

# DIRECTIONS

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



## CELEBRATION RALLY

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What a great time of celebration for those who attended the Celebration Rally at Clayfield College as part of this year's Assembly. Catching up with old friends, checking out the displays, enjoying Guido's famous barbecue, a varied and entertaining program, meeting the new Moderator and hearing David Jones' excellent message on Compelling Love were just a few of the highlights. On a beautiful day/night, Clayfield College was a perfect venue for this wonderful time of fellowship. The program was varied with a string quartet from Somerville House, a brass ensemble from Brisbane Boys' College, a puppet presentation from Presbyterian Christian Education and a hip hop demonstration from a Mitchelton outreach group. Each year, the Celebration Rally precedes the State Assembly as a means of congregations coming together to praise God for all His blessings.



# Decisions of the 2013 State Assembly

by Rev. Lesleigh Hall, Deputy Clerk of Assembly

The Assembly:

- \* Inducted Hon. Greg Rodgers as Moderator.
- \* Was informed by the Moderator that he had appointed Rev. Matt Viney and Rev. Garnet Swann as his Chaplains.
- \* Thanked the Moderator for his address, "He said, 'GO!'".
- \* Requested the Moderator to visit the Presbyteries of North Queensland, Darling Downs, Wide Bay/Sunshine Coast and Mowbray.
- \* Recorded its appreciation to Rev. David Niven for his service as Moderator.
- \* Declared Rev. Phil Case, Minister of the Coorparoo Charge, as Moderator-Elect.
- \* Accepted the resignation of Elder Keith Booker as Assembly Treasurer with deep regret, giving thanks to God for Keith's tireless and devoted service to the task of Treasurer for the nine years that he held the office. Keith will continue in his role as General Manager.
- \* Appointed Elder George Harris as Treasurer of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.
- \* Welcomed the following new members to the Assembly: Rev. W. Hsu, Assistant Minister, Acacia Ridge Charge; Rev. A. Purcell, Minister, Callide Valley Charge; Rev. J. G. Smart, Minister, Willows Charge; Rev. J. Wee, Assistant Minister, Creek Road Charge; elders attending the Assembly for the first time.
- \* Recorded with regret the death of the following elders: Kenneth McDonald, Fitzroy Rockhampton, died 6 July 2012; Donald James Murray, Gladstone, died 28 September 2012; Gordon Reinke, Maleny, died 12 April 2013; Ross Geitz, Allora, died 13 May 2013; Alfred Mark Collins, Bell/South Toowoomba, died 20 July 2012; Robert Charles Bazley, Dalby, died 11 August 2012; Francis Campbell Grimes, Bell/South Toowoomba, died 16 September 2012; James Frederick Ward, St Andrew's Townsville, died 29 May 2013.
- \* Was informed of the death of Mr Bruce Sharpe, Elder with the Ann Street Charge, and former Assembly Officer, on Monday 24 June 2013.
- \* Received the PWA delegation: Mrs Heather Ross (President), Mrs Heather Burton (Secretary) and Mrs Bev Horgan (Treasurer).
- \* Received the Women's Ministries delegation: Mrs Wendy Henry and Mrs Jan Langbridge.
- \* Received presentations from the Presbyteries of North Queensland, Central Queensland, Moreton and Mowbray on the work of their respective Presbyteries.
- \* Was led by Rt Rev. David Jones in the Biblical Expositions on the theme "The Micah Challenge" from the book of Micah.
- \* Participated in the Assembly seminar "Engage Your World"

conducted by the Committees of Ministry Resourcing and Outreach and Nurture and featuring Rt Rev. David Jones, Rev. Steve Cree, Pastor Karl Faase and Rev. Dr Gary Millar as the keynote speakers.

- \* Resolved that the 2014 Assembly be held as a 'Live-in' Assembly at Clayfield College in Brisbane from the 22-26 June 2014.
- \* Repealed the Minister's Code of Ethics on the grounds that the Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland have the Bible, the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Rules of the Church to guide them in ethical matters.
- \* Recommended to the Commission of Assembly that the proceeds of the sale of the Norman Park properties be allocated to ministry initiatives by the Creek Road Charge within the Southbank area.
- \* Resolved to advise the Board of PresCare that the Church, in principle, is not opposed to the cautious growth of PresCare, including the taking on of income-producing ventures.
- \* Appointed Mr Mark Baddeley (Elder) to the position of Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology at QTC.
- \* Appointed Rev. Dr Andrew Bain as Vice-Principal of QTC.
- \* Requested the Committee on Ministries Training, in consultation with Presbyteries, the Faculty and Code and Legal Reference Committee, to conduct a review of the Rules of the Church concerning the Trials for Licence for students for the ministry.
- \* Reappointed Rev. Peter John Barson to the Position of Director of Ministry Resourcing and Christian Education for a further term of five years.
- \* Encouraged all Charges to consider how to engage their local communities with the gospel and how to minister the love of Christ into those communities.
- \* Strongly objected to the dissolution of the Religious Education Advisory Committee and requested the Minister for Education to ensure that a representative from the Presbyterian Church of Queensland continues to be invited to consultations concerning religious education and chaplaincy matters.
- \* Was addressed by Mr Roger Crane, Padre from the North Queensland PIM Patrol, and Mr Jesse Caulfield and Ms Alison Dines from Inside/Out Chaplaincy.
- \* Restructured the accreditation of unordained ministry workers by CMR to make the process more flexible and able to meet the needs of the various ministry teams being developed throughout the Church.
- \* Restructured the provision of subsidies to Charges by CMR to ensure that church planting and church resourcing initiatives are not unnecessarily impeded.

\* Noted that F&AB is utilising \$62,500 during 2013 from the Capital Profits Reserve to subsidise Assembly and SMP assessments, to ease the financial strain on congregations.

- \* Empowered the Property Board to ensure that a Contract Superintendent is engaged by a congregation or other denominational body when considered necessary.
- \* Encouraged qualified congregational members to accept an invitation to become members of the Stipends Commission.
- \* Was addressed by Paul and Mrs Jenny Rayner (Central Presbyterian Church and Thailand), Rev. Gavin Henderson (Burdekin Presbyterian Church and Myanmar) and Mr Nathan Stewart (Browns Plains Presbyterian Church and Japan).
- \* Noted the new names for our State and Federal Mission Committees (APWM Queensland and APWM National) and that the name Mission Partners is no longer being used.
- \* Gave thanks to God for the successful commencement of Partner Church ministry by the Evans family with the Presbyterian Church of Japan; and by Andrew and Marilyn Schache and Brian and Judy Cullen with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.
- \* Adopted the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Civil Union Legislation and the Future Implications for Ministers in their role as Marriage Celebrants as a foundational document for the Church to use should it find itself compromised by Federal or State marriage laws.
- \* Endorsed the Philosophy of Ministry adopted by the Public Questions and Communications Committee and encouraged the committee to continue working in its current direction.
- \* Approved the use of the name Gospel in Society Today (GIST) by the Public Questions and Communications Committee in its general work.
- \* Expressed concern about human rights abuse in relation to freedom of religion and freedom of assembly (in particular abuses against Christians) in China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia (including West Papua), Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, The Sudan and Zimbabwe, and requested the Australian Government to take all appropriate action to address the situation in these countries so that the citizens may live in peace, with freedom of worship and of association.
- \* Forwarded a statement by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland entitled 'Church finds common ground in sexuality debate' to the Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia for the information of

the General Assembly of Australia.

- \* Appointed Mrs Mendy Campbell, Mr Don Lewis and Rev. David Niven to represent the Presbyterian Church of Queensland at the Annual General Meeting of DrugARM.
- \* Commended DrugARM to the prayerful support of the Church.
- \* Noted that the Commission of Assembly has established an Appeals Commission as authorised by the 2012 Assembly.
- \* Enacted a new rule to clarify the process for the election of members to the Committee of Management.
- \* Departed from a "grandfather clause" approved in 2009 so that from now on all ministers and elders must hold a seat on the Assembly and Presbytery under the present Rules of the Church.
- \* Granted interim authority to proposed changes to the Rules of the Church which will phase out private appointments within Charges and will allow designated elders to administer the sacraments within isolated Charges.
- \* Appointed Ms Elise McCauley and Mr Andrew Newman as Directors of PresCare for a term of three years.
- \* Authorised PresCare's membership of Pastoral and Spiritual Care of Older People (PASCOP).
- \* Expressed thanks and appreciation to PresCare Board Member Rev. Graeme McKay, Honorary Chaplain Rev. Gordon Jackson (Lake Sherrin) and Valley Chaplain Rev. Rob Farr for their commitment and dedication to PresCare.
- \* Thanked the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and members of the Board and its Standing and Ad Hoc Committees, for their services to Fairholme College.
- \* Reappointed Mr Robert McCall and

Rev. Guido Kettmiss to the PMSA Council for further three year terms.

- \* Noted the retirement from the PMSA of Mr Bernie Stein, and thanked God for his valuable contribution to the Association in many capacities during his 37 years of service.
- \* Congratulated Mrs Maria Woods on her appointment as the Principal to the Sunshine Coast Grammar School, and assured her of the Assembly's prayers as she undertakes this important ministry.
- \* Noted the much appreciated service rendered to Emmanuel College by the Presbyterian Church of Queensland Councillors, Rev. Dr Bruce Winter, Ms Susan Anderson and Mr Bruce Pearce.
- \* Congratulated the new Principal of Grace College, Rev. Dr Anita Monro, on her appointment and assured her of the Assembly's prayers for her work as Principal of the College.
- \* Reappointed Rev. Matt Viney, Ms Kristine Gask and Mrs Cecelia Orford to the Grace College Council for a further term of three years.
- \* Noted the Interim Policy of St Andrew's Toowoomba Hospital on the termination of pregnancy, and requested the Public Questions and Communications Committee to be available to meet with the Board of St Andrew's Toowoomba Hospital, Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs), ethical advisors and other interested parties, to discuss the position statement of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland on the termination of pregnancy prior to the Board finalising the St Andrew's Toowoomba Hospital policy on the termination of pregnancy.

Front cover photos: PresCare representatives General Manager James Woods and Apprentice Chef Kylie Bond enticed delegates with complimentary macaroons baked fresh under PresCare's catering business The Contented Chef; making new friends at the Celebration Rally; PCE puppet item; Somerville House string quartet



Lunch break during the Assembly seminar



Catching up with friends at the Celebration Rally





Rev. Phil Case

## BELL CHURCH ESCAPES MAJOR DAMAGE

EARLIER THIS year, the Bell Church escaped major damage when a Dog Trailer from a gravel truck almost ran into it.

The trailer was parked across the road from the church.

It broke away from where it was parked, ran down the hill, across the road, mounted the footpath, through the fence, and only came to rest when the front wheels were stopped by the concrete steps at the front of the church.

The front corner of the church was damaged, but the porch took the main hit from the side of the trailer, with the front corner of the porch being torn off. The porch was pushed sideways and the front steps demolished.

As there was a small amount of asbestos in the construction, this caused some concern.

The front of the church is not useable, and although services have continued, all entry is now via the back door.

(One advantage is that people don't seem to come late, and are sitting closer to the front!!)

Repairs have not yet been made as there are insurance matters to consider.

We praise God that the trailer did not hit the side of the church, which would have resulted in much greater damage.



## GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT ST ANDREW'S PC GOONDIWINDI

### THE NEW MODERATOR-ELECT

A Committee, consisting of the Moderator, the Clerk and the Treasurer, together with past Moderators who are members of the Assembly and one elected elder from each Presbytery, meet on Wednesday morning of the Assembly to chose a nomination to be brought forward to the Assembly at a special order of the day just prior to lunch. Further nominations are called for before the election proceeds.

Rev. Phil Case, Minister at Coorparoo Charge, was chosen as this year's Moderator-Elect.

Phil was born in Toowoomba in 1951 and not long after that, his family moved to Brisbane. He grew up in Camp Hill until age 5 during which time his family worshipped at Norman Park. His father owned a corner shop at Camp Hill but they soon moved to Kalinga where he started school at Woolloowin State School. The family attended Kalinga Presbyterian Church, then later Clayfield Methodist Church.

