the children’s dormitories were lined and painted – all bright white! Electric lights were provided for most of the rooms in the orphanage. A computer had been purchased for keeping and storing records. Running water had been provided for the kitchen and the laundry area, along with laundry tubs and benches for the children to wash their clothes. And an efficient sawdust-burning stove had been provided for the kitchen, to replace the inefficient and smoky charcoal fires.

Safari to the Great Rift Valley

As we left Nairobi to climb the three thousand or so feet that led to the eastern edge of the Rift Valley, we were also heartened by the fact that Eleanor, who had fractured her upper right arm on our first full day in Nairobi, was given clearance by the specialist and medical team at Nairobi Hospital to travel with us, and to spend at least a little time with the rest of us in the team.

The Great Rift Valley is one of the major geographical features of the world. It runs from Lebanon and the Dead Sea in the north to Lake Malawi and Mozambique in the south, a distance of some 6000 kilometres. In East Africa it divides into two. The secondary valley extends along the border between Congo Zaire and Uganda that is marked by Lakes Edward and Albert. Meanwhile the major valley runs through Tanzania and Kenya and is marked by a series of lakes, including Lakes Natron, Naivasha, Nakuru and Turkana. This eastern branch of the Rift Valley is also home to the teeming wildlife of the Serengeti, Masai Mara and other national parks for which East Africa is so justly famous. It was to this region of the Great Rift Valley that we came for the second stage of our Kenya adventure.

From its highest point on the edge of the escarpment at around nine thousand feet, the Rift Valley road then drops some two-and-a-half thousand feet to the valley floor below. As we descended we could clearly see the dormant volcano of Mt Longonot with its distinctive profile, and the shimmering waters of Lake Naivasha. The town of Gilgil, to which we were heading, was only another 50 or so kilometres to the north. We had dropped some 2500 feet to the valley floor but we were still higher than the approximately 5300 feet of Nairobi.

“R and R” at River House

Our first stop was River House, near Gilgil on the eastern side of the Rift Valley, and about half-way between Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru. During the days of European settlement and farming in the first half of the 20th century, Gilgil was, and still is, in a thriving agricultural district. It has a club, golf course, polo team and preparatory school on the British model named after Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Sadly its Commonwealth War Cemetery is also the last resting place of over two hundred British and Commonwealth service personnel from Britain, East, West and South Africa, the Indian sub-continent and Australia.

Of Irish Accents and Cordon Bleu Cuisine

Our hostess at River House was Nann Barratt, and her home was an oasis of distinctive green “fever” and other trees, and lawns that calmed the spirit and provided a perfect place to rest and recover for a couple of days.

Nann originally came from



Candlelit dinner with Nann Barratt, River House, Gilgil

Northern Ireland, which meant that she and Eleanor were able to form a bond of friendship as both of them speak with the same lilting accent. Even though one of them was from County Antrim and the other from County Armagh they understood each other well enough [“to be sure”]!

Nann came to Kenya in 1955, was married in St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Nairobi, and has lived in Kenya ever since. Like many people of British stock before her, she has made Kenya her home. As a result of the political wisdom of its founding President, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the predominantly African nation that is independent Kenya has taken such people as its own.

Our two days with Nann were just what we needed to recover from the hard work, diesel pollution and busyness of Nairobi. We were able to enjoy cordon bleu candlelit dinners, log fires in the lounge in the evening, and do whatever we wished during the day. Those of us who chose to sightsee went to a small game reserve at the foot of “The Sleeping Warrior”, a small mountain near Lake Elementaita, and to Joy Adamson’s home on Lake Naivasha – of “Born Free” and Elsa the Lioness fame.

Two Special People: Shel and Kym Arensen

Then after a two-day break, it was back to the work in hand. Our hosts for our visits to the two churches that we were to see were Shel Arensen and his wife Kym. Shel’s parents were missionaries with the Africa Inland Mission in the former Tanganyika [now Tanzania]. Shel was born in Mwanza, on the southern end of Lake Victoria in the mid 1950s.

Apart from time spent in the United States to complete his tertiary education and to marry Kym, Shel has spent the greater part of his life in East Africa, speaks fluent Swahili and has built his own home on a property that is tucked into the hills on the eastern side of the Rift Valley, not too far from Naivasha.

