

# DIRECTIONS

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



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The Rev. Keith and Mrs Jenny Bell were appointed by the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) to establish and develop a new congregation in Alice Springs. This appointment was publicly announced during the 2012 centenary celebrations of the establishment of Presbyterian ministry in the outback by the Rev John Flynn. Keith has been the minister in three parishes in three different States, having left his job as a hospital chaplain to establish this new work. His wife Jenny was a project manager at the RMIT University Bundoora campus. They have five children and six grandchildren. Keith says, "My heart rejoiced when I read the advertisement the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) had placed for a minister to commence a new congregation in Alice Springs. I thought, this must be every minister's dream: to start a congregation from scratch. We had no Presbyterian contacts in Alice Springs; we had no "core group" to take with us to start the work; but we did have Jesus' declaration that He would build His Church. That was enough for us and the PIM.

*continued on page 2*



# A church plant in Alice Springs

by Keith Bell

ONCE WORD was out that we had been appointed to the Alice, I was contacted by a couple of people who said they were Presbyterians and were looking forward to our arrival.

Jenny and I arrived in the Alice in April 2013. Soon after we had settled in, I emailed those people who had contacted us, inviting them to a barbecue and discussion on 5 May.

I was pleasantly surprised when not only the people I had invited arrived, but they brought several others with them. We agreed to commence a weekly worship service the following week (12 May) at 5 pm.

The PIM had arranged to rent the Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM) property for us to use.

This large property is in southern Alice Springs and has an "L" shaped building. The long arm of the "L" faces the road and is the church. The base of the "L" is the manse. We are well set up. At the time of our arrival, the AIM was holding a morning service hence our choice of 5 pm. Circumstances changed and our service is now at 10 am.

Eight people attended our first service.

Slowly our attendances have increased, and like many other congregations, ours is multi-ethnic (a foretaste of heaven). Regularly in attendance are Aborigines, Anglo-Celts, an Indian (Mizo) and South Sudanese. For the 1st year, the average weekly attendance was 15.6 though this has risen to 17.6 for 2014.

We rejoice that attendances are increasing.

### Encouragements

Most weeks visitors from around Australia worship with us. We enjoy their company and the encouragement they give us.

This year, we have been blessed with the arrival of a couple of doctors and nurses who are in their intern year. We will miss these people when their year's appointment concludes and they return home, but we are trusting the Lord to bring others in.

A couple in Melbourne gave us a substantial monetary donation which has enabled us, among other things, to purchase lounge chairs for our fellowship corner, and a barbecue for our monthly fellowship lunches.

The local newspaper gives us regular (unsolicited) favourable coverage. Perhaps this is because we are the only church in the Alice that regularly advertises.

### Challenges

Which version of the Bible should we use?

For the Sudanese who attend, English is their 3rd, 4th or 5th language. One lady has never been to school. Many of the Aborigines have poor English. So we use one of the modern, easier-to-read English versions of the Bible.

I learned that Aborigines prefer to be outdoors rather than indoors and to worship in the "open air cathedral".

They suggested one morning that it would be good to have the service outside. I was a bit slow to take the hint.

They repeated it a few weeks later. I got the message. Now on the last Sunday of the month, our worship service is held in the open air cathedral around a fire.

### Community Ministry

Many years ago, I learned from Rev Lindsey Timms (then minister at Charleville) that to have an effective ministry in a remote location, the minister must show he is interested in the town and its people by becoming a part of the community and committing himself to a long-term ministry there.

Jenny and I like being in Alice Springs and we see ourselves (God willing) staying here for many years.

To show our commitment to the community, Jenny is a volunteer driver at the hospital one afternoon each week, and I have been appointed a chaplain to the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (PFES). I serve the PFES three days per week and the church three days.

My PFES service has led into deeper community involvement.

I led the Police Remembrance Day service, participated in the Remembrance Day service, led a memorial service for a nurse killed in a traffic accident, led the Nurses' Day Service, conducted a worship service for the Ulysses Motorbike Club, and was asked to be chaplain for the Finke Desert Race in June.



Jenny and Keith Bell at Flynn's gravesite

Also I have been asked to provide cover (two mornings per week) for the hospital chaplain while she has three months' leave to attend her Order's conference overseas.

Our first year in Alice Springs has been exciting and challenging.

We are mindful that "unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it" and of Jesus' declaration, "I will build My Church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it".

Jesus is building His Presbyterian congregation in Alice Springs. Jenny and I rejoice to be His agents in His work.

We look for others to join us. If you are able to come – short-term or long-term – to assist in this work please contact us. (08 8953 7748 or keith.jenny.bell@gmail.com)



Enjoying breakfast on Australia Day



Ulysses service



First outdoor service in May



Photo of Alice Springs taken from Anzac Hill looking south to the Macdonnell Ranges



# Thomas Mansfield – Six Years On



SOME MAY recall six years ago the birth of a very small Mansfield baby.

Tiny Thomas Mansfield was born at 24 weeks and 3 days gestation, surprising the world, and in particular his parents, with his rush to meet his brothers.

The youngest of three boys at the time, his parents spent hours by his incubator as he slept, drank and grew.

Many trips into the amazing Mater Mothers' Hospital were made as his family patiently waited for him to come home.

He spent 92 days in hospital and overcame many hurdles to get to where he is today – a soccer-playing, Colin Buchanan-singing, pizza-eating, trampoline-jumping six-year-old.

On 10 May this year, Tommy turned six and gave his family a chance to reflect on the blessing of those six years.

Premature birth is not as unusual as some may think. Over the years, many times, friends and family would remember 'Tommy' and his daily battle as they prayed for and comforted others in the same, or slightly different circumstances.

It's a daunting situation for anyone, and a heartbreaking challenge to leave your baby in the hospital while you head home to sleep. One that would be countless times more difficult without a relationship with the One who knit us together in our mother's womb.



Thomas Mansfield

Tommy is a walking talking miracle. He doesn't yet understand just how amazing his first 92 days were. He just says, 'I came too early...'; we say he came at just the right time, according to God's plan.

To those who remember this time six years ago and prayed for him, and to those who he has met (and charmed!) along the way, and to those who we stand shoulder to shoulder with, united in faith and looking forward longingly to the day when Jesus returns, here are a few photos of Tiny Thomas Mansfield at 6 years old.



Kate Mansfield with son Thomas at Mater Children's Hospital six years ago

## NEW DIRECTIONS

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# The launch of “Truth Matters”

by Rt Rev David Cook

THE FIRST Preaching Refresher Seminar has been held at Christ College, Sydney. I was joined by David Jones and Peter Barnes for three days.

There were six sermons preached, three from Numbers, three from John's Gospel. Peter Barnes gave historic sketches of Richard Baxter, Charles Simeon and Charles Spurgeon and there were various lectures relating to preaching and discipling.

Participants wrote:

*“There was a helpful balance between talking about preaching and listening to sermons.”*

*“It was educational, encouraging and spiritually refreshing.”*

*“Outstanding program.”*

*“Great to be together with those who understand our denominational system and its blessings and stresses.”*

This seminar will be repeated at PTC Victoria in March 2015 and QTC

in November 2015.

The talks can be downloaded at [www.christcollege.edu.au](http://www.christcollege.edu.au).

During the seminar the eBook *Truth Matters* was launched. This book, written for Bible study groups, session study and individual use, contains chapters on:

*The Authority of the Bible* by David Burge;

*The Trinity* by Peter Hastie;

*The character, plan and purpose of God* by Greg Goswell;

*The person and work of Jesus Christ* by Bryson Smith;

*The person and work of the Holy Spirit* by Gary Millar;

*Salvation - its nature, order and authority* by Peter Barnes;

*Humanity* by Neil Chambers;

*The Church in God's economy* by Ian Smith.

Each chapter concludes with questions for group discussion.

This eBook is published and distributed by the General Assembly

of Australia Christian Education Committee and costs \$10. On purchase, the eBook will be sent to your provided email address and each purchaser has the right to make ten copies.

My thanks to Greg Goswell, David Burge and Bob Thomas for their production assistance and to all the authors for their contribution.

I get keen about cricket and rugby. I have even been watching some soccer lately, but none of our pastimes are worthy dominators of our life.

Humankind has been made to know God, it is our “chief end” and the main business of life, the Lord Jesus said, the essence of eternal life is knowing God (John 17:3).

“Truth Matters” has been written to facilitate such knowledge and for \$10 you can have a copy and you have copies to give away to nine friends.

Please place orders at [christianedpca@gmail.com](mailto:christianedpca@gmail.com)

## Ministry of a rural Charge



LYING ROUGHLY 84 kms north-west by north of Dalby is a Presbyterian Charge.

This Charge has had a worshipping congregation for over 125 years and the current building is home to an ageing, but quite lively, congregation.

It has a full-time Minister, a functioning Session, a solvent Committee of Management and a hard-working Guild.

Its buildings (church, hall and manse) are in good order and its grounds well-maintained by members of the congregation.

The congregation holds two services every Sunday – 10:00 am and 6:30 pm. They also have three Bible study groups – two on a weekly basis and one twice a month.

A service is also held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th (where applicable) Sundays at the local Nursing Home.

They support four missionaries and Easter and Christmas offerings are given to PresAid.

Although often considered a bit ‘far out’ for most missionaries to come when on home service, the congregation is always happy to have meetings with any who are available to visit. Last year, Andrew Williamson dropped in and shared about the work we support at Talua. We also had a recent visit from Chandra Smith.

Up until 2013, there was a Sunday School – which they are hopeful, by God's grace, of reviving. The Sunday School had for many years also supported a missionary couple plus making a special effort by way of an empty Christmas tree to send gifts to the PIM work in Charleville.

We also still maintain a presence in our local Primary School and the minister regularly attends the High School RE and special events at the Christian School.

The morning service is always followed by a well-attended morning tea where visitors find warm and welcoming fellowship – and home-baked goodies.

At the end of each school term, there is a fellowship luncheon following a special ‘family’ service and those who attend the evening service enjoy a meal together on the 1st Sunday of each month (plus a cuppa, and often goodies left over from morning tea, at the other weekly services).

The ladies of the congregation also get together once a month for morning tea at the local Christian Book/Coffee Shop. This is called CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) and is a comfortable setting for any new ladies or those who might wish to join us at worship at some future date. They also hold a weekly craft session called WIP or Work In Progress.

The Ladies Guild meets monthly and supports two missionary families

and two mission societies on a regular basis. They hold two regular morning teas a year – one with the emphasis on friendship and the other (to which ladies from the other ten denominations in town are invited) on mission. They also host, in their turn, the rallies run by the Downs Presbyterian Association.

Some of their members also travel to rallies when they are held in other charges. They also have one member who is on the executive of the DPA.

They might not be turning their town upside down but they are doing their very best to maintain a faithful witness to Jesus Christ and the Gospel, to help those in need whenever and wherever we can, to be mission-minded and aware of what is happening in the Church world-wide – in other words, to be good servants.

Where are they? They are at Chinchilla.



WHEN THE Treasurer Joe Hockey said ‘we all have to share the pain’ whilst delivering the 2014 budget, he knew the public reception wasn’t going to be good.

Although political leaders gain a level of public acclaim, they also attract their fair share of public ire. Anyone who takes on a public office (of any form) should expect judgments, both good and bad, to be leveled at them.

I recall my early years of pastoral ministry, when called upon to make difficult decisions, there was usually a percentage of the congregation that felt disaffected by a decision. In these situations my first temptation was to try and console the disaffected constituency. Strangely enough, this strategy rarely worked. Not only was the disgruntled faction upset by my initial decision, they were now suspicious that I was attempting to cover up something more sinister. Of course, the hardest thing in this case is ‘knowing’ that the ones you are actually acting on behalf of, have misunderstood and misrepresented you. In this case, one of the greatest challenges faced by all leaders, especially Christian leaders, is overcoming the desire to vindicate themselves.

Living with misunderstanding can be hard, and many simply acquiesce to what St Augustine described as the ‘lust for self-vindication’.

Augustine was a man well-acquainted with the struggles of the inner life, and in his *Confessions*, wrote, ‘And Thou knowest how far Thou hast already changed me, who first healed me of the lust of vindicating myself...’ Augustine saw self-vindication as a cancer of the soul; a malady that only God's grace could heal.

