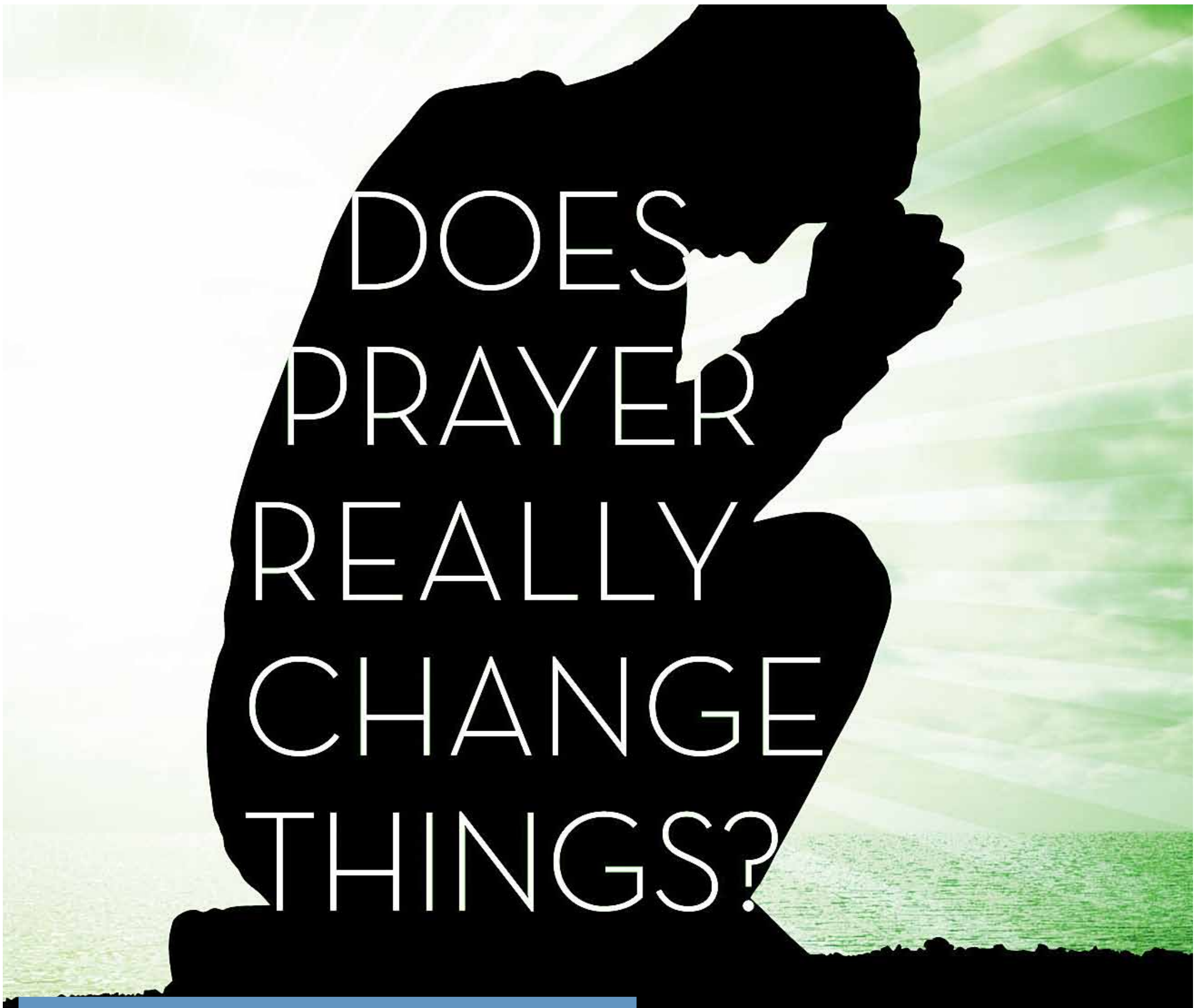




# DIRECTIONS

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



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*"Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue; God's voice is its most essential part. Listening to God's voice is the secret of the assurance that He will listen to mine."* - Andrew Murray

*"To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees."* - Billy Graham

*"To have God speak to the heart is a majestic experience, an experience that people may miss if they monopolize the conversation and never pause to hear God's responses."* - Charles Stanley

*"The engagement of the heart in worship is the coming alive of the feelings and emotions and affections of the heart. Where feelings for God are dead, worship is dead."* - John Piper

*"Praying puts us at risk of getting involved in God's conditions. Be slow to pray. Praying most often doesn't get us what we want but what God wants, something quite at variance with what we conceive to be in our best interests."* - Eugene Peterson

*"Always respond to every impulse to pray. The impulse to pray may come when you are reading or when you are battling with a text. I would make an absolute law of this: always obey such an impulse."* - Martyn Lloyd-Jones



# The place of prayer in preaching the Word

SPEAKING ABOUT preaching always makes me very nervous.

There are plenty of helpful things to say about improving our preaching: understanding the text better, improving our grasp of biblical theology, and ensuring our expository preaching is theologically rich.

But there is a slight problem in all this. There is a very real danger that this knowledge can leave us with a strong sense that preaching is all about what we do. In fact, we can very easily slip into thinking that if we do it properly – if we preach well – then God will work. In other words, we make it all about us. And that, rather obviously, is a very big mistake. It is also clearly a load of rubbish.

Everyone who has ever preached regularly knows something about the mystery of the talk that you thought was brilliantly constructed but fell completely flat. In God's kindness, you may also have listened to yourself giving a really dud sermon that led someone to become a Christian. Personally I much prefer those days!

I am very thankful that what may well have been the worst sermon I ever preached led to one of the more significant kingdom moments I've been involved in! It was a Good Friday service, and I managed to muck up preaching on the Cross.

Not easy, I know, but I rose to the challenge. I made the death of Jesus sound dull, boring and unbelievably complicated.

Now I'm generally not one to mope, but I did that night. I went home feeling incredibly sorry for myself – in fact, so sorry for myself, that I went straight to bed.

I was lying awake, beating myself up, when the phone rang. It was a girl from church named Judith. She was in tears.

I felt like saying, 'What are you crying for – you only had to listen to the talk!'

She patiently explained through her tears that after years of sitting in church, she had understood that Jesus had died for her for the very first time, and she had become a Christian.

Why does that happen? It really was a rubbish talk! It's because God works through preaching.

At points, it's hard to believe. At points, it seems ridiculous. At other points, we may so fall in love with the sound of our own voice that we think God has no choice but to work through our incredible presentation! But God works through preaching. We really do need to remember that.

The Apostle Paul gives God's people in Corinth, and us, a warning in 1 Corinthians 1:18-21: *For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart". Where is the one who is wise? Where is the*

*scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.*

I think it is an occupational hazard for those of us who teach the Bible regularly, whether in local churches, or growth groups, or scripture classes, or to kids, or the youth group, that we forget this. We work hard on the text. We try to distil a 'big idea' that is both faithful and compelling. We work hard to ensure that our presentation is clear and persuasive. We get onto our feet and give it everything we've got. And we slip into thinking that it really is all about us. If God does work, then it is because we have got it right, set it up clearly and presented it well. If God doesn't, then it's because we've got it wrong – and we go away dejected to start all over again.

As we look around our city, and our country, if we are not careful, we find confirmation for this essentially godless way of thinking.

Which churches are growing? Which books are selling? Where is God apparently blessing? He's blessing the smart, gifted, hard-working, visionary people. God apparently works where we do everything really well. It's all about us, at the end of the day, isn't it? Or perhaps not, because God works through the foolishness of the word of the Cross.

Whatever the place of human giftedness – and, of course, there is a place for hard work, creativity and learning from those who are particularly gifted – there is another sense in which God's wisdom is completely counter-intuitive.

God works where He has no right to work. God blesses when people break the rules. The most gifted pastor doesn't end up with the biggest church. The 'best' churches don't necessarily grow the most or grow very much at all. God does work through preaching – but He doesn't necessarily work through the best preaching, or the most thought-out preaching, or the richest preaching.

He just works through the preaching of a message which apparently makes no sense at all. He works through the preaching of the Cross. But how He works, and the ways in which He works through the preaching of the Cross are ultimately up to Him!

Why did God work through the worst sermon I ever preached? Why did some of what I thought were the best talks I had ever given produce little or no spiritual fruit or impact? It's because that's how God in His wisdom chose to work. It's that simple.

We desperately need to remember that, through preaching, it is God who works. And why does this matter so much?

It matters so much because if we

remember this, then we'll pray. If we don't, we won't. It's that simple. I think this is the pressing challenge facing this generation.

Praying has always been hard for Christians. I once heard John Stott say that it was his greatest struggle in the Christian life.

There is one sense in which I think it is harder for our generation to pray than those who have gone before. We now live in a world which is faster, more cynical and more self-preoccupied than it was even 25 years ago.

When I was a student in Aberdeen, Northern Scotland in the late 1980s, the main obstacle to getting out of bed in the morning to pray was the fact that it was freezing and the heating in our student house didn't work!

Twenty-five years later, I face a whole new set of challenges! Now when I wake up in the morning, not only would I rather stay in bed, but my phone is right there, calling me.

I can check emails and sports scores from the northern hemisphere, read the news and even play Scrabble if the mood takes me. Or I could get up and pray.

But even if I make it out of bed, the millions of potentially distracting details only a touch away continue to clamour for my attention. Facebook and Twitter are just two of them.

But even when I've successfully negotiated all of this, am fully awake, have a cup of coffee in my hand and am ready to concentrate, I've wasted at least 20 minutes and am feeling the pressure to 'get on' for Sunday.

So what do I do? I start to read or write rather than pray. This is the basic challenge that I face every day. I don't find it hard to get up. I just find it hard to rely on God.

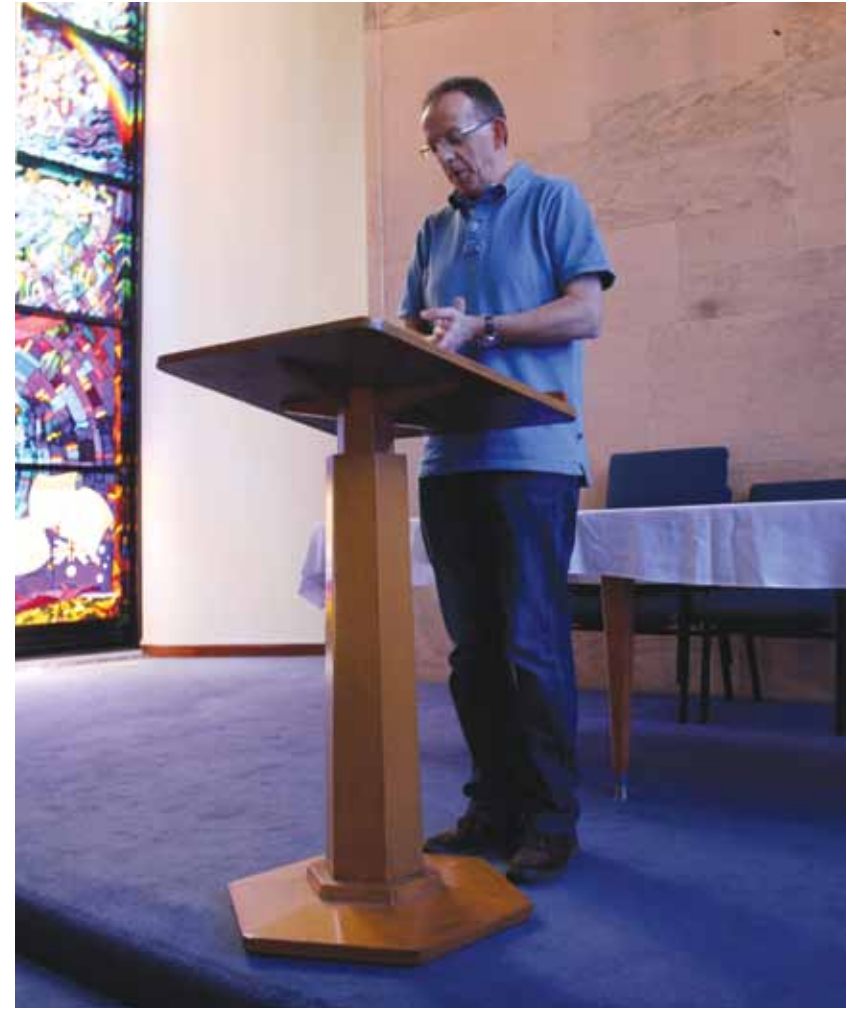
I know the temptation to skip prayer for other 'more productive' activity is not new. It's just incredibly easy now – distractions are literally at our fingertips.

But we have a more specific problem when it comes to prayer. It's the issue of whether or not we pray for preaching (if we are listeners) and pray before preaching (if we are the speaker).

I haven't done any research but I suspect that the church prayer meeting is in rapid decline.