On the night before our arrival, one or more Cape buffaloes had grazed and left their mark all over Shel’s expansive lawns. The local Malewa River, which forms one of the boundaries for Shel and Kym’s property, is also known to have hippos wallowing in it on occasion. As Shel once discovered, it was no place to take the grandchildren fishing when the river was already occupied!

Among his many other interests [rugby and editing a magazine about times past called “Old Africa”], over the last twenty years Shel has also been instrumental in planting a number of churches. These have been among the Dorobo and Maasai people of the Mau Escarpment and Mau Forest area on the western side of the Great Rift Valley. It was our privilege to visit two of those congregations over the weekend that we were with Shel and Kym.

El Donyo Eburru and Altitude Sickness

On Saturday our journey took us high up on the western side of the Rift Valley, overlooking a vast expanse of the Valley, Lakes Nakuru and Naivasha, and the Aberdare Mountains beyond the far side of the Rift – truly an awe-inspiring sight.

One Kenyan notable of times past, whose name was Joan Root, was

reported to have said that it was her privilege to live in “the most beautiful place on earth”. The scene before us, as we climbed up the western side of the Rift Valley, made it hard to argue with her sentiment.

The Maasai name for the mountain in the area we visited is El Donyo Eburru. The village and its church were about 9500 feet above sea level; high enough to give two of our team, Trevor and Barbara, altitude sickness. The little congregation is small and struggling but we were so grateful to be able to enjoy a meal with them, cooked in the open air. We were able to encourage them, and leave with them a financial contribution, some Swahili Bibles and a number of children’s Bible story books.

The Tungi Tatu Congregation and Maasai Worship

Our journey on Sunday took us around the southern end of Lake Naivasha. As we travelled down the eastern and southern sides of the lake, our road passed acres of flowers grown under protective plastic “glasshouses”. Kenya exports millions of flowers to Europe and other destinations every year and is reputed to be the second largest rose growing and exporting country in the world. Flowers that are cut in Naivasha one day are being sold on the streets of Europe, North America and Japan only two or three days later.

The excitement of the day was heightened when we saw several giraffes close to the side of the road, along with zebras, baboons and other small animals further in the distance.

Our journey took us along stony and rock strewn roads as we travelled into the hill country west of Lake Naivasha. However, our driver Charles was always equal to the occasion and took us safely to our destination.

The villages we visited were lower in altitude than the one we had visited on the previous day, so altitude sickness was no longer an issue. Here we were able to visit the Moidapi [the village is partly named after Kenya’s former President, Daniel arap Moi] and the Tungi Tatu congregations. Once again we were able to give stuffed toys and Bible storybooks to the children and a financial gift to the congregation, along with the remainder of the forty Swahili Bibles that we had brought from Nairobi.



A stuffed toy made with love by a member of the Caloundra church, Moidapi congregation

The Privileges of Going Beyond our Comfort Zone

Our worship that Sunday was one of the real highlights of our time in Kenya as we enjoyed the bright colours and joyful worship of Maasai Christians. Each of the main groups in the congregation – the children, the young men, the women and the men – all contributed separately to worship in ways that were so different from our more formal style of worship. However, they had about them the same presence of the Holy Spirit that we enjoy at home.

Our little group also did our best to make a contribution to the worship by singing “Father we love You” as best we could. Our effort was appreciated though, and there was certainly an unexpected resonance for us as we sang “glorify your Name in all the earth”, not in the familiar context of our church family in Caloundra, but in the very different surroundings of a Maasai congregation in the heart of Kenya!

After the service everyone shook hands with everyone else in a line that grew longer and longer as we all left the building.

Our time among the Dorobo and Maasai people that we visited was brief. Yet it led to a sense of privilege that we had visited the Lord’s people in a remote part of Kenya, had experienced their culture in an unaffected way, and had enjoyed experiences that many or most western people who travel to Kenya as tourists never have the opportunity to enjoy.

It was a striking reminder that the family of God and the Church of Jesus Christ embraces all peoples, languages and cultures. It was also

Gospel mandate. The Lord and Head of the Church does not give us the privilege of “cherry picking” the Great Commission. Nor does He intend for the Christian Church to operate on a business model. When it does it will fail. The Church is on a mission, and its mission is to send “into all the world” and support those whom the Lord sets apart to “make disciples of all nations”. The responsibility of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland is not only to Brisbane or the Sunshine Coast, or even to Queensland; it is also to “all nations” that are to hear and obey the Gospel. The support should not only be tangible in the form of the missionaries we send through our local congregations under APWM, it should also be tangible in the financial and prayer support that we give, especially through the good example and leadership of the Assembly and wider Presbyterian Church.