After finishing school, Phil followed a career in electronics as a technician with Civil Aviation for sixteen years. He then moved to Melbourne to study at the Wesleyan Methodist College between 1983 and 1984. In 1985, he attended Moore College for one year

and then came back to Brisbane to work in medical electronics. Later he worked in IT.

During this time, Phil returned to the Presbyterian Church and was an Elder at Camp Hill (Creek Road). God was calling him to further studies and he returned to Moore College in 2003 to prepare for the ministry.

A great turning point came when he wrestled with the issue of the baptism of the Holy Spirit as held by the Pentecostal movement. He studied everything he could to understand conversion and the enormity of what it meant to be born again.

Because of this experience he has come to a rich understanding of the reformed faith in all its depth and beauty. He has a passion to preach the Word faithfully and accurately so the Word can do its own work of regenerating and convicting in the hearts of those who hear it.

His desire to become Moderator is fuelled by a longing to strengthen the Church in its reformation so it can become a vehicle to be used by God to extend His Kingdom.

The highlight of his life is his four daughters and eight grand-children who constantly inspire him and bring him great joy.



Rev. Peter Playsted, Rt Rev. David Niven and Pastor Bert Richards

## NEW DIRECTIONS

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THE SKIRL of the bagpipes welcomed worshippers to the Golden Jubilee Service of the Opening and Dedication of the current St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Goondiwindi building on Sunday 16 June.

Past worshippers came from far and wide to meet with present members and adherents of the church to worship God and thank Him for His faithfulness through all generations.

The weekend of celebrations began with a "Walk through the Years" on Saturday evening where memorabilia was on display and those present enjoyed coffee, cake and conversation; and there was much conversation as people who hadn't seen each other for years relived their time at St Andrew's church and in Goondiwindi. Many in attendance had been at the opening and dedication of the church 50 years ago. Iona Gibson and Sue Stewart were responsible for the excellent display in the church hall.

Piper Ian Greenland had the honour of piping Moderator David Niven and the two serving ministers, Pastor Bert Richards and Rev. Peter Playsted into the church for the Jubilee service.

It was wonderful to see the church full and to hear the hymns sung with

such meaning and jubilation. Kathy Jensen was our very accomplished organist for the service.

The South African members of the congregation, accompanied on the piano by Ina Winter, sang an Afrikaans hymn during the collection of the offering and then the remainder of the congregation sang the same hymn, "Take my life and let it be", in English.

The choir, consisting of Marilyn Playsted, Naomi Garvis, David Jensen, Daryl and Margaret Gray and Lloyd and Judy Dunlop, conducted by Sharon Bursle, contributed to the celebration. On Saturday evening they sang "Old Fashioned Meeting" and on Sunday "What a Gathering". On Saturday evening, Sharon on saxophone, Daryl on cornet and Kathy on piano played "There's a Quiet Understanding" and "All Heaven Declares."

The State Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, Rt Rev. David Niven, gave the message "Take Heart" from 2 Corinthians 4: 1-8. In it he referred to his time with the DPI in Charleville as a Sheep and Wool Officer, working alongside Lloyd Dunlop. He told

how he had gone there as a heathen and, as a result of Lloyd's witness of the Lord Jesus Christ to him, he left Charleville a believer and later entered the ministry. He is now looking after sheep of a different kind as a representative of the Good Shepherd.

At the end of the service a time capsule was sealed by members of the clergy, the Goondiwindi Regional Council Mayor, Graham Scheu, and Member for Southern Downs, Lawrence Springborg. It will be opened on 16 June 2063. Chris Winter made the box, which encases the capsule, from part of a crate which contained the Winter family's belongings when they left South Africa to come to Goondiwindi.

The weekend finished with a tasty lamb spit roast lunch prepared by Ian, Sue and Tim Cuthbert. Keith Dowding, an elder in the church 50 years ago, cut the Jubilee cake which had been made by Aileen Norman.

It was a "big" weekend in the life of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and took months of preparation but it was well worth the effort.

To God be the Glory!



## Introducing our new columnist .. Roland Lowther



Roland and Joanne Lowther

ROLAND LOWTHER left Dalby Presbyterian Church at the end of 2007 to pursue research studies in the largely misunderstood area of the Holy Spirit's role in the Christian life.

He would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and members of the Dalby church, the case study participants from around Queensland that assisted in the research, and his wife and family for their willingness to support this endeavour.

Roland is currently serving as the pastor of Eternity Presbyterian Church (Helensvale) and will be regularly contributing in a column in *New Directions*.

For those interested, Roland's doctoral studies focused on the controversial areas of Law and Spirit.

Within the Reformed tradition, "Law" has been emphasized as the foundation for Christian ethics. Given that the Apostle Paul challenges Christians to "live" by the Spirit, his research reconsidered Paul's concept of Living by the Spirit from within the Reformed tradition. Using Paul's concept of "Living by the Spirit" as a point of departure, the study developed, tested, and evaluated a "practical pneumatology" among a select group of Queensland Presbyterians. The study aims to provide Reformed/Evangelical Christians with a theological framework for understanding the Holy Spirit's comprehensive role in engaging life's ethical challenges.

The thesis is currently being re-written into a more popular format, and is planned for release with Paternoster (UK) in mid 2016.



Recently I had the pleasure of catching up with old friends whom we had served with on the mission field, in the early 1990s. As usual there was the preliminary conversation about our current lives and how things had changed, and of course there was reminiscing about the "old times". Eventually the conversation took on a more reflective mood, as we began to exchange those "whatever happened to..." questions.

Having not spoken for nearly 20 years, I was anticipating that some sad news was almost certain to surface, and my fears were not misplaced. Regrettably there were stories of broken marriages, untimely deaths and once-faithful believers consumed by worldliness.

Now we all have personal stories of friends who have fallen through moral indiscretion, joined some eccentric Christian group, or allowed the exigencies of life to extinguish their once vibrant faith. So I thought I had heard it all. But there was one story that shook me to my absolute core.

When we went to the mission field, we had the great privilege of working with a devoted Christian couple who took us under their wing and mentored us in cross-cultural work. They appeared as the quintessential cross-cultural missionaries: authentically Christian, Bible College trained, dedicated to learning the language, well integrated with the concerns of the local people, active in discipleship and outreach. Of particular note was the personal godliness of the wife, who had all the attributes of the godly woman described in Proverbs 31. She was a Christian who seemed to have an unshakable devotion to Christ and His kingdom—a veritable rock.

To be sure, I was shocked on hearing of her divorce from her husband. But nothing could prepare me for the underlying reason of that divorce: she had become a Muslim. That's right; she had abandoned Christianity and converted to Islam! Moreover, the conversion was predicated on the grounds that she had never felt "so loved".

I agree we don't have to go too far to find examples of unloving Christians or churches with which we can become disillusioned. Although I can reconcile a mature Christian's disillusionment with less consistent examples of Christianity, I really struggled with the notion that a devoted Christian can abandon Christ altogether on these grounds, and then embrace a false religion.

I immediately tried to make sense of it: can a Christian *really* fall away? Of course, the theologian in me wants to rationalize these events on the grounds that the person in question isn't *elect*, or if they are, this is a temporary aberration that will eventually lead to repentance. Yet, was this logical exercise merely an attempt to assuage my deep fears that my theological systems may be conceptually flawed, and nothing more? Moreover, even if my theological mind could be consoled by its own internal logic, the brutal fact remains—Christians *do* fall away!

When I look to the Holy Scriptures on this subject, I don't find its authors contriving arguments to explain away every incongruity between life and doctrine, simply to balance their theological ledgers. I find "realistic" assessments of lives lived before God in a hostile world. I find people who have a complete understanding of God's sovereignty, but live with an immense sense of personal accountability in the face of their eternal destiny. I see the Scriptures approaching the subject this way: "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door..." (Jesus); "...make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him" (Peter); "You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?" (Paul); "Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience." (Hebrews).

There are no excuses being offered; faith in Christ meant (and means) enduring submission to Christ.

Regrettably, as I get older, the catalogue of *the departed* grows larger, and the shocking surprises fewer. It is my prayer that we won't take our commitment to Christ lightly, loosen our grip on our living faith in Christ, take for granted the privilege of sharing in the gospel of salvation, or allow our disillusionment with others to corrupt our eternal hope. As we persevere *in Christ* we are assured on never being numbered among "The Departed."

Rowland Lowther



## Commissioning Service at St John's Toowoomba

by Frances Tilly

ON 28 April 2013 a well-attended Commissioning Service was conducted for Andrew and Marilyn Schache at St John's South Toowoomba Presbyterian Church, prior to their leaving for Vanuatu.

It was officiated by Rev. Kevin Murray from APWM (National) with Rev. Rob Farr, Rev. Graeme McKay, Elders and the Missions Committee of St John's, Presbytery of Darling Downs members and the congregation all taking part.

Andrew and Marilyn told how excited they were to take up their roles in the life of the Talua Bible College, serving God and using their talents in maintenance and administration respectively. This allows the good work of Bible training and mission work at the Talua College to continue uninterrupted.

In the two years that they plan to be away they will train Nationals to take over from them.

Many family members and friends joined with the St John's congregation to sing "The Blessing" and will continue to uphold them in prayer.

Andrew and Marilyn left Australia for Vanuatu on 7 May.



Top: LtoR: Andrew and Marilyn Schache, Rev. Rob Farr, REV. Kevin Murray (Director, APWM National)

Bottom: LtoR: Rev. Rob Farr, Andrew and Marilyn Schache, Rev. Wal Jones

### Scots Presbyterian Memorial Church Clayfield is seeking a new Minister

Clayfield is an inner-northern suburb of Brisbane under ten kilometres from the CBD. Scots Presbyterian Memorial Church has been part of the fabric of Clayfield for over a century.

We are a small but growing church family with a range of ages and backgrounds. We want to serve Clayfield and Brisbane's north-east and to grow a loving Christ centred community.

Church on Sunday morning includes Sunday School and creche. Mid-week there are Growth Groups and a healthy and over-flowing play-group. Scots has enjoyed ten years of healthy revitalising ministry and is now ready for a new minister who will continue faithful Bible teaching, purposeful leadership, training and equipping.

For further inquiries please contact Rev. Steve Blencowe (Interim Moderator)

by phone 07 3305 0256

or email [steve@kpc.org.au](mailto:steve@kpc.org.au)





"In Glorious Company", part of 4MBS 'Festival of Classics Event' which took place on 18 May 2013. The choir, orchestra and part of the audience at St Paul's Brisbane

## IN GLORIOUS COMPANY

ON SATURDAY 18 May, St Paul's Presbyterian Church Brisbane hosted a special concert of religious hymns and music which formed part of 4MBS 'Festival of Classics'.

This concert was also one of a series of special events celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of St Paul's in 1863.

Taking part in the concert was the Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's under the baton of Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié and the Brisbane Regional Youth Orchestra conducted by Mr Shaun Dorney. There were almost 100 singers and musicians taking part.

The first part of the programme included well-known hymns such as *Greater Love Hath No Man*, *My Soul There Is A Country*, *God Of Our Fathers* and John Rutter's beautiful arrangement of *For The Beauty Of The Earth*.

The singing of these hymns was enhanced by the amazing voices of soprano Stephanye Bendell and baritone Jim McNicol.

Eduarda van Klinken accompanied the choir on the organ.

The rafters were raised when the audience of nearly 250 was invited to accompany the choir in singing *Jerusalem* by Sir Hubert Parry.

*For The Beauty Of The Earth* and

the *Old Hundreth* were played by the orchestra, again accompanied by Eduarda van Klinken on the organ and Malcolm Liddell, Damon Lougheed and Lindon Wiese on the trumpet.

The audience particularly enjoyed hearing the orchestra play well-known pieces such as *Jupiter* by Gustav Holst and the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

The second part of the programme comprised of Handel's *Te Deum in D Major (Dittingen)* with the ensemble 'Vivace', organ and choir.