Regrettably, self-vindication is only the surface tumor; more malignant strains flourish beneath. Self-vindication feeds on self-justification, which extracts its nutrients from self-righteousness, which in turn draws its sustenance from faithlessness, which has its tap root in fear.

Fear (usually the fear of other's opinions) causes the Christian to stop trusting in God as the justifier and vindicator. This cancerous fear strangles faith, and nourishes a self-righteous spirit, which manifests itself in self-vindication.

If we remain adamant about vindicating ourselves, our spiritual life stagnates and withers; the lust for self-vindication eats away at the soul, gradually depleting our inner joy. Focusing on self-vindication scuttles the opportunity to develop into secure and mature followers of Christ.

Given the tough decisions that the apostle Paul would have been called to make during his ministry, you could possibly excuse him for occasionally seeing the need to vindicate himself. Yet, even when the apostle ‘boasts’ of his credentials for the sake of others, he considers it a ‘foolish’ way of arguing (2 Cor. 11:17).

However, for his own sake, Paul never entertains the notion of self-vindication. With his trust firmly in Christ, Paul confidently asserts without any sense of inadequacy, ‘I am the foremost of sinners’.

Where did he gain such confidence? Paul's significance was grounded in his identity ‘in Christ’ (Gal. 2:20); in this he was entirely secure.

Furthermore, God's grace was more than a mere theological concept for him; it was a deep abiding reality that animated how he thought and lived. In embracing God's grace and accepting God as his justifier ‘in Christ’, the need for self-vindication evaporated. For Paul, administering personal justice and judgment was ultimately God's business: ‘Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse ... Do not repay anyone evil for evil ... Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay”, says the Lord.’ (Rom. 12 NIV)

There are few things in life a person can be certain of; one of those is injustice. Whether it is actual or simply perceived, its effect on our souls can be devastating if not dealt with rightly. Rightly dealing with personal injustice and avoiding the trap of self-vindication starts with the knowledge of knowing what we can and cannot change.

Firstly, we cannot change the fact that injustice will happen; and often we cannot right the wrong, even if we desire to do so. What we can change, however, is how we deal with the injustice. Beginning with a firm understanding that God is the Judge who will ultimately administer all justice, we are freed from the burden of responsibility to ‘play God’.

Secondly, appreciating the wonder of the Gospel and how Jesus Christ bore the brunt for our injustices against God frees us to look on our situation with sobering humility.

Finally, knowing that if we walk obediently in faith, God (our vindicator) will enable us to become more like Christ in the experience, and this frees us to rejoice in him despite our circumstances.

If responding rightly is the pathway to true freedom, then let us constantly pray that we may by God's grace overcome the lust of self-vindication.

Rowland Lowther





# BEWARE THE OPEN HATCH!

by Dorothy Jorgensen

ALLAN AND I had held a dream of living on a boat since before we were married.

I was brought up on a yacht *Canaipa* on Moreton Bay when I was a young teen, and Allan on the tourist boats cruising out of Mackay to Brampton Island and the Whitsundays.

Then children and grandchildren came along, and we have loved these years of family time. But the girls and their families have moved away over the last decade: Nina and Brett, Josiah, Sam, Ruth and Abby to Maryborough; Karen, Ben, Lily and Eli to Ipswich; and Peta to Coomera.

With family moved away we thought it was our time to do what we wanted to do and make our dream a reality.

We have previously lived on a ten metre boat *Sari Marae* in the Hinchinbrook/Cardwell area – a beautiful bit of Australia with really good fishing and crabbing.

Since we had already sold our house we decided to build a bigger boat to live on permanently. We planned that eventually, once we retired, this boat could be used to serve God in providing a place for ministers and other church workers to use for a complete break away from the stress of ministry work.

Nearly four years later we launched *Tupela* at Redlands City Marina at Victoria Point. It was Friday, 27 January 2012, a day before my 65th birthday. (We now realise we should have done this years ago!) I moved on to her on 3 February, which was really exciting after the months (years?) of Allan and I sorting out, storing or giving away all our worldly belongings.

On 7 February we had our sea trials booked with our engineer. The morning he arrived we had a lovely hour on the bay. The engineer was busy going from one engine to the other taking temperature readings of

engines and checking water intakes. For this reason the engine hatches had to stay open.

As we came into the pontoon our boat hit the pylon in front of us. I was standing up, ready to tie up the stern line. As the boat hit the pylon, I went head first down into the engine room with legs in the air (okay, you can laugh now). My head was jammed into a very small space right beside a big brass coupling on the propeller shaft. There was no room for movement. Allan had just turned the engine off so the coupling had only just stopped spinning. Within seconds Allan and the engineer were there!

The people who had been standing on the bank watching us come in were calling “the lady, the lady” (they had seen me fall from the deck). I remember the engineer saying, “get your head out, get it out!” But I couldn’t move it. Then he said I would have to get out: “can you do it yourself?” (I had often looked down into these hatches and I thought I would never go down there as I knew I couldn’t get out.) But I told him I would have to. I did somehow manage to lower my shoulders to get it out.

I believe that God and His angels lifted me out as I couldn’t do it myself. I don’t remember exactly what happened, but next thing I knew I was almost out. The engineer and Allan then pulled me the rest of the way.

I had a bump on my head so I said I had to go straight to hospital (since I was on warfarin, which is a blood thinner). We got to Redlands Hospital and went into Emergency. I just told them my name and that I was on warfarin for three DVTs (deep vein thrombosis) and that I had had a fall. I was taken straight in and hooked up to monitors and blood pressure machines. I had four CT scans in



all as well as chest and pelvis x-rays. Unbelievably there was no rupture or break! How could this be?

By now I was getting a lot of pain in my left side lower chest and buttock. I felt like I was sitting on a football, which was actually a huge blood clot. My blood pressure kept dropping. Alarms were ringing. I fainted once and they had to lift me back up on a hover bed (which pumped me up and slid me across to the bed) - a marvellous piece of equipment.

The specialist consultant was wonderful. He kept Allan well-informed about what was going on.

He told Allan I had lost a lot of blood and was still bleeding somewhere internally and that was causing the extremely low blood pressure. They were concerned that I had possibly ruptured my spleen or had other internal injuries.

After another CT scan all seemed okay as they identified the bleeding was into soft tissue in my buttock. They thought I would have to be operated on to remove the clot and stop the bleeding. Praise God that I didn’t have to. My warfarin was reversed with Vitamin K and other drugs to stop the bleeding. Later that afternoon I looked up and there stood (pastor) Dan Bigg and Allan. (I had sent Dan a photo of us on the water in the morning before I fell down the hatch and said, “I wish you were here”.)

Redlands decided to send me to the Princess Alexandra Hospital. I had a nurse escort and paramedic sitting beside me. When we got into PA Hospital I went straight in to the resuscitation bay. I had another CT scan at 11 pm. Bruises were coming up everywhere and it was very hard for them to get the cannulas in. I had about eight bags of blood in total, six straight away and two more on Saturday as I was still bleeding. I was sent to the ward on Wednesday.

Then there was a complication, a pain in my left leg. I kept saying I had a bad pain but I was so badly bruised we thought it was only that, until I recognised a blood clot pain!

I was then sent straight for ultrasound and I did have a blood clot. So now they had to start me on heparin and eventually warfarin. Even though I was bleeding still (and my haemoglobin was low), they had to treat the clot. More bruises!

Gradually over the next week things improved. Nursing staff and doctors constantly told me I was lucky, but I told them luck had nothing to do with it! God and His angels did the lifting I could never do (to get out of that spot). I was also told how lucky I was that I didn’t break my skin open, have internal bleeding in my head or internal injuries when I fell, as they would not have been able to stop the bleeding. Again, God was in control.

A week later I was allowed out of hospital.

I thank my heavenly Father for His love and care of me, for His timing in all of this. Many thanks to Redlands and PA Emergency Room and Ward staff, as the treatment I received was amazing.

I have so much to be thankful for and it has been wonderful to be able to witness to other patients and staff, even though they thought I was mad.

Allan was in a state of shock for the first few days after the fall, and he wants everyone to know, “I didn’t push her”.

Our Bible verse for the boat is “Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty!” Psalm 93:4.

\*\*\*\*

It has been two years since I fell and experienced God’s hand on me. It has taken a while to get my back and legs working normally even though I am still unsteady at times.

*Tupela* is now at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron Marina in Manly and Allan and I are happily living on board. We had a very rough trip to Townsville where Allan worked for a year then a very rough trip back to Manly.

## Pray, Live, Serve .... but what about the good news?

by Naomi Reed



Naomi Reed

I WAS asked to speak about mission at a church in Sydney last weekend.

They wanted to know whether being on mission in Australia was different to Nepal, and whether we could learn anything from cross-cultural missionaries.

I sat at my desk and prepared my talk, thinking about deliberateness and distinctiveness.

I realized that it’s often so much easier to be deliberate in Nepal, in that place where the sounds of the buffalo and the Hindu calls to worship remind us where we are, every morning.

We knew that we were in Nepal to share the love of Jesus, somehow, and we were there for a time-limited period.

But the problem is that I don’t always feel that deliberate in Australia.

Sometimes I just get out of bed and think about how lovely it is to have a hot shower, especially in winter.

Then I remembered the way we stood out in Nepal. We were distinctive. People noticed us and asked us questions about why we were there. They wanted to know why we had given up our comfortable life in Australia, and that usually led to long and interesting conversations.

I sometimes find it harder to live a questionable life in the Blue Mountains.

But perhaps the biggest mistake I make in the west, regarding mission, is that I assume the people around me are generally okay.

There are no bombs going off in Sydney, the king hasn’t called a state of emergency, and we have access to gourmet food and electricity, all day

long, and therefore, people around me are mostly fine.

No, they’re not, actually.

In reality, none of us is fine. Perhaps in the west, we’ve learnt to pretend better. We’ve learnt how to use nice things at the chemist, and our best social behavior, and an Internet that numbs us ... to cover up our need and brokenness.

But in Australia, we still cry. We still sit at the doctors and hear cancer diagnoses. We still feel a gnawing ache inside us that we’re not good enough and we never will be. We still worry about our children and fear rejection and pain and the emptiness of not being truly loved.

And in all of that pain and hidden brokenness, we desperately need to hear the good news again, just as much as we ever did.

We still need to hear that there is a God who loves us ... that He always has and He always will ... that He loved us so much that He sent His only Son to die for each of us – to carry all of our burdens and pain, and to forgive our wild screaming, and to give us a promise of forever – a place with Him, without pain and tears and funerals.

But the problem is that in Australia I find that many of the people I speak to at church and in the community are a little bit bored. They tell me that they’ve sat in churches for years, and they’ve heard the same style of 30 minute sermon, in the same medium, for a very long time, and they start to switch off and think about lunch.

But hang on ... the gospel is not a boring message! Can we not tell it in fresh and beautiful ways? Can we not use our creativity and honesty and

vulnerability to speak in fresh ways to this generation about God’s love and forgiveness? Can we not trust God to work through His story and this pain, in this place, to these people for whom He died and rose again?

For me, I feel like I’m pouring my creative energy into *The Zookeeper* and other gospel projects, which has been great! I’ve loved seeing the responses of the children and adults.

But maybe we all need to ask ourselves the question, Have we been overwhelmed by the generous, surprising love of God, today ... and how can we share that in deliberate and distinctive ways here in Australia, with the needy people that God has put in front of us, in the place He has allowed us to be?

[For more information regarding Naomi Reed or to book *The Zookeeper*, please contact Naomi’s manager, Leanne Smith on 02 9501 3421 or go to Naomi’s website at [www.naomireed.info](http://www.naomireed.info)]



Dorothy and Allan Jorgensen



# Vela residents support Compassion

by Glenda Booker, Chaplain



Vela residents Shirley Dredge (left), Cath Boyd (centre) with Christopher Robertson who regularly preaches at Vela

ON SUNDAY 13 July the Vela Worship Group – those of us who worship together on Sunday mornings at PresCare Vela – celebrated Compassion Sunday.

This was a day to acknowledge the work that is done by Compassion in countries where there is great poverty and need.

We sponsor two children who live in different areas of Nicaragua, Eveling who will be 8 on 14 September, and Jorwing who will be 11, also on 14 September.