A Challenge to our Presbyterian Theology and Tradition

The Lord’s promise to Abraham was that “all peoples on earth will be blessed” through him [Genesis 12:3]. By His “Great Commission” to “make disciples of all nations” the Lord has given the Christian Church the privilege and responsibility of fulfilling His promise to Abraham.

There are several million Presbyterians in Kenya, mainly but not exclusively from the Kikuyu, Embu and Meru tribes. They are Christians, humanly speaking, because of the witness and sacrifice of previous generations of Presbyterian churches and Christians, particularly, but not exclusively, from the Church of Scotland.



Erin and friends, Eburru village

Passing on the Gospel Baton

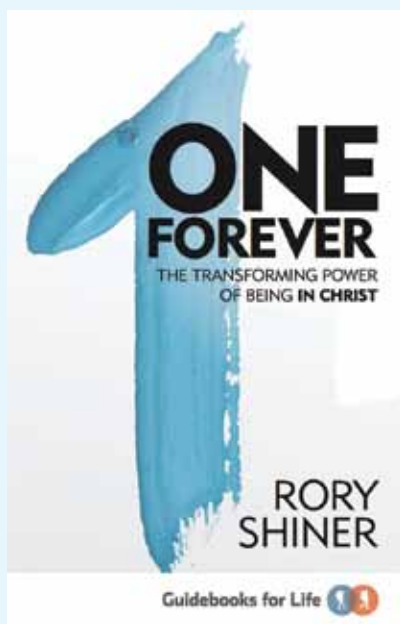
Our privilege in the Presbyterian Church of Queensland and Australia will be to pass the baton of the Gospel to the next generation. To be part of a mission team, such as the one that visited Kenya in January and February this year, was to have our vision enlarged to the work that the Lord calls our congregations and denomination to do. His promise to Abraham rests on our obedience. If we fail, He will sadly leave us to our own preoccupations and devices, our own “small ambitions” and the niceties of Presbyterian traditionals. He will find others who will obey Him and fulfil His promise made by solemn covenant to Abraham “to bless all peoples on earth” through him [Genesis 12:3, Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1:8].

The Blessing of a Supportive Session

Since the publication of the April/May 2013 issue of *New Directions*, the Caloundra Session has given permission for another team to go to Kenya in 2014. We already have gifts totalling \$1900 to give towards the various ministries that we support, and five team members are eager to go. We also have children and leaders in the Agape Hope Orphanage who are already eagerly awaiting our return. There’s plenty more work to be done. Now, where’s the rest of that bucket of white paint....?

Next Time:

Last few days and then home again to Brisbane.



ONE FOREVER: THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF BEING IN CHRIST RORY SHINER

A BOOK REVIEW BY
DANIEL SAUNDERS

IT'S EASY to skip over the little things. And little words like "in" and "Him".

These little words, however, punctuate the New Testament, especially Paul's letters (eg Ephesians 1; Colossians 2).

In this short book, Rory Shiner shows how the little words "in Him" describe a central (but often overlooked) New Testament teaching of our union with Christ.

The book covers a vast scope in its seven chapters—from creation to new creation.

In the opening chapters (creation and incarnation), we are drawn into the big picture of God's work in the world. In particular we are shown the pattern of "unity in diversity" that is seen in creation, marriage and Christ.

The central chapters (salvation and justification) delve into the topics where union with Christ is most commonly thought about.

Chapter three (salvation) uses many helpful illustrations to describe what it means to be "in Christ". Some of these illustrations are biblical (a vine and its branches, a body), and others much more modern, being in an aeroplane will be a spiritual experience after reading this book.

In chapter four (justification) we see how some of the suspicions that we have when we think about justification by faith (the Bible's teaching that God is both just and the justifier

of the ungodly, Romans 3:26; 4:5) can be addressed through a proper understanding of being "in Christ". As just one example: justification by faith has been accused of being a legal fiction - how can someone be justly punished in the place of another? Yet when we understand what the Bible teaches about being united to Christ, Shiner explains how sinners can be actually (not just apparently) justified in Christ.

In the final three chapters the book is at its most practical. Shiner discusses how the theology developed in the opening chapters impacts our struggle with sin, the importance of church, and living in the light of the resurrection. If you struggle at times navigating the theological river of the book's opening, these chapters give firm ground to anchor the theology in real life.