Soloists were Nicki Jenkins, alto, and Shaun Brown, baritone.

Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié conducted. It is interesting to note that this work was performed in St Paul's in 1934 as part of a three concert Handel Festival.

All who attended showed their appreciation of the performers with a standing ovation which lasted for several minutes.

St Paul's congregation would like to thank all who took part in the concert and 4MBS for allowing both the Brisbane Concert Choir at St Andrew's, Brisbane Regional Youth Orchestra and St Paul's Presbyterian Church to be part of their "Festival of Classics Event" 2013.

# 150 years of worship and witness



Come! Join us as we give thanks to God



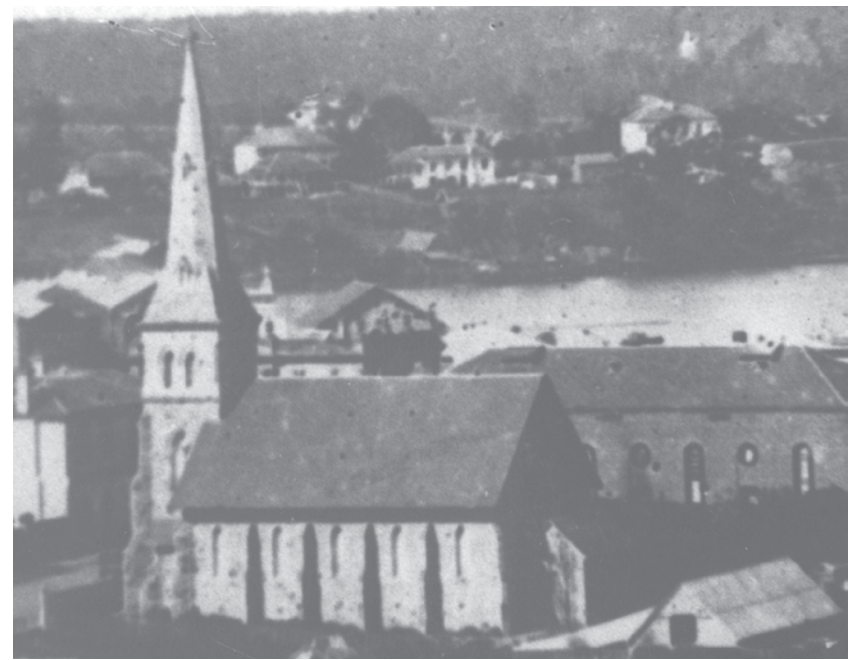
THE SESQUICENTENARY celebrations for St Paul's congregation will come to a fitting climax on **SUNDAY 18 AUGUST** with a special Service of Thanksgiving at 9.30 am.

Preaching the Word of God will be Theo Masselos, Chaplain at St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital and a choir from Clayfield College will lead the praise.

The congregation will be larger than usual as many who have had a special connection with St Paul's in the past are expected to attend. We would be delighted to have this open invitation widely known.

Such a celebration would not be complete without food. Over morning tea, visitors will have an opportunity to view the special historical displays and purchase the 150th anniversary souvenirs. A hot luncheon will then be served and all visitors and guests are invited to stay.

Historically, the anniversary date was set on 20 August 1863 when Rev. Matthew McGavin and members of the United Presbyterian



Original Creek Street place of worship

Church signed a declaration of the establishment of their congregation. The vigour and effectiveness of Mr McGavin's ministry saw an increase in the size and strength of the congregation. Their place of worship in Creek Street was a small wooden building, built by Mr John Petrie.

Later, the building of a replacement stone church coincided with the arrival from Scotland of another Scottish minister, the Rev. John McSwaine as Mr McGavin's replacement. The gift of four prophet stained glass windows from civic leaders and the installation of the Hill & Son pipe organ (London 1882) must have been welcome additions.

Brisbane's first organ recital was given on that instrument on 31 July 1883, a milestone that was celebrated with a Grand Organ Concert at St Paul's on 28 July and on that same organ, almost 130 years to the day.

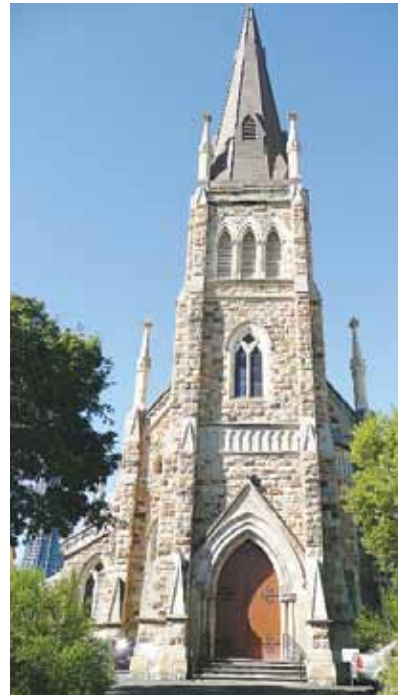
In the boom times of the gold rush days, the real estate value of the Creek Street site was attractive

and the congregation accepted the sale of the site to the National Bank of Queensland. With the proceeds, land was purchased at Spring Hill to build a new church in what was then Leichhardt Street. The organ, stained glass windows, wrought iron fence, steeple and some of the stonework were relocated from Creek Street to the new building.

In recognition of this impressive structure, the city renamed the street St Paul's Terrace in 1930, after the name by which the congregation and church were now known.

Worship in the new church began on 5 May 1889 but our focus as a congregation in this anniversary year has been the witness and worship of God's people over the span of 150 years.

We would be delighted to start our next 150 years with an augmented congregation on Sunday 18 August and we extend a warm invitation to one and all to join us for this final celebration.



St Paul's Brisbane PC today

## Pray, Live, Serve .... but what is a privilege?

by Naomi Reed



Naomi Reed

LAST YEAR, I went to see *Mrs Carey's Concert* at our local cinema. The film is a documentary about the lead-up to a private girls' school musical performance in the concert hall of the Sydney Opera House.

Mrs Carey, the musical director, repeats the premise over and over again, that it's a privilege for the girls to be performing in the Opera House.

I agreed with her. The dictionary says that a "privilege" is a "right, immunity or advantage granted to a particular person, class or group".

Unfortunately, the girls in the school didn't all agree with her. Some of them were clearly annoyed that the performance was compulsory and that they had to be involved in something so intensely tedious.

The point being, that whenever we do something because it is required of us, or because it is our duty, or obligation, it can lose some of that sense of awe and wonder and privilege. It can become, instead, the thing that we complain about. Even something as wonderful as performing in the concert hall of the Opera House can become boring and tiresome.

So I've been thinking about the concept of privilege and wondering about the privileges I've enjoyed over the years.

Serving cross-culturally in Nepal felt like a privilege. I still say that, even though it involved bombs and gunfire and rain and sadness. Amidst the difficulties, I was usually aware

that the opportunities I had to make friends and share life and faith in another language and culture were an incredible privilege. I would do those years all over again if I could.

But I wonder whether I would say that if I was forced to be in Nepal, if I had no choice in the matter at all? Would the lack of hot water and electricity and the constant strikes and uncertainty make me more annoyed and rebellious than if I saw it as a choice?

And maybe if I was forced to do speaking engagements at churches and conferences, would I also lose some of the awe and wonder that I currently feel today when I consider my ministry opportunities?

And if I was a follower of Jesus because I had to be, or because I was obligated to be one, would I also grumble about the daily preparations that I make as I prepare to meet Him in that far greater version of the Opera House? Would I perhaps prefer to stay at home and play on the computer? I don't know. Maybe I would.

But that's not the case. It overwhelms me again today that being His child is a gift and a privilege. From the beginning of time, He chose me and He loved me and He gave me the right to be called His child.

It didn't happen because of my expertise, or compulsion, or out of internal obligation, or duty, or tiresome

practice. It happened because He loved me. He knew everything about me, He still forgave me and He filled me with His Spirit so that I could walk daily with Him.

That's the greatest privilege any of us can ever imagine. Let's respond today with awe and wonder.

[Naomi Reed is a returned missionary, author and speaker. Her five popular books and an audio book (*The Promise*) are available at any good bookshop. For more information, or to send her an email, go to [www.NaomiReed.Info](http://www.NaomiReed.Info) or join 'My Seventh Monsoon' on Facebook.]

## Roma welcomes new members



Being congratulated after the service - the new members with the Moderator. From the left: Francisca Cohen, Don Snelgar, Kay Snelgar, Rev. Ross Pethybridge, Alice Walker and Hezel Cohen

THIS YEAR is shaping as an exciting year in Roma. Church attendance is up encouragingly on last year and growth in the spiritual standing of the congregation is also showing signs of enhancement. We have had a number of young Koreans who are here for a couple of months who have been an added blessing.

There is a view that God is about to do something great in the Maranoa and this view is reflected by their pastors in town who are also seeing growth. It has been a prayer of the pastors in Roma for some time.

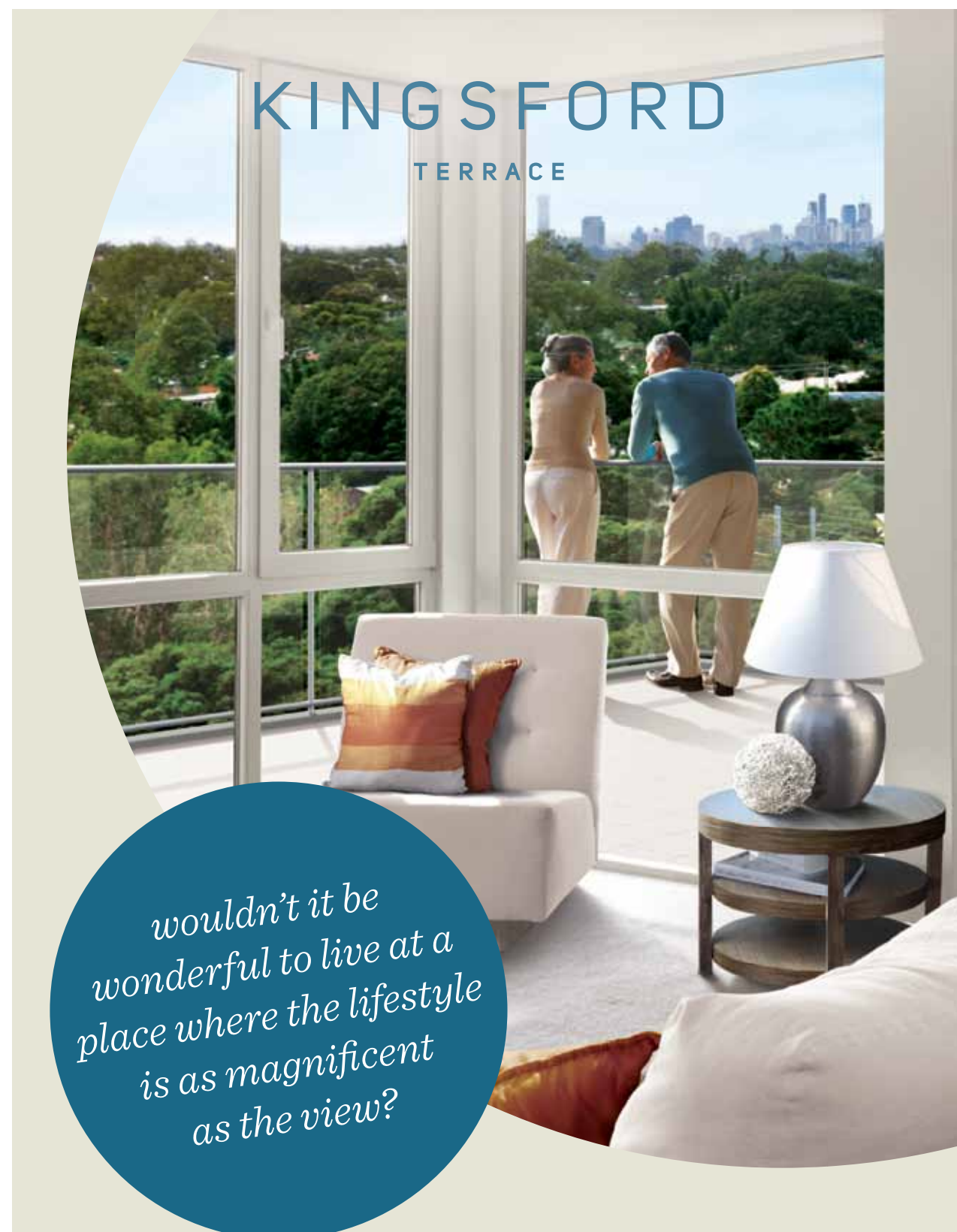
For the Presbyterians it was confirmed when five new communicants were received into membership on profession of faith

at the Communion Service held on 28 April. These new communicant members were received with much rejoicing and thankfulness to God.