The growth of home groups is a really good thing, but in my experience the 'prayer' part of the home group is always weaker than the study part. And rarely do we pray for what God is going to do through the talk next Sunday, and for what God is continuing to do through the message last Sunday, and the one before that, and the one before that. I think we are praying much less for preaching than we used to.

It's a bit odd, isn't it? As there are more gospel-centred ministries, we pray less. As the quality of the teaching goes up, the quality of the



Rev Dr Gary Millar speaking at morning chapel

prayer seems to have gone down. What's going on in our lives and our world to drive us in the opposite direction that we all want to go and think we should go?

I think there are a few reasons – one fairly obvious and one a little more surprising.

The obvious reason is that it is an unfortunate side-effect of an emphasis on training that we end up thinking that if people are trained, then they are more than able to do a competent job, and so why on earth would we need to pray for them?

Many years ago, I wrote in our church family newsletter about how I spent my week. I explained how I aimed to spend most mornings in my study, reading and praying in preparation for preaching on Sundays.

I got a powerfully expressed letter from a member (who left soon after) saying that as I had a degree in theology and a PhD, then it was disgraceful if I couldn't prepare a sermon in an hour or so, and that if this was what I spent my time doing, I would be better off getting a proper job and saving the congregation some cash!

Now most of us wouldn't go as far as saying what that guy wrote, but we do slip into thinking, 'He is trained. He is gifted. He can pull it off.'

Which takes us to the more surprising reason for a dearth of prayer for preachers and preaching.

Those of you under 40 may find it difficult to imagine that when I was a student minister, we had to go to a place called a 'library' to find information in 'books'.

Contrast that with today—a quick glance at the Gospel Coalition website gives instant access to thousands of excellent expository sermons.

Many people routinely listen to the 'big guns', whose sermons are available live. And that's great.

But there are also some dangers. One of these is that teaching the Bible becomes completely detached from loving relationship.

Another danger stems from the fact that people place far too much emphasis on the preacher as 'performer' (or even 'personality'). And when that happens, it effectively removes the need for prayer.

In the local church, if we are regularly rubbing shoulders with those who preach, we know that there are weeks when they are under huge pressure to carve out enough time to prepare properly. We know that there are weeks when their kids are playing

up, or they are working through marital issues, or they are feeling under the weather. And so we pray.

We know that our friends—those who have just received crushing health news, who have recently been bereaved, who are struggling with anger, who are trying to deal with pride, who have sinned sexually—will be listening to this sermon. We know how much we need God. And so we pray (or so we know we should).

But if we are sitting in front of a screen watching or listening to an old sermon preached by a guy we don't know, in a place we've never been, to people we've never met, it isn't quite the same.

To put it bluntly, it doesn't really matter what was going on in that church. It doesn't even matter what was going on in the preacher's life. The only thing that matters is that he produces the goods. And since we didn't have to pray for him, it doesn't occur to us that it might be a good idea for us to pray for 'our guy'.

The connection between our prayers and the sermon is broken—and when that happens, it isn't easily fixed.

The second danger is that preachers are praying less today too. They are certainly talking less about prayer than, say, 20 years ago.

And while it's true that there has been a significant resurgence of biblical preaching, I'm not sure this has been accompanied by a resurgence in praying—and especially not prayer about preaching.

Gradually, we seem to be losing sight of the fact that God uses weak and sinful people, and that He uses them only by grace.

Yes, we may sow, plant and water—but only God gives growth. That's true in your local church and mine. It's also true of every podcast, ebook and conference address under the sun.

God doesn't use people because they are gifted. He uses people because He is gracious.

Do we actually believe that? If we do believe it, then we will pray. We will pray before we speak, and we will pray for others before they speak. It's that simple.

I suspect that if we were to survey those who teach the Bible we would find that those of us who do most of the teaching are not necessarily those of us who are most committed to praying.

There may be a personality thing going on here. There are a lot of

cont. on page 7



Morning chapel at QTC



RECENTLY RETURNED from the Missionary Training Institute (MTI) in Yoesu, South Korea is Mrs Joan Tierney from Highfields, just north of Toowoomba.

Joan has just completed her 22nd teaching visit to MTI, teaching Korean missionary candidates in English, assisting them to prepare for their mission fields and work with international teams.

This remarkable and devoted lady has also assisted with mission training in Tanzania, Malaysia, and the mission to the World church plant in Chiba, Japan, as well as assisting with English language training at various places in Australia.

While living in Papua New Guinea, she also worked in pastoral care and English language training – a truly remarkable range of Christian service.

Joan is known as the ‘grandmother’ of MTI, as the institute is called.

Several of the missionary candidates have been hosted at Joan’s home and by her church in Tamworth, before she moved to Highfields. Joan now attends Geham church.

Now home and recovering at Highfields after a knee reconstruction, Mrs Tierney is a humble and unassuming lady, and few people would be aware of the length, faithfulness and extent of her service to the Lord.

During the years 2000 to 2009, Joan spent half of each year in Korea. Joan ruefully commented that the “new” knee would have been a big help in negotiating the stairs and going for enjoyable walks in Korea!

MTI Directors, Rev. Youngshin Yoon and his wife, Mrs Mihyang Choi, who studied at SMBC with Mrs Marilyn Schache of Toowoomba (now serving in Vanuatu) said that Joan’s contribution to MTI has been invaluable, and has touched the lives of many missionaries.

MTI, which was established by a Presbyterian Church in Korea and the USA in 1983, has now trained over 2000 missionaries for overseas service.

Some candidates are in their 20s, but many are more mature, or missionaries on furlough, aged from 30 to 50, who realize the need for better English to work in international teams, though they must also learn the local language when on the field.

The students are highly educated and skilled people with a sincere heart for serving the Lord – many of these workers are still in the field as medical personnel, engineers, pastors, technical workers and in skilled trades.

“Joan’s loving and God-honouring service has been appreciated in the lives of many Korean missionaries who have gone on to serve the Lord in many parts of the world”, said Associate Director, Mrs Mihyang Choi.

“It has also been a great blessing for the young women she has invited to her home in Australia to have further English immersion. Her wisdom, kindness and generosity have been a wonderful example of Christian love.”

Joan began to serve in MTI in winter term in 2000, and has said several times that “this will be my last trip to MTI”!



MTI Directors Rev Youngshin Yoon and his wife, Mrs Mihyang Choi and baby, with Joan, Ronda and students)

## Toowoomba ESL teacher completes 22nd short term mission trip to South Korea

by Ronda Johnson, Peninsula PC

MTI operates two semesters annually, and until recently has relied on “second-wind” teachers like Joan, and Ronda Johnson from Peninsula PC, who accompanied Joan to Korea on her 7th visit to MTI for the recent spring term.

MTI teachers have come from USA, Canada, Ireland, Wales and the UK. Presently there are three medium-term teachers serving with SIM and WEC at MTI.

Mrs Choi said that MTI would welcome enquiries from teachers from Australian Presbyterian churches. There is a long history of Australian Presbyterian missionary involvement in Korea from 1889.

Some of the MTI graduates are available to serve short term internships at Australian churches and at various missions. They can work with outreach to international students and with various church activities, while gaining experience and improving their English. Please pray for this work, at MTI, that the Lord will continue to raise up teachers to prepare His people, and give thanks for Joan’s Christian service and knee recovery.

See website [www.mtikorea.org](http://www.mtikorea.org) or contact Ronda Johnson for further information.



Joan and Ronda with some of our MTI students

\*\*\* FROM THE MODERATOR-GENERAL \*\*\*

### A Call to Prayer from our brothers and sisters in Egypt

I have written to the Secretary-General of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Egypt assuring him of the prayers of our people in the worsening situation they face.

Churches have been burnt, property destroyed and people have lost their lives. Our hearts go out to all Egyptians suffering in these events.

Please will you pray for Egypt.

- That God, in His sovereignty, will direct all things for the good of His people and for the building up of His Church (Eph. 1:20-23).
- That the Church will not respond to violence with violence, or repay terrorism with terrorism.
- That Christians will be peacemakers and agents of reconciliation.
- That the people of God will testify to God with wisdom and grace in a very difficult situation.
- That Churches will remain alive and vibrant, fulfilling their purpose to the fullest, despite the loss of facilities.
- That there might be an end to the violence and a new future for Egypt based on social justice and human dignity.
- That the international community will understand and seek to support Egypt to take steps towards being a multi-religious and multi-cultural society.

## Reach the City, Reach the World

by Nathan Campbell

IN THE last year, Creek Road has adopted the vision “Reach the City, Reach the World” to describe its focus on helping the lost meet Jesus through the gospel.

There is always a danger that slogans like this become empty mantras with no application in the real world. It is Creek Road’s prayer that these words will not become empty but will describe the rationale behind everything it does. Would you consider joining us in this prayer?

On Sunday, 4 August, Creek Road became one church meeting in two locations. God willing, on Sunday, 2 February 2014, Creek Road will become one church meeting in three locations. This is a tangible step towards reaching the city of Brisbane. To reach Brisbane we need the gospel to be proclaimed in more places.

Creek Road Springfield - which meets on campus at the University of Southern Queensland in Springfield - launched in August as the existing Presbyterian Charge in Springfield sought amalgamation with Creek Road as a way forward for their presence in this rapidly growing region in Greater Brisbane.

Creek Road South Bank is an exciting new opportunity that has opened up as the Ministers and Elders of Creek Road have prayerfully considered the shape the approach to reaching the city, and reaching the world, should take and how we should use the resources God has provided to see more people confronted with the good news that Jesus, God made flesh, entered the world, lived, breathed, died and was raised so that our relationship with God could be restored.

The recent State Assembly made the structural decisions necessary for this new work to proceed, and since those decisions, Creek Road has been working on securing a venue for this new campus.

These changes have been fast-paced, and have involved significant prayer and difficult actions from the leadership and congregations of Creek Road Carina, and of Springfield. These are exciting times.

Springfield is a rapidly expanding region, drawing young families in search of affordable housing to the area, and creating a community in a short period of time. (The Brisbane Lions have recently announced that they are relocating their base to Springfield.)

This is a community that needs more churches. It is a community that needs gospel ministry. It is an exciting mission field and the congregation in Springfield is on the frontline in that community.

South Bank is, in many respects, the cultural and multi-cultural heartland of Brisbane. It is an attractive destination for families and young professionals. An increasing number of international students and refugees are living in accommodation in and around South Brisbane. South Bank is home to the cultural precinct that features the State Library, the Museum, QPAC and the Gallery of Modern Art.

Creek Road South Bank has secured a space in the Queensland Theatre Company, and will launch two services there in February (10:30 am and 5 pm). There will be two trial services before the end of the year (20 October, 10:30 am and 17 November, 5 pm).

These services are an opportunity for people from Creek Road, and beyond, to invite friends who live, work, or play in and around the centre of Brisbane to try a church whose heart beats for Jesus, whose heart beats for our city in the heart of our city.

Will you join us in praying for these exciting developments, that more people would be reached with the good news of Jesus.

## NEW DIRECTIONS

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1st of the months of  
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Send copy to:

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David and Maxine Cook

## The incoming Moderator General

AFTER TRAINING at Sydney Missionary and Bible College and Moore Theological College, David Cook exited to Wee Waa Presbyterian Church in 1976 and was ordained in 1977. After six years at Wee Waa, David became the minister at Ashfield Presbyterian Church from 1981 till 1985. He then moved to be the Principal of SMBC (Sydney Missionary Bible College) from January 1986 to October 2011. David currently serves as part-time Pastoral Assistant at the Chinese

Presbyterian Church in Surry Hills, Sydney. He and Maxine spend about six months each year on the staff of CPC and six months travelling in itinerant ministry representing the Expository Preaching Trust. David and Maxine, also a graduate of SMBC, have been married for 41 years. They have five adult children and twelve grandchildren. David's home church is Randwick Presbyterian Church where he was student minister to Rev. Stuart Clements. David said, "A minister's first

parish, after training at College, is very influential. I owe a great debt to the congregation and Elders of the Wee Waa Church for their patience with me and prayerfulness for me as a young minister. "I also owe a great debt to the pastoral models provided by Rev. Ray Osborne, the Minister at Narrabri and the late Rev. Donald Campbell, the Minister at Inverell." David and Maxine look forward to every opportunity to encourage faithful ministry of the Word within the denomination for the period of their leadership.



### Reaching Queensland, Reaching the World

Face the challenge of reaching our generation

**October 8, 2013, 7.30pm**  
**Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre**  
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## GRASS-ROOTS REFLECTIONS

### Are you too familiar with the Bible?

Australia has been affectionately dubbed 'the lucky country'. Many Australians interpret the term lucky as a synonym for blessed—a land of 'golden soil and wealth for toil'. However, when Professor Donald Horne first coined this oft-misquoted phrase in his 1964 book *The Lucky Country*, he was actually implying the opposite. Horne believed Australia's prosperity was mistakenly based on 'good luck' and not 'good management': 'In the lucky style we have never "earned" our democracy. We simply went along with some British habits.'