In chapter five there are hints of how being "in Christ" enables us to live for Jesus when tempted with such sins as gossip or greed.

Chapter six considers how union with Christ changes the way we serve his Body, the Church.

Finally, chapter seven assures believers in the hope of joining with Christ's resurrection, and considers (for example) how this changes our response to fleeting, sinful temptation.

Although the book keeps to its promise of showing how being "in Christ" makes a world of difference 'on Tuesday', there are plenty of places where more practical reflection could have been hinted at. I would have loved to have heard, for example, how Jesus' incarnation interacts with bioethics, or how union with Christ shapes the union of marriage.

However, in such a brief book not everything can be said.

A second critique is that although I enjoyed the journey that readers are taken on through the 'big picture' approach, some readers may find this disorientating. It may have been less risky to begin the book in a more expected place (relating our 'in Christ-ness' to salvation and justification), which may be more familiar, though less majestic.

Coming from Matthias Media's series of Guidebooks for Life, this book aims to both dig deep into the Bible (and theology) whilst applying these reflections to real life.

Despite its brevity (88 pages) *One Forever* masterfully achieves both these goals. What it says will help you to notice the little things in the Bible that you may have previously skipped over, and also spark your thinking about how to live because you are in Christ.

[This review was first published in Eternity Online News.]

Serving as missionaries later in life



Gordon and Ruth Russell... serving God in Nepal

Nepalis have a proverb: "Argo thapnu mudako, kura sunnu budhako". A rough translation is: "If you want to warm up, stand by a fire with big logs, if you are looking for good advice, ask an old person."

In their own words, Gordon and Ruth Russell, now CMS missionaries in Nepal, "felt convicted by the Lord to use our senior years to share our faith and knowledge of God with younger people. God has an eternal rest prepared for us in heaven. Now is our opportunity to labour as good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us."

Gordon served in Nepal from 1983 to 1995 and worked mainly with constructing hydroelectric projects. "All Nepal's electricity is produced from hydroelectricity and the long-term strategy for the three projects constructed by the mission was to train Nepalis how to build future projects. Ruth came to Nepal in 1985 and we married in December that year. She worked in some of the mission hospitals and in clinics set up at the construction projects. There is a deep tradition of respect and honour for older people in the Nepali culture. In fact, I think it's probably the same in most non-western cultures!" says Gordon. "Younger people recognise

the wisdom gained through years of life experience and are keen to learn from it."

Speaking with a couple, Ken and Alison in their 60s, who are serving in Nepal for one year, Gordon says, "Ken told me that several young men from his church in Nepal have individually come to him asking if he would disciple them. He has been meeting with them for a few months one-to-one to read the Bible, pray and chat with them. These young guys really value his life coaching in being a Godly man."

"Because the church has grown so quickly here, there is a shortage of older Christians to mentor the younger generation. Ken's time in Nepal is coming to an end in a couple of months and he asked me if I would be prepared to take over mentoring these young guys. This is something I believe the Lord has been preparing me for."

Encouraged by the words of Psalm 71:18 ("Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come."), Gordon and Ruth are excited about, "the many opportunities to befriend, encourage and mentor younger Christians as

well as show and share the reality of God's love to us in Jesus with those who haven't yet heard, or responded to this good news".

Gordon is a Civil Engineer and Ruth is a palliative care specialist. They will be involved in development work in Pokhara as part of the International Nepal Fellowship's (INF) integral mission ministries. INF is a Christian organisation involved in health and development projects, particularly among the poor and marginalised. Gordon will initially manage the construction of a specialist ear hospital in Pokhara, while Ruth will utilise her palliative care skills.

Many opportunities exist for older Christians to have a valuable contribution in cross-cultural mission situations. However, Gordon and Ruth emphasize that when serving as missionaries later in life you need lots of flexibility, patience and openness to God's leading.

If working in mission is something that you are considering, serving as missionaries later in life or indeed at any age, then please talk to Sam McGeown on 07 3112 6530 or email him on smcgeown@cms.org.au. Working for a world that knows Jesus. www.cms.org.au

The oldest in the room was 120



"Barbara", a 120-year-old doll, held by her proud owner Laurel McCosker

THE MOTHER'S Day luncheon held at St David's Presbyterian Church North Toowoomba on 9 May featured "Cherished Memories". A delicious two course meal and items of singing and poetry entertained the appreciative audience.