Residents at Vela enjoy hearing

from both Eveling and Jorwing, and we write to them on a regular basis.

We are privileged to be able to help with the work of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ into areas that we ourselves could not possibly reach. We can do this by using the small freewill offering collected each week to support the work of Compassion.

In many ways older people are discarded by society, and sadly we often feel abandoned by the church, primarily because the focus seems to be on children and youth work. Through Compassion we feel that we

are able to continue doing God's work and we can make a huge difference, not only in the lives of these two dear children, but also in their families and their whole communities. We don't have much, but what we do have, we share to the glory of God.

*If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:17-18*



Switchfoot fulfil promises

EASTERFEST IS excited to announce that Grammy award-winning band, Switchfoot, will return to the festival in 2015.

Switchfoot's debut at Easterfest in 2011 was shortchanged when they played to a significantly reduced crowd, after the festival experienced a severe sudden rain event. Lead singer, Jon Foreman reported that although the evening may not have gone exactly to plan, it was still a highlight career performance as fans endured the elements to show their support. He promised a return visit.

Since Easterfest 2011, Switchfoot have embarked on a different challenge – to create a documentary film of their journey as musicians and surfers.

The band travelled to Jeffreys Bay and Crayfish Factory in South Africa, Bronte Beach in Australia, Raglan in New Zealand, and Uluwatu in Bali, and chronicled their physical and emotional journey, as well as their unshakeable brotherly bond, in the film *Fading West*. The movie is part travelogue, part surf film, and part behind-the-scenes look at the making

of the band's latest album, also called *Fading West*.

"Personally, I think the album *Fading West* is not only Switchfoot's best work yet but I think it is by far one of the best albums I've heard in a really long time," said Event Director Dave Schenk.

"It will be awesome to have them back at Easterfest 2015 – playing undercover – so fans won't get wet if there is any rain", jokes Dave.

After 22 years as the main creative force behind the Newsboys, festival favourite, Peter Furler will also return to Easterfest 2015 with his new record, *Sun and Shield*. Coming from McLaren Vale, South Australia, as a singer/songwriter/producer, Peter has had an incredibly successful career selling over 7 million albums worldwide.

At Easterfest he will team up with longtime producer/lyricist, Steve Taylor, who has recently returned to the scene after taking a sabbatical from filmmaking to record new music with his band, 'The Perfect Foil'. Steve, a successful Grammy nominated artist in the 80s, recently raised over \$121,000 for the new album and tour.

Australia, and more specifically Easterfest, has been added to the Steve Taylor and The Perfect Foil tour with Peter Furler playing drums.

Easterfest will be held from 2-5 April 2015. Early bird tickets are on sale now at significantly reduced prices giving everyone the opportunity to attend. More details Easterfest.com.

## Strangers next door – migrants, refugees and international students

RECENT STATISTICS have highlighted migration as a growing challenge for Australian churches, as well as an unprecedented opportunity to engage and share Jesus with gospel-poor peoples right here in their own backyard.

According to the 2011 census, over a quarter of those living in Australia were born overseas, of which a large proportion came to Australia from non-English speaking countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and South America. Of those who had arrived in recent years, most spoke a language other than English at home.

Sam McGeown, Church Liaison and Missionary Development Officer, said, "My children attend a school that five years ago was represented by 40 different nationalities. Today it is 50. Sadly many of our churches are not reflecting the growing multi-ethnic communities that they find themselves in.

"Over 400,000 students from 190 nations currently study in Australia and between 15-34% of students at the major universities around Brisbane are made up of students from overseas.

"The stark reality is that many unreached people groups living here in Australia are as unreached here as what they were back home. How can this be when they are surrounded by so many Christians and churches?" Mr McGeown said.

This is one of the real issues that CMS seeks to help explore through its Journey in Mission (JIM) seminars, where missiologist Rev Mike Wilson was a recent guest speaker.

Previously a missionary in Pakistan, Mr Wilson has taught on ministry in multi-ethnic contexts at SMBC (Sydney Missionary Bible College), Moore College and the Presbyterian Theological College NSW. He has also served as the Cross Cultural Ministry Coordinator in the Ministry and Mission Department for the Presbyterian Church of NSW.

He shared his insights on multi-ethnic ministry, highlighting five major obstacles that hinder people from being able to successfully reach those on their doorsteps.

"We all have learned behaviours, which form our cultural identity, and are often the 'glasses' through which we try and view other cultures, judging what is acceptable", said Mr Wilson.

"We must not let our cultural identity predetermine who we

minister to. Rather, we need to have a gospel-driven heart, intentionally planning for ministry across cultures and encouraging it in every possible way we can, through churches and others.

"There is often natural distance between cultures that inhibits people from making connections. We need to take special measures to make sure people of different cultures meet Christ, otherwise it continues on the same trajectory reaching only one demographic, similar to ourselves," he said.

With the prediction that 87% of the population growth in Australia by 2056 will be through migration, Australian Christians need to be aware and deliberate about how they share the gospel.

"Sometimes we can rubbish other people and their beliefs because they are so different from our faith. Having a gracious, gentle and respectful attitude as we share with people from other cultures can work to overcome this," said Mr Wilson.

"There is often cultural misinterpretation when misunderstanding and misconceptions arise due to cultural differences. If you don't understand, assume the best rather than the worst, try to gain a general understanding of cultural differences and dynamics. Remember to ask yourself when confronted with a strange or different behaviour: is this behaviour from the individual, or the culture? Usually the intention is not to be rude or awkward but to express a positive belief of the culture.

"We need to be mindful and not surprised that as we immerse in multi-ethnic ministry, we can often have the greatest resistance or hindrances from other Christians", he said.

JIM seminars are run every 6 to 8 weeks and designed to further educate people about biblical mission to make disciples of all nations, about the real issues facing mission and what mission looks like in practice. They are also streamed live to people across Australia and the world.

To view the full seminar "Strangers next door – migrants, refugees and international students", visit [cms.org.au/jim](http://cms.org.au/jim)

For further information about Journey in Mission events or about mission through CMS contact [qld@cms.org.au](mailto:qld@cms.org.au), telephone 07 3112 6530 or visit [cms.org.au](http://cms.org.au). Working towards a World that Knows Jesus.

## GAA Christian Education Committee

Convenor: Greg Goswell

Phone: 0423 714 017

Email: [christianedpca@gmail.com](mailto:christianedpca@gmail.com)

ABN 40075298846

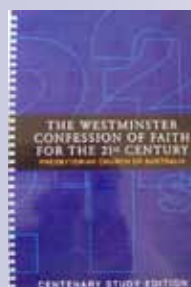
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# Hear Live Share - the Gospel

## The Moderator's address based on Mark 4:1-9 and Galatians 2:11-21

WHEN I accepted the role of Moderator I didn't really know what I was letting myself in for. Once you have said 'yes', and been elected into the position, they send you a list of all the things you have to do. One is to select a theme for the year.

Have you ever thought about a theme that defines your life for a year? Or forever? It is not something we often think about; but it is a worthwhile exercise.

What is the theme that would best describe your life?

I was pretty sure my theme would be something to do with Christ and his Gospel, but I really didn't know where to start.

As it happened, my student minister, Rob Davey, told me about the theme Cairns Presbyterian Church has. The more I thought about it, the more I liked it.

I spoke to Andrew Richardson who came up with the idea, to see if he would mind if we used it at Coorparoo in a slightly modified form, and also if I could use it as the theme for my year as Moderator.

The theme has an easy to remember hook which describes well what a Christian is and what a Christian Church is like. It is the phrase "Hear, Live, Share". It is short for Hear the Gospel, Live the Gospel, and Share the Gospel.

A Christian is a person who "hears" the Gospel, "lives" the Gospel and "shares" the Gospel. Similarly, a Christian Church is one that hears the Gospel, lives the Gospel and shares the Gospel.

What do I mean by hearing the Gospel?

It's easy to listen to something without really hearing it.

The other day in the car, I had the radio on. Then the road report came on and I heard mention of a road I was about to use. But I hadn't really been listening so I didn't hear what was said so I could act on it.

It is easy to **hear** someone without really hearing what they say. Hence the expression, "You're not hearing me!" To truly "hear" someone is to believe what is said, to grasp the full significance of what is said, and to act upon it.

Before speaking to the crowds in Mark 4 Jesus said to them, "*Listen!*" or "Hear what I say". It is said as a

command. The Greek word is the same one that Jesus uses at the end of the parable. "*If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.*" Mark 4:23. Jesus wants us to hear Him, to truly hear what He says, to take it on board and act on it.

If we hear the Gospel, we will take it on board and act upon it. Those who hear the Gospel will go on through persecution, they won't be distracted by other things, and they will produce the fruit in their lives God desires.

Why are we to hear the Gospel?

Paul tells us in the letter to the Christians at Corinth, "*By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you...*" 1 Corinthians 15:2. And also in his letter to the believers at Ephesus, "*you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit*", Ephesians 1:13.

Paul declares he is not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, Romans 1:16. The salvation that Paul has in mind is not like a ticket to dreamworld. It is not something you get when you believe and then you put it away until you die and need it to get into heaven.

It's more like a marriage. When you get married, your life changes. One day you are single, doing what you like, when you like. The next day you are in an intimate relationship with another person. Now, how you live is governed by your relationship to your spouse. You want to include your spouse in your life and take them into account when planning it. Your life can never be the same again. Not as long as you are married.

The salvation Paul talks of is entering into an intimate relationship with God the Father through God the Son, Jesus Christ.

Eternal life is that ongoing relationship with Christ which starts now and continues throughout eternity.

The Gospel is the power of God for this salvation. Believing the Gospel brings us into right relationship with God; and believing it keeps us in right relationship with God.

To see what I mean, I must explain what the Gospel is.

In the First Century, the word Gospel - in Greek '*euangelion*' - was simply news of a great historical event. An event such as the ascension of a new king to the throne.

When Augustus Caesar came to power one inscription read, "*the birthday of the god [Augustus] has been for the whole world the beginning of gospel concerning him.*" (The Priene calendar inscription, circa 9AD).

The announcement of the ascension of Augustus to be Caesar was Good News because he brought an end to a long period of wars, pirates on the seas and thieves on the road. He brought in "The Pax Romana" - The Roman Peace. Of course, he brought it about with the edge of the sword. But people were just glad to have peace at any cost. When it was announced that Augustus was Caesar, people knew they had to obey him. Not to do so was death.

The important thing to note is that the gospel is momentous news. And the Christian Gospel is the momentous news of what God has done to reach us. The Christian Gospel is the momentous news that the crucified and risen Jesus of Nazareth is God's Christ (or King) and the Lord of all the world. "*Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ*", Acts 2:36.

That's good news because as God's Christ, He has died for our sins, was raised from the dead, and now rules from the right hand of God. "*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*", 1 Corinthians 15:3-5.

"Caesar is Lord" was gospel or "Good News" to Romans because he brought peace where there was strife and conflict. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is Good News when we realise the bad news of humanity's status before a perfectly just God. We have all rebelled against our Creator and King. We have all thought, said and done things that have offended God. The Bible calls that sin. We all stand justly condemned by a loving and just God. There is nothing we can do to earn God's forgiveness. We have all sinned and the penalty for sin is

separation from God or death.

The Bible says that we are dead in our sins. Dead men cannot bring themselves back to life. The Good News is that Jesus Christ has paid the penalty for all my sin - the sin I have committed in the past, the sin I will commit tomorrow, and the sin I will commit in the rest of my life. He has taken the penalty for all my sin.

True belief in Christ will be expressed by ongoing repentance from sin. Before God, there is now nothing to condemn those who believe in Christ. Believing or trusting in Christ makes one right with God. That is Good News.

Every other religion gives you advice. They tell what to do to achieve "salvation" or "Nirvana" or whatever that religion promises.

If getting right with God depends on what I do, then it is an impossible task. I will constantly be striving to do more. I will never be sure I have done enough.

The Gospel is not advice telling us what we must do to get right with God. It is news of what God has done through Jesus Christ to make us right with himself, "*God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them*", 2 Corinthians 5:19.

The Gospel freely offers life through Jesus Christ. You cannot do anything to earn it. We are not saved by following the teachings of Jesus. We are saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We appropriate the benefits of Christ's death by believing in Him, by believing the Gospel of Christ, "*by this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you*", 1 Corinthians 15:2.