Australians like the idea of a secure, safe, and prosperous country—they believe it is a right. However, vigilance in keeping it safe, secure and prosperous is often feigned. Despite the benefits of security and material prosperity, Australians constantly complain about paying taxes and the rising cost of protecting their borders. Yet in Professor Horne's estimation only those who live in a fool's paradise naively claim 'prosperity' as a right. Horne's challenge is straight-forward: if we take our privileged position for granted, it won't be long before it is lost.

By way of analogy, Horne's thesis represents a timely challenge for Protestant Christians and their reliance on their Biblical heritage. We have been trading on the good will of the Reformation for nearly 500 years, claiming the privilege of its hard-won truths as our right. However, are those of us who stand in this tradition, taking for granted the Bible as 'God's Word'? We believe in the 'idea' of the Bible; we uphold the concept of an ancient text which supplies a cogent foundation for our doctrinal systems; we rejoice at the message of eternal security it offers; we claim its theoretical foundation for our ministry endeavors; and embrace its conceptual framework for a religious and moral way of life. But, do we really treat the Bible as if we are dealing with the very words of God; living words that teach, rebuke, correct and train in righteousness, even when its truth is inconvenient? Furthermore, when the pages of this sacred book are opened, is it simply providing the content for our next: sermon, devotional talk, bible study, or daily life-lesson; or do we 'really' see it as God's life-transforming Word?

As you know, the Bible has spawned an entire industry: University departments devoted to its detailed study, publishers print versions of the Bible for every conceivable human situation, there are Bible commentaries, Bible Colleges, Bible Societies, Bible Camps, Bible Land Tours, Bible software etc. Now I am not suggesting there is no value in any of these things, but I do want to draw our attention to the fact that the machinery of religion which has grown out of the Bible can easily subsume the Bible (as God's Word) if we are not careful. Is the very thing given to prevent us from falling into idolatry, in danger of being distorted into a source of idolatry, providing us with a secure religious existence outside of a vital dependence on the God of the Word? In their casual familiarity, the people of God in Isaiah's day had forsaken a living relationship with God in exchange for contrived forms of religion, and Isaiah pointedly reminded them that religion within this frame is abominable to God (Isa 66:3). He challenged God's people to renew their vision: 'But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.' (Isa 66:2 ESV)

That familiarity breeds complacency there is little doubt. The lessons of Isaiah failed to sway the Pharisees, who in Jesus' time held a high view of the Bible, but in their familiarity with it failed to grasp its true meaning (John 5:29). Assuming the privilege of a Biblical heritage may make us feel secure, but unless we embrace it with a sense of humility and awe we will never actually understand what the Bible is saying and why! The scholarly world embraces a historical-critical method of reading the Bible; and to a degree it has value. Yet the scriptures were intended to be read in a pre-critical manner, a manner that doesn't 'simply' subject the Bible to technical examination; but approaches it as Holy Scripture that has been given to lead us to an increasingly richer relationship with God—with all which that entails. Considered in this manner the reader looks to the Word of God for the purpose of encountering the God of the Word. You may indeed consider it a privilege to stand in a Biblical tradition, but never forget what the Bible is, why it was given, and who gave it!



Rowland Lowther





Albert Mackenzie with the chair that he made at Weipa Presbyterian Mission in 1913. This photograph is reproduced from a digital image held in the Hall Family Papers in the Cape York Collection, Hibberd Library, Weipa. It is not certain whether the photo was taken by Robert or Catherine Hall or by Edwin of Thekla Brown. A postcard photograph of Albert and his chair (copy held in the Brown Family Papers) has the following caption on the reverse: 'Albert & his chair sent to Brisbane Exhibition 1913. This photo is taken on a part of front verandah just past the sitting-room window.' The report of the Queensland Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU) for 1913, which described their annual missionary offering, noted that 'a handsome wooden chair made by an Aboriginal boy of 15 — Albert Mackenzie, at Weipa [Presbyterian] Mission', had been made for the use of the President of the PWMU. PS There will be a follow-up story on Albert Mackenzie in a future edition.

# The missionary chair

ALBERT MACKENZIE, a 15-year-old boy from the Weipa Presbyterian mission in far north Queensland, made this chair without using any nails.

It was exhibited at the Brisbane Exhibition in August 1913 and reminds us how missionaries trained Aboriginal children to be 'productive' in ways that were valued by the colonising society.

Boys were taught woodwork, leatherwork, welding and brick-making; and girls learned to sew, crochet and cook.

The chair was presented to the president of the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU) of Queensland, to thank this philanthropic group of women for their financial support of the mission.

The ladies of the PWMU had been resourceful and successful fundraisers for about 20 years. Their most lucrative initiative was a cookbook, which sold more than 225,000 copies and was revised in 22 editions until 1981. From 1894 to 1900 the cookbook raised about £1500.

White Queenslanders learned about the local Indigenous communities through displays at the Brisbane Exhibition: in 1912, when Brisbane's population was about 70,000, some 163,000 people attended show week. Most, however, had little direct contact with Aboriginal people, who had been driven out of the city.

Albert Mackenzie's skilled work surprised many visitors. Newspaper reports commented on the 'quality and range of the work', and presented the samples of Aboriginal work on display as evidence 'of the advance shown by the natives in the difficult process of emerging from their state of primitive barbarism into a condition approaching semi-civilisation'.

The displays in the exhibition's 'Aboriginal Court' enabled the State government to give the impression that Aboriginal people were compliant, useful workers, who not only could be taught new skills that contributed to the State's economy, but were also safely segregated on missions and reserves.

While the chair was seen as a symbol of gratitude, respect, skill and appreciation, the 'benign' impression

conveyed through such displays of craft was in striking contrast to the lived reality of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Most Indigenous Queenslanders knew forced removals, high mortality rates on reserves, missions ravaged by epidemics and control imposed on their communities by the Aboriginals Protection Act of 1897.

The minutes of the PWMU meeting held in St Paul's Hall on 5 September 1913 describe the president, Mrs Stewart, sitting in Mackenzie's chair for the first time.

In 1990 the chair was moved into the vestry of St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Brisbane.

In 2010, it was donated to the National Museum of Australia.

## NEW PMSA SCHOLARSHIPS PROMOTE QUALITY TEACHING

The Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association has announced a new Teacher Education Scholarships program to commence in 2014.

The new Scholarships program will assist current and past students of PMSA schools in their university study towards becoming registered teachers. The program will focus on promoting great teachers and encouraging them to return to PMSA schools as role models for future students in PMSA schools.

Students of PMSA schools will be offered four-year scholarships from 2014, to undertake a university teacher education course. The scholarships will be worth up to \$8,000 each.

"This scholarship program reflects our commitment to foster quality teaching and to strengthen the Christian values of our schools" according to PMSA Chairman, Mr Des Robinson. Mr Robinson said the program is one of several PMSA initiatives to support quality teaching and learning in PMSA schools, along with the new PMSA Quality Teacher Framework.

"One of the most effective ways of encouraging great teachers in the future is to support our own students to take up this important vocation" he said. "This tells our students that if you have been inspired by your own teachers and chaplains to join their profession, then we will play a part in supporting your commitment."

The PMSA's Education Committee Chairman, Mr Richard Wilkinson, will chair the selection panel for the scholarships, which will be offered annually. Mr Wilkinson said "These scholarships reflect the respect the PMSA has for our teachers and the profession. They will encourage students who have embraced the whole range of a PMSA school education, including its Christian life, to join this noble profession and to give something back, in many cases in PMSA schools, to future students.

Applications for the 2014 round of PMSA Teacher Education Scholarships close on 18 October 2013. More information on the Scholarships can be obtained through PMSA schools, by phoning (07) 33710709, or on the PMSA website at [www.pmsa-schools.edu.au](http://www.pmsa-schools.edu.au).

## Pray, Live, Serve .... but where's the level ground?

I REMEMBER reading Psalm 143 while we were in Nepal, "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground."

It struck me mainly because I was missing level ground. In the middle hills of the Himalayas, there's hardly any level ground. Behind our house there was a forested mountain. In front of our house, there were terraced valleys and then 27,000 foot Himalayan peaks on the other side. And that meant that if I wanted to go anywhere, anytime, it was either steeply uphill or steeply downhill. In the middle, of course, there was a ridge, but that only took about ten minutes to walk across and then it was steeply uphill or steeply downhill again.

And not only did the scenery feel like that, but life felt like that as well. There was the struggle of operating in another language and the tension of using our resources well in a third world country. There were riots and evacuations and bombs and gunfire during those years. We had daily curfews and electricity shortage. The internet was as infrequent as the postal system. Our Nepali friends were struggling with poverty and hopelessness. Our expatriate friends were struggling with the mobility and restlessness of life in another country. Where was the level ground? It felt like there wasn't any.

In those days, I used to go for a run near our house — which was even harder than walking anywhere. I would start with two kilometres

straight up the hill behind us and then there was a little flat bit on the top of the ridge and then I would turn around and go two kilometres straight back down the hill. And it was hard! One day I was feeling so exhausted on the uphill that I literally had to close my eyes because looking at the hill ahead was making me feel physically sick. But then on the same day, I turned around and the downhill was even worse. We'd had a lot of rain that week and the dirt path had become slippery and muddy. I stopped concentrating for a second and slipped on one of the corners. I slowly picked myself up, wiped off the mud and longed for level ground! I longed for a place where we could walk and run confidently. I longed for a place where we could live without the uncertainty of war and strife and violence.

But now here we are in Australia, on what appears to be level ground. Life has become outwardly easier. The boys are in school, Darren has a job, the shops and the airport and the banks are always open. The electricity and the internet work. We have a car. It's even level ground on the daily walk to school. I can keep my eyes open all the time because the view is just fine. There's no mountain in front of me. But I need to realize that there are different dangers when life appears outwardly easier. There are invisible ones like complacency and self-reliance and boredom and apathy. There are the temptations of excess and the striving after comfort. The more I walk to school on level

by Naomi Reed



Naomi Reed

ground and visit the bank and the shops, the more I realise that I need to pray Psalm 143 in exactly the same way as I prayed it in Nepal. "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your good Spirit lead me on level ground." It's not the environment or the challenges or the weather that provides the level ground, it's His Spirit within us, who daily gives us the resources and the passion we need to follow Jesus, *wherever we are*.

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

## The Street-Preacher's Guide to Talking Snakes

By Ian Hodge, PhD

SOME PEOPLE say snakes don't talk. But they follow the advice of a snake they say cannot speak.

When you're on the streets evangelizing, you became fair game for the many sceptics who walk past. When they hear you're preaching the Gospel, they'll often stop to heckle the preacher.

One of their favorite arguments against the Bible is the issue of the talking snake (Gen. 3).

Their comments will go something like this. "You believe in talking snakes. There is no evidence that snakes can talk. Your religion is ridiculous."

Now the Street-Preacher has to make a response, because if he ignores the comment, he will be accused of having no answer to the sceptics. And in this instance there is a simple, but effective, response.

"It is true that the Bible refers to a talking snake, the 'whisperer'. In its context, it refers to the serpent's temptation to Eve that she could 'be like God' determining for herself what is good and evil.

"Now a sceptic who has rejected God's definition of good and evil has simply followed the snake's advice and decided to 'be like God' making up his own rules of good and evil.

"So there are those who say snakes talk, and who refuse to follow the suggestions of a snake to 'be like God' and make up their own morality. Instead, these people follow God and let him determine the standards for life.

"And then there are others who don't believe in talking snakes, but

adamantly follow the advice of a talking snake they say doesn't exist. And these people make up their own rules.

"The Bible indicates that those who think they can determine for themselves what is right or wrong are the 'fools' who follow the talking snake. It makes more sense to follow God than a talking snake. But some choose to do it — follow the snake, that is.

"Everyone's a believer in something. Some believe it is smart to follow the ideas of a talking snake. Some don't.

"The followers of the ideas of the talking snake appear to be the genuine believers in the talking snake. Why follow the snake's advice otherwise?

"The Bible also speaks of a talking ass who heard the word of the Lord and acted accordingly. The world needs more people who will heed the words of a talking ass, and fewer people who prefer to follow the advice of a talking snake — even though they say they don't believe that snakes can talk."

*Biographical Note:*

*Ian Hodge, AMusA, BTh, MTh, PhD, is a former professional musician and business consultant. He is currently Manager of Ministry/Marketing for Creation Ministries International in Australia. Ian is the author of several books and over 500 published articles on applied Christianity. On many Saturday nights, he can be found in the Queen Street Mall with other Christians, as they share the Gospel with those in the streets and debate with atheists who come to mock Christianity.*





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Mike Munro

## Media icon Mike Munro joins the PresCare Team

PRESCARE IS excited to welcome Australian media icon Mike Munro as the spokesman for their benchmark retirement living project, Kingsford Terrace, at Corinda.

Mike is well-known to Australia from his time presenting on shows such as Willesee, 60 Minutes, A Current Affair, This is Your Life, Missing Persons Unit and most recently co-hosting the successful current affairs program Sunday Night.