The tables provided for this memorabilia were arrayed with Mrs Potts irons, a lantern, embroidered doilies, historical articles and a beautiful porcelain faced doll named "Barbara".

"Barbara" was created in Germany last century with a registered number and as a limited edition. She is dressed in a white bonnet, frock and booties and under her dark hair has one earring.

The doll was given to Laurel as a child by her mother who had previously been given the doll in her childhood by the McKay sisters from Warialda in NSW in the late 1800s. She is Laurel's treasure.

Please pray for Christians in Syria

"Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My name is MM, former president of the Near East School of Theology.

Just after my retirement from theological education, my church, the Presbyterian Synod of Syria and Lebanon, assigned me the task of communicating with partners regarding the tragic Syrian situation, ie how the church is ministering to the refugees and displaced.

Until the last two years Syria has been the most secure country in the Middle East. The Christian community worshipped freely and served the community as full citizens, never experiencing discrimination or denied rights that were common to all.

While Syria cannot claim to have been a democratic country, all lived with security and were provided with free education, free hospitalization and health. All had enough food, and as long as one did nothing against the government, one did what they liked.

However, we all wanted reform, more freedom and participation. All wanted to end corruption. And so, when the events began, many were in support of the desire for reform.

Sadly, the violence erupted as we never knew before. Many groups appeared with names we had never heard, all claiming to kill in the name of God. Many of these do not speak

Arabic. So we all started wondering what to expect in the future.

Syria has 22 million. Originally 15% were Christians; it is now about 8%. Christianity existed in Syria as far back as the early church.

The majority of Christians are Orthodox, but all other denominations are found. The Protestant community is a minor one with the Presbyterian church being the largest. The tragic situation meant all Christian churches needed to do relief work; and, at the same time, to encourage Christians to stay in Syria, fearing the country would be emptied of its Christian community.

It is a fact that there are about four million displaced within Syria and a million refugees in neighbouring countries, all in tragic situations and in need of the basics.

We, as a Presbyterian Synod, have had two major church buildings in Aleppo and in Homs destroyed, and the congregations scattered. Four other churches are no longer functioning as the congregations are displaced. We help 442 families with food, medicine, clothes and funds for renting new homes.

We are trying to renovate old church buildings in Lebanon expecting Syrian Christians to flee there.

Syria has been described as the cradle of Christianity. Now we are

afraid of having no future in Syria if Islamic groups take over. Indeed violence has been the rule of the game by all, but the Christians are only threatened by the rebels. Christians are told openly by rebel groups who have gained control in certain areas, that the options available to them are to become Muslim, to leave the country or be killed.

When a Christian student is kidnapped and his family asked for ransom they are openly told, "you do not fight, you have to pay money". And sometimes they take the ransom and do not return the kidnapped person. The stories of suffering and of unprecedented crimes are countless.

Thus we appeal for prayer. We appeal to all those who are able to help bring the parties to dialogue to help end this tragic situation.

Somehow, it looks as if the whole world is against the people of Syria and we ask why. Why do all these groups who have no idea what Syria needs, come and fight in Syria and they are paid and supported to do so?

Our cry is for peace, for justice, for the end of the suffering.

May God have mercy and forgiveness.

Many thanks to all who are concerned."

MM (on behalf of the Synod of Syria and Lebanon)

Multi-million dollar retirement living development commences at Corinda

CONSTRUCTION OF PresCare's new retirement living community at Corinda started on Tuesday 7 May with a ceremonial ground-breaking event.

Minister for Housing and Public Works, Tim Mander, turned the soil on the \$100 million Kingsford Terrace project that will provide premium accommodation to Queensland's seniors and provide thousands of jobs.

Greg Skelton, PresCare's CEO, said for over 80 years the site was home to Hopetoun, which provided independent living cottages and residential aged care services to tens of thousands of people.

"The site at Corinda has been an integral part of PresCare's history; it represents our legacy of caring for people as they age", he said.

"To move forward and to elevate the quality and type of care provided to people as they aged, rebuilding Hopetoun was not acceptable. PresCare wants to provide services that people want so they can stay in their communities."

The new community, named after aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith,

will be home to hundreds of residents. Demolition is now complete, and early works commenced in May on the 10 year, six-stage development. The 68 stage one apartments are due for completion in 2015.

Mr Mander said housing the elderly was likely to be a significant challenge in the future which made developments like Kingsford even more important.

"The number of senior households in our community is expected to almost double over the next 15 years", he said.