With the encouragement of the Moderator, Rev. Ross Pethybridge, Pastor Bruce Clarke has been leading the congregation through a planning process so that we can be open to where God will lead us. As we get ready to move ahead, it is possible to look back and see God at work for many years preparing us for whatever lies ahead. It is the hope that this process will produce a clear direction for our immediate future under Christ's leadership.

Thanks be to God, Amen.





Kingsford Terrace offers stunning, brand new apartments in a community designed with exceptional facilities and services to make life easy. Everything has been considered, from beautiful gardens, a superb café and lounge, to the sensational indoor pool. There's also the security that comes from knowing Kingsford Terrace is operated by PresCare – a Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

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**Display Suite**  
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**Kingsford Terrace**  
260 Cliveden Avenue, Corinda Queensland 4075



Ian Hart photographed in the new display suite at Milton with the Kingsford Terrace architectural model

## Kingsford Terrace display suite opens at Milton

BRISBANE'S NEWEST and most stunning seniors' living community – Kingsford Terrace – opened a display suite at Milton last month.

As part of its mission to deliver enhanced independence, health and wellbeing for seniors in Queensland, PresCare is building Kingsford Terrace – an exciting new chapter in the organisation's 80-year history of caring for people.

Ian Hart, a member of the PresCare Board who is also heading up the Kingsford Terrace church and community engagement program, today said the project was shaping up to be the most stunning and well-appointed seniors' living facility ever developed in Brisbane. As the former manager of Keperra Sanctuary Retirement Village for 13 years, Ian brings a wealth of practical experience to the Kingsford Terrace design and services offering.

"We are very excited that work has started on site for Stage One's 68 beautiful and spacious apartments accompanied by magnificent grounds and community facilities", Ian said.

"I am so proud to be involved in such a great project, particularly now we are a step closer to providing Brisbane's premier retirement living community consisting of 209 apartments and a range of facilities including a Wellness Centre, cinema, café, chapel, domestic and care services. This development will be iconic and set the benchmark for seniors' living for years to come."

Ian said a new display suite, located at 19 Lang Parade in Milton, is now open and showcases the premium lifestyle that would be enjoyed by residents of Kingsford Terrace.

The display suite is available by appointment and is a relaxing way to see firsthand, the development's architectural model, view apartment floor plans, experience the finishings and learn of the benefits of living at Kingsford Terrace.

Ian, who worships at Christ Church Presbyterian Church at Currumbin and was part of The Gap congregation for eight years, said Kingsford Terrace was the Church's first retirement living project.

"Kingsford has been painstakingly created by a team of Australia's leading designers in unison with PresCare. Apartments are modern, light and boast a contemporary flavour delivering residents stylish and elegant living with the added benefit of beautiful shared community spaces", Ian said.

The development makes the best use of the spectacular site, the leafy surrounds of Corinda and Brisbane's temperate climate. The elevated site provides outstanding views of the Brisbane city skyline and the hills to the east.

"PresCare has focused on ensuring those who come to be part of the Kingsford Terrace community lead exceptional, healthy and happy lives in their retirement. They will, of course, be supported by PresCare's trained staff whose fine track record in caring for communities across Queensland is renowned", Ian said.

**To find out more about the great lifestyle on offer at Kingsford Terrace, simply call 1300 287 672 or register your interest online at [kingsfordterrace.com.au](http://kingsfordterrace.com.au).**



## Being nurtured at Brookfield



Lesley Ramsay

THE LAST weekend in May has long been a calendar booking for women of PCQ.

Last May, 24-26, was no exception. The Brookfield Community Centre was buzzing with anticipation.

Thirty-two attended from as far away as Roma, Gayndah, Kingaroy and Toowoomba.

The Bible Study Leader was Lesley Ramsay from Terrigal NSW. She inspired and encouraged us with the same words that Jesus gave His disciples in His last days prior to the crucifixion, and afterwards when He returned should there be any doubts.

Breaking into discussion groups after each teaching session brought

further consolidation to the theme, "Jesus can be Trusted".

Over the years, the Lord has enriched and encouraged us through the ministry of speakers who have faithfully opened up the Scriptures. Consequently, the Be Nurtured Camp has been a blessing to many women since its commencement.

Our camp committee looks forward with anticipation to the Outreach and Nurture Committee giving approval to the holding of a Be Nurtured Camp in 2014.



Sisters-in-Christ, Sue Dwyer from Runaway Bay and Alison Clarke from Roma



## Called to use gifts for Gospel ministry

by Katrina Witham

AS REV Andrew Purcell stood to take his oath during his recent ordination and induction as minister for the Callide Valley Presbyterian Church, he accepted his first charge to the ministry knowing it would be done in partnership with his faithful congregation.

It was a full house at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Biloela, as members of the local Session, the Central Queensland Presbytery, family, friends and other special guests gathered to give their support and celebrate the joyous occasion on 6 June.

A hearty meal and fellowship were enjoyed in the adjoining hall prior to the service. The service included a performance from the Biloela Town Choir (the "Local Vocals"), Rev Mike O'Connor's (St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Rockhampton) sermon, and the formal commissioning procedures, which were conducted by Presbytery of Central Queensland Moderator Rev. Jon Chandler (Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Rockhampton).

In Rev Mike O'Connor's sermon, he challenged all present to have open hearts, not only to God but to other believers (2 Corinthians 6:11).

Soon after, the moment came for Andrew to be formally inducted during which he gladly made the oath that zeal for the glory of God, love to the Lord Jesus Christ, and a desire to see souls led to the Lord, and not worldly interests, were his great motive and chief inducements to the work of the Holy Ministry.

Following the vows, Rev Chandler addressed the gathering and

referenced the charge Paul gave in the letters to his young disciple Timothy, likening the work of ministry to that of a soldier. "Timothy, and now Andrew, having committed himself by solemn oath, is told that he has a responsibility to maintain sound doctrine," said Rev Chandler. "Timothy is solemnly reminded that ministry is not a matter to be trifled with, but a matter of being under orders from the commander-in-chief. "For God had chosen Timothy, and now Andrew, for this ministry."

When it came time for members of Presbytery and the Callide Valley Session to offer the right hand of fellowship and lay their hands on Andrew, it was his personal prayer that he would go on to serve the Callide Valley to the very best of his ability in accordance with God's grace.

In an interview conducted with Andrew during the service by friend and fellow minister Rev Peter Dimond of Mackay Presbyterian Church, he shared insight into the journey that led to his calling.

"In my time working in project management for major telecommunications companies Telstra and Marconi, I realised I had gifts that I had been given that could specifically be used for the ministry," said Andrew.

Talking further with Andrew after the service, he said:

"I saw a great need for biblical gospel ministry and as time went on, the call became stronger and stronger, that my gifts should be used for this purpose, rather than to make a large corporation more profitable. At that

time, I was encouraged to consider serving in the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) before going to Bible College. After much prayer, my wife Kerri and I found ourselves stationed in Charleville, in the South West Queensland patrol area. After three-and-a-half years serving with PIM, I applied to be a candidate for the ministry, and began at Queensland Theological College in 2009."

During his four years of study, Andrew served as a student minister at Wynnum Presbyterian Church and Peninsula Presbyterian Church in Redcliffe. It was a couple of months prior to graduation, that Andrew and Kerri received confirmation their first charge would be in Biloela at Callide Valley Presbyterian Church. A significant answer to prayer for the local congregation, the Purcells (including Andrew and Kerri's three young sons John, Mark and Timothy) wasted no time in moving to the Central Queensland community and after arriving in December 2012, Andrew conducted his first service on January 20, 2013.

With a thriving youth group (VIP Net), active Bible study, prayer, and fellowship groups that meet weekly, and scheduled community outreach endeavours, the Callide Valley Presbyterian Church is committed to undertaking the great commission and serving their local community alongside Andrew and Kerri.

Please join the Callide Valley congregations in prayer, that they would be a united fellowship of believers, who make disciples and share the gospel through love in action.



Everyone assembled for "nurturing" Bible study

### Presbyterian Church of Queensland

### WEEK OF PRAYER 20-27 OCTOBER 2013

*"What the Church needs to-day is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use -- men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men, men of prayer." - E. M. Bounds (1835-1913)*

So often today, congregations are looking for new programmes or activities to grow the Church. However, what we need most of all is to take seriously the statement of Jesus to Peter in Matthew 16:18: "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it".

It is not our job to grow the Church but Christ's; after all it is His Church, His body. What we need to do is to submit ourselves before Him that He might fill us and use us for His glory.

So what is the most pressing priority for the Church: Is it not prayer?

That is why the Assembly has agreed to hold an annual Week of Prayer. This is going to be held in the week running up to Reformation Sunday, 20-27 October. Closer to the time there will be some resources distributed to help us to pray collectively, systematically and intelligently.

Please mark this week off in your diaries and prayerfully consider how we might make this Week of Prayer a real time of blessing for the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, for our congregations and for us individually as we seek God's glory. Think creatively about how this may be applied through your different groups and congregations.

We may just allow this opportunity to slip by but as Samuel Chadwick warned:

*"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."*





# He said, 'Go'

*The following is the Moderator's message delivered by the Hon. Greg Rodgers at his Induction Service held at Wavell Heights PC on 23 June 2013.*

WHO IS the 'he' and what is 'his nature'? What is the message we are 'to go' with?

Australians are renowned for their love and passion of sport and when it comes to this State, Queensland, the State of Origin series is upon us.

Such a lot of preparation. The teams are announced; they go into camp; they study each other's plays and tactics; they receive encouragement from former greats of the game; their coaches come up with plays and a plan of attack. We read in our papers endless articles from experts about it and why one team should win over the other.

But in the end there are no guarantees or absolutes as to who will win on the night. In the end the outcome is unpredictable, and of course there are endless post mortems as to why the result was what it was.

That is the same for all of us in whatever we do or plan. We cannot be 100% confident that we will get the outcome we want. Life can be unpredictable.

When we turn to the book of Isaiah, chapters 41 to 48 tell us of God's plan to save His people Israel from Babylon. But Israel was not happy. They wanted the Davidic restoration. They were bewildered and disappointed at what God was doing. Their minds were closed and they did not see that God, through the prophet Isaiah, was spelling out not only a saving of Israel but a worldview of salvation. If we go back to Isaiah 45, verse 18 speaks of God's creation, verse 19 revelation, verses 20-22 salvation and verses 23-25 affirmation and assurance; that God's word is sure and trustworthy. Their minds were fixed on how they wanted God to act from their own ways and understandings. They had their own pre-conceived ideas and were not open to what God was actually saying.

And what was God's response as taken up in our Bible reading from verse 9, that 'I am God'. He is divine;

He is sovereign; He does not change; He is full of His divine attributes; He is the only one true and unique God. Verse 10 and 11, history from the beginning, to the current day, to the end of time, is under God's sovereign rule.

God does not sit around waiting to see what happens and then scratch His head to think, 'what am I going to do now?'; but every event in history emerges at the dictate of His Word, even when some events may be distressing in our human experience. The fact we need to hold on to is that God is in control, and His will and purposes will be carried out. 'I have spoken it and it will come to pass; I have purposed it and I will do it.'