Whilst Mike was in Brisbane recently, filming a promotional video for Kingsford Terrace, the PresCare team was able to hear why he was keen to work with the organisation.

Mike says he was attracted to the Kingsford Terrace project because of the Presbyterian Church and PresCare's good reputation in the community.

"I love the word 'care', and I believe that PresCare does genuinely care about the people they serve", Mike said.

Kingsford Terrace is PresCare's first retirement village and is being built over three stages on the former Hopetoun Nursing Home site at Corinda. When completed it will deliver 209 apartments. For the fortunate residents buying into Stage One, they will have the benefit of a stunning range of facilities including a Wellness Centre, cinema, café, chapel and a range of boutique services including gourmet catering.

PresCare CEO Greg Skelton says that this development honours the legacy of Mr Black who more than 80 years ago gifted the land to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland to care for the elderly.

"As custodians of the land, PresCare is continuing our legacy of providing care to the local community but in a more independent environment", Greg said. "Kingsford Terrace will ensure PresCare is providing seniors with options for their retirement living, in line with our continued and evolving focus on client and customer needs."

You can read more about Kingsford Terrace at its website at [www.kingsfordterrace.com.au](http://www.kingsfordterrace.com.au).

# Mercy Ships Australia announces retirement of CEO

MERCY SHIPS Australia, with its headquarters in Caloundra, has announced the retirement of Chief Executive Officer, Gary Regazzoli. Mr Regazzoli has served in that capacity for the past seven-and-a-half years.

During his time at the helm of Mercy Ships Australia, just one of sixteen international support offices around the world for the global charity, Mr Regazzoli has had responsibility for raising financial support to enable Mercy Ships to provide all of its services completely free of charge.

Other aspects of his role included promoting the work of Mercy Ships, and assisting in the recruitment of volunteers who serve at their own expense for terms extending from a few weeks to long-term. Over recent years, the number of such volunteers has risen to nearly 60 Australians a year.

The Caloundra office in Bulcock Street opened ten years ago and continues its vital work with a small staff and support from volunteers.

"It has been very satisfying to see Australian support for the work being done by Mercy Ships continue to grow. That has been particularly pleasing from a financial point of view during the recent difficult economic times", Mr Regazzoli said.

"Our supporters have seen the valuable work being done to help

bring healing through the skills of surgeons and medical teams to so many thousands of Africans who have none of the health services available that we in Australia simply take for granted.

"The work done by our volunteers in such programs as community health, dentistry, agriculture and education also brings new levels of hope to many who struggle to live below the poverty line."

Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to provide much needed medical and community development services to people in some of the world's poorest nations.

The *Africa Mercy*, crewed by volunteers from more than 40 nations, will begin service in the Republic of the Congo in August.

Alan Burrell will take over from Mr Regazzoli in the new position of Managing Director.

Susan and Gary Regazzoli on board the *Africa Mercy* in Liberia in 2007





**Presbyterian Church of Queensland  
WEEK OF PRAYER  
20–27 October 2013**

What is the spiritual health of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland and of each of one of us? Are we growing spiritually or are we critically ill? Charles Spurgeon said: *“I know of no better thermometer to your spiritual temperature than this, the measure of the intensity of your prayer”*.

Most of us would have to confess that at times we struggle with our prayer life. We allow the pressures of life and the busyness of all that we have to do to encroach on our time spent with the Lord. This can sometimes equally be true of our Church life and programs. We are too busy “doing” the work that we relegate prayer to an after-thought or an appendage.

Andrew Murray (1798-1886), a Reformed South African preacher, implored the Church of his time to cherish prayer. He wrote: *“Time spent in prayer will yield more than that given to work. Prayer alone gives work its worth and its success. Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in us and through us. Let our chief work as God’s messengers be intercession; in it we secure the presence and power of God to go with us.”*


As a denomination we have the opportunity to gather with one voice before the Lord’s throne of grace in an annual Week of Prayer. This is going to be held in the week running up to Reformation Sunday, 20–27 October.

Closer to the time there will be some resources distributed to help us to pray collectively, systematically and intelligently.

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

*“In Psalm 147:11 we read that ‘The Lord takes pleasure in those who hope in his love’. Here we see that the Lord takes pleasure in prayers that give expression to that hope. The reason our hope is a pleasure to God is because it shows that all our joy comes from the bounty of his grace .... It is a precious thing beyond all words ... that we have a God whose nature is such that what pleases Him is not our work for him but our need of Him.” (John Piper)*

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# Commissioning Service at St John's Toowoomba

by Frances Tilly



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

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

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

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

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

Andrew and Marilyn left Australia for Vanuatu on 7 May 2013.

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

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

## The place of prayer in preaching the Word

cont. from page 2

people in lead teaching positions who are alpha males, who are activist, problem-solving, leading-from-the-front types, who are not necessarily very reflective. But there is a second factor – sin.

It's the day before you next have to give a talk. You have had breakfast, met whatever family responsibilities you have, made a large mug of coffee, and you are walking to your desk about to start work for the day.

But what do you do next as you sit down? I suspect this is just about the most important moment of your day and mine. You have to prepare a talk on prayer. So what do you do?

Your eye falls on your computer. There may be emails which you haven't seen yet. Your eye falls on your Bible. You know it wouldn't be a bad idea to read some of that. There is a large pile of books on prayer that you have been dipping into. There is a pile of A4 paper with the beginnings of an outline of the talk on it, which could do with a little more work right now.

What is the most urgent thing for you to do? What is the most strategic, vital thing for you to do right now, as you start to write this talk on prayer? Could it just possibly be that you should pray?

This basic scenario is played out every day for many of us. And sadly, I suspect that all too often we make the wrong call. We think that the best thing we can do is rely on our training, our gifts, our effort, our creativity. We are self-reliant. We think that the most significant thing we can do is not pray, but work. And that's just wrong. It's sin.

Paul Tripp, in his brilliant book 'Dangerous Calling' describes this experience like this – he says 'My day hadn't even had a chance to start, and my heart had been kidnapped by the burden of preparation ... Isn't that a powerful way of putting it? Tripp adds this, 'Many pastors out there are seeking to lead and teach well, but it is simply not fuelled or directed by the devotion of their hearts to their Saviour. They work hard, but are more drawn to ideas than Jesus. They are more drawn to ministry success than personal growth. The next phase of the strategic plan fills their eyes more than the glory of God

and the grandeur of His grace. They have lost the centre of it all, and their hearts have been kidnapped, and many of them don't know it.'

If we don't pray for our preaching, then something has gone very badly wrong – and we need to confess it and repent.

In the book of Acts, it's hard to miss the fact that the apostles gave their attention "to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). The most natural way to read this is that the praying they are doing is for the ministry of the Word.

We can see basically the same concern when Paul writes to the Colossians, 'Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the Word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak' (Col. 4:2).

Paul clearly expects—and longs for—the prayers of the Christians at Colossae for his preaching. For Paul, prayer and preaching, prayer and clarity, prayer and evangelism all go together.

Let me leave you with a challenge for both preachers and listeners.

If you are a preacher, resolve to make sure that from now on you will pray for your own preaching. Perhaps you have been totally consistent in this for years. It may be that you would never dream of standing up to speak to anyone without praying that God would help you to believe and live your own sermon. And it may be that you always pray for those on whom you are about to inflict the sermon.

However, if you are part of the possibly large number of Bible teachers who would be rather embarrassed or ashamed if the amount of time and energy they had put into praying through and for the sermon were to be announced to the congregation just before they stood up to speak, this may be a great time to hit the reset button and repent.

If you are a listener, make sure that you pray for the preaching. Dedicate time during the week to gather with other people specifically to pray for your church's core business.

What does this look like in practice? From 1988-1991, when I was a theological student, I was part of a remarkable church family. Gilcomston South Church of Scotland in Aberdeen wasn't a huge church. Nor was it a particularly 'happening' church. We met twice on a Sunday, had a mid-week central Bible study and a Saturday night prayer meeting. The pastor, William Still, preached steadily through the Bible. This was still relatively novel at the time, even though he had been doing it for 40 years.

But what set that church family apart was its very simple commitment to "the ministry of the word nourished by prayer" (as Mr Still would repeatedly say). I have never been part of a church family that had a greater sense of expectancy when we gathered to hear the Bible explained. I have never been part of a church family where prayer was so obviously the heartbeat of everything that went on. And I have never been part of a church family where God was so obviously present week by week as He spoke through His word.

And, it seems to me, there might just be a connection.

Of course it was, and is, just like any church family— full of flawed, messed-up people like you and me.

But those of us who had the privilege of 'passing through' went on from there with an indelible sense that preaching and praying go together. It was just part of the DNA of the church family. The precious group of 50 or 60 people who met week by week at the Saturday night prayer meeting spent most of the two hours praying for the proclamation of the gospel elsewhere—in other churches in their city, in Scotland, and on every continent around the world, one by one.

Eventually, someone would pray, "And Lord, spare a thought for us in our own place tomorrow ..." and the others, who had been praying faithfully on their own all through the week for the preaching, would murmur a heartfelt, "Amen".

We could do a lot worse than to throw ourselves again, or for the very first time, into the ministry of the Word, nourished by prayer.



# Proshikkhon Changed My Perspectives

by Erica Shin\*



**Introduction:** I did not want to join Proshikkhon, it seemed too hard. But God kept telling me He wanted me to go. Proshikkhon challenged me in so many ways and changed my perspectives.

**My Upbringing:** When I was young in Korea, I hated going to church because my favourite TV program was at 9.00am Sunday morning. But my mum insisted that my sister and I went every Sunday. Now, I really appreciate that my mum was intentional in providing me with an opportunity to hear about God's grace. It really got me to think about the importance of Christ's love for children.

One day on Proshikkhon, my team headed out to visit a village we had previously been to. But we were waylaid by a Mullah - a Muslim teacher. Our companions chatted with him, then we set out again for the village. But then we were held up again by another Muslim guy. While waiting for them, I met five lovely kids. They were so beautiful. I saw

them as God's beautiful creations. However, I also saw the darkness of ignorance in them at the same time because they have not heard of God's grace. I was disturbed the whole day, knowing that they have not heard the Good News. It reminded me how Jesus asked for the children to be near Him. Now I pray that these kids will have the opportunity to hear and to learn about the love of Jesus.

**My Favourite Song:** God will make a way where there seems to be no way. This is one of my favourite songs. It has helped me persevere through dark times in my life.

For several days during Proshikkhon my Bible storytelling team seemed to go out to random areas. We didn't go to villages. Honestly, it really disappointed me. Then one day we walked into a village where we met a Muslim guy randomly. He really welcomed us. At the beginning, it was children who gathered to listen to Bible stories, then, one by one, adults came out from their houses and listened. By the end, the storyteller

had shared the Good News through three stories. I really enjoyed the time. A random meeting led us into a village where people were happy to hear three Bible stories.

**Learning Patience:** As a Korean, learning English has been extremely difficult for me. I've come to appreciate all my Australian friends who have been patient with me, especially my lovely church family and friends as they struggle with my English.

I do not have patience normally. So Proshikkhon has helped me to realise my personal problem - my lack of patience. On our eighth day in Bangladesh the tribal pastors and Bengali staff and Australian team all joined up for the first time. We were divided into nine small groups. Half of us Australian and the other half Bangladeshis. Each group walked to a village, wherever they felt God leading them to go. Their task was to pray for the village people. When we got there, I couldn't understand a word of Bangla. All I could do was greet them with Assalamu Oalaikum - May the

peace of God be with you. We had to patiently wait for the leader to have a conversation with the local people we met.

That was not the end of the lesson. After we came back home there was a Contextualisation seminar led by the Bangladeshi staff for the Bangladeshi participants. The whole seminar was run in Bangla. It was a loooong hour. I tried so hard not to fall to sleep. I learned that a lot of patience is required even to have a short conversation with the Bangladeshi participants. Paul wrote, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience... If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." It is not easy for me to live by the Spirit if that means being patient.

**God is in Control:** This was a lesson I needed to learn on Proshikkhon. I do not like feeling powerless. Riding on a public bus I felt scared and powerless. I wondered, "How is it for missionary ladies who have to do this for their entire lives?" I could not stop thinking, "Would they feel the same as me?"

To get to the bus station we needed to take a local bus. I felt nervous and excited at the same time. But when we began on the long distance bus and found that the driver would swap lanes and drive on the other side of the road, even when traffic was coming towards him, I thought, "This driver is crazy!" The most surprising fact was that there was no car accident or even a scratch on the bus. I thought, "If God is in control, we do not need to worry." Sometimes life goes a way I did not plan or did not want it to. But that does not mean the Father does not care or does not know what He is doing. He cares and He is in control. My six hours of unnerving road trip was an important lesson for me to learn again that God is in control.

**Muslim People:** Before I came to Proshikkhon, I believed that Muslim people were violent, inhumane and insensible. I even believed that they were gun-toting.