"This demographic shift means we, as a society, have to get serious about ensuring we have enough appropriate housing available, close to family, health services and other forms of support."

Mr Skelton said the apartments will be fitted out with modern conveniences and with facilities such as cafes, games rooms, function rooms, cinema and an indoor pool.

"The heart of Kingsford is all about community and the assurance that somebody is always around if you need them", Mr Skelton said.



Tim Mander, Tarnya Smith and Greg Skelton 'turning the soil' at Kingsford Terrace
Right: Golf Day with Greg Skelton and Craig Percival, CEO Woollam Constructions

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



Mackay tees off for charity golf day

ON SUNDAY 19 May local tradies and businesses teed off at Black Springs Golf Course for the PresCare Woollam Constructions Annual Charity Golf Day.

With a goal to reach \$25,000 for PresCare Mackay, players competed Ambrose-style.

PresCare provides in-home care services for the elderly and people with disabilities in Mackay.

CEO Greg Skelton said the day would not be possible without the committed support of Woollam Constructions, the dedicated volunteers and the local community.

"For over seven years now, PresCare has teamed up with Woollam Constructions to run this great event. We are grateful for their generosity and enthusiasm", Mr Skelton said.

"We had teams from local businesses including Mackay Solicitors, AE Smith, Dig It Landscaping and Demos Plastering.

"It was our biggest, best and most fun day ever. We look forward to next year's one on Sunday 18 May."

Future golf days will be held in Rockhampton (Sunday 4 August) and Brisbane (Monday 2 September).

For more details, or to register interest in future golf days, contact Kerry Cutting kcutting@prescare.org.au or 0478 881 463.



Couple recognised for giving to Queensland's elderly

MARYBOROUGH COUPLE Coralie and Kevin Larsen have a lot of love to give – love for family, for each other and for their community.

It is their love of community that was recognised on Friday 26 April with a ceremony to present them with an Australian Government's National Volunteer Award for 2012.

Coralie and Kevin will be presented with the award by Federal Member for Wide Bay, Warren Truss, for their volunteer services to Groundwater Lodge. The Larsens are an integral part of the PresCare Volunteer Program and were nominated for the award by Volunteer Manager Julie Hoffmann.

Kevin said Coralie is the heart of the volunteer work they do. "She loves giving", he said.

With four children, twenty grandchildren and one great grandchild, plus volunteering for the local motor home club, the Larsens are just doing what they love; content to be in the background giving something back.

Coralie said volunteering at Groundwater Lodge is their way of showing appreciation to Queensland's older people. "It's nice to do things that you know the residents look forward to. My mum lives at Groundwater Lodge so it is a pleasure to help", she said.

One of Coralie's passions is preparing the newsletter for the residents and staff.

"I research, produce and deliver the newsletter. The residents and staff



Kevin and Coralie Larsen

look forward to it because I fill it with interesting anecdotes and jokes; it really brightens the residents' day."

Coralie also cooks for the fundraising events and always produces 40 containers of slices and cakes to sell with Kevin as the 'handyman'.

"Kevin recently gave the planter boxes a fresh lease of life. The planter boxes will sit outside the dining room for everyone to enjoy", she said.


Groundwater Lodge Service Manager Stephen Leggett, said Coralie and Kevin are an inspiration. "They give their time and provide an avenue for the residents to feel part of a family and the wider community", he said.

"Their selfless attitude brings laughter and stories to people who may not have an opportunity to leave the residential facility, because of frailty or health issues, to know about their neighbours."



David Niven delivering the dedication at Kingsford Terrace

What's on ...



Master of Arts in Theology at PTC
Intensive week July 22 - 26 2013

Romans & The New Perspective

As well as teaching at Reformed Theological Seminary, Dr Waters is author of several books on the New Testament, including *How Jesus runs the Church*.


Free public lecture Wednesday July 24, 7.30pm

What we need to know about Federal Vision

These events are open to all members of the public

684 Elgar Road Box Hill North Victoria 3129 Phone 03 9898 9384
Email: info@ptc.vic.edu.au Web: ptc.vic.edu.au

Lecturer:
Dr Guy P Waters
BA, MDiv, PhD
Author and Professor of New Testament at RTS, Jackson



PTC
PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

FORGE 2013
A DAY FOR MEN
BRISBANE SEP 14

with **GARY MILLAR**
WWW.OCCA.ORG.AU



SEX, ROMANCE, AND THE GLORY OF GOD

SONG OF SONGS



MSSC
mega sportz soccer camp

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

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WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES - ASSEMBLY Presbyterian Women's Association

MONDAY 24 JUNE
40TH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE
COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM
Ann Street Presbyterian Church, 45 Ann Street, Brisbane
Moderator, Hon. Greg Rodgers, will address the Conference and install and dedicate new Office Bearers.