For what purpose has He said this? Verses 12 and 13 tell us it is for the salvation of His people.

There is a story I like to tell about a Presbyterian Minister going to another church to take the service. While out the back of the church, talking to the Session Clerk, he asked the Session Clerk if they followed an order of service to which the Session Clerk replied, 'yes we do, but if we are lucky God will change it' and he was nervous for the rest of the service.

Our response should not be like the Israelites, with their preconceived ideas of how things ought to be, but to be a part of, and in tune with, God's plan and purposes.

So how is this done? We need to acknowledge Him as King in our lives, and in our Church and to know His will and purpose. I believe the only way we can know Him is to spend time with Him by reading and studying His Word, that he may increase and we decrease; to live in expectant dependency on Him, day by day.

The Bible tells us that we are all sinners and have fallen short of the glory of God. The only difference between us as Christians and the world is that we are spirit-filled saved sinners.

So all of us need to get our priorities



The outgoing Moderator, Rev. David Niven, inducting the incoming Moderator, Hon. Greg Rodgers, at a service held in Greg's home church, Wavell Heights PC, on Sunday 23 June

right. Our first priority is to know God. We need, as the Bible puts it, to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and everything else will be added unto us.

'I have spoken it and I will bring it about. I have proposed it and it will come to pass.' An absolute confidence in God, that His plan and purposes will be carried out to bring salvation to the world.

Now let me sound a word of warning. This does not mean that we just sit around waiting for God to act; neither does it mean that we do not need to do anything and that God will carry out His purposes despite what we do or don't do.

Let us go to our New Testament reading. In our Bible reading from Matthew's Gospel, chapter 28 verse 18, we read, "All authority/power has been given to me in heaven and the earth". This is a reinforcement that God is in control and that He is the sovereign Lord over all things.

He (that is Jesus) tells us to go. In other words, we are part of His plan and purpose. We are His ambassadors to go out and to share

His love and saving grace. He gives us the power. He brings salvation by His glory and we get the blessing from it.

So what is this message we are to go with? It can be summed up in the words of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life".

Christianity is not a religion, but a personal living relationship with God. You do not have to do anything to be saved but accept the gift of Christ because the Bible says that 'while we were yet sinners Christ died for us'. It does not come with a list of should not dos, but as we grow in grace, the Spirit convicts us of our sin, then gives us the power to take it away and fills the empty spot with His Spirit. 'To know God and to enjoy him forever.'

It is God's sovereign will that we follow the example of Christ - to show the love and care of God, as found in Jesus, to all people we come in contact with. To love the sinner, but not the sin; to earn the right to talk to them about His love and saving grace. To meet people where they are!

In John 4 we read the encounter of Jesus with the woman of Samaria who was going to the well to draw some water when Jesus asked her for a drink. She was shocked that this Jew would even talk to her because there was no love lost between the Jews and the Samaritans. He met her where she was; He showed care and concern for her that enabled Jesus to talk to her about the things of God.

Now, more than ever, we need to be the empowered people of God. We need, above all else, to know Him and acknowledge Him as the King of our lives and our Church, that we might be Christ personified on earth; for if we do that, I believe that we will not believe what God can do in and through us. 'I have spoken it and I will bring it about. I have proposed it and I will do it.'

'Go therefore into all the world, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.'

## When Someone Says, 'Snakes Don't Talk', What Should You Say?

by Ian Hodge, Member, Peace PC

SATURDAY NIGHTS on Queen Street Mall can be entertaining – and a theological challenge.

Two groups of people who study the Bible meet in "mortal combat". On one side are the Christians, under the banner of Operation 513. On the other side are members of the Brisbane Atheists Group. And the topic is always God and the Bible - and the implications that flow from those assumptions.

The atheists study the Bible to find fault with it. Their strategy is to find Christians in the Mall who might be weak in the faith and unable to address their questions and challenges to Christian belief.

The Christians who meet there under the Operation 513 preaching permit, hand out tracts and get into conversation with passers by. From 9 pm until midnight or later, preachers can be heard from their "podium". And then the debate begins.

It can be somewhat amusing for a first-timer to find that the Christians

and the atheist have been at this for a number of years. They are friendly towards one another, greeting each other with a handshake. But at 9 pm someone will suggest, "It's time to start".

And start it does. Saturday night live!

How should a Christian respond when one of the atheists declares, "Snakes don't talk?"

"Can you prove the existence of God?" asks another.

"Science has shown the Bible to be wrong, time and time again."

The Christians respond with their own challenges.

"How do you develop a universal moral code without God?"

"Are there absolute truths?"

"No", replied one of the atheists, then corrected himself realizing he had declared an absolute truth.

Several Presbyterians are present on these occasions. Two of the Christians to be found there are Gavin Currie and Ian Hodge from Peace

Presbyterian Church (Deception Bay). Gavin's fine preaching skills often leave the atheists with little to say. When Gavin holds up his "TIME" sign and declares everyone is running out of time, what can the atheists say? It is so obviously true.

One atheist, Wayne Cunningham, accepted an invitation from Ian Hodge to a debate. The topic was in the form of a question, "Is the Bible the Word of God?"

On 31 May, Peace church was filled to capacity with Christians and atheists as the ideas from both debaters were presented. Chaired by Rev. John Nicol from Caboolture Presbyterian, the crowd was entertained with discussion in the Q&A section of the debate. Wayne Cunningham complained about the Bible. "A poor standard of morality", he suggested.

On the other hand, Ian Hodge explained why the Bible is the Word of God, and provided the argument for such a claim: the Bible itself, and



Rev. Emmanuvel Jhonly, Minister at Peace Presbyterian Church, opens with prayer the debate, "Is the Bible the Word of God", between Ian Hodge (Member, Peace PC) and Wayne Cunningham, chaired by Rev. John Nicol



Audience listening to the discussion between a Christian and an atheist

its statements reflected in the physical world.

So what standard did the atheist use to sit in judgment of the Bible? Repeatedly asked for his standard, Wayne stumbled along with the notion that he thought the Bible was a poor standard.

And in that statement, you soon see the truth of Genesis 3:5, where the temptation to Eve was to eat the forbidden fruit for in so doing, she would be "like God, knowing (ie determining) good and evil".

Thus the real debate between Christians and atheists is whether the whole of human experience can be explained without God. The Christian

says "no" while the atheist attempts to explain reality without God. That he fails to do that time and time again appears to be of little interest to him. It seems the "facts" must constantly be interpreted to support his atheism, rather than interpreted in the light of God and his Word.

For those interested in outreach, simply turn up any Saturday night in the Queen Street Mall, outside of Myers' entrance, ready for a 9 pm start. Your presence will be appreciated.

The video of the debate, "Is the Bible the Word of God", can be found at the Peace website:

<http://www.peace-pc.org>.





## WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH WOMEN WHO ATTENDED THE 2013 WMPCQ ASSEMBLY EVENT

**Wendy:** On a chilly Tuesday morning at the end of June, a group of women gathered at the swimming pavilion at Clayfield College in Brisbane – no, not to swim in the pool – but to face a different kind of challenge from Fiona Millar. It was the annual women's event for Assembly week and over 40 women were up for the challenge!

After a brief catch-up with other ladies from all over the State while enjoying an attractive morning tea, we proceeded to get to know Fiona a little better.

Then we began to explore together what God has to say to us about the way we use our words – in particular, the way we choose either to honour Him with "Sweet Talk" or to get caught in the "down-drag of sin" and lapse into "rotten words"!

Psalms and Proverbs were especially helpful in this exercise as we faced difficult questions like – "Do our mouths feed or starve others?", "Do we speak naturally about Jesus to others?", "Do our mouths heal or wound others?", "Do we show the same grace to forgive others as God has shown to us?" and so on ...

At the end of Fiona's talk we were all somewhat stunned with the Biblical truths she had presented and how our general behaviour and talk compares with what God requires of us.

So it was encouraging to tackle a real-life scenario and work out in small groups some

practical ways of clinging to Jesus in everyday situations.

I asked some of the ladies who were present to tell me what stood out for them, what challenged them and what were the highlights of the morning.

Here are some of their responses:

**Heather:** "Sweet Talk" was a blessing to attend and guided each one of us on a personal journey to reflect upon how we represent our God to the unsaved and the saved. It challenged me to look at how what I say can affect others and myself, and to think before I speak ... "Are my words God-honouring?" God's word from Genesis, Psalms and Proverbs, and hearing from Fiona's personal experience, made the talk uplifting. It tied together the ideas that God created us with the gift to communicate with Him and others, but we must work at it, with His help, to be the best we can be.

**Diane:** I found the talk challenging and good. Education on how to use the tongue to build up people in ministry is important. I have been encouraged to look up the Bible passages this week to reinforce the message. I also enjoyed catching up with ladies I have not seen for a while.

**Laurel:** Fiona's talk was exceptionally well-presented, was from the heart and really hit home. It was encouraging to be reminded that God has actually chosen to speak to us. We were reminded from Scripture however, that since Adam and Eve listened to Satan's



Guest speaker, Fiona Millar, with Carolyn Russell

twisted words rather than God's sweet words, much of our talk does not reflect God's gracious and loving nature. The challenge for me was to make more time to listen to God's Word and to talk with Him. The great news was that, because of Jesus, our relationship with God has been restored! We can talk to God again and He can change our hearts so that we can learn to speak again with words that bring glory to God.

**Beth:** I thoroughly enjoyed the whole event. I found the talk very challenging – not just to talk "chit-chat" with fellow believers, but to bring God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit into our everyday conversations. Many must have felt the same way as I did, because when Fiona finished her message there was dead silence!

**Anne:** Fiona is a great speaker! Great at making God's teachings about how we communicate relevant and hard-hitting. She shared personal and family stories to help her Bible teaching touch our lives. Really getting down to the grimy moments in our existence and challenging us

to make our words work for Jesus. Truly, "the tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit" Proverbs 18:21.

**Denise:** One sentence that stood out for me was, "there are only two ways to speak – sweet talk and rotten words – there's nothing in between!"

**Jan:** A few highlights:

- The first words Adam heard were God's.
- Satan took God's words and turned them around to destroy our relationship with God and with one another.
- God reveals himself through His words.

And some challenges:

- Our rottenness is covered by and nailed to the cross with the blood of Christ. Am I taking it down again by my words?
- Are we soaking up the Word of God so that our words will give Him glory?
- Ephesians 4:29 "Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouth ..."

**Sharan:** Fiona was challenging while being compassionate. She spoke from the position of someone who had genuinely grappled with the godly use of the tongue and what God requires of us in this area. I look forward to dealing with some of the issues Fiona raised, privately with the Lord, as I personally seek to be more godly in this area. Thanks Fiona; thanks Women's Ministries; and thanks to the Lord who used His servant Fiona!

**Wendy:** Thanks Ladies, for sharing your thoughts with us on Girl Talk. And a special thanks to Fiona for her diligence in thoroughly preparing "Sweet Talk" and presenting it to us so passionately. It really was a day not to be missed! But if you are disappointed that you missed out because you didn't know about it, make sure this doesn't happen again by signing up for our free monthly online newsletter. Find out how, at [www.wmpcq.com](http://www.wmpcq.com) Go to "contact us" and fill in the BE CONNECTED form, so you always know what's on!

## WOMEN @ PRAYER ...

Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long. Psalm 35:28

- Praise God for His Word – speaking to us in a way we can understand, giving us both boundaries and freedom!
- Give thanks for the cross where Jesus died for our sins so that we can be forgiven, and live in a way that brings glory to Him.
- Thank God for the gift of speech and the privilege of sharing God's Word and His gospel.
- Praise God for the ability to listen, as well as speak, and pray that we might learn to do both of them well.
- Pray for protection from Satan's plans to drag us into sin and to use us to hurt God.
- Pray that each of us would learn to use "sweet talk" rather than "rotten words" and build up the body of Christ to His glory, instead of advancing Satan's lies.
- Ask God to make us fully aware of our weaknesses, to give us the humility to confess them, and to grant us His strength to overcome them, so that we don't fall into sin.
- Remember to pray for our special friends and our families, that they will choose God's way of living and speaking.
- Praise God for the great time of fellowship and digging into God's Word together with Fiona Millar at Assembly.
- Pray for our church and its leaders, as the decisions made at Assembly are put into practice. Pray for wisdom, strength, courage and compassion as they lead us deeper into our relationship with Jesus through God's Word.