But when we and other teams went out to Muslim villages, they welcomed us. They set out chairs for us to sit on. They gave us cups of tea and biscuits. They listened to Bible stories and asked to hear more. They said, "Abar ashben - Come again." Some of our team members experienced unbelievable hospitality. I came to understand that they are also God's people, whom He created, and who show God's image in their lives.

**Plentiful Harvest:** In the Muslim villages I thought about Jesus' words, "The harvest is plentiful but there are few workers to gather it in."

There are about 148million Muslims in Bangladesh and we do not have enough workers. Although there are already a few workers who have committed themselves to God we still need more workers in Bangladesh.

I was amazed to see the commitment and sacrifice of the Harvest workers in Bangladesh. Some are foreign missionaries, others are local Christians evangelising the local people. Their stories overwhelmed me. Many are suffering from persecution from their own family members because of their belief in Jesus. In spite of this persecution, they continue working to extend God's kingdom.

**Bible Translation:** My country Korea would not be the country that it is now were it not for the Korean Bible. I thank God for the missionaries who sacrificed their lives to translate and publish the Korean Bible 100 years ago.

Although I don't see myself as a translator, a passion for Bible translation has developed in my heart during Proshikkhon. It was sad to meet brothers and sisters in Christ who don't understand the Bible because His words are only available in a language not their own. Seeing and meeting these pastors and evangelists has made me think a lot about the importance of having the Bible in their own language. Once they have God's Word, it will be their most effective evangelistic and teaching tool for the next 100 years.

**Conclusion:** Proshikkhon showed me the great need for workers for the Kingdom of God. It reminded me about the great commitment missionaries have and sacrifices they make to do God's work. Most of all, Proshikkhon taught me the great need for the Bible to be in the mother tongue for the ethnic groups.

\* Erica Shin is a member of the Coorparoo Presbyterian Church, Brisbane.



## Special celebrations at Eumundi



Eumundi Presbyterian Church building

ON SUNDAY 4 August, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Eumundi celebrated 80 years of service in the community and 60 years in the church building. Our special guest was Rev. David Niven and the service was conducted by Rev. David Cranney.

Many family, friends and special guests gathered to give their support and celebrate the joyous occasion. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies of Eumundi Presbyterian Church.

After lunch, an anniversary cake was cut by Mrs Val Templeton, with Rev. David Cranney and Pastor John Tucker. Val was chosen for her active and long involvement in the life of our church.

We celebrated God's grace shown over 80 years. The faithful efforts of those who served in the past were remembered, with many people sharing warm memories of days gone by. There was also a strong sense of thanksgiving for the current growth of the church.

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Eumundi looks forward to the next 80 years as together we continue to follow Jesus.

We thank Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come.



Revs David Niven and David Cranney



Special guests, family and friends gather to celebrate



# FEATURE TRACKS

An update from the PIM

## PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BY WORD AND DEED

### TO MOUNT ISA AND BEYOND

#### Mallisons in northern Australia

Rod and Dawn Mallinson have served in a number of church ministries over the years – both here in Australia and overseas. In 2012 they joined the PIM as part-time workers, serving the Kimberley Patrol during the dry, winter months. This year they have stepped forward to work in the Mount Isa congregation and through the North Australia Patrol.

The Mount Isa congregation are generous supporters of the PIM. They have prayed and given generously to enable gospel ministry to be extended throughout inland and outback Australia. Though not large in number, they are in spirit. The church community is made up of long standing residents and more recent arrivals in the remote mining town. Rod and Dawn have been warmly welcomed.

In 2013 Mount Isa is celebrating the 90th anniversary of its foundation. Lots of events have been held, with one of major ones being the Mount Isa Rodeo, which is the second biggest gathering of its kind in the world. Congregational members, Rod and Dawn and a wide range of people from other congregations and community groups banded together to help keep the Rodeo clean and



Rod and Dawn with two of the three the famous Mount Isa Mines' smokestacks in the background

litter free – raising \$7500 in the process for local school chaplaincy work.

Mount Isa is currently in severe drought as there was no rain in the wet season last year. Water

restrictions are in place and the dust is a major problem. Pray for Rod and Dawn, as they try to bring the water of life to many in Mount Isa and in the North Australia Patrol to its west.



Members of the Mount Isa Church with Rod and Dawn Mallinson

### WARM HEART IN THE RED CENTRE

#### Alice Springs PIM Church launched



Presbyterian Moderator General, Rt Rev David Jones, (front, centre) leads the singing.

Nearly 80 people gathered from all around Australia for the commencement service of Alice Springs Presbyterian Church (ASPC) on the Lord's Day, 21 July 2013. While the occasion was special in nature, the defining purpose, was to worship God through our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rob Duncanson, Convener of the PIM and pastor of Darwin Presbyterian Church, led in a call to worship from Psalm 122, reminding those present of the joy of gathering as the dwelling place of God to praise His Name. Stuart Bonnington, Superintendent of the PIM and pastor of Scots Church, Fremantle, delivered a comprehensive narration of the steps which had led up to the commencement of ASPC, in particular, the negotiations to gain use of the AIM (Australian Indigenous Ministries) building and residence as a home for the church and the appointment of Rev Keith and Jenny Bell as church planters. David Jones, Moderator- General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and pastor of Mt Stuart Presbyterian Church, Hobart, prayed, constituting ASPC and declaring it established as a congregation of the PCA to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in word and deed to the

people of Central Australia.

Sam Hauzel of ASPC read Micah 6.18. John Wilson, Clerk of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, led the congregation in prayers of intercession. Riak Gordon of ASPC read from Mark 12.28-34. David Jones developed these themes of the readings in his sermon, encouraging the new church about the great works which God has done for His people through the Lord Jesus Christ, which are both the source of enabling and motivation for the works of ministry and mission God's people are called to carry out. The great imperatives of doing justice and loving kindness flow from the indicatives of His great redeeming work which His people have experienced, and which we experience through Jesus.

The service closed with the singing of *To God Be The Glory*, which summed up both a wonderful time of remembering God's good works and the expectation of His future good purposes for the work of the Gospel in ASPC, across our nation and throughout the world. The ASPC is located at 20 Parke Crescent, The Gap, Alice Springs. (Gary Ware NEW LIFE office@nlife.com.au – adapted with permission)



### WILLS AND GIFTS – Help advance gospel work in remote Australia

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."*

As we enter our second century, the Presbyterian Inland Mission has an expanding network of patrol

ministries and mission churches across Australia through which we seek to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ by word and deed. Alongside sharing the message of everlasting life in Jesus publically and privately, PIM workers are involved in a wide range of caring/philanthropic activities – including the provision of assistance to deal with the impact of drought, isolation, suffering and medical emergencies. All of our ministry activities continue in the Presbyterian

Church, the heritage of the Australian Inland Mission founded in 1912 under the leadership of John Flynn.

The PIM offers its ministry freely to all people who live in the outback and inland areas of Australia, to the greater glory of God and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We seek your partnership in helping us both sustain and expand the ministry of the PIM.

MAKE A FINAL DONATION for the

work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission by remembering us in your will. When seeking the advice and

guidance of your Solicitor in drawing up your will please consider using the following wording:

I ..... (Full Name) ..... give to the Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust for the PRESBYTERIAN

INLAND MISSION an amount of \$..... (or a percentage of your estate or a piece of property) free of testamentary charges and duties for its general purposes (or specific purposes as desired) and I declare that the Receipt of the Secretary of the Trust shall be sufficient to discharge to my Executors.

BUT WHY WAIT FOR YOUR WILL? Give a gift now to help gospel work in inland and outback Australia through the Presbyterian Inland Mission



## THE LORD OF THE HARVEST SENDS OUT WORKERS

David and Kathy Alsop hear the call!

David and Kathy Alsop (dkalsop@pim.org.au) have been appointed to the Central Patrol in Queensland.

They are from the Callide Valley congregation (Qld) and have had many years experience on the land and in various agricultural businesses. David says '...the Lord has put a burden on our hearts for people west of Biloela. We know that the rural sector is really hurting. The suicide rate and marriage problems are rising. The only true solution is trusting in and having a personal relationship with Jesus. Every sermon I have preached in the past 12 months seems like I have been preaching to myself, preparing us to go and help such people by sharing



with them the love of Jesus by word and deed...' David and Kathy bring many spiritual and practical gifts to

patrol ministry and are eager to serve those on properties and in outback communities.

## PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION 2013 CHRISTMAS CARDS

1-3 packs @ \$7.60 per pack  
4+ packs @ \$6.50 per pack

Contact the office:  
PO Box 4014, Croydon Hills Vic 3136  
Ph: (03) 9005 8256 | Fax: (03) 9876 1941  
Order on the web at:  
[www.pim.org.au/merchandise.htm](http://www.pim.org.au/merchandise.htm)

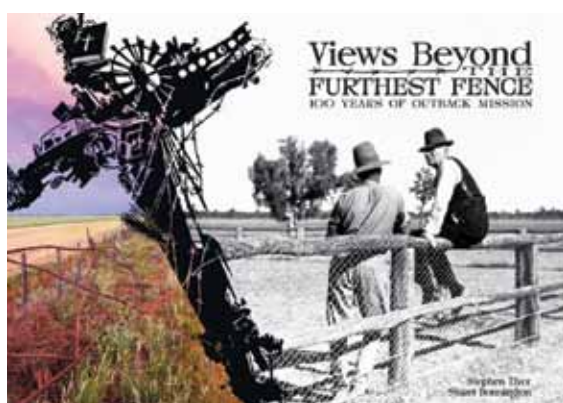


## VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE

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

Not only did John Flynn pioneer a remarkably successful ministry to the people of the Outback, but also his own personal interest in photography has ensured that many early scenes and significant moments related to his ministry were captured and preserved for future generations.

Stephen Dyer was commissioned by the PIM to bring together a collection of historical and contemporary photographs in the form of a Coffee Table Book. For years Steve Dyer has been photographing many aspects of the work of the PIM and sourcing



photographs to complete an historical record of the AIM and the PIM. Many of the photographs in this compilation have been sourced from the AIM collection at the National Library of Australia. With great patience, skill and attention to detail, Steve has digitally enhanced them so that again they can vividly communicate. We know that Flynn himself would have taken many of the earlier photographs; however, insufficient records fail to allow the credit to go to him. It is likely he

would be happy knowing that those who look at those collated here will be drawn to the Outback and the Gospel work conducted there, rather than to himself and to his talent.

The book also contains an historical account of the work of the AIM written by Rev. Stuart

Bonnington. Rev. Bonnington is the Superintendent of the Presbyterian Inland Mission and Pastor of the Fremantle Presbyterian Church in Western Australia.

The work and ministry of John Flynn cannot be ignored. By the grace of God he achieved much for this nation, especially for those who lived and worked in the remoter regions of this vast continent. Be inspired as you read this book and spend time reflecting on the outstanding photographic images. Lift your heart

in prayer and thank God for the many workers he both raised up, and then sustained, to carry out this ministry. Also, take time to pray for those men and women that the Presbyterian Church of Australia continues to send out 'beyond the furthest fences' to communicate in both word and deed the love of Jesus Christ.

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

Orders can be made on-line at [www.pim.org.au](http://www.pim.org.au) or by ringing the PIM office on (03) 9005 8256.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_ Please debit my credit card for a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_

VISA/Mastercard Card no.:

Expires: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I authorise the PIM to deduct the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_ from my credit card

I authorise the PIM to deduct the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_ from my credit card each month until further notice

The PIM Office Mr Michael Timmins – Office Manager  
PO Box 4014, Croydon Hills, VIC 3136 • Ph (03) 9005 8256 [admin@pim.org.au](mailto:admin@pim.org.au)

## MEETING AT INNAMINCKA

Padres meet on Strzelecki Track

On their most recent patrol during July and August David and Gae McDonald of the John Flynn Patrol in South Australia, left their base in Whyalla, travelled to Port Augusta and then proceeded to patrol along the Barrier Highway to Yunta. The McDonalds turned north and visited properties all the way up to Lake Frome. They followed the Strzelecki Track to Innamincka.



David and Gae McDonald and Greg and Janet Cripps outside the 'old' AIM Hospital at Innamincka

It was in this tiny but famous settlement that in 1924 our founder Dr. John Flynn placed the first of the famous 'Border Sisters' and in 1929 opened the AIM

Hospital. At Innamincka, David and Gae met Greg and Janet Cripps of the South Queensland Patrol, who themselves were on an extensive patrol that had begun in the Charleville area three weeks earlier.

## JOHN FLYNN LIFE AND MINISTRY

For those wanting to know more about the Rev. Dr John Flynn, founder of the Australian Inland Mission, then the fact-filled DVD JOHN FLYNN LIFE AND MINISTRY will be just what you are looking for. During the PIM Centenary Year, Robert Benn travelled throughout Australia speaking to various groups about this faithful servant of God. Due to many requests, this DVD has been made

available based on Robert's memorable talks.