Guest speakers:
Mrs Dianne Parker, 40th anniversary of 1st meeting
Mrs Lyn Nicol, work amongst young women at Caboolture
Mr G. Sharpe, Gideons International

TUESDAY 25 JUNE
PRESENTATION OF PWA EXECUTIVE TO ASSEMBLY AT CLAYFIELD COLLEGE, 10.45 AM
Mrs Heather Ross (State President) will address the Assembly. Morning tea at 10.15 am.

WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE
FULL DAY BUS TRIP
(MORNING TEA AT PRESARE VELA PLUS TOUR OF COMPLEX; LUNCH AT WYNNUM PC)
Bus leaves old People's Palace (Backpackers), Ann Street (cnr Edward Street) at 9.00 am sharp, returning approximately 4.00 pm. Pick up and drop off at Creek Road PC.
COST for the day - \$40.00 including lunch

briefly

UNIT TO LET

CALOUNDRA, beachside units, from \$300/week. For details contact Ray on 0427 990 161/ rayandjean@hotmail.com.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

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

HELP FOR ARCHIVES

Since the refurbishment of Church Office the books kept by archives are needing to be sorted into order. If anyone has library experience and would be willing to help catalogue these books, could they please email Dianne Parker on archives@pcq.org.au or contact Church Office on 3251 4173.




WMPCQ @ Assembly
Guest Speaker - Fiona Millar
'Sweet Talk'


10 am Tuesday 25 June
Swimming Pavilion, Clayfield College
Morning tea (\$6) and lunch (\$8-50) available
All welcome *** no child care available

RSVP by 16 June on 0418 755 914


ALL WELCOME

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE





Dr. Vishal Mangalwadi
'The Bible, Worldviews and Culture'



Dr. Frank Stootman
'The Challenge of Atheism'

For more information and to register go to our website
<http://www.fireonthemountain.org.au>

COUNTING on GOD

Holding onto Him through all of life's journey

SATURDAY 27th JULY 2013
BRISBANE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE



Hear from Jenny Salt, Dean of Students at the Sydney Missionary & Bible College (SMBC) on how to keep counting on God through all of life's Journey from the book of Numbers.

Transition from St Petersburg to Kandern

by Linda and Richard Buchanan

Please do not reproduce this article in any form without permission.

As I write this we are in "transition", a subject that we have regularly taught on the orientation courses we have run in St Petersburg for the last four years.

We left St Petersburg in Russia by train on 8 February.

After a weekend with friends and colleagues in Finland, we flew to the Netherlands to spend three weeks with experienced Dutch colleagues whom we had asked to help us in producing the new orientation course that we have been asked to head up.

After that we hired a car and drove to the south-west corner of Germany where we will be based for the next three years.

Accommodation is scarce in Kandern.

Our organization has an office there from which we will work.

We spent the first three weeks in a holiday unit in a village fifteen minutes out of town, while waiting for a studio apartment in the home of some Americans to become vacant.

This too is temporary as we wait for another American family to return to USA in early July for a year, during which time we will rent the top floor of their home which has just been converted into a small apartment.

Between April and June we will be away for meetings in England, the north of Germany, and God willing, back in St Petersburg.

By the time we move to our permanent apartment, we will have been living out of our suitcases for over five months.

So it is rather a long transition.

Meanwhile, we are in a beautiful place in the Black Forest enjoying the company of our new colleagues.

In our move to Germany we have seen many instances of God going before us working things out. We can't help but praise Him and know we are where He wants us.

Leaving St Petersburg was not easy. In the last week, there were many farewells with tears on both sides.

Farewells are not uncommon to us though, as we have trained each new group of people joining SIL's work in the current and former Russian speaking parts of the world.

We would become very close to the participants, then we would see them off to their respective allocations. This is probably the hardest part of our job, but it comes with many blessings.

We are often reminded of Matthew 19:29, "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life".

Though we miss our own children and grandchildren immensely, we have been blessed to be adopted as parents and grandparents by many of our colleagues as well as our church friends in St Petersburg. So our church family was also hard to leave.