## Reaching Queensland, Reaching the World

Face the challenge of reaching our generation

October 8, 2013, 7.30pm

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Guest Speaker: Mike Raiter

Brought to you by  and the following mission organisations:















QTC will be hosting an event on 8 October called 'Reaching Queensland, Reaching the World' which is aimed at keeping mission on the agenda of local churches.

The speaker for the evening will be Mike Raiter, Director of the Centre for Biblical Preaching in Melbourne. Mike has also spent eleven years working in Pakistan, largely in theological education.

You'll hear from a number of Queenslanders who are sharing the gospel cross-culturally at home with refugees and international students, and also overseas in countries like Thailand, Japan and Tanzania.

There will be a chance to chat with staff from the eleven mission organisations represented. Our hope is that, whatever stage of life you're at, you'll walk away excited about God's mission and how you can be involved. To register go online to the Special Events page at [www.qtc.edu.au](http://www.qtc.edu.au)



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# Mission to Kenya – Part 3 – Samburu, Northern Kenya



Grain fields near Mt Kenya



Making the sign for the Samburu village



Samburu sign and some of the men of the village



The Primary School, Itungai Samburu village



Lunch in a tree, Trout Tree Restaurant, Nanyuki

OUR VISIT to Kenya was nearly over.

Our team had enjoyed a rich variety of experiences during our three weeks. We had provided the Agape Hope Orphanage in Nairobi with basics such as electricity, hot water and well-lit classrooms and dormitories. We had been enriched by our visits to two Maasai/Dorobo congregations on the western side of the Rift Valley.

And we had come into contact with a range of tribal peoples and their cultures, along with others of Asian, European and American background, all of whom share a common love of Kenya.

Now, during our last few days in Kenya, there was the opportunity for one more involvement in ministry along with two days in three of the game parks for which Kenya is so famous – the Samburu and Shaba National Reserves in the northern part of Kenya, above Mt Kenya, and about 300 kilometres north of Nairobi.

On a previous visit to Kenya in June last year, two of our party had seen the plight of a Samburu tribal village just down the road from the main game lodge in Shaba National Reserve.

The contrast was stark. We spent three nights in the Lodge enjoying western style accommodation with all mod cons and meals provided. Meanwhile our friends in the village have nothing of this world's goods and live with the constant threat of the African game that we had come to see and enjoy from the safety of our vehicle. Just a few months earlier a lion had taken a man from a neighbouring village, and a rabid hyena that threatened the villagers and their children had to be destroyed. There are no fences around Kenyan game parks.

The Samburu are a pastoralist people, but the ravages of extended droughts have meant that their herds, and therefore their livelihoods, (and even their self-respect) have been decimated.

As a result they try and scratch a living the best way they can. The villagers of Itungai Samburu Village have lost nearly all their livestock to the droughts of recent years. However, led by a very creative, mission-educated young lady called Beatrice Chilli, they are now trying to make a living by inviting passing tourists to come to their village, view their culture and buy their souvenir beads and bangles.

So much more needs to be done and we realised that we could only help in a small way. The fact that we were returning to Samburu six months later gave us the opportunity.

We decided that a start would be to provide them with a sign to erect on the road near the village so that passing tourists would know of their presence and invitation.

A sign was duly ordered and made by a roadside metalwork shop near where we were staying in Nairobi, for a total cost of about \$200. The sign came with us on our travels to the Rift Valley and then on to Samburu, about 600 kilometres altogether.

On our arrival in Samburu we were given a warm welcome by the villagers, who had no idea what we were bringing but were very pleased to have their new sign when it was unloaded and erected.

We were also able to leave about twenty of the Arch children's Bible storybooks for their small primary school, along with a selection of new clothing that we had brought.

We do not know what the results may be, but hope that some tourists from America, Germany, Japan or even Australia, will take the opportunity to learn a little more about Samburu tribal culture by visiting the village and sharing in the activities provided.

We have no real idea in our western world about the hardships that many of the world's people have to endure just to survive.

Part of the tragedy is that there is indifference in the Christian Church in the West. The Samburu people of Northern Kenya are a case in point. Their problems seem insurmountable. No electricity or running water, no showers or toilets, their cattle decimated by on-going drought, a small poorly-equipped primary school in the village, the older children walking six or more kilometres to secondary school through country where the game animals of Africa (lions, leopards, hyenas and others) also live. And yet bit by bit, through personal visits or through organisations such as Compassion or Samaritan's Purse, a difference can be made through the provision of bore water, improved facilities for education or the teaching of basic health care and hygiene. We hope that we may be able to return to the same village and do a little more next time we are in Kenya.

On our last day we drove more than three hundred and fifty kilometres to Nairobi and the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. One last treat on the journey was to visit the "Trout Tree Restaurant" near Nanyuki for lunch. It's not everyday that you get to experience lunch in the branches of a tree. The restaurant has its own trout farm and hatchery and its customers enjoy fresh trout while watching the antics of the black and white Colobus monkeys that live in the trees around the restaurant.

As we flew out from Nairobi for Dubai and home we knew that our team had experiences in Kenya that would not come as part of a packaged safari tour. Why? Because we were constantly moving among African people with whom we had a bond in Jesus Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit; people with whom we soon realised that, notwithstanding differences of tribe or language or culture, we were at one within the bonds of Christian love.

There can surely be no greater privilege than finding the family of God in some of the far-flung and unfamiliar corners of the world.

That was certainly our experience and we look forward to more adventures with the Lord in His world when the 2014 team goes to Kenya in January next year.

In the meantime He also has work and witness for us here at home as well. Our own "Jerusalem" here in Queensland is no less, and no more important, than "the ends of the earth" [Acts 1:8].

*Footnote: When the students of Fairholme College Middle School heard Erin's report about our visit to Kenya at an assembly, they decided to do some secret fundraising for the Agape Hope Orphanage. Erin knew nothing about it but the result was over \$600 raised for our next visit. Erin duly presented the cheque at Caloundra one Sunday in June. How generous of those Fairholme girls; and how proud we can be of their school.*



Beatrice Chilli outside her home



Fire from sticks Samburu style



Erin doing what Erin does best - making friends



Some of the children wearing their new clothes



Colobus monkey at Trout Tree Restaurant, Nanyuki



# 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.

## VISITORS TO THE 2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA

The General Assembly of Australia will be meeting in Sydney from 9-12 of September, 2013. As part of that meeting a number of overseas visitors have been invited to the Assembly. These are:



REV DAN IVERSON – JAPAN

### Japan

The Rev Dan Iverson serves as the team leader for the Mission to the World church planting team in Tokyo. Dan will be accompanied by Rev Tetsuya Dedachi and Rev John Evans from APWM. Dan will be preaching at a number of churches in Sydney and Queensland.

### Timor Leste

The Rev Daniel Marcal, Moderator of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste.

### Vanuatu

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, the Pastor Kalaronga Ova and Mrs Rose Ova.

In addition the President of the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union, Mrs Leifai Chilia and the General Secretary, Mrs Cyrilline Bani, will be attending the Federal



CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION

Conference of the PWA. On the morning of Sunday 8th September, 2013, the 9:00am and 10:30am

services of the Epping Presbyterian Church will focus on Vanuatu.

Outside of formal meetings, some of our visitors will be holding talks with other missionary groups in Australia. Such visits help to strengthen the bonds that we share with our brothers and sisters in Christ who live overseas.



THE REV DANIEL MARCAL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA CLERK, THE REV DR PAUL LOGAN

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR SERVICE WITH APWM?

What are the steps involved in applying to serve with APWM?

### 1. Talk to Your Local Leadership

The first thing to do is to talk to your minister and church elders. They will be able to help you determine if you have the gifting and temperament for missionary service. If they think you should proceed then ask for a letter of reference and recommendation to be sent to your APWM State Committee.

### 2. The Mission Agency

If you intend to serve with a Mission Agency you should commence the application process for your chosen Mission Agency in parallel with your application with APWM.

### 3. The State APWM Committee

Download the following three application forms from our website at <http://www.apwm.org.au/index.php/serving/how-do-i-apply/>

#### a) Application for Dual Membership of APWM Part A

If you will be serving with a Partner Agency then please send APWM a copy of the form that you submitted to the Agency. In most cases this will provide us with the information we need and save you from filling out information twice.

#### b) Application for Membership Part B Doctrine

#### c) Confidential Reference

Complete and send these documents to the Convener of your State APWM Committee (details at the end of this newsletter). The APWM State Committee will then arrange to interview you.

If you are applying to be a Partner Agency missionary then the APWM State Committee will inform you if your application has been successful.

If you are applying to be a Partner Church missionary or an APWM Associate missionary then the APWM State Committee will submit your application, with a recommendation, to the APWM National Committee

which has the final responsibility for approving your application.

Please let the National Director, Kevin Murray, know that you are applying so that he is aware of your application — [kevinmurray@apwm.org.au](mailto:kevinmurray@apwm.org.au)



ELISHA AND HIROMI MUELLER, APWM NATIONAL ASSOCIATES, SERVING IN JAPAN.

## ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST

Jesus said "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:38) One of the privileges that I enjoy in my role is meeting up with people who are seeking to serve in cross-cultural mission. I love hearing of their desire that God should be honoured in the particular part of the world for which they feel a burden.



KEVIN MURRAY

Please join with me in praising God that at the moment there are many people applying to serve with APWM. For one of our APWM State committees that is proving to be a real challenge in terms of timetabling interviews — but that is a great 'problem' to have!

For those who have been praying along the lines of Jesus' command in Matthew 9:38 — thank you! You may not see it now but on the final day you will see how God took your humble prayers and used them to honour His great name everywhere. What a deep joy that will be!

At present APWM is processing two families who wish to serve as Partner Church missionaries in Japan, the most expensive of our mission fields. Will you please join with us in praying that as they seek to build their partnership support, their needs will be met?

From a human perspective the challenges are considerable but God is faithful and we look to Him to raise up people who will partner with these families. We do this knowing that God is the Lord of the harvest.

Kevin Murray

## WILLS AND BEQUESTS



APWM REPRESENTATIVES MEETING WITH THE LEADERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH SUDAN

"... my word ... goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11

God's word never fails. It's the investment that lasts for eternity. We ask that you consider leaving a gift to APWM in your will to help us continue to declare God's word throughout the world.

You might like to consider giving:

- a) a percentage of your estate to APWM
- b) a specific amount to APWM
- c) a piece of property to APWM

Please provide this wording to your Solicitor when seeking

advice and assistance in drawing up your will.

"I give to The PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (AUSTRALIA) PROPERTY TRUST for the Australian Presbyterian World Mission National Committee (intended amount), (description of property/item) free of testamentary charges and duties for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Secretary of the Trust shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors."

Giving to APWM for its general purposes allows APWM to best respond to the needs of the time.

If you need any help with this then please contact us on (02) 9792 1373 or email us at [national@apwm.org.au](mailto:national@apwm.org.au).



## TIMOR LESTE: MULTIPLICATION

**Rob Duncanson, Darwin,**  
**APWM Timor Leste Coordinator**

Picture the scene: There are well over 5,000 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 we 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 the 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



"PREVIOUSLY WE HAD ONLY MET AROUND THE THRONE OF GRACE, BUT NOW WE HAVE MET FACE TO FACE."