The DVD covers Flynn's early years, his call to Christian ministry, his achievements through the AIM and its associated ministries and much more. The DVD presentation JOHN FLYNN LIFE AND MINISTRY is engaging and will not disappoint. Robert was Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia between 2007-2010.



## PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

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# Partnership

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION



8 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, NSW 2213

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

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

## 5fish.mobi

There are many people in the world who either cannot read or have very poor literacy. How can they learn about Jesus? 5fish is one answer. Throughout some of the world's poorest countries there are millions and millions of mobile phones. 5fish enables people to download the gospel to their phone in their language.

5fish.mobi is a resource developed by James Thomas and others from Global Recordings Network



(globalrecordings.net). James is a Sydney-based APWM missionary who now uses the mobile engineering skills he gained while working at Telstra for the gospel.

James is currently under supported financially and is seeking more people to partner with himself and his wife Christina, so that this ministry can continue to develop.

If you would like to partner with James then you can contact him on 0428 209 103 or Global Recordings Network directly (02) 9899 2211.



## Nathan and Tomoko Stewart

The APWM National Committee recently accepted Nathan and Tomoko Stewart as missionaries to Japan. Nathan and Tomoko are from Browns Plains Presbyterian Church, Queensland, where Nathan serves as a pastoral assistant. God-willing they will be assisting one of the

Presbyterian Churches in Osaka in its outreach.

If you would like to find out more about partnering with Nathan and Tomoko then please contact APWM (02) 9792 1373 office@apwm.org.au or contact Nathan nathan@stewartfamily.id.au



## Two Davids Deliver Rob Duncanson, Darwin, Timor Leste Co-ordinator

David Jones (Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia) and David Burke (lecturer at Presbyterian Theological Centre Sydney) visited Timor Leste in June 2013. Their visit was part of the ongoing partnership between IETPL and APWM and was for the purpose of conducting ministry training at Liquica for local church workers.

David Burke writes:

"It was a privilege to visit Timor Leste for my third time and help conduct ministry training with David Jones who was making his first visit. I notice

that both church and nation are developing. Dilli even has a shopping mall, food court and lots of young people gathered for the free wifi!

In keeping with recent decisions, the ministry training was focussed around the three areas of Christian character; Bible and theology; and ministry skills.

The core sessions were based around Ephesians. We taught a simple method of inductive Bible study which participants used over the several teaching sessions, put a lot of emphasis on group discussion and also gave some model talks on key passages. Our goals were that people get to know this book, become comfortable with a simple transferable method of Bible study and leave with the outlines of several Bible talks ready to go.

High point of this visit? Seeing the Tetun translation of Ephesians come out of the box and be used for the first time as people 'got it' with the inductive method and started to make good sense of this book from the Bible. This is the gold standard of training ministry – equipping local leaders to serve their people well with the word of the Lord.

Other high points were seeing David Jones have his first motor bike ride, enjoying a Friday night dinner with church leaders in Dili and, once again, feeling warmly welcomed and cared for by people who have become dear to me.

I stayed over for some extra days to



David Burke. Co-ordinator of teaching programmes.

talk with the Synod Moderator (Daniel Marcal) about next steps in developing the training ministry and also preached to the Dili congregation on the Sunday. The Dili congregation waits for the day when their new church building is ready to use and they can expand the work in the capital city. It strikes me that this will be a great venue for future training visits and make it easier to bring in people from elsewhere to help.

There's plenty to do in Timor Leste and local resources are limited. The flip side of this is that whatever we do is eagerly received and makes a positive difference. I'll be back next June!"

APWM is grateful to PTC Sydney for its partnership in this ministry by allowing David Burke to serve in this way.



David Jones with Pastor Kris

## APWM is moving!

God-willing, from January 2014, the APWM National Office will be located within the grounds of the



Presbyterian Theological Centre, Burwood in Sydney. This will enable the Director and office staff to have greater contact with theological students, ministers, elders and church members who visit the PTC. Burwood is a centrally located and so will be very convenient for meetings. Details regarding the phone number and postal address will be available later this year. Our web and email details will stay the same. We'll be in the very top of the older building on the corner.

## Home Assignment

We currently have some of our Partner Church missionaries in Australia for Home Assignment.

**Motor Yat** serves in South Sudan where he trains elders and young people. He is based in Melbourne during his Home Assignment. Motor has been sharing with churches in New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria. Motor is in need of increased partnership support.



## Andy and Rosemary Williamson

serve at the Talua Ministry Training Centre in Vanuatu in theological education. Andy and Rosemary are based in Gosford, north of Sydney, during Home Assignment. They will be sharing with churches in New South Wales and Queensland. Andy and Rosemary are in need of increased partnership support.



## WORKPARTNERS VANUATU DECEMBER 2013

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

**WHEN:** 6th to 22nd December.

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

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

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

**CONTACT:** APWM (02) 9792 1373 or national@apwm.org.au or go to www.apwm.org.au and click the 'What we do' tab to go to the Workpartner page and download an application form or to get more details.

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

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







# APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2013

THIS CHRISTMAS WHY NOT GIVE GIFTS TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND AT THE SAME TIME HELP SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE THE BASICS THAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED? THE ITEMS BELOW CAN PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF CHRISTIANS AND OTHERS IN OUR PARTNER CHURCHES IN MYANMAR AND EAST TIMOR. ALL GIFTS WILL BE CHANNELLED THROUGH OUR PARTNER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN THOSE COUNTRIES.



**MOSQUITO NET (MYANMAR)**  
A gift of \$6 will enable a child to sleep safely from mosquitoes which can cause malaria or dengue fever.



**MEDICINE FOR BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS (MYANMAR)**  
A gift of \$50 will provide medicine for students at the Reformed Bible Institute in Yangon.



**BLANKET (MYANMAR)**  
A gift of \$6 will provide a blanket for a child in a rural school.



**VITAMINS AND MEDICINES FOR A RURAL VILLAGE (MYANMAR)**  
A gift of \$50 will provide vitamins and medicines for a rural village in Chin State.



**UMBRELLA (MYANMAR)**  
A gift of \$6 will will provide an umbrella for a child in a rural school.



**GUITAR (EAST TIMOR)**  
A gift of \$60 will provide a guitar for a rural congregation.



**BAG OF RICE (MYANMAR OR EAST TIMOR)**  
A gift of \$20 will provide a bag of rice for a family in East Timor. A gift of \$25 will provide a bag of rice for a family in Myanmar.



**GOAT OR PIG (EAST TIMOR)**  
A gift of \$60 will provide a goat or pig for a pastor's family to help them economically.



**BIBLE COLLEGE BOOK RESOURCES (MYANMAR)**  
A gift of \$30 will provide book resources for the Reformed Bible Institute in Yangon.



**GENERATOR FOR A RURAL VILLAGE (MYANMAR)**  
A gift of \$300 will provide a generator for use in a rural village in Chin State, Myanmar.



**STATIONERY FOR ONE RURAL CHILD (MYANMAR)**  
A gift of \$30 will provide stationery for one rural child in Chin State, Myanmar.



**COMPUTER FOR A BIBLE COLLEGE (MYANMAR)**  
A gift of \$700 will provide a computer for the Reformed Bible Institute in Yangon.



**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR ONE CHILD (MYANMAR)**  
A gift of \$40 will provide educational assistance for one year for a child.

*Please note that while the prices above are correct at the time of printing there are some variations due to inflation overseas and fluctuations in the exchange rate.*

[WWW.APWM.ORG.AU](http://WWW.APWM.ORG.AU)

## APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2013 ORDER FORM

### HOW IT WORKS

1. You choose the item(s) on our list that you would like to purchase for your friends/family.
2. Send us your order, including payment. Please note that these gifts are **not tax deductible**.
3. We will send you the cards you have ordered. You are then free to give these cards to your friends/family for Christmas. The cards state which gift(s) you have purchased, on their behalf, for someone in East Timor or Myanmar. The card does not state the monetary value of the gift.
4. APWM then sends the money to our partners in East Timor or Myanmar. They will then purchase the gifts locally and distribute them to those in need.

### ORDER FORM / PAYMENTS

Please fill out your details and enclose your payment (cheque or money order made out to 'APWM'). Please **DO NOT** send cash.

If you would like to pay by Direct Deposit the details are:

**Bank:** Westpac  
**Account Name:** Australian Presbyterian World Mission  
**BSB:** 032 260  
**Account #:** 151207

Write your name in the description box and email [finance@apwm.org.au](mailto:finance@apwm.org.au) informing us of your deposit.

Please mail your order form to:

APWM Christmas Catalogue  
8 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point NSW 2213 and we will send you the cards you have ordered.

ITEM	QTY	COST
MOSQUITO NET (M) \$6		
BLANKET (M) \$6		
UMBRELLA (M) \$6		
RICE FOR RURAL FAMILY (ET) \$20		
BAG OF RICE (M) \$25		
BIBLE COLLEGE BOOK RESOURCES (M) \$30		
STATIONERY FOR ONE RURAL CHILD (M) \$30		
EDUCATION FOR ONE CHILD (M) \$40		
VITAMINS & MEDICINES RURAL VILLAGE (M) \$50		
MEDICINE FOR BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS (M) \$50		
GUITAR (ET) \$60		
GOAT OR PIG (ET) \$60		
GENERATOR FOR A RURAL VILLAGE (M) \$300		
COMPUTER FOR A BIBLE COLLEGE (M) \$700		
GENERAL DONATION FOR MYANMAR		
GENERAL DONATION FOR EAST TIMOR		
TOTAL		

☐ I enclose a cheque / money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or

☐ I have made a Direct Deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please tick here if you do not wish to receive cards and simply want to make a donation for these items

Please note that if any item is over-subscribed then the money will be allocated to a similar need.

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## East Timor – Building Progress!

Late last year we reported that land had been purchased in Dili on which a church building could be built for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste. Please join

with us in praising God that work has begun and good progress is being made. Thank you very much to those who have prayed and to those who have contributed to this whole project.



Dili Church Building.

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## WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH RACHEL KOTTERER ABOUT HOW LIFE CHANGES AS GOD WORKS OUT HIS PLAN FOR US AND BLESSES US ALONG THE WAY

**Wendy:** Welcome back Rachel! It's been a couple of years now since we chatted on Girl Talk (January 2011 to be precise). Can you start by telling us some of what's been happening for you since the days when you were newly-employed at Kenmore PC as the Women's Ministry Co-ordinator?

**Rachel:** Hi Wendy! By God's provision a lot has happened since January 2011! I had the privilege of continuing to coordinate women's ministry at Kenmore Presbyterian Church until December 2011. I then took a side-step from women's ministry at church into ministry with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students at the University of Queensland, a role I love! I still attend Kenmore Presbyterian, but I'm no longer part of the staff team.

**W:** What has it been like to go from working with women in a local church, to meeting with university students?

**R:** As I said, it's a bit of a side-step. I still work primarily with women, but in very different stages of life, with different responsibilities and different time pressures compared with most of the women at church. I find I spend a lot more time now discussing life-decisions and questions about God, His Word and how we follow Him.

**W:** Are there some highlights or challenges that you can share about this important ministry to uni students?

**R:** I love working with uni students! I meet with a number of women one-to-one to read the Bible. It's such a joy to watch them grow, see their love for the Lord and their desire to know Him more. It's also fantastic to help train students in evangelism, seeing their earnest desire that their friends know Jesus, and to pray with them to that end. On the other hand, one of the greatest challenges is to see students decide to stop following Jesus. That's heartbreakingly sad, yet it's a comfort to know that they're not out of God's reach. Another big challenge is knowing how best to encourage students in their walk with God. Student work is intense, because it involves working with individuals on a personal level. Please pray that students follow Jesus, love God, grow in their understanding of His Word, and for wisdom for us as staff to know how best to help them in this!

**W:** Now Rachel, there may be some people reading this who are wondering just who Rachel Kotterer is .... because last time we talked here on Girl Talk, your surname was different! Enchelmaier if I recall correctly. Tell us how that came about.

**R:** It all came about because of God's

wonderful provision. In September 2011 I attended the wedding of my very dear friend and house-mate Jeanne. Sitting at the same reception table was her husband Tim's cousin Chris. We found we had a lot to talk about, and after many more months of chatting and much prayer, Chris and I were married in September last year.

**W:** Congratulations! We trust that married life will bring you both much joy and enrichment of your life experiences, as well as all the challenges that go with becoming part of a "blessed alliance"! What are your thoughts about marriage so far?

**R:** We highly recommend it! Marriage has been a wonderful blessing, a great privilege and responsibility. Wow! What an honour to be given the opportunity to experience and display a micro-version of God's love! (Ephesians 5) There were many times I wondered if marriage was in God's plan for me. I'm so thankful for God's provision of Chris, and that He kept me for him. The waiting was worth it, and we praise God for the way He has sovereignly provided so well. I'm thankful for my single years, for the opportunities God gave me and the things He taught me through them. I'm also very thankful for marriage. Both are wonderful life-stages with great opportunities in which to serve our Lord.