Someone once said to me, "If all your sins are forgiven, why not just keep on sinning". That's like saying, "if when you get married, your wife promises to stick with you for better or worse, why worry about what she likes, why not do what ever you please".

They had heard what I had said, but they hadn't heard the Gospel.

The Gospel is the Good News that God has become man, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. He died for our sins. He now offers free and full salvation to all who believe in him. This is the Gospel we are to hear.

Hearing the Gospel - we are to live the Gospel. So what does it mean to Live the Gospel?

In the passage we read, Paul takes exception to Peter withdrawing from eating with Gentiles when other Jews appeared on the scene. These Jews taught that you had to observe certain food laws and other laws to be right with God. Paul says that Peter was not living consistently with the truth of the Gospel. Paul is emphatic that none can be made right with God, or be justified, by what we do, but only through trusting in Jesus, "*we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ ... because by works of the law no one will be justified*", Galatians 2:16.

It is so easy to slip into thinking that the service we give and the things we do make us more acceptable to God. Generally this shows up in our thinking that because we haven't done as we should, God will love us less. Or by thinking, I'm OK with God because I'm a good bloke.

The hardest thing for a person to do is to live under the freedom of Christ's forgiveness. That is to live the Gospel.

Living the Gospel at its most basic level is contemplating daily who Christ is and what He has done for you. Living the Gospel is meditating on the reality that the Creator of the universe who had enjoyed the majesty and splendour of heaven, who had lived in perfect relationship with the Father and the Spirit, set all that aside. He set it aside to become a man; to live in what we would call, less than a Third World country. A world with dusty roads, no cars, no power, no running water, no sewage, no designer clothes, not even the internet.

He is man's creator - yet He became a creature. He was deserted by His friends, tortured and crucified by those called to be His own special people.

Why did Christ do all this? Not for His benefit. He did it so you and I could be forgiven and made right with the living God who created us. He did it so we could live with Him in peace and love eternally.

As we meditate on the Gospel we are confronted with the love of God, "*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us*", Romans 5:8.

Before I became a Christian, I was separated from God and under His condemnation. I didn't know it, but I was dead, waiting to lie down. But, Christ died so I could have the life of God - eternal life.

If He has done this for me, the life I now have is no longer my own. I have been bought with a price. A price of infinite worth.

Do I now have the luxury to indulge my own desires? No. I can no longer live to please myself. I must now live to please the One who suffered and died for me to give me this life. God has given me a new heart so I desire to please, not me, but Him.

Is there anyone who has offended me more than I have offended Jesus? Emphatically 'No!' Therefore, how can I not forgive others as He forgives me? How can I be angry or jealous or hateful toward those who have sinned against me? "*The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me*", Galatians 2:20.

To live according to the will of Christ is our duty.

But if we simply live our life in terms of doing our duty, at best it becomes a grind. At worst it becomes a way by which I think I am right with God.

But, when we meditate on the Gospel, when we contemplate who our Lord is and what our Lord has done for us, our duty becomes our joy. It is a joy to serve the One who has given everything for you. It is only when we absorb who Jesus is and what He has done for us that we can live consistently with the truth of the Gospel.

It is not that we are perfect. That's the whole point of living the Gospel. Living the Gospel is learning to rest in His work alone for our being made right with God. It is learning that when we fail and sin against Christ His death has paid the price for even that sin. It is living out the truth that we are right with God, not because we are perfect, but because of Christ's death in our place.

*continued on page 11*



# Not according to plan

By Kirsty, Lady Leader, Proshikkhon 2014



THIS YEAR Proshikkhon did not go according to plan. It ended up even better than we'd hoped for. I think it was my best Proshikkhon yet!

In Proverbs 16:9 it says, "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps". This Proshikkhon we certainly saw that as our plans didn't always eventuate.

But looking back now we can see how God orchestrated things so well.

There were three main challenges in this Proshikkhon: change, captivity and communication.

## CHANGE

During our training in Maleny (Queensland), we prepared the participants to expect change. Day by day we introduced changes to get them used to the idea.

But when we got to Bangladesh, even the leaders were surprised by the number of changes that happened! It seems like our arrival and departure dates were the only things that didn't change.

We were unable to leave the city to visit some ministries. We had to leave the capital early with just a few hours' notice. One group of participants pulled out. Another group couldn't come, and then were able to come (albeit a couple of days late). Every day something in the schedule changed.

We joked, "So now we're up to plan W.4".

However, the changes had positive outcomes. For example, one group arrived early so they received an extra contextualisation seminar to themselves. This also helped the Australian team to have better preparation, and provided training for more Bangladeshi staff. The original schedule (disappointingly) only had Bible storytelling visits

scheduled every second day. But then they ended up going out every day! God made changes for the better!

## CAPTIVITY

The peace and order situation of Bangladesh was quite unstable while we were there. This meant that we were frequently in lock down. "You can't go outside today", our national colleagues said.

Normally, as foreigners, we accompany the Bangladeshi staff and participants for the first few days to help break the ice when they go into new communities to share the Gospel. After that we stay back to pray.

But this year we couldn't go out at all. From the beginning they went out on their own.

On the first day they were told, "Focus on building relationships with the people in the community first. Don't worry if you don't get to tell Bible stories on the first day."

But when the groups came back they said, "The villagers welcomed us. We were able to tell them the creation story. Then they said, 'Please come back tomorrow.'"

It didn't go according to plan, but it was even better than our plan!

## COMMUNICATION

As a small group of foreigners sat down with their group, they handed out the learning materials in Bangla language. The group sat there sheepishly. One lady tried painstakingly for three minutes to etch out her name.

Then the realisation hit them, "These people can't read". We hadn't planned to have illiterates at the seminar. We also hadn't planned to have Hindus and lapsed Christians at our seminar for Christian leaders.

But what a great opportunity!

We were able to help new believers navigate the Bible and understand its big picture. We also had to think about what Bible stories we could use in our contextualisation training, not just Bible propositions. It was unplanned but fantastic!

This year's Proshikkhon didn't go according to our plan, but according to God's plan, and for that, I'm truly thankful.

## FOOTNOTE

Change is what God is all about. God has used Proshikkhon to change the lives of many Bangladeshi tribal people. He has also used it to change Kirsty, and can use it to change you as well. Are you willing? Applications are open for Proshikkhon 2015 (26 December 2014–26 January 2015), email [proshikkhon@wycliffe.org](mailto:proshikkhon@wycliffe.org).



Chris showing the position of Poland on the map



Enjoying fellowship at the meal, LtoR: Richard and Elizabeth Shaw, Judy and Chris Ayres, Christine and Rev Walter Jones

IN JUNE, members of the St John's Toowoomba Congregation welcomed back one of their own, Chris Ayers who as a youngster attended St John's Sunday School. He is now married to Judy and they and their family of four are serving God as Missionaries with AMT in Opole Poland. Everyone was keen to hear of their progress. Having mastered the language and established a base, they have made many good friends and praise God are able to spread the Gospel. They returned to Poland on 7 July 2014 with our prayers and support.

Are you living in North Queensland and wanting to do some theological training?

Or do you know of others who might be interested?

Then an exciting new QTC initiative could be just what you need.

Starting in Semester 2 2014, QTC will be offering units of study in North Queensland in intensive mode. All of the units offered can be taken either for credit towards the Australian College of Theology qualifications offered by QTC, or for audit only (without academic credit or assessments). We will be offering one unit per semester in Townsville, and from 2015, one unit per year in Cairns. The units will be taught in-person by our highly-respected regular QTC Faculty, allowing people in North Queensland to be able to access the top quality training currently offered to students based in south-east Queensland, without having to travel to Brisbane. The units offered will enable potential students to complete one of our shorter qualifications, such as the Graduate Diploma of Divinity or the Diploma of Theology, entirely in North Queensland. Those enrolling will also be able to gain up to one year's credit towards our longer qualifications such as the Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity, if needed.

Our first offering will be the half-unit Principles of Interpretation, which introduces students to how to carefully read and study the Bible. It will be taught through a short intensive running from the evening of Thursday 28 August through till the afternoon of Saturday 30 August.

We are excited about this initiative as it is a great opportunity for the College to be able to serve people in another part of our State, allowing people to access training in-person and in a classroom setting alongside other local students, without having to move to a new city.

For more information, please contact our Registrar Ted Brennan at [registrar@qtc.edu.au](mailto:registrar@qtc.edu.au) or on (07) 3871 9348.



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## WENDY HENRY TALKS ABOUT THE RECENT LEADERS' SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES AND SHARES COMMENTS FROM SOME OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED

ONE SATURDAY morning in February 2014, a group of leaders representing the many faces of "women's ministry" gathered at Ithaca church to connect and co-ordinate what has been happening in the Presbyterian Church in recent times in ministering to the women of Queensland.

The aim was to spotlight examples of what is happening in some of our churches, reflect on the aims and outcomes of these activities, and to gain some insight into the direction that women's ministry should take in the future.

We began with some inspiring words from Lesley Ramsay, who directed our thoughts to Ephesians 2 and 4 as we considered how to have unity at the centre of our vision – how to create that unity (between God and people, and between people and people), how to know unity (by being one in body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, God and Father) and how to maintain unity (in humility, gentleness and patience).

Advancing maturity through God's grace, the gifts of the people around us and focusing on His Word came next, followed by looking at the "trellis and vine" model of "Word" work.

The ministry mindshifts required to put this model into practice were outlined – i.e. from running programs and events and using people.... to BUILDING people, TRAINING them to share their faith and GROWING them!

On this great foundation, some of the leaders then shared about the various organisations they represented. Some highlights were as follows:

- Women's Ministries PCA – the 2007 paper to the General Assembly and the Flourish conference coming up in 2015;
- Women's Ministry PCQ – goals to Encourage, Equip and Extend women spiritually and practically and progress-to-date;
- Presbyterian Women's Association – history of PWA and PWMU and many years of supporting missionaries and theological students;
- Queensland Theological College – current ethos and workings of QTC with 126 students currently (46 of them women) and the Ministry to Women course (M2W) specifically to train women for ministry in local churches, now in its second year, and with a vision to expand to regional areas in the future.

After lunch, representatives of local churches spoke about their experiences. Here is a snapshot of what they shared:

- Creek Road PC – see people as "gifts" to the church – a kaleidoscope of how different women (young and old) serve the church with their individual gifts and abilities.
- Caboolture PC – in conjunction with other local churches, "Teen Link" reaches out to teenage girls at risk, with the love of Jesus, through school chaplains and providing a series of camps for girls in Years 8–12.
- Dalby PC – vision based on the great commission and working on the Encourage - Equip - Extend model, including training and evangelism events, as well as one-to-one ministry.
- Arundel PC – from a background of PWA, other women's ministries have developed including Women's Growth Group (Bible study), one-to-one Bible reading, prayer breakfast, and an annual event for all women, with Bible talk, interviews, lunch etc. (Women Encouraging Women)
- Mitchelton PC – focus on meeting with women around the Word (Women on Wednesday), as well as training in leadership, evangelistic events, camps etc.

Finally, Peter Barson spoke, representing the PCQ, on the need to be united in respecting the past, and yet being open to change, if that is what is needed to produce different ways of getting the gospel out. There is a need for women to be uplifted and encouraged to take their place in establishing ministries.

After some general discussion based on what we'd heard, Lesley Ramsay summed up the day by reminding us of the need for vision; that one-to-one ministry is strategic; outreach must be part of vision; training is crucial; that church leaders have a crucial role to "set women free" to minister; that older/younger relationships over coffee, praying, sharing lives etc are important; and big conferences like GROW certainly have their place; but the "main game" is "women round the Bible".

Feedback from those present at the symposium included the following:

*Question 1: What have you heard today that was helpful or encouraging, about what has been happening in women's ministries in Queensland?*



Lesley Ramsay

Comments:

- Support and encouragement from PCQ leadership;
- Teen ministry in Caboolture – (combined churches outreach to teenage girls);
- Hearing about many different models of women's ministry from those actively involved;
- Hearing some of the history of women's ministry in the Presbyterian Church of Australia;
- An emphasis on equipping women for service;
- The M2W course – providing tools to minister;
- A focus on one-to-one Bible study and mentoring;
- Movement towards connecting with regional Queensland.