As part of an English speaking Home Group, we ended up having a Mum and Dad role with many of the young people in the group.

The Home Group was comprised of Russians and people from all over the world who had left families and friends to work or study in St Petersburg. We saw many grow in their relationship with God during their time there.

We did not fully realize the role we had played until our Home Group farewell, when there were many tears. We feel so privileged to be used by God to love and encourage these younger believers.

But it wasn't just our colleagues and church friends that we had to farewell.

Since we arrived, we had made a point of making friends with many migrant workers from southern Russia and Central Asia who came to St Petersburg to get work to support their families back home. Believers are severely persecuted in some of these countries, and the possession of Christian materials regularly results in jail sentences or worse.

But in St Petersburg, there is freedom to share about the Lord and give them Scriptures. We took every opportunity that arose to make friends with these people and have them for meals.

It was the farewells with them that were the hardest because, as yet, despite their happy acceptance of printed materials and DVDs, we are not aware of any heart-changes.

We do know though that we have altered their understanding of what a Christian is, and we trust that our Lord will bring along others to build on that.

I am reminded of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase". Please join us in praying for our friends.

In our new role, we won't just be orientating new members going to the regions of the former Soviet Union, but also the new members of SIL who will be going into a much wider geographical area.

In addition, we have been asked to give some orientation to members of other organizations with similar goals to ours.

We obviously won't be teaching them specifics of the regions they will end up in; so the course will be shorter than the ones we have been running.

But we have also been asked to ensure a location-specific orientation is being undertaken by colleagues in each of the regions.

At the end of June we are planning to run a pilot course for the various area coordinators so that they know what the new members are learning from us.

We will then help them to formulate what they will teach for their part of the orientation process.



Family photograph at Jasmine and Callum's wedding (January 2012) L to R: Steve and Louisa Jenyns with Micah and Samuel, Grant and Jen Buchanan with Liam, Jasmine and Callum Bengtson, Richard and Linda Buchanan, David and Corallie Buchanan with Esther, Linda's cousin's son Joshua from Bundaberg, Linda's mum Mary Dingle with her friend, Elder Doug Richards from Bundaberg

This is a team effort and we are relying on the combined experience of everyone to produce the best course.

We wish to thank all of you who have supported us and our family prayerfully and financially over the 21 years we have been with SIL. Without you, we would not have been able to do all that we have done.

May the Lord bless you richly for your sacrifices of time and finances.



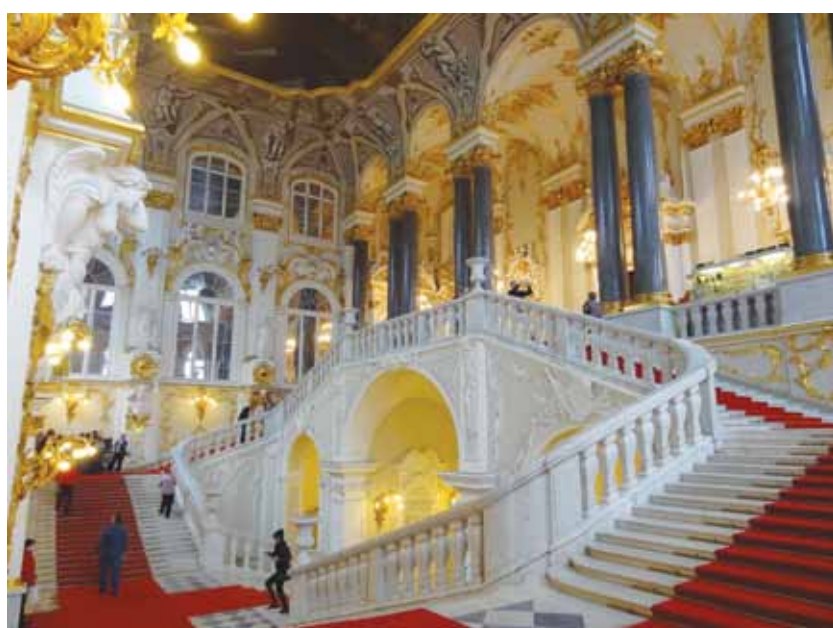
Farewell at the train station with some of the young Russians we trained



Our farewell to our Home Group



Our old home - the densely populated St Petersburg



The main entrance to the famous Heritage Museum



Our new home - Kandern in Germany