**W:** So there have been quite a few changes – both personally and also in what you do on a day-to-day basis? But one thing that seems to have remained constant is your nursing work. So it's obviously something

that has become an important part of your life. What are the reasons for that?

**R:** On a practical level, nursing has been a great provision from God to supplement my part-time ministry income. However, a big reason to continue nursing is the friends I work with. Many of them aren't followers of Jesus. I think it's really important for Christians to be intentional about sharing Jesus in their workplaces, and I pray that by keeping up relationships with non-Christian nursing colleagues I may have the opportunity to do that.

**W:** Another continuing activity for a few years now has been your involvement with the GROW conference? Tell us a bit about what happened back in July this year .... the topic, speakers, numbers of women attending etc

**R:** GROW is a Queensland Christian Convention Association conference for women held at South Bank in Brisbane. In July this year Jenny Salt, from Sydney Missionary and Bible College, shared with 440 women from the book of Numbers, encouraging us to persevere in our walk with God, trusting Him throughout our entire life's journey. We also heard from Jennie Baddeley and Carolyn Russell who gave electives on Reading the Old Testament One-to-One, and godly Decision-Making respectively. We've booked the date of GROW 2014, so mark 26 July in your diary!

**W:** I imagine that you and the rest of the organising committee would have been pleased with the outcomes of GROW 2013. What were some of the most satisfying of those from your point of view?

**R:** One of the most satisfying things was seeing women excited about God's Word, wanting to hear it taught faithfully. GROW was also a marvellous example of God's repeated provision. There were many times He brought things together in the lead-up to GROW. He is a great provider!

**W:** Well, it certainly all came together on the day and many of us are already looking forward to next year, so keep up the good work! And finally, your involvement with WMPCQ Committee has also continued. Back in 2011 you were our newest member! Can you reflect on some significant moments of that part of your journey?

**R:** Over the past three years WMPCQ has continued to seek to help women grow in God and be better equipped to serve their churches and families. It's been wonderful to see women desire to be equipped in this way. A significant moment for me was going to Sydney in February 2012 to be part of discussions in preparation for *Flourish*, a women's ministry conference of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. We spent the day hearing talks and seminars, and contributing to discussions to help the *Flourish* organisers understand the needs of women in the Presbyterian Church.

**W:** Thanks Rachel, for sharing with us about your busy and varied life, and how God has provided for you through each stage. We look forward to seeing how His plan unfolds over the coming years with many more adventures and blessings ahead!

## WOMEN @ PRAYER ...

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be - Psalm 139:16

- Praise God for His love for us and His amazing plan for our salvation.
- Give thanks that although we did not love Him, He loved us and sent His Son to be an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
- Praise God that He began a good work in us before we were born and that He will be faithful to complete it! Pray that we will be willing to say "No!" to ungodliness and worldly passions and instead live self-controlled, upright and godly lives.
- Praise God for the women in local churches who are ministering in the model of Titus 2. Pray that they might be encouraging, teaching and (gently) rebuking one another as their lives grow from one stage to another.
- Pray for those who minister to young women at university - reading the Bible with them and training them in evangelism. Pray for these students that they might overcome the challenges to their faith in Jesus and that they will continue to love and follow Him steadfastly.
- Praise God for His gifts of singleness and marriage, and thank Him that each provides us with opportunities to reflect His truths and mysteries in the world in which we live.
- Pray for women who struggle to be confident in God's provision for them - whether that involves making choices about study or employment, choosing friends wisely, waiting patiently for a life-time partner in marriage, adjusting to the newness of married life or persevering in longtime difficult relationships. Pray for those experiencing the sadness and emptiness of losing a partner through death or divorce and ask that they might know the comfort of the Holy Spirit.
- Praise God for the large gathering of women of all ages who were hungry to learn from God's Word and attended the recent GROW conference in Brisbane. Give thanks for the great teaching they received and for continuing blessings in their lives as a result.
- Continue to pray for the Committee on Women's Ministries in the Presbyterian Church of Queensland as they plan how to encourage, equip and extend women in our churches. Pray that they will always remain faithful to the gospel of Christ in all their endeavours.



Rachel and Chris Kotterer



Be Connected with WMPCQ through the website and newsletter [www.wmpcq.com](http://www.wmpcq.com) or email [pcqwomen@gmail.com](mailto:pcqwomen@gmail.com) Visit the WMPCA website [www.gaawomensministry.com](http://www.gaawomensministry.com)



# Shy Colonial Boy Seeks First the Kingdom of Heaven

Tribute to the remarkable life of Emeritus Professor James Ward (1919–2013) by Jim, his eldest son.  
For a decade they were elders together on the Session of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Townsville.



Prof. James Ward on dedication of restored *Siang*



James Ward with sloop *Siang*

THE DIZZY list of accomplishments of this staunch soldier of Christ derives from the famous challenge to "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matt. 6:33). The context of this address worldly worry concerning possessions and the yearning to be secure and happy at all costs, which is the hallmark of our post-modern age.

James found a faith that exhibited the sweet blessing of the following verse 34, which promises that, with Jesus at the helm of your life, there is no need to worry about tomorrow (Matt. 6:34).

Sure of his Captain's power and timely provision, James was able to face calmly the ravages of two world wars, a great depression, the bitter scepticism of secular science and the transition to a pagan society. Throughout, he was preoccupied with knocking on doors of wonderful opportunity to shine a bright light of hope in dark places from one end of the Commonwealth to the other.

The secret to the mainspring of the life of James is found in a favourite scripture – "Christ in you, the hope

of glory" Colossians 1:27. The world today needs to hear this message just as much as it ever did.

## Finding Christ, the Saviour

James grew up near Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne and shared his father's passion for fitness, fishing, boating, hunting, inventing and crafting practical things beautifully in the well-equipped backyard workshop.

Walter Ward inoculated him from the dalliance of his childhood era with firm discipline and innovation. Walter crafted fishing boats and was both a nominal Anglican and sturdy member of the Lodge who stood for no nonsense from anyone. His energetic, creative, focused drive towards prosperity amidst Australia of the roaring twenties that was trying desperately to forget the despair of the Great War, was a powerful influence on young James. Savage gales roared in off the Bay with unbelievably destructive ferocity, and the small boy must have often been anxious and perplexed as he tried to come to terms with a similar tumult surrounding him of a Jazz age society that was also

storming into a frenzy of materialistic and promiscuous escapism.

James was very shy and quiet but grew in confidence under his father's creative answer to life – 'be upright, disciplined and true; don't get mixed up with the world but better yourself'. The gentle care of Stella, his mother, softened the often harsh, driving intensity of Walter and also the fearful bullying of the local school yard which was a common feature of that time.

There were some happy early experiences such as car camps and a family cruise to Singapore. Such equanimity, however, was overshadowed by the trauma of death when James' beautiful sister Joan died suddenly from appendicitis. This numbed his parents, who were spiritually helpless before such tragedy and cast a grim pall over family life as Joan's grave was visited most Sunday afternoons for years and his new sister, Diana, also a most beautiful girl, faced a wretched closeting to protect against any future 'accidents'. At the same time it sharpened within James a keen personal search for a better hope and security for the future.

With steady work in the electrical trades through the Great Depression, Walter could afford to send James to Caulfield Grammar School which was academically robust and missionary-minded. The work of the Crusader group there was pivotal.

In his final year at school, James discovered the truth about the God who loved him so much that He had sent His only son to help him access a magnificent plan of salvation from human woe. James became convinced that the faith required to believe this new way of the Saviour Jesus was justified after it withstood the rigorous tests of intense cognitive examination to which he subjected it. The result was that a golden faith in Jesus Christ as both Saviour and Lord was born. James was reborn.

In later years he would tell you quite confidently and sincerely that he became a different person at that point. He no longer used his gifts for self-advancement but thereafter was to learn to follow and serve his gentle, wise and exciting new master.

## Discovering Secrets of Creation

At the same time James became aware that he was becoming adept at understanding, acquiring and utilizing the tools of science that had the potential to deliver many from suffering.

He was swept up in the tsunami of excitement at the climax of the industrial revolution which saw massive development and unbelievable machines whose intricate capability was rapidly

adopted with revolutionary effects.

Suddenly the tyranny of distance could be conquered by radio, radar gave life-saving warning of danger, protection from a multitude of harms could be designed into machines and modern medicines ensured an enormous improvement in the quality of our lives.

James was at the forefront of the science of all of this, honing the mathematical and experimental skills for successful 'invention with finesse'. He learned the value of elegant solutions as opposed to the hit and miss attitudes of much monied American science driven relentlessly by big business tactics that he despised. The marriage of the early innovative grounding with such an era of inspirational incubation was to lay the foundation for superb academic endeavour as a most skilful and resourceful Commonwealth research scientist, who exemplified just how one could turn thinking laterally into an art form.

James did not make the mistake of many in his generation and worship the scientific method itself or see it as a means to make money. Instead he saw it for what it was - a gift from the loving Creator of all things Who could be known and Who had revealed that He wanted the method to be used to help the world escape the many evils that had ensnared it. This ensnaring activity of evil and how to escape it by rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit is the focus of another favourite scripture that was read at James' memorial service by his surviving younger sister Diana - Titus 3:1-8.

James could look back on the first two decades of his life and see that although many of his peers were hopelessly ensnared by selfish behaviours that ultimately led to empty despair, he had been given a chance to make an important difference on the international stage of scientific progress that could give people hope in a better quality of life and glorify God at the same time.

Compelled by this inertia he embraced the rigours and inspiration of Melbourne University with enthusiasm and awe, whilst working part-time as a technician for the Post Master General. He completed both Arts and Science degrees and began to focus on engineering and radio Physics. He excelled in hockey and joined other Christians in witness in this sport in an inter-arsity competition which took him to victory in grand finals in Sydney. Most importantly he enthusiastically supported Christian evangelical work in many University contexts.

## Standing Valiant and Strong

Although shocked by the Second World War, James shone amidst its despairing darkness with a steady bulwark of faith against the dangerous rips of fear and panic.

He was given the opportunity to use his scientific training and invention to assist secret radar development and oversee field applications of scientific apparatus. He applied for active front line duties in both the Air Force and Navy, but God had other ideas and he was firmly guided to a vital scientific support role.

At that time in Australia there were not too many scientists trained to the high levels of practical research and development that James had by now attained. All the while he listened to the guidance of his Lord and found both solace from his Saviour amidst all the suffering and a deeper insight into the need of human beings to learn to love and trust their Creator.

For the four years immediately following the war James went to London University where he studied Electrical Engineering and was awarded the Diploma of Imperial College as well as a Doctorate of Philosophy.

He was given responsibility as part of a highly successful undercover team of experts to visit Germany and locate and extract key German scientists before they could be coerced or even appropriated by the communists.

By this time James was now well-positioned to achieve the high status and prosperity of an executive level job in science or higher education which was normally associated with such academic success.

God had quite different ideas however and the direction of James' life was to change remarkably.

## Resisting the Powers of Sin

James had always supported Christian work in both England and Australia and was impressed with the missionary sacrifice of many of his peers answering the urgent need to assist pioneer outreach and establish young churches in the new world of the colonies.

Although he was seen as just a raw colonial boy himself, and certainly no Eric Liddell, James knew he could help and had a role to play. He was drawn to the Borneo Evangelical Mission and decided to explore outreach needs there.

His secular scientific mentors in Britain were disgusted and felt that he was completely wasting his life and all the valuable training of his formative years.

As James maintained his faith against this intense pressure, God

*continued on page 15*



The Ward family back from Borneo - February 1956 - with children Chris (left) and Jim (right)



# Shy Colonial Boy Seeks First the Kingdom of Heaven

continued from page 14

provided a typically wonderful compensation. He met and soon afterwards in 1951, married Laura – a beautiful ‘English rose’ Christian girl who had survived the terrors of the London blitz to graduate in medicine. She too had been converted through Christian work in the equivalent of a Crusaders group and was drawn to the mission field to use her gifts for her Master.

Officiating at their wedding in Laura’s home church of All Souls Langham Place, London, was a young curate called John Stott – then largely unknown but later to become a biblical scholar, Christian writer and speaker of international renown.

He was to support the Ward family in prayer and encouraging visitation throughout the future. He had an especially empathetic oversight of this shy, gentle, humble, caring young lady doctor of his church, who had a fierce faith that was about to move her away from the civilized centre of Empire to live with a ‘wild’ colonial boy from Australia amongst the animistic head hunters of Borneo.

The couple was very happy and by late 1951 had arrived quite penniless in Sarawak and set to learning Malay with typical zest. Laura learned phonetically, James grammatically, and soon they could get by. This was to be a handy tool later in front of children when confidential subjects needed to be discussed!

The couple tried to acclimatize and lived by faith, which meant doing with next to nothing but the bare essentials to survive.

Soon they were to move north to the interior of Sabah and be involved in both pioneering first contact work as well as discipleship training. The combined scientific and medical backgrounds of James and Laura found much practical expression in the five years of service that followed, in which caring Christian enlightenment successfully challenged restrictive, superstitious animism.