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 or there or elsewhere, and to pray 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

[www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance](http://www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance)

## 24,000 NEW TESTAMENTS FOR VANUATU!



L TO R ASSEMBLY CLERK PASTOR KALSAKAU URTALO, JACK REUBEN, DIRECTOR OF BIBLE SOCIETY AND MODERATOR PASTOR OBED MOSES WITH THE FIRST NEW TESTAMENT FROM THE CONTAINER

In 2011 we made an appeal for funds for New Testaments for Vanuatu. That was because there were none left for sale in the country. Members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia generously gave enough money to buy 24,000 New Testaments.

Some donors told us that that were responding because they could not

imagine being without the Word of God themselves.

After many months of planning and some delays, the New Testaments finally arrived in Vanuatu in late April. There was much excitement at a ceremony to mark the arrival of the Scriptures and to open the shipping container.



ALBEA NALISA SCRIPTURE UNION VANUATU SHOWING (RIGHT) THE BOOKMARK THAT HAVE BEEN SPONSORED TO GO WITH THE NEW TESTAMENTS THAT HAVE A DAILY READING PLAN AND A BIBLE STUDY GUIDE DEVELOPED BY SU VANUATU

This is an exciting project simply because the word of God is "living and active" (Hebrews 4:12). It never fails to achieve its purpose (Isaiah 55:11).

Through this project lives will be changed. Families will be changed. Communities will be changed. The result is that God will be glorified and it doesn't get any better than that!

Thank you to everyone who gave to this significant project.

**Kevin Murray**

## WORKPARTNERS VANUATU December 2013

Applications and expressions of interest are now open for our Workpartners Vanuatu December 2013 team.



**WHEN:** tentative dates 6th to 23rd December.

**WHERE:** to complete the building of a Presbytery Resource Centre at Liro village, Paama Island.

**COST:** Approximately \$2,100. We suggest that participants pay 1/3 themselves, approach their church seeking a contribution of 1/3 and then fundraise the remaining 1/3.

**WHO FOR?:** Committed Christians, minimum age 18 years.

**CONTACT:** APWM (02) 9792 1373 or [national@apwm.org.au](mailto:national@apwm.org.au) or go to

[www.apwm.org.au](http://www.apwm.org.au) and click the 'What we do' tab to go to the Workpartner page and download an application form or to get more details.

It is our hope that the December team will be able to complete the construction of this building along with the people of Liro village, Paama Island.

Please note that we plan to send further Workpartners teams in July and December 2014 to the Talua Ministry Training Centre, Santo, Vanuatu.

## APWM WEBSITE

The APWM website was recently given a makeover. You can now download PowerPoints and information sheets on some of our

partner countries, find out about serving, giving, Indigenous ministry and more. [www.apwm.org.au](http://www.apwm.org.au)

## AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

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# A very busy week for PWA ladies during Assembly

by Heather Burton, State Secretary



Mrs Heather Ross, Rev. Matt Viney, Hon. Greg Rodgers, Rev. Garnett Swann, Mrs Bev Horgan and Mrs Heather Burton

THIS YEAR, the Celebration Rally was held at Clayfield College in Brisbane on Saturday 22 June, 2013. The PWA of A (Qld Unit) was represented with a display in the tent area. This was a time of sharing the aims, history and workings of PWA. It was wonderful to catch up with friends from other organizations within our church and learn more about the newer groups.

After a delicious BBQ we gathered

in the hall for the Rally. A string ensemble from Somerville House and a brass ensemble from Brisbane Boys' College entertained us with the most beautiful music. John Mansfield's youth team used puppets to remind us of the love of our Father in heaven towards us and His forgiveness as shown in the story of the prodigal son. Our Moderator, Hon. Greg Rodgers, was introduced to the gathering and

Rt Rev. David Jones spoke about the assurance we have in the fact that "God is with us". The singing and music were vibrant, and the fellowship warm and encouraging. Praise to our God.

On Monday 24 June, the State Conference and AGM were held in Ann Street Presbyterian Church. The theme was 'Praise and Thanksgiving'. The morning session saw the induction of the new office bearers and the adoption of the annual report and financial statement. The Hon. Greg Rodgers addressed the ladies with the story of Mary and Martha, reminding us that we should not be so busy that we forget to come before our Saviour to listen to His direction and words to us. Mrs Dianne Parker was the guest speaker for the morning. She gave us an interesting account of the history of PWA and the workings of women in our denomination. We were pleased to have guests from various women's organizations attending the Conference.

After a very tasty lunch of sandwiches, fruit and sweet treats, and a very welcome cup of tea, we returned to the church for the afternoon session. After prayer and a hymn, we welcomed the first speakers, Greg Sharpe and Hazel Hardy from Gideons International. They spoke in turn about presenting how God works, through access to a Bible, in the lives of people from all walks of life. Gideons place Bibles in many public places for everyday people to be able to read God's Word. They provide Bibles to school children, nurses, the armed forces, prisons and many more.

Lyn Nicol was our second speaker. She organizes camps and other activities to work alongside young girls in the Caboolture area. The girls hear the Gospel and are also introduced to many life skills that are missing in some homes. The guest speakers were thanked and presented with a small gift.

After the singing of the next hymn, our President, Mrs Heather Ross, warmly thanked all for coming. The benediction closed our State Conference for another year.

On Tuesday, 25 June, the State



Council Executive were presented to the Assembly. Our President spoke on the events of the previous year and that 2013 was the 40th anniversary of the first meeting of the PWA of A (Qld Unit). She presented the Moderator with the Annual Report for 2012. After this we were able to attend the "Sweet Talk" event organized by Women's Ministries. Mrs Fiona Millar was the guest speaker and her words reminded us that we should use our talk to the glory of God and be careful to think before we speak.

The bus trip on Wednesday was the most relaxing day with all formalities ended. The bus left the old People's Palace at 9 am and joined the rest of the travellers at PresCare Vela in Carina. We enjoyed a wonderful morning at Vela with Mrs Glenda Booker as our tour guide and hostess. Some of the residents who are PWA ladies joined us for a delicious morning tea and a chat. Vela provides care for the body, mind and soul of the residents.

The bus travelled to Wynnum with Mrs Heather Ross giving a commentary on some of the historical sites along the way. The Wynnum church hall was beautifully prepared by Heather and her husband Don.



Enjoying morning tea with PWA residents at Vela

Fish and chips or sandwiches were the order of the day for lunch. Next we stopped at the beachfront for a walk, enjoying the buzz of the holiday makers and the warmth of the sun.

God had blessed us with a beautiful day full of sunshine and warm fellowship. There was much laughter and chat as we made our way home.

Another Assembly week was finished. We thank God for His guidance, blessing and love for each of us. To His name be the praise and glory.

## Moderator visits Ann Street



Hon. Greg Rodgers (Moderator) with his daughters, Julianne and Michelle

IT IS a custom that the new Moderator preaches his first congregational sermon after the conclusion of the Annual Assembly at Ann Street. We were therefore again honoured to receive Hon. Greg Rodgers, our new Moderator, for the morning service on 30 June.

Mr Rodgers delivered a powerful sermon on the letter to the Corinthians, which had been rent by factions which based their differences on the personalities and styles of the different theologians which had preached in that community.

He pointed out that this type of division within a church community causes the church to lose its power and effectiveness as a witness to the world; that, in fact, such differences

do the devil's work for him.

God it is that gives growth; Christ it is that provides salvation. All our differences in style and presentation are cosmetic, and God uses us for His greater purpose. We should therefore desist from such fruitless disputes and focus on that which we should be doing – proclaiming the gospel.

After the sermon everybody enjoyed socialising at morning tea and chatting to Mr Rodgers and his daughters, who were able to come to the event.

We wish Mr Rodgers and his family the very best for the coming year, and pray for the Lord's protection, peace and blessing on his great task as Moderator. Thank you, Mr Rodgers, for coming to visit us!



Members of Ann Street, Kathleen and Don MacKenzie and Jacky Carroll, enjoying morning tea

## Vale Dorothy Irene Wright (Irene)

Contributed by the Ladies of the Cairns PWA

IRENE WAS born in Cairns on 30 June 1930 and passed away on 23 May 2013 after suffering a massive stroke two weeks earlier.

She had attended the Cairns Presbyterian Church for Sunday School, Junior Choir and PFA and spent most of her life in Cairns.

She left Cairns to pursue her nursing career in Atherton, before moving to Cloncurry where she worked for the Flying Doctor. She met Roy in Cloncurry and they married in 1956 in Cairns. They moved to Mount Isa with Denise, Janice and Barry, where Graham was born.

When they moved back to Cairns, Irene became involved once again in our church and was a member of PWA, FNPA and the Women's Camp Committee for as long as any of us can remember – mainly in an Executive role, just changing hats every few years.

She was on the Committee of Management for years and knew the right way to go about things. She knew the history of our Church and was involved in everything that was happening, right up to the end of her life.

She was also involved with Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and in later years, Trefoil, as well as other community organisations.

Irene kept the ladies of the church busy, always working for missions and teaching craft and card making.

She will be remembered for her devotion to God, her love for her family and friends, and her active and long involvement in the life of our church and community.

Well done good and faithful servant.



Irene Wright



## Generous donation assists dementia unit at Vela



Vela resident Rita Cole enjoys the new outdoor setting

PEOPLE WITH dementia at PresCare's Vela at Carina will benefit from a generous donation from a resident and her family.

Rita Cole and her relatives have given a sizable donation to PresCare for use in the dementia care unit at Vela.

Vela's Quality Resource Officer Sharon Johnson says the donation means a lot to the unit, and is enabling the purchase of a number of vital support tools.

"It's important that dementia activities focus on enjoyment instead of achievement", Sharon says. "Items like fidget boards and fiddle mats provide activities to keep our residents stimulated, and keep their hands and fingers nimble."

The gift will also fund a number of items to benefit the residents' leisure time, including a new outdoor setting for the garden area and several board games.

"Our residents in the dementia unit often spend a lot of their time indoors", Sharon says, "so having a new outdoor setting for them to use on nice sunny days, and when their families visit, has been a source of great enjoyment".

Rita has been a resident at Vela for around three years and enjoys regular visits from her family.



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

## A day on the green to improve residents' health care

PRESKARE'S ANNUAL golf day next month will help improve the lives of its elderly residents through the implementation of a new \$150,000 electronic medication system.

The PresCare Woollam Constructions Charity Golf Classic, in its seventh year, expects to attract up to 25 teams with the aim to raise funds to support the implementation of the new system, which will incorporate a fleet of 18 high-tech medication carts with built-in computer tablets.

The Charity Golf Classic on Monday 2 September at the prestigious Indooroopilly Golf Club will contribute to fundraising efforts for this electronic medication management system to be installed across all five of PresCare's residential facilities including Vela at Carina, Lake Sherrin at Thornlands and Roslyn Lodge at Mount Tamborine.

PresCare CEO Greg Skelton says residential aged care services are continually looking for more efficient systems to assist carers to improve residents' quality of life and health outcomes.

"This initiative will see the replacement of the existing manual medication system with an integrated electronic system that links the aged care facilities, medical practitioner and pharmacy", Greg says. "This system will ensure our people have more time to attend to residents' needs and provide quality services."

Improving the quality of life for people like Elizabeth Somerville is what PresCare is all about. Elizabeth moved into Alexandra Gardens main care facility in Rockhampton in February 2013, after struggling to manage her medication by herself. Elizabeth says, "This is my home ... and I don't think you would get better".

If you are interested in joining PresCare and Woollam Constructions in what promises to be a fun and rewarding day on the golf course, please contact Special Events Advisor Brett Holdway at [bholdway@prescare.org.au](mailto:bholdway@prescare.org.au) or on 0403 440 036.

## Affordable housing projects help those in need

CONSTRUCTION ON PresCare's \$10 million affordable housing projects in Rockhampton and Maryborough is now underway.

Minister for Housing and Public Works, the Hon. Tim Mander, turned the soil for the vital community development in Rockhampton in June. Fraser Coast Regional Councillor, Daniel Sanderson, and Member for Maryborough, Anne Maddern, were part of a soil-breaking event which will provide affordable rental accommodation for older people.