*Question 2: What direction do you personally believe our church should take, over the next few years, to co-ordinate and develop the work in ministering to women?*

Comments:

- Friendship and inclusion – making women welcome;
- Equipping – to tell our stories of how Christ has changed us, and to disciple on a one-to-one basis;

- Keep equipping, through training opportunities;
- Keep encouraging and helping ministers and leaders in supporting women's ministries;
- "Vinework" – making disciples – growing in godliness – building/training/growing PEOPLE;
- Focus on rural areas and small churches;
- Older women need to be nurtured and acknowledged;
- Persevere in encouraging and equipping women for ministry;
- Inclusion of women in a meaningful way by ministers and elders;
- Equipping and encouraging are crucial – train women to do "vinework" in their own churches and support smaller churches.

WMPCQ is thankful to all those who contributed to the symposium and consequently have helped in clarifying our direction for the future.

There is still work to be done and we look forward to seeing the women of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland becoming more and more confident and gracious, as together with men, they serve Jesus their Saviour in His Church.

## WOMEN @ PRAYER ...

*It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*Ephesians 4:11-13*

- Praise God for the work of women in our church, from its beginnings with PWMU in 1982 to the newly-developed Ministry to Women course at QTC to train women for their ministry to others.
- Give thanks for all the women over the years who have worked faithfully together, through PWA, WMPCQ and WMPCA, and in their local churches, to encourage and build one another up in their personal lives and in their knowledge of Jesus.
- Pray for wisdom as we face the journey ahead, with inevitable change as our society and lifestyles change, but with the knowledge that God's love and purpose for us never changes.
- Pray that there will be unity as the various organisations within the church seek to develop ministries that encourage strong "vinework" that is aimed at building, training and growing PEOPLE, rather than structure.
- Pray that women will see this "vinework" as being crucial to the way they minister to one another.
- Give thanks for the godly input of Lynda Rackley in her work at the Church Office over many years, demonstrating the way women can support and encourage the men who lead our church. Pray that we all might take on the responsibility to work faithfully in whatever role God has given us. And pray that Lynda enjoys the satisfaction of having completed this part of her journey so successfully.

## A piece of history ...



At the recent State Assembly, four Principals of the Queensland Theological College attended the business meeting on Wednesday afternoon. We were able to take this special photograph of them with the Principal of Emmanuel College, Adjunct Professor Stewart Gill. From left to right: Rev Dr Gary Millar, Principal 2012 to current, Rev Prof Norm Barker, Principal 1981-1994, Adjunct Prof Stewart Gill, Rev Dr Bruce Winter, Principal 2007-2011, Rev Ian McIver, Principal 1995-2005.



Be Connected with WMPCQ through the website + newsletter  
www.wmpcq.com, or email pcqwomen@gmail.com.



## Introducing Michelle Martin ... Kingsford Terrace is coming to life



Michelle Martin

MY NAME is Michelle Martin. I will be the new PA to the Clerk of Assembly and Editor of *New Directions*.

I grew up in a Christian family with two younger sisters. My parents both come from reasonably large families.

Many of my cousins live in New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory. We would travel down to see them every Christmas by car which was a long ride for three young girls.

I came to Christ in my teens and am thankful to my parents and minister who first introduced me to the Lord.

My family attended the Presbyterian Reformed Church at Pine Rivers until I was 10, and we then went to Grace Presbyterian Church.

At the age of 21 I commenced worshipping at Mitchelton Presbyterian Church until they planted Village Church which is where I am now.

In terms of interests I enjoy the outdoors, in particular the beach, going for bike rides and bush walks. I also enjoy travel.

Once I finished high school, I went to TAFE where I completed a Diploma of Justice.

Not long after this I started working for a private law firm as a junior

where I progressed to the position of Legal Secretary.

Most of my work has been with the State Government as an Administration Officer assisting in providing justice for disadvantaged people in Queensland.

Some of you are probably wondering why I am now working for the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. Whilst I enjoyed working in justice, I felt it was time for a new challenge. I left my job to study Building Design at TAFE full-time and completed it at the end of last year. I looked for work in building design but was unsuccessful in obtaining employment in this field.

A couple of friends told me about this position and I decided to apply.

What attracted me to the position was the opportunity to be able to use both my administration and creative skills in ministry. I am excited about this role and thankful to God for His provision!

My hope is to use my legal skills to assist the Clerk of Assembly and my creative skills to continue to share the ministry work of the Presbyterian Church with the wider church community through *New Directions*.

I look forward to meeting and talking with you as I settle into this role.



PresCare's Wayne Knapp and Mike Bosel review plans for the \$100M development

VISITORS TO the Kingsford Terrace site in Corinda will have a lot more to look at in August with commencement of construction on Stage One of PresCare's first premium retirement living community.

Chief Operating Officer Mike Bosel says building works on 68 premium independent-living apartments with one, two and three bedrooms, along with the \$5 million Southern Cross Community Centre will be well underway by Christmas 2014.

"At PresCare we are all very excited about this next stage in the project", Mike says. "It's the next key milestone and one that will be very visible not only to us, but to any visitors to the site."

This milestone will be celebrated at a small event on 28 August at which journalist and Kingsford Terrace Ambassador Mike Munro will officiate.

Those who have bought into the site so far have relied on artists' renders of the buildings and apartments, the 3D model and the beautiful on-site display suite to imagine what their new homes will be like. Mike says it won't be long before their dreams will come to life.

The 68 apartments will be spread across two buildings, with Litchfield being built first, followed by Taylor and the Southern Cross Community Centre which will be a social hub for the residents. Facilities will include a restaurant, cocktail bar, piano lounge, library, billiards room, cinema, heated pool, gymnasium and consulting rooms for visiting allied health practitioners.

"I've met more than 20 of our new residents over the past few months", Mike says, "And it's been great to see them connecting with their future neighbours at the various events we've held."

"One of our future residents worked as a nurse at the former Hopetoun Nursing Home and I think it's so wonderful she has chosen to make her home here, as it really shows how much this place means to people in the Corinda community."

PresCare expects to award the construction contract in early August with works to be underway later in the month.

If you're interested in hearing more about Kingsford Terrace you can contact the sales team on 1300 287 672 or via email at [live@kingsfordterrace.com.au](mailto:live@kingsfordterrace.com.au). You can also find details of the project at the website – [www.kingsfordterrace.com.au](http://www.kingsfordterrace.com.au).

## KINGSFORD TERRACE

Kingsford Terrace offers stunning new apartments in a vibrant and supportive community with exceptional facilities and services to meet your every need. From beautiful gardens, a superb café and lounge, to the sensational indoor pool, with the added security and peace of mind knowing Kingsford Terrace is operated by PresCare – a Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

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*Wouldn't it be wonderful to live  
where the lifestyle is as magnificent  
as the surroundings*





Carolyn Russell, Alison Dines and Beate Teale

# Time out at Brookfield

by Frances Tilly

THE QUEENSLAND Christian Community Centre at Brookfield was again the venue for Presbyterian ladies from Dalby, Toowoomba and surrounding Brisbane suburbs over the weekend of 23-25 May 2014.

The keynote speaker for the retreat was Beate Teale from Alstonville NSW who has studied counselling and is a Minister's wife.

Her theme, taken from the first five chapters of the Gospel of John, was "The Unexpected Jesus".

This revealed some of the aspects of Jesus and the work He came to do which many had not thought about before.

In the culture of the time, Jesus worked outside the rigidity of what was expected, showing that *Jesus loves us for who we are and righteousness is by restoration, not by being morally clean.* She also gave an interesting talk on anxiety.

Other speakers added to the stimulating program.

One was Alison Dines who works in Inside/Out Chaplaincy as Post Release Co-ordinator in prisons. She gave some revealing statistics.

There are 7000 prisoners in Queensland Prisons today. About 800 are released weekly and 30% will return within 2 years. Some do study, some do art and some are led by Chaplains, through the Gideon Bible, to learn about Jesus. No smoking at all is allowed in prisons now.

Inside/Out Chaplaincy is an incorporated Association and is accredited as a Deductible Gift Recipient by the Taxation Department which makes all donations tax deductible.

Alison answered the call to do prison ministry in 2009 after having done part-time theological studies in 2007.

"I believe God positioned me for this role", she said. The ultimate goal of the program is to integrate the ex-prisoner into the life of a local church and community.

Another enlightening talk was given by a mother/daughter team, Cristina and 24-year-old Elizabeth Maule.

They have enjoyed a cross-cultural mission, making friendly outreach to Muslim women and their families.

With a very good pictorial presentation, they told of the wealthy families who are supported by their Government for a period of study here.

"They are in need of friendship and natural discussions take place as we learn about them and they learn about us and a deep friendship results. Reciprocal home visits take place", Cristina explained. "We may never meet again, but Christian witness has been established."



Beate Teale, keynote speaker

## Hear, Live and Share the Gospel (continued from page 7)

So why share the Gospel?

I almost hope by now that I don't have to explain why we should share the Gospel.

We can approach sharing the Gospel as a duty - something we have to do. And it is a duty. It is something we must do. We are under obligation to share.

If I knew a bridge was faulty, and withheld that information, letting people go to their death, I would be held culpable for their death. How much more culpable am I if I believe in Jesus Christ but have no desire to let others know the Good News of Life through Him. Others must hear so that they also can know the love of the One who died for them. How will they hear unless someone tells them?

If we have received eternal life, and enjoy a relationship with God, how can we not share the Gospel with others. That would be like having Cookies and Cream ice cream and keeping it all to yourself, saying to others, "You won't like it".

Christ has given us the privilege of being His fellow workers. We should share the Gospel because we want to.

The other day I had to buy a new slow cooker. I looked around and was surprised at how expensive they had become. You can imagine my joy when I found one on sale, reduced from \$79 to \$40. I was very pleased with myself at getting a bargain. I found myself wanting to tell others my good news. Perhaps they might be in the market for the same appliance.

If I want to share the good news of a bargain-priced slow cooker, how much more should I want to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Not all of us will be up-front evangelists. There are those called to share the Gospel full-time; and those who simply support the ministry in some way. Every Christian will be somewhere between those two ends of the spectrum. At the very least you should have the desire to see others hear the Gospel in the hope that they will come to know Christ as you do. Each of us should be able to answer those who ask us to give a reason for the hope that we have. Of course we must do this with gentleness and respect. Unfortunately, something that many forget to do.

Perhaps there are some reading this who are not Christians.

Have you heard the Gospel? The Good News that Jesus is Saviour and Lord of all. The Gospel is Good News for those who know they are separated from God. It is Good News for those who despair of living life in a fallen world and are looking for rest. It is Good News to those who would love to know for certain that they are right with God.

Jesus promises rest to those who come to Him. Rest from trying to get right with God. Rest from worrying if you are good enough. Rest from trying to do it all by yourself.

He offers the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit for all who come to Him. He offers the assurance that all who believe in Him will live in right relationship with Him and the Father in this age and the next - no tears, no pain, no sorrow or death.

The offer is a free gift for all who trust in Him.

The only appropriate response to the Gospel is to believe it, to begin a personal relationship with Jesus living for Him, and to pass from a life centred on self which does not satisfy and brings death, to an abundant life lived as our Creator intended. This is a promise you can rely on. *No one who trusts in Him will ever be put to shame*, Romans 9:33.

To those who are Christians, what is the message for you? I put it to you that the Gospel is the only theme to live by. In the West, our culture would have us believe that this life is all there is. Therefore, the idea is to live as well as you can and to live for as long as you can. It is all about enjoying this life. Christians absorb this thinking unconsciously as they grow up in the culture around them. We would never admit it, but so often this is how we live. And as a Christian, you get the bonus of eternal life.

The Gospel shows us that this life is not all there is. Christ suffered and died not so I can live for myself in this broken world, but so I can have abundant life with Him now and enjoy life with Him in the next age, forever.

If the life He gives is a free gift, if I have to give up something in this life for His sake, that is a small price to pay compared to the price Christ paid for me. Eternal life with Christ is far more important than comfort and prosperity in this fleeting world.

If we truly hear and contemplate the Gospel, our lives can never be the same again. We must live the gospel, acknowledging daily that we are saved by God's unmerited favour alone, and not because of anything we have done. The Gospel strengthens us to live for Christ and strengthens our desire to share the Gospel.