The result of such contributions from quite a few missionaries in the post-war period was the steady, stable development by the 1970s of a fully self-supporting indigenous church called the Sidang Injil Borneo (BEM) in what is now East Malaysia. It thrives to this day.

**Winning though the Fight is Long and the Foe is Strong**

Laura was everything that James needed to refine and restrain his often coarse, impetuous Australian ways. James was the fit, energetic, innovative, pioneering adventurer who Laura needed to initiate and control the opportunities to complete the many ‘good works prepared in advance for her to do’ (Eph 2:10).

This marriage made in heaven was to last over sixty years until James

was finally taken home on Wednesday 29 May 2013, aged 94 years.

Today Laura continues firm of faith, although frail and missing her soul mate. She has just moved into a comfortable nursing home on the Sunshine Coast.

When James and Laura moved back to Melbourne in 1956 after mission service, now with two small boys to care for, they were very poor and had to start from scratch. The good Lord though was steadfastly true to His promise about “adding all the other things”.

James quickly obtained work as a research scientist for the British Ministry of Supply and then a research engineer in Communications for the Australian Post Office. His university teaching career began in 1961 as a reader in Physics at his old university in Melbourne. From there he was appointed foundation Professor of Physics at the institution which soon became the new James Cook University, Townsville.

All the while he continued his radio physics research, which resulted in innovatively designed radio aerials and arrays, with many practical applications such as cyclone tracking. Simultaneously, he maintained a firm Christian faith and links with mission work through speaking engagements with Christian groups such as the Overseas Christian Fellowship of Students.

James joined the Presbyterian Church, which he admired for its biblical foundations, structural integrity and reliance on the Westminster Confession of Faith. He became an elder and ministered in this capacity faithfully for three decades, affirming the need for sound doctrine. He was firmly vocal about the crucial importance of pure biblical doctrine, especially during the Church Union debates that swept Australia in the seventies. He never pontificated or patronized – just earnestly attempted to persuade with a polite respect for difference of opinion that endeared him to many.

Laura continued to support her restless, pioneering husband, espousing many of his colonial ways with patience and gentle tact, although there were firm lines drawn in the antipodean sands. She practised medicine in many roles, spoke at schools and Christian groups and cheerfully took the greater share of raising four children. The large rambling Ward family home in Townsville near the waters of Cleveland Bay was always known for its hospitality and warm encouragement to live for Christ.

Walter Ward died suddenly, just days before he was to journey north to see for himself the tropical success of his son, Professor James, who now headed a thriving Physics

Department that was quickly building an impressive reputation for its high quality teaching, research excellence and practical community links.

Despite the shock, James was at peace with the knowledge that his dad had died after experiencing God’s blessing on the family and had been pleased and proud of an only son who had upheld the Ward family tradition for persistence and success.

With some inheritance money, James had a 21ft trailer sailer sloop built called *Siang* – Malay for “light” which brought great joy to the many who sailed tropic seas in her, often on Christian camps. It has been restored by the writer and now on Botany Bay continues the Ward family boating tradition that started on Port Phillip Bay over a century ago.

God added all this and much more for in due course twelve grandchildren were to arrive to Jim and Laura’s four children – Jim, Chris, Alistair and Hilary - who all found a firm faith in Jesus and established strong Christian families.

**More than Conqueror through the Power of Christ**

Thus the Lord richly blessed this shy colonial boy who chose to put his Master first.

Eventually, Melbourne University conferred on James a rare Doctor of Science Degree for outstanding contributions to scientific discovery in Australia. James humbly accepted

it with joy that this was further proof that his faithful heavenly Father was continuing to work to add more blessing for the seeker who remained constant. This was simply, but powerfully, the same wonderful Master he had come to know with awe when just a shy schoolboy – the sovereign Lord who could easily protect His precious trusting servant from the school yard bully, the evil machinations of Hitler, the cruel animism of Bornean head hunters, the scorn of scientific atheists, the assault of poverty and the social dislocation of disintegrating moral values.

The Lord Jesus Who guided James showed that He could provide amazing and elegant solutions to complex problems that burdened bent planet earth.

Most of all, this wise, visionary and insightful scientist sustained an

unwavering faith in his dear Lord with an impressive confidence that he had thereby discovered the holy grail of all science – he had indeed conquered death and acquired eternal life.

James truly found and exhibited clearly, for all to see, that Christ within is in fact the ‘hope of glory.’

His favourite chorus is redolent of the pioneering Christian faith that eventually moves mountains despite starting points in life that are marked by anxiety, perplexity and helplessness.

*Be valiant be strong  
Resist the powers of sin.  
The fight is long the foe is strong  
But you shall win,  
For through the power of Christ,  
The stronger than the strong,  
You shall be more than conqueror,  
Be valiant be strong.  
(CSSM)*



Prof. James Ward with his family on his 90th birthday

## When our ‘good taste’ overrides our grace towards others

by Ros Barrett, Acacia Ridge PC



I have met people who will rave for hours about having the best taste in coffee and the most knowledge of how to make it – properly! How gracious are they when offered inferior coffee? (How gracious was I?)

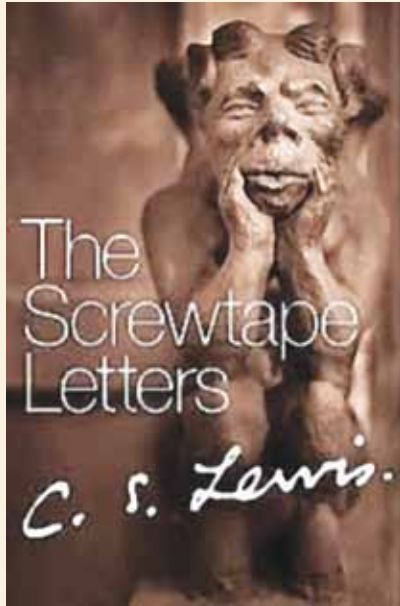
And it’s not just coffee. Our egos can be fed and misled by thinking we have the best taste in food and the best skills in how to cook it, to create amazing dishes and impress others.

I suppose I am not that far behind the people that I call coffee snobs! I do prefer real coffee from a coffee shop (though not A particular shop) and I do think I have better taste than others in many ways (doesn’t that just sound awful in print)!

The more I think such proud thoughts, the more I train myself to respond to others with less grace, less charity, less justice and kindness.

Let’s measure our “own good taste” against God’s measure of perfect grace, humility, charity and kindness to others. We are more likely to display the fruits of the Spirit to others when our hearts are not bent on satisfying our own ‘good tastes’, and proving our superiority in such matters.

I’ll keep working on this!



James and Laura Ward on their 60th wedding anniversary

THE OTHER day I turned my nose up at an instant coffee made for me from a jar of Nescafe 43. I thought I could justify this ungracious response by defending my ‘good taste’ in coffee, but apparently not, according to C. S. Lewis.

*“(Humans) . . . are best turned into gluttons with the help of their vanity. They ought to be made to think themselves very knowing about food, to pique themselves on having found the only restaurant in town where the steaks are really “properly” cooked. What begins as vanity can then be gradually turned into habit. But however you approach it, the great thing is to bring him into the state in which the denial of any one indulgence “puts him out”, for then his charity, justice and obedience are all at your mercy. Mere excess in food is much less valuable than delicacy.”* (Letter 16; Screwtape Letters by CS Lewis, 1942).

Ouch! If you have never read *The Screwtape Letters* I would encourage you to rush out and get a copy (or download). The Letters record fictional (but strangely believable) correspondence between a senior and junior devil. The uncle instructs his nephew on how to keep his ‘patient’ (a new convert to

Christianity) from getting too close to the Enemyscrewtape (for them the Enemy is, of course, God).

In the section above, Uncle Screwtape explains how to get at his patient, to annoy him, by encouraging the unbearably fussy eating of his mother and her delicate tastes. If he can make her insist on having her food served in a particular, apparently simple way he will have some delightful amusements. It is also designed to keep her deluded in selfishness and pride.

Here Lewis makes an insightful connection between the “god of the stomach” and pride in our own good taste. This is a much more dangerous distraction from godliness than simply overeating.

What I find most interesting here is that he wrote on such matters long before our addiction to both reality TV cooking shows and the great variety of good foods we enjoy in the West (thanks to globalisation).

Lewis’ words also come before ‘coffee culture’ swept our world and people became ‘coffee snobs’ – who insist on having their particular bean roasted a particular way on a particular machine in a particular shop, or their own kitchen.



# Missions Expo and Dinner at Caloundra PC



Suitable table decorations for the theme of "The Persecuted Church"



Guest speaker, Glen Cochrane, State Director for Open Doors



Month of Missions dinner



Month for Mission expo with many mission groups represented

"MONTH FOR Mission" every August is one of the highlights of the year for the Caloundra Congregation.

Each year we try to focus on a different theme. Last year's theme was "The Mission at Home" and climaxed with a talk by Very Rev. Robert Benn on Rev. John Flynn and the AIM. This year our focus was on "The Persecuted Church" around the world.

Our visiting missionaries and mission agencies included Robert Handicott (former Session Clerk of St Paul's Townsville and now serving with SIM at Bingham Academy in Ethiopia) presently home on furlough; Colin Johnston and Rev. John Arnold (Barnabas Fund), Fred Bruinsma (Bible League) and Glen Cochrane (Open Doors).

Once again as a climax to the month we held our "Missions Expo" and "Missions Dinner" on the last full weekend in August.

Tents and tables were set up on the lawn in front of the Hall and a total of twelve agencies were represented – our own Prescare with its important ministry in aged care, Mercy Ships, Fan the Flame, Agape Hope Orphanage in Kenya, Barnabas Fund, Bible League, Leprosy Mission, School Chaplaincy, Destiny Rescue, Samaritan's Purse, Open Doors and Sunshine Coast Theological College.

The congregation has also voted to make an annual donation to Fan the Flame, a support and facilitating ministry for religious instruction teachers on the Sunshine Coast. Mrs Fiona Cran works voluntarily with "Fan the Flame" so senior Elder Stan Cane was able to present a cheque for \$1000 to Fiona on behalf of the congregation.

The hall and tables were appropriately decorated for our theme of "The Persecuted Church" and immediately after the Expo those present enjoyed a roast dinner and dessert in a packed hall.

Our speaker was Glen Cochrane, State Director for Open Doors, and he spoke movingly about the care and concern of a sovereign God for His persecuted people, and of the caring responsibility of His people in countries such as ours for those who do not enjoy the freedoms that we enjoy, but rather are persecuted for their faith.

We are all the body of Christ and when one member suffers, whether it is in North Korea or Iraq or Syria or Nigeria, then the whole body suffers. Unfortunately we tend to be anaesthetised against the pain of our brothers and sisters who are persecuted, by the materialism, indifference and insular comfort of our way of life in Australia.

Glen illustrated the problem with vivid accounts of those who suffer for their faith and pointed out that the only form of discrimination about which the world is silent is the suffering of those who are imprisoned, persecuted and tortured for no other reason than their faith in Jesus Christ.

For those congregations that would like a missionary speaker at a service or event, those in our congregation who heard him would highly recommend Glen for his clear and passionate presentation on behalf of the persecuted Church.

Once again it was good to be reminded of the Church's responsibility to fulfil the fullness of the Great Commission and to take the Gospel into the entire world.

We should all be grateful that it originally came to Australia with those who had a vision for the Lord's work in what is sometimes called "the great south land of the Holy Spirit".

May the Lord grant to our congregations and our State Church the same vision to carry the baton of the Gospel onward from "the great south land of the Holy Spirit" to those tribes, nations and people "in all the world" who have yet to hear it. If we don't, we die.



LtoR: Back row: Rev. Laurie Peake, Mr Lyle Bogg ( Oakey), Mr Trevor Kummerow (Dalby), Mr Keith Downing (Bell), Very Rev. Dr Ken Gardner  
Front Row: Rev. Walter Jones, Mr Stuart Parry, Rev. Rob Farr, Rev. Esa Hukkinen (Moderator, Darling Downs Presbytery), Mr John Dunn (St David's Toowoomba)



LtoR: Prue Cornford, Siobhan, Kerrie and Rev. Graeme McKay, Liz and Rev. Rob Farr, Em and Very Rev. Dr Ken Gardner

## Induction of Rev. Rob Farr

AT THE Sunday evening service of St John's Toowoomba South Charge on 18 August, members of a combined Congregation witnessed the Induction of Rev. Rob Farr. The service was officiated by the Moderator of the Darling Downs Presbytery, Rev. Esa Hukkinen.

Following the service and a stirring sermon delivered by Mr Hukkinen, a fellowship meal was enjoyed by all.

The past Minister, Rev. Graeme McKay, and his family returned for the occasion.

## REDUCING CRIME CHURCHES LEADING THE WAY

With guest speaker... **REV PAUL COWLEY**  
Alpha for Prisons & Caring For Ex-offenders International