CEO Greg Skelton said many regional areas were lacking in affordable rental homes for older people in Maryborough.

"Housing affordability is a concern for many people living on lower incomes", he said.

"In areas such as Rockhampton and Maryborough, with over one-third of the population renting, the need for good quality affordable housing is paramount."

Mr Skelton said now was the time to start addressing the issue of housing availability especially as a large proportion of Australia's population become aged over the next two decades.

"Our units will provide a place for people to call their own, a home that is affordable and is located in an area of need."

PresCare sees NRAS-funded developments as a natural fit in its mission to care for older Queenslanders.

Funded through the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) by the Australian Government in partnership with the Queensland Government, Rockhampton's 40 two-bedroom units and Maryborough's

24 two-bedroom units will be ready for tenancy in late 2013 for residents aged over 65 years. PresCare will develop the two projects totalling almost \$10M.

Mr Mander said PresCare not only provided a roof over people's heads but also addressed the social and spiritual needs of the people they served.

"It's a holistic approach; it's about the whole person", Mr Mander said.

Mr Skelton said the units will be co-located with Rockhampton's Alexandra Gardens and Maryborough's Groundwater Lodge aged care services.

"Our affordable homes are next door to our aged care services. This means as tenants age and their needs change, instead of having to leave their communities, neighbours and familiar surrounds to receive appropriate care, they can remain in their homes", Mr Skelton said.

"The service they may need will be right next door. If one partner has to move into residential care because of higher care needs, their loved one does not have to travel far to be with them."

The units will be built on land owned by the Presbyterian Church of Queensland with a total of 64 two-bedroom units being built. This would contribute to the local regional economies.

Mr Skelton said PresCare was applying for further NRAS funding in the current round for Rockhampton and other areas in the south-east of the State.

For further information please contact:

Rockhampton: 07 4938 4089

Maryborough: 07 4121 1918



Maryborough Groundbreaking Ceremony - Daniel Sanderson, Anne Maddern, Greg Skelton

PresCare Woollam Constructions

# Charity Golf Classic

1800 773 722

**Brisbane Monday 2 September,**  
**Indooroopilly Golf Club**





# What's on ...

**FORGE 2013**  
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BRISBANE SEP 14

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**The Bible**, the new 10-part docu-drama television series from Survivor producer, Mark Burnett, premiered on Channel Nine with a landmark double episode Tuesday, 16 July, at 9.00 pm.

*The Bible*, which features captivating stories from the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation, is the number one new cable program of 2013 in the USA, where 13 million viewers watched the premiere.

Covering the Old and New Testament, *The Bible* showcases some of the greatest stories ever told and combines spectacular action and breathtaking vision against the backdrop of a powerful score by the Grammy and Academy Award-winning composer, Hans Zimmer.

*The Bible*, which begins with Noah aboard the ark, tells the story of Moses; Joshua invading and conquering Jericho; Delilah's betrayal of Samson; Samuel anointing Saul as King; Daniel in the lions' den; the birth of Jesus; the betrayal of Jesus by Judas; the Last Supper; and the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Mark Burnett, who is also the man behind *The Apprentice* and the American version of *The Voice*, assembled an outstanding international cast for *The Bible* - led by his Emmy and Golden Globe-nominated actress wife Roma Downey (the co-executive producer) who plays Mother Mary. Joining Downey are Portuguese TV star Diogo Morgado as Jesus, and an array of acclaimed UK-based actors including Sean Teale (*Skins*), David Rintoul (*The Iron Lady*, *My Week with Marilyn*), Amber Rose Revah (*The Borgias*), Peter Guinness (a veteran film/theatre actor), Greg Hicks (famous Shakespearean actor) and Simon Kunz (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Parent Trap*, *Match Point*).

*The Bible* is narrated by Keith David, winner of two Emmy Awards for Outstanding Voice Over for *The War and Unforgivable: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson*.

The scope and scale of this biblical series, teamed with some of the greatest stories ever written, exotic locations and striking special effects, promises to capture television audiences around Australia.

**THE BIBLE: PREMIERED TUESDAY, 16 JULY, AT 9.00 PM ON NINE**

## Living, Loving & Working with People on the Autism Spectrum



A conference for family members, partners, counsellors, psychologists, teachers, youth workers, pastors, chaplains, support workers & others who care about & work with people 'on the spectrum.'

**Saturday,  
26 October 2013**

Guest Speaker: **Dr Carolyn Russell**  
<http://autismconferenceoct26-com.webs.com>

## briefly

### UNIT TO LET

CALOUNDRA, beachside units, from \$300/week. For details contact Ray on 0427 990 161 or 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.

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BUILDINGS

New Directions has featured a different church building in each issue. Please email newdirections@pcq.org.au if your church was not included and also send a high quality photograph of the building to lynda@pcq.org.au

### ASSEMBLY 2014

The 2014 State Assembly will commence on 23 June 2014. The Moderator-Elect's chaplains will be Mr Robert Thompson (Elder, Coorparoo) and Rev. Peter Barson (Director of Ministry Resourcing and Christian Education).

Caloundra Presbyterian Church will be celebrating the **REFORMATION** with a

### CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

on **Saturday, 26 October**

with Guest Speaker

**DR ALLAN HARMAN**

(Former Moderator-General of the PCA and former Principal of PTC, Melbourne)

at **Bellcarra Resort, 17 Carree Street, Bellvista, Caloundra**

commencing at **5.30 pm for 6.00 pm**



Reformation Sunday services at Caloundra Presbyterian Church with Dr Harman preaching

**8.30 am & 10.30 am  
Sunday 27 October**

For dinner bookings, please phone 07 5437 3494

## 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>





The Carnival Teams

# Mega Sportz Soccer Camp

by Josh Mansfield

FOR THE last 14 years, as I've sat down to reflect on Soccer Camp, the same thought goes through my mind. What on earth would possess us to gather a hundred (or more!) campers from their school holidays, pump up 300 soccer balls and run ourselves ragged making sure that these campers have the best week ever! It always takes me a week to recover (and usually a couple of boxes of cold and flu tablets).

But it doesn't take too long to remember the reason. Campers from all across south-east Queensland (plus Dalby and Hervey Bay) are hearing the gospel presented clearly, some of them for the very first time. God made the world, we ruined the world, God saved the world - now we can be on God's Team!

This is the refrain that echoes throughout the week as the leaders, with the help of Jeff the Ref (AKA Ben Lewis, Central Presbyterian Church), Bert the Expert (AKA Troy Wilkins, New Life Presbyterian Church), Russell (AKA Sean Davies, New Life Presbyterian Church) and Mylair the Bear (AKA Ben Mansfield, Southside Presbyterian Church), present this message to the children across the action-packed days.

Upon remembering this, and reflecting on the way the children soaked up this message, I know that I'll do it all again for the next 14 years!

In the middle of the ongoing gospel presentations, we had our annual Crazy Dude night, culminating in the stories of some other 'crazy dudes' - David, Daniel and Jonah! We held our annual six-a-side competition with our youngest team, The Piranhas, causing somewhat of an upset in the Futsal Final, and the MSSC Allstars winning the six-a-side comp in a nailbiting final.

We split the teams into eight Asian Champion League squads and spent Thursday and Friday playing our fantastic, colourful and spirited carnival days. And congratulations to Brett Donald, who managed to get a win, the first time in ten years! (Should we tell him that we let him win ... Nah ...)

A great big thanks to our sponsors, including Camp Moogerah, Wendy Moore Catering, Germain Seafood, Pinnacle Sportswear, and others.

Speaking of Mr Germain - boy we missed him this year. He was ill and unable to come. Get better Mr G!

We also had a visit from Soccer Camp regular, Lana Harch. She is a

current member of the Brisbane Roar Women's team and spent 5 or 6 hours signing autographs, speaking to the kids, sharing her testimony and even starring in the Futsal Grand Final.

Soccer Camp is supported by the Queensland Christian Soccer Association and we thank Cliff Phillips (Chairman), Tibor Hagymus (Coaching Co-ordinator), Tony Scarcella (Committee Member) and Peter Smale (President) for coming out and visiting. Your support is so important to us, so thank you.

All in all, soccer camp was another fantastic week.

A special thanks to Wendy Moore, our caterer for the last 12 years of cooking. She has hung her tongs up and is moving on, and we are grateful for her ongoing support.

Also thanks to our great leadership team, youth and children's leaders from Presbyterian Churches all around south-east Queensland joining together to ensure a safe camp with a clear message. Thanks very much everyone!

And as for me, well ... I'll be back next year. And I'll bring my family, because I can't think of any other place I'd rather be in the middle of winter than Soccer Camp.



6-a-side action



"Jeff the Ref"

# Mega Sportz Netball Camp

by Narelle Jackson, Camp Director



It's another goal



Group time - sharing the Gospel

EVERY YEAR I am overwhelmed by the challenge of running a camp for 90 plus young girls. But every year God is faithful in assisting me and all the other leaders to pull it off. After 11 years of Mega Sportz Netball Camp (MSNC) I am still amazed at how it runs. Let me give you a quick rundown.

I have a great bunch of leaders, some of whom have been on every netball camp. Some are campers who came back as leaders and this year we had an eager young lady come all the way from Tasmania with the desire to help. One of the best things about camps is the friends you make within the leadership team. The encouragement and the support is a real blessing. I would like to thank my right hand friends, Jeanette Teale and Kerrie Mansfield. Without these two Godly ladies, this camp director would be a mess!

This year we had 93 campers join us. As they walked off the bus on Monday we could see eager faces ready for what the week held in store. Many had been before, but this year we had 61 new campers who heard about it through friends and netball clubs. It is very exciting to see word of our camp getting out to places all over south-east Queensland. The MSNC actually filled before the closing date this year. Amazing!

Monday gave us a little rain. Because of that, our netball and outdoor activities had to be cancelled.

We improvised as much as we could. The program had to change to accommodate the weather. Monday night saw us dressed as Buccaneers from the high seas to play a game called Pirateopoly. Amazing what you can do with bottle tops! The wind that night kept a lot of children awake to the wee hours of morning, but on the up side, it blew the clouds away and we awoke to a beautiful sunny day.

With the sun shining brightly we headed out to the oval to get some skills and drills in. The girls all tried very hard and learnt or improved on skills. In the afternoons we played our inaugural "Nourse Cup" (Lauren Nourse is the camp director's favourite player). The team "Triple P's" were the winners this year.

Wednesday night was our presentation night and awards dinner. We gave nine awards from the leaders to girls who had done something special; being a special encourager, giving 110% etc. Our teams this year were again handpicked by Kirstine Harper. Thanks to Kirstine our teams, EnRG, Fusion and Power were even in the competitive sense. Our shirts once again looked fabulous thanks to our sponsor Pinnacle Sportswear.

Our finals day saw many parents come up to the camp to watch their girls. Many lovely comments were made and many thanks were offered. It is great to be able to show them our desire for their girls to have a great time within a Christian environment.

I can't begin to say how much I appreciate my leadership team. They are the ones who keep the camp flowing all week. They are the ones who teach the Bible in their small groups to the campers, who pray for them, and who encourage them throughout the weekend, both on and off the netball courts. They work really hard and some had little sleep because of a few sick girls.

I also can't say enough thanks to the amazing cooks who come to camp. Troy our head chef had to leave camp and was hospitalised with pneumonia over the weekend. All his hard work in preparation though kept going. My sister, Christine Millmore, picked up and rallied the team with a real servant's heart. The food once again was the best you will ever get at any camp. Huge thanks cookies to your efforts!

To me though, the best thing about camp is being able to share the Gospel of Christ with the girls. I feel so undeserving of this honour, but as long as God gives me the strength, I will share the truth wholeheartedly. Please pray that campers' hearts will be softened to hear God's Word; that God would do the work and bring many of these children to know Him.

We are always looking for more leaders, coaches and umpires for Mega Sportz Netball Camp. If you are interested in joining us please contact me on 0431 841 991 or thejackos@optusnet.com.au



Carnival time