Remember the Gospel is not advice telling us what to do to get right with God. It is the Good News - the Momentous News - of what God has done for us in Christ. We will either live the Gospel, or we will fall back to trying to get right with God by what we do. Only by hearing the Gospel daily will we live the Gospel daily.

If you have ears to hear, Hear the Gospel, Live the Gospel and Share the Gospel.



Elizabeth and Cristina Maule



Item by Phil Case's four daughters - Taryn Lazarus, Janet Scarlet, Heather Ceddia and Andrea Gibson



# JOHN KNOX: THE TRUMPET BLAST OF SCOTLAND (1): THE YOUNG PREACHER (c.1514-47)

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

This series of five articles published by *Banner of Truth* will be printed in the next five editions of New Directions to commemorate 500 years since the birth of John Knox.



WEILDING ASTONISHING influence over Scotland in the sixteenth century, John Knox (c. 1514-72) was one of the most heroic leaders and towering figures in the annals of church history.

Regarded as ‘the Father of the Scottish Reformation’ and ‘the Founder of the Scottish Protestant Church’, Knox was a spiritual *tour de force* of unmatched vigour in spreading the kingdom of God. With resolute convictions, this fiery Reformer established his native land as an impenetrable fortress of biblical truth, one that would reverberate throughout the known world.

If Martin Luther was the hammer of the Reformation and John Calvin the pen, John Knox was the trumpet.

The year 2014 marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Knox. Given his immense impact upon Scotland’s history and the larger evangelical world, it is appropriate to seize this opportunity to reintroduce Knox to a new generation of Christian believers.

Predominantly forgotten in the modern era, his grave lies beneath a parking lot on the south side of St Giles Church, Edinburgh. Therefore, there is a great need in this present hour for Knox to be resurrected in the memory of all those committed to the same biblical convictions. This article is the first in a series that will profile the extraordinary life and powerful preaching of this luminous Scottish Reformer.

Upon the dawning of the sixteenth century, a thick spiritual darkness veiled the land of Scotland. The religious superstitions of Rome held the nation with an iron-clad grip. The Bible was virtually a closed book, and the gospel of grace had been eclipsed by a popish religion of works-righteousness. The clergy groped about in spiritual ignorance as blind leaders of the blind. A famine of the hearing of the Word of God had left the nation impoverished and spiritually emaciated. Like a Scottish Jeremiah, it was into such a spiritual drought that John Knox providentially entered this world.

### Humble beginnings (c. 1514-35)

John Knox was born around the year 1514 into a poor family in Haddington, East Lothian, which was located about fifteen miles east of Edinburgh. This relatively obscure place was a small town of some 1500 inhabitants. His parents, members of the Roman Catholic Church, placed an immense value upon education and enrolled their son in the local Haddington Grammar School. It was here that his intellect first began to be sharpened and shaped.

Knox then entered the prestigious University of St Andrews (1529), the oldest and most famous university in Scotland. At the university, Knox studied under the noted theologian, philosopher and scholar, John Major, and proved himself an ardent student. He graduated from

St Andrews in 1536, earning the MA degree, and taught briefly as an assistant professor.

### Finding his place (1536-43)

Soon thereafter, Knox was ordained to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church by the Bishop of Dunblane (April 1536). Knox so excelled that he obtained clerical orders even before he reached the age fixed by church canons. As he pressed forward in his new role, he became further entrenched in the same encumbrances of Catholic dogma that had for centuries robbed the Scottish people of the saving knowledge of God.

Unable to find a parish in which to serve, Knox became a papal notary, (a legal officer much like a lawyer), who authenticated legal documents. During this period, the Roman church owned more than half the real estate of Scotland and gathered an annual income of almost eighteen times that of the Scottish Crown. Consequently, the position of a papal notary was a very important role within the Scottish church.

Knox also later served as a private tutor in East Lothian to the sons of two gentry (untitled aristocratic) families (1540-43). Both families, the Douglasses of Longniddry and the Cockburns of Ormiston, were known for their Protestant beliefs. They surely would have exerted some initial gospel influence upon this young, bright teacher. His work with them indicates some openness to these revolutionary doctrines.

### Conversion and growth (1543-44)

During this time (1543), Knox was soundly converted to Christ, probably through the preaching of Thomas Guillanne, an ex-Dominican friar and chaplain to the Earl of Arran. Guillanne, it was said, was ‘the first man from whom Mr Knox received any taste of the truth’. At the end of his life, while upon his deathbed, Knox would ask his wife to read to him the seventeenth chapter of John. ‘It was there’, he said, ‘I first cast my anchor.’

The truths in the high priestly prayer of our Lord proved to be the solid rock on which he first anchored himself to Jesus Christ by faith alone.

Guillanne also gave Knox his first exposure to Reformed doctrine. Now realizing the polluted system of Rome for what it was – contaminated and corrupt - Knox confessed, ‘It pleased God to call me from the puddle of Papistry’.

For the next two years Knox devoted himself to the meticulous study of Scripture in a diligent search for a deeper knowledge of the truth.

### From bodyguard to reformer (1545-46)

As Knox grew in his new faith, George Wishart, a powerful Reformed preacher, began a preaching itinerancy in southern Scotland. When he came to East Lothian, Knox became one of his closest disciples and followers. In a relatively short period of time, Wishart exercised strong influence over Knox in the Reformed faith (Dec. 1545-Mar. 1546). This intense exposure would profoundly shape Knox’s ministry for the remainder of his life.

As Wishart’s ministry gained increasing notoriety, his strong preaching drew serious threats upon his life. With supreme loyalty, Knox soon became Wishart’s personal assistant and bodyguard. He protected his spiritual mentor with a two-handed sword, ready to defend him to the death. By this bold step Knox’s courage in standing and fighting for the truth first began to emerge.

As religious tension and persecution reached fever pitch in December 1545, Wishart was arrested and taken to St Andrews Castle. When Knox attempted to physically defend his mentor, Wishart insisted that he go back to Longniddry. Wishart implored his

loyal bodyguard, ‘Return to your bairns (pupils), and God bless you. One is sufficient for one sacrifice.’ Wishart was burned at the stake on 1 March 1546 at St Andrews Castle by the nephew of the same Archbishop, David Beaton, who had earlier martyred Patrick Hamilton (1528), the first Reformed preacher in Scotland in this era. As the flames flashed across his body, Wishart cried forth: ‘I beseech Thee, Father of heaven, forgive them that have of any ignorance, or else have of any evil mind, forged any lies upon me. I forgive them with all my heart. I beseech Christ to forgive them that have condemned me to death this day ignorantly.’

With these dying words the gospel beacon was passed to John Knox. In Wishart’s martyrdom, the flames that consumed his body had already ignited Reformation fires and by means of Knox would spread throughout all of Scotland and Great Britain.

Historian, William G. Blaikie writes: ‘The chief result of this murder was to substitute John Knox for George Wishart, as the man of light and leading for the country ... Wishart was to Knox as Stephen had been to Paul.’

Unknown at the time, the invisible hand of providence was raising up a new defender of the faith for such a time as this.

### Called to preach (1547)

On 29 May 1546, Cardinal Beaton, who had put Wishart to death, was himself assassinated in the same St Andrews Castle.

Previously a Catholic stronghold, St Andrews increasingly became a rallying point for many who were embracing Reformed teaching.

Among those who rallied to the castle, strategically located on Scotland’s east coast, were John Knox and his young pupils.

In addition to his tutoring responsibilities, he also taught Scripture to three students, leading them through a systematic study through the Gospel of John. Others soon joined this class, and Knox’s teaching gifts soon became apparent to all.

Due to his obvious and extraordinary ability in handling the Word, Knox was asked to preach to the congregation that had gathered for worship in St Andrews Castle.

In a sermon preached by John Rough, Knox was publicly charged before the congregation to answer what the former believed to be the divine call upon his life. A startled Knox ‘burst forth in most abundant tears, and withdrew himself to his chamber’.

Knox believed he must not run where God had not called him. Locked in his room for days, he underwent much soul-searching until, at last, he stepped forward to answer the call to preach. Knox, now assured of God’s summons, presented himself for installation as pastor of the Protestant congregation in the castle.

Gripped by a sense of direct accountability to God, Knox preached his first public sermon on Daniel 7:24-25 in Holy Trinity Parish Church, St Andrews. Throughout his exposition Knox declared his Protestant convictions with unmistakable precision and power. The sermon was delivered with the force of a lightning bolt from heaven. It was said by those who heard him, ‘Others sned [lop off] the branches of the papistry, but he striketh at the root also to destroy the whole’.

Some concluded, ‘Master George Wishart never spoke so plainly; and yet he was burnt. Even so will John Knox be.’

From this time forward Knox ministered as a marked man.

After this inaugural sermon, Knox

would later affirm that St Andrews was ‘that place where God first in public opened my mouth to His glory’. For the remainder of his life and ministry, Knox asserted, ‘I must be blowing my Master’s trumpet.’

Few preachers in the history of the church have ever sounded forth the Word of God with such intense fervor and bold conviction as did he.

If the church is to see another Reformation in these days, there must be a new generation of such fiery preachers. Like this Scottish Reformer of old, they must be men who are unwavering in their certainty that God has, indeed, called and commissioned them to preach his Word. They must be deeply convinced of the biblical doctrines of the saving gospel of God, and they must be willing to defend it against all present day assaults. Like Knox of old, they must herald the full counsel of God, be it popular or not, without stuttering or stammering. Such men of God must blow the trumpet with a clear and compelling sound.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, ‘the prince of preachers’, was one such preacher. In his own day he was unashamed to identify with both the great Scottish Reformer and his gospel: ‘John Knox’s gospel is my gospel; that which thundered through Scotland must thunder through England again.’

The urgent need of this present hour is for John Knox’s gospel to rumble in pulpits and resound throughout the church.

May God give a multitude of Scripture-saturated, gospel-grounded voices to preach the Word to our truth-deprived generation.

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



John Knox preaching the Word of God with bold conviction



# Talua Tales

## The Schaches sparking on all cylinders

by Royce Perkins

*THEY AREN'T teachers or lecturers at the Talua Ministry Training Centre on the island of Espiritu Santo with its 60 students plus academic staff and families.*

*They don't preach sermons at church, lead Bible study groups, or translate the scriptures.*

*But believe me, Andrew and Marilyn Schache are sparking on all kinds of cylinders demonstrating Christ's love to the college community and beyond – a practical yet powerful missionary ministry.*

*They are members of St John's Presbyterian Church in Toowoomba, Queensland, and associated with APWM (Australian Presbyterian World Mission).*

*Marilyn describes their role at Talua as 'backgrounders'. The foregrounders need the backgrounders to free the teachers and lecturers to concentrate on doing what they are called by God to do, she said.*

*So what exactly do these so-called backgrounders do? (I think they are frontliners, at the forefront of practical support.) And why were we spending the last week of June at Talua at the bottom of the largest of the 83 islands that form the Y shaped archipelago labelled Vanuatu.*

*We left the airport city of Luganville bouncing along a pot-holed road in a Toyota Hilux twin cab loaded with nine passengers, some of them perched on and around piles of luggage, boxes of foodstuff, various bits of equipment, plus a 200 litre drum of diesel (locally called mazut).*

*Several expat families from Australia and New Zealand who have been serving at the college in various lecturing and teaching roles will be leaving later this year. My wife Heather's task was to facilitate a workshop for them in preparation for the cultural, emotional and practical stresses of re-entering their 'home' country, plus one-on-one sessions and a group session with their children.*

Remember that the college is quite remote in a very hot climate, usually with high humidity, and surrounded by lush fast-growing vegetation.

The Schaches engage without fuss in a bewildering range of activities. No day is typical – except for the first few hours: the 5 am clanging of iron on iron, euphemistically called a bell, signals wake-up for personal devotions. Then again at 6 am for breakfast, 7 am for chapel devotions (on various days for various groups) and 7.30 am for lectures to begin. Chapel and church services invariably include beautiful harmony singing, often unaccompanied, sometimes with guitars. Worshipful, joyous, inspiring.

Andrew has refurbished a staff house, installing ceilings, water pumps, solar power, LED lighting, added another room, some painting. Around the campus he is one of the 'fix-it' frontliners – maintaining the 1956 reconditioned tractor given by a Queensland farmer that does a sterling job on a huge range of tasks, amongst them hauling trailer loads of bagged coral gravel, the basis of the concrete needed for various construction projects. Then there is the welding, (but only between 6 and 9 p.m. when the community generator operates), installing, repairing, building. There seems no end to his cheerful energy nor his frontline innovative skills, all the time demonstrating to others the 'how-tos' within limited budgets and sometimes hard-to-get supplies.

Meanwhile, Marilyn's volunteer role provides invaluable support to the Dean of Studies and the Registrar in record keeping, data entry, all kinds of organising, planning, emailing, sorting, incidental accounting, and the other sudden and unexpected requests for help. She spends many hours each day on computers. All that, plus warmly interacting with numerous local women with friendship and hospitality (as well as cooking and caring for Andrew).

Fortunately, the Schaches are

fluent in Bislama, closely related to the Pidgin they learnt when serving for six years in Papua New Guinea. English and French are also widely spoken in Vanuatu, and there are more than 100 local languages.

For two weeks in June Andrew supervised a visiting work party in the construction of a besser brick (made on site) ablution block for the single male college students. The work party comprised seven men and two women from various parts of Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania, ranging in age from mid-twenties to mid-seventies, which included a builder, farmers, retirees and a cook, all hard workers.

The Schaches firmly believe the ultimate goal for the college, its community and the national church must be the development of self-sufficiency under God, and that this needs deliberate hastening. Highly desirable, one would think, after more than 150 years of Christian and mainly Presbyterian missionary activity (the Presbyterian Church was the first and is by far the largest denomination in Vanuatu).

Marilyn insists that 'we have learnt so much. These people are so generous, befriending us, and praying for us. So many opportunities just to talk with women, building them up through informal conversation. Being part of the chain of service is such a privilege.' Andrew: 'The informal chatting with the men as we work is a joy. They are sponges and learn quickly. To see them applying newfound skills in their daily Christian lives is a blessing'.

The Schaches have accomplished so much, some of it quite miraculously in answer to fervent prayer. And they have plans to do so much more before their 20-month stint ends and they fly out on Christmas Day.

Backgrounders? No way. Frontliners! They surely embody Francis of Assisi's injunction: Preach the gospel always; if necessary use words.



## Induction Service and Welcome for the Very Rev. David Jones at Ann Street Presbyterian Church - 6 March 2014



THE VERY Rev David Jones was inducted as Minister and welcomed to Ann Street Presbyterian Church on 6 March 2014. Rev Dr Gary Millar, Principal, Queensland Theological College, delivered the sermon at the Induction Service. Afterwards, members of the congregation and the Presbytery of Brisbane enjoyed supper together in the church hall. It was a joyful and convivial event.

We are so very thankful and happy to receive Mr Jones as our new minister after the Charge had been without a regular pastor for so long.

Thank you to Rev Ron Clark, who has faithfully cared for us as Interim Moderator while we waited upon the Lord to provide us with our own full-time Minister.

Praise be to God who always provides for our needs, over and above that which we can conceive of.



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## GenConnect success in Maryborough



Shanaye and Joyce

A GROUP of thirteen students from Riverside Christian College in Maryborough recently spent five weeks visiting residents at our Groundwater Lodge and Yaralla Place facilities as part of the pilot for the PresCare GenConnect program.

An initiative of the PresCare Volunteer Program, GenConnect is designed to bridge the generation gap and hopefully help those students feel more connected, through a living history, to their place in society.

Volunteer Program Manager Julie Hoffmann says the idea for the program came from observations of

the way her grandkids interacted with her elderly father.

"I wanted to help show these kids that nanna didn't arrive old, she had a life, she had experiences and wishes and dreams of her own as they do", Julie says.

Students were each partnered with a resident, and over the course of five weekly visits, learned about the life of their partner, and in some cases a lot about the history of Maryborough itself.

GenConnect participant Ethan Peaker, who was paired with John Hansen, a 92-year old war veteran,

says it made him happy to see the residents he interacted with so happy and excited to talk about their experiences.

It is expected that GenConnect will shortly be implemented across the State, partnering with high schools located near PresCare residential services.



Robyn Sansbury enjoys visiting with client Betty Manion regularly



Gardening Working Bee

## Garden Restoration Project for Healthy Ageing in full swing at Alexandra Gardens

IT'S ALL systems go at Alexandra Gardens with raised garden beds being replanted with vegies and herbs, and courtyard gardens in each of the five houses having a makeover following a recent Saturday working bee.

Plants and herbs have carefully been chosen and planted by resident gardeners. The vegetables are now thriving from the ongoing care and attention from the residents who look forward to looking after 'their' gardens each day.

In addition, a recent Saturday working bee saw residents, staff and families of residents volunteer their time to help provide labour, garden plants, soil, mulch, garden pots and tools.

Children and grandchildren of staff and residents were keen participants

throughout the working bee and it was difficult to keep up with their energetic enthusiasm - particularly when the garden ornaments had to be placed in the gardens!

Facility Manager, Sandra Thomson, says the camaraderie leading up to the working bee, as well as the pride and commitment shown by all of the restored gardens has been rewarding for those involved.

"The residents thoroughly enjoyed participating in the working bee often offering advice and suggestions based on their years of experience as keen gardeners", Sandra says.

The working bee was also a competition with a prize for the best restored garden.

Gardenia Court won the prize and all other houses were awarded highly commended.



## Chaplaincy and pastoral care progress at PresCare

PRES CARE'S CHAPLAINCY services continue to grow in reach and engagement, with chaplains and pastoral carers becoming more integrated into the Care team at each site.

In the residential arena, PresCare has been actively engaged in the purchase and management of State-operated aged care facilities. This resulted in PresCare becoming the successful tenderer for Yaralla Place, a 96-bed aged care facility in Maryborough, in September 2013.

Chaplaincy's involvement in the integration of Yaralla Place into the PresCare family and ensuring the work there reflects its values was integral, as was the way we transitioned employees there from treating it as a purely clinical environment to thinking of Yaralla Place as a home.

The growth we have seen in our

Chaplaincy services has seen more engagement between our chaplains and pastoral carers and clients, not only in the residential sector, but also in our community care business.

This is often through the Friendship Groups that are being run by many of our community teams. These are an important way we can help our clients stay more connected and reduce the likelihood of social isolation and its associated impacts.

The involvement of our chaplains and pastoral carers in the implementation and running of these groups has been the key to their success in many regions.

Growth is also occurring in the relationships between local Presbyterian congregations and the corresponding PresCare site, both residential and community.

Over the past several months Robyn Sansbury, Chaplain in our

Kawana Community region, has been developing strong relationships with the Caloundra congregation. Several members of that congregation attend the monthly Friendship Groups which are often held at the Caloundra church.

"Claire is one of our regular visitors to the Friendship Group", Robyn says. "She loves to come along and chat to the clients; and I have had many of our clients say they really enjoy talking to Claire as she's such a gracious lady."

Robyn says for her, it's all about building relationships with clients and the Friendship Groups are a great way to do that.

We greatly appreciate the volunteers we've received from local congregations, and hope to widen our pastoral ministry with more congregational volunteers who are able to share the Gospel.



# What's on ...

The Presbyterian Church of Queensland presents

**FUN & ADVENTURE**  
28 SEPT - 4 OCT 2014

WATER SPORTS, LIVE CHANGING BIBLE TALKS, THEME NIGHTS, OUTDOOR ROCKCLIMBING, TEAM GAMES, FUN ACTIVITIES, AWESOME FOOD & MUCH MORE!

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For 7 days, 6 nights accommodation, 3 meals a day and all of the activities, you pay \$310

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24 - 26 OCT 2014

searching the story of Joseph

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for further enquiries, contact john mansfield  
p: 0438 538 480 e: [johnm@pcq.org.au](mailto:johnm@pcq.org.au)

ACTS 29 PRESENTS

**PROCLAIM JESUS**

Matt Chandler

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre  
7pm, August 25, 2014. [www.mattchandlerinbrisbane.com.au](http://www.mattchandlerinbrisbane.com.au)

QTC

- 2014 -

*Be Creative...*

**LADIES RETREAT**

*A variety of workshops for you to enjoy!*

Commences 4pm, Friday 31st October  
Concludes 3pm, Sunday 2nd November

Venue:  
Watson Park  
Old Gympie Road  
Dakabin

Online registration available:  
[www.wmpcq.com](http://www.wmpcq.com)

women's ministries  
presbyterian church of queensland

QTC What's on in 2014

**August**

August will be packed full of great teaching as QTC partners with other Christian organisations to bring to you these world-class speakers.

**Prof. John Lennox : August 22 : Cosmic Chemistry**  
Presented by City Bible Forum. Prof. John Lennox of Oxford University will explore the relationship between science and God. He is the author of numerous books exploring science and Christianity. His ready wit and sharp mind has led to his involvement in many public debates with leading atheist thinkers.

**Dr Michael Horton : August 23 : Talking Theology**  
Dr Michael Horton has taught apologetics and theology at Westminster Seminary California since 1998. He has written many books, including *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*.

**Matt Chandler : August 25 : Proclaim Jesus**  
Presented by Acts 29. Matt Chandler is the lead pastor for teaching at The Village Church in Dallas, Texas. He is involved in church planting around Dallas and across the world through The Village Church and other partnerships such as Acts 29.

**October**

**Dr Peter O'Brien : Oct 9-10 : Hebrews**  
Dr Peter O'Brien is recognised as a leading New Testament scholar and has previously been the Vice Principal of Moore College, Sydney. He'll be visiting QTC over two days to teach on the book of Hebrews.

**Colin Buchanan : Oct 18 : Children's Ministry Conference**  
Colin has years of experience making God's word understandable and memorable for kids. He is, without a doubt, Australia's best-loved Christian children's artist. Colin has a proven track record for helping kids engage with ideas in the Bible, so this is sure to be a valuable conference to attend.

**Web:** [www.qtc.edu.au](http://www.qtc.edu.au) **Email:** [events@qtc.edu.au](mailto:events@qtc.edu.au)

## briefly

### ASSEMBLY DATES 2015

The Assembly dates for 2015 will be: Induction Service, 21 June; Assembly seminar and business meetings, 22-25 June. Mark them in your diary and plan to come.

### MODERATOR-ELECT

Mr Greg Rodgers, Elder, Wavell Heights PC, was elected Moderator-Elect at the recent Assembly.

### VACANCY - ST PAUL'S BRISBANE

St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Spring Hill, Brisbane seeks a Minister with a passion for proclaiming Jesus Christ in today's changing world, the ability to preach God's Word with simplicity and clarity, and well-developed leadership and communication skills. We're a city church entrusted with all the privileges and challenges of a historic building and a diverse congregation. For further details, please visit the Ministerial Vacancy page on our website, [www.stpaulspc.org.au](http://www.stpaulspc.org.au).

### PUBLICATIONS BY NOEL WALLIS

Author, Noel Wallis, has recently published a story in word and photographs of TEN preachers who have influenced him during his life, and into his ordained ministry years - most were Presbyterian ministers with a few being Methodists. He has donated a copy to the archives for wider reading. As well, he has produced a small publication entitled, "My Recollections of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (Continuing) during discussions in Presbytery and Assembly on the formation of the Uniting Church of Australia, and the final vote in 1977". He has a few spare copies (free) with P&P \$5.00. Contact Noel on 3372 2145.

### MODERATOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Chaplains to the Moderator, Rt Rev. Phil Case, are Mr Robert Thompson (Elder, Coorparoo) and Rev. Ross Wilson (Minister, Southside). To make bookings for the Moderator, please email [pcqmoderator2014@gmail.com](mailto:pcqmoderator2014@gmail.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](mailto:churchoffice@pcq.org.au)

### UNIT TO LET

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



# DECISIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY

by Rev. Lesleigh Hall, Deputy Clerk, PCQ

THE ASSEMBLY

- \* Inducted Rt Rev P. N. Case as Moderator.
- \* Was informed by the Moderator that he had appointed Rev. Ross Wilson and Mr Robert Thompson as his Chaplains.
- \* Thanked the Moderator for his address, “Hear, Live, Share”.
- \* Requested the Moderator to visit the Presbyteries of North Queensland, Central Queensland, Moreton and Brisbane.
- \* Thanked PresCare for the provision of a fully-maintained motor vehicle for the Moderator.
- \* Recorded its appreciation to the Hon. G. F. Rodgers for his service as Moderator.
- \* Declared Mr Greg Rodgers, Elder at Wavell Heights Presbyterian Church, as Moderator-Elect.
- \* Noted the retirement of Rev Dr Paul G. Logan as Clerk of the GAA and expressed the Assembly’s thanks for his many years of devoted service to the Federal Church and assured him of the prayers of the members of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.
- \* Gave thanks to God for the dedicated service that Lynda Rackley has given to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland over the past 27 years as Personal Assistant to the Director of Home Ministry and Christian Education and then the Clerk of Assembly.
- \* Resolved to grant the status of Minister Emeritus to Rev M. E. Pierce.
- \* Resolved to grant a seat on the Assembly to Rev A. A. D. Gardiner so long as he continues to serve and hold a seat in the Presbytery of Brisbane.
- \* Welcomed the following new members to the Assembly: Rev B. L. Dickson, Minister, Clayfield; Very Rev D. N. Jones, Minister, Ann Street; Rev Dr J. G. Millar, Principal, Queensland Theological College; Rev J. N. Wales, Assistant Minister, Mitchelton; Mr P. G. Cotton, Elder, Bald Hills; Mr J. W. Hamilton, Elder, Graceville; Mr G. A. Harris, Elder, South Toowoomba; Mr S. J. Powell, Elder, Peace; Mr R. A. Skerman, Elder, Dalby; Mr N. M. C. Stewart, Elder, Browns Plains.
- \* Recorded with regret the deaths of the following ministers: Rev Alan Lloyd Switzer; Rev Bruce James Harrison; Rev Bruce Stanley Poyser.
- \* Recorded with regret the deaths of the following elders: Maurice Ivers, Fitzroy; Stanley Cane, Caloundra; Gordon McVicar, Tewantin; Ian Miller, Coorparoo; Errol Shepherd, Gayndah; Johannes Schmidt, St Andrew’s Townsville; James Naylor, John Knox Townsville; Allan Campbell, Graceville.
- \* Received the PWA delegation: Mrs Heather Ross (President), Mrs Heather Burton (Secretary) and Mrs Bev Horgan (Treasurer).
- \* Received Women’s Ministries delegation: Mrs Wendy Henry and Mrs Jan Langbridge.
- \* Received presentations from the Presbyteries of Moreton, Darling Downs and Brisbane.
- \* Welcomed Rev L. Senituli, National Convener of the Cross Cultural Commission of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations in the Uniting Church of Australia, as a visitor to the Assembly.
- \* Was led by Mr M. J. Smith (Lecturer in Biblical Studies (Greek and New Testament) at Christ College, Sydney) in the Biblical Expositions on the theme, “Hope” from 1 Corinthians 15-16.
- \* Participated in the Assembly seminar, “Personal Peacemaking and Building a Culture of Peace”, conducted by the Committees on Ministry Resourcing and Outreach and Nurture and led by Rev B. M. Meller (Superintendent of Ministry and Mission for the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales),

- and Ms E. G. Ford (Queensland Director for PeaceWise).
- \* Resolved that the 2015 Assembly be held as a ‘Live-in’ Assembly at Clayfield College in Brisbane from 20-25 June 2015.
- \* Affirmed the decision to allocate an amount of \$800,000 designated for land banking to a new account entitled Ministry Expansion Fund and authorised the Commission of Assembly to expand the use of this fund to assist any existing or new congregations with land purchases and building acquisitions or extensions, with such assistance being made by way of loans and/or grants.
- \* Authorised the Commission of Assembly to act upon any advice which may be received in relation to privacy legislation and its ramifications for Church websites.
- \* Affirmed as policy that the Finance and Administration Board and the Board of PresCare should study possible synergies in terms of office administration and that such measures should be pursued with urgency.
- \* Resolved to distribute to all Presbyteries and Sessions the following declaration by the 2013 General Assembly of Australia as an authoritative position regarding infant baptism: *“Declare that the understanding and practice of infant baptism is so integral to the history of the purity of worship and the structure of covenant theology in the Westminster Confession of Faith that no potential office bearer should sign the formula if the Church’s stance on infant baptism is not accepted. Furthermore, those who have signed it, but hold exclusively to credobaptistic views, should remain silent on their views or resign.”*
- \* Noted that the Finance and Administration Board is utilising \$64,500 during 2014 from the Capital Profits Reserve to subsidise Assembly and SMP assessments, to ease the financial strain on congregations.
- \* Determined that the Long Service Leave provision relating to all employees while serving as a private appointee be transferred to PCQ, provided that the employee served as a private appointee as at 30 June 2013.
- \* Expressed its appreciation to the Procurator of the State Assembly, Mr Gregory Burton, SC, BCL (Oxon), LLB (Hons) (Syd), FCIARB, for his diligent and committed help to the Queensland Church.
- \* Received the statement, *Defamation in Outline in respect of Church Matters and Courts*, and declared that the Courts of the Queensland Church may use this statement as guidance in any specific matter regarding defamation.
- \* Instructed the Code and Legal Reference Committee to bring an overtire to the Commission of Assembly to amend the Code of the Church concerning Ministers Emeriti after considering a Petition concerning a related matter.
- \* Appointed Rev W. Redgen to the position of Senior Lecturer in New Testament and Greek Exegesis at QTC for a further five-year term.
- \* Expressed, in principle, support for the development of a new purpose-built facility for QTC on the Emmanuel College site.
- \* Began the process to amend the current requirements Presbyteries use when setting Trials for Licence for Candidates for the Ministry
- \* Was addressed by Mr R. E. Crane, Padre from the North Queensland PIM Patrol.
- \* Encouraged congregations to pray for church plants, church renewals and church resourcing presently being funded by the Committee on Ministry Resourcing and the Commission of Assembly through Further Funding for Ministry Initiatives.
- \* Encouraged congregations to pray for MTN trainees, their trainers and all others involved in the implementation of this initiative.

- \* Resolved to write to the family of the late Mr A. Collins, thanking them for the generous support of their father for the ministry of the Committee on Ministry Resourcing, noting that the Collins bequest has been allocated to the provision of subsidies to assist with the funding of appointments of MTN trainees.
- \* Requested the Committee on Ministry Resourcing to compile a list of men who are available to work in Charges on a short or long term basis.
- \* Was addressed by Youth Consultant, Mr David Hopper.
- \* Encouraged congregations to become involved in the Youth Ministry Network, so that youth ministries throughout the State are strengthened.
- \* Thanked the Minister for Education for initiating the formation of the Religious Instruction Quality Assurance Taskforce and requested the Minister for Education to ensure that a representative from the Presbyterian Church of Queensland continues to be invited to meetings of this taskforce.
- \* Commended to congregations the annual Week of Prayer and encouraged the use of the resources provided within Charges as feasible.
- \* Dismissed a petition from members of the Fitzroy Charge concerning the Lammemoor Campsite.
- \* Expressed its deep appreciation to Mr Joe Papajcsik for his invaluable service and significant contribution during his time on the Property Board.
- \* Approved the appointment of a Working Group to investigate the options available to the Church for acquiring land for new congregations.
- \* Declared that the proceeds of the sale of property at Bromley Street, Cornubia, be utilized by the Southside Charge for the purchase of a property.
- \* Encouraged qualified congregational members to consider becoming members of the Stipends Commission.
- \* Requested the Stipends Commission to review and increase the per kilometre reimbursement for travel.
- \* Was addressed by Rev. K. D. Murray (Director of APWM National), Mr Robert Handicott (St Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Townsville, and Ethiopia), Mr Greg. Newnham (Wynnum Presbyterian Church and Proshikkhon), and Mr Nathan Stewart (Browns Plains Presbyterian Church and Japan).
- \* Commended the following missionaries to the prayerful, financial and practical support of the Church: the Rayner family; Keith and Elspeth Campbell; Jared Bradley; the Stewart family; Vivien Barton; Paul and Elaine Marjoram.
- \* Requested Presbyteries and Congregations to ensure that missionaries who visit on

- deputation are offered suitable hospitality and are not financially disadvantaged as a result of their visit.
- \* Began the process to amend the current name for the ‘Public Questions and Communications Committee’ to ‘Gospel in Society Today (GiST)’.
- \* Adopted the ‘Gospel in Humanity’ position paper produced by the Public Questions and Communications Committee.
- \* Endorsed the ‘Report on the WCF, the Civil Authorities, PCQ and Rule 5.13’ produced by the Public Questions and Communications Committee.
- \* Was addressed by Mr R. D. Parker, Convener of the GAA National Journal Committee.
- \* Was addressed by Very Rev R. P. F. Benn, Convener of the GAA Committee on Relations with Other Churches.
- \* Encouraged members, departments, organisations and institutions of the PCQ to join the membership of the World Reformed Fellowship in order “that the strengths of some might become the strengths of all in the service of Jesus Christ”.
- \* Noted that the following decision of the 2013 General Assembly of Australia: *Advise the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:*
  - (1) Expresses great sadness that in seeking “peace and unity” within its bounds the Church of Scotland has chosen to allow an individual Kirk Session to call a minister in a civil partnership if it chooses to do so.*
  - (2) Advise the Church of Scotland that in making this decision, the Church itself has broken “peace and unity” with those who uphold the Word of God as the only rule of faith and practice, and with those who uphold the exclusiveness of the Biblical doctrine of marriage recapitulated by our Lord Jesus in Mark 10:6-9.*
- \* Appointed Mrs Anneke Bull, Mr Greg Rodgers and Mr Keith Stewart as Directors of the Board of PresCare for a term of three years.
- \* Expressed thanks and appreciation to Mr Wayne Knapp for his service, commitment and dedication to the PresCare Board over the past 16 years, and also to previous Directors, Ms Elise McCauley, Mr Paul Compton, Mr Keith Booker and Mr Ian Hart.
- \* Approved in principle a change of purpose of the PresCare Fursden Road Carina site adjacent to the PresCare residential aged care facility.
- \* Noted the decision of the PresCare Board to sell Roslyn Lodge and the adjoining parcel of land.
- \* Approved the purchase of the IT

- company Surecom by PresCare.
- \* Encouraged Presbyteries and Congregations to examine ministry opportunities with which PresCare can provide assistance.
- \* Resolved to consider the challenges facing refugees and displaced persons; the opportunities for development of congregational based ministries of support and evangelism; and requested the Board of PresCare to give serious consideration to appointing and equipping a Chaplain to Refugees.
- \* Approved changes to the Constitution of PresCare so that the Assembly appoints the CEO, the Convener of the Committee on Ministry Resourcing is a second visitor to PresCare and no member of the Board of PresCare can be employed by PresCare although the Chairman of the Board of PresCare may be remunerated for governance work done on behalf of the Board.
- \* Noted and thanked the Very Rev Dr Ken Gardner for his exemplary and dedicated service to Fairholme College, as a member of the Board of Directors for 34 years since 1980.
- \* Noted and thanked Mrs Frances Tilly for her dedicated service to the College, as member of the Board of Directors since 1998.
- \* Was addressed by Ms C. I. O’Gorman, Chaplain at Somerville House.
- \* Reappointed Mr Kevin Standish and Mr Richard Wilkinson to the PMSA Council for a further three year term.
- \* Expressed its sincere gratitude to Mr Brian Savins for his commitment, dedication and Christian witness during his eight years of leading Clayfield College as Principal, noting particularly his support of its Assembly meetings at Clayfield College.
- \* 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.
- \* Thanked Rev R. Herrmann for his invaluable contribution to the work of the Grace College Council over a period of fifteen years, particularly in his capacity as chairperson.
- \* Thanked Rev Walter Jones for his continuing support and dedication as Chaplain at the St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital.
- \* Reappointed Mrs J. M. Sanders, Messrs I. Andersen, N. E. Bouchier, G. Skelton, Mesdames E. Farr, J. Loxton, Drs S. G. Paige, T. R. Porter to the Board of St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital for a further term.
- \* Authorised the Commission of Assembly to receive a finalised report from the Ad Hoc Committee on St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital; and to take action, including make Constitutional changes, arising from the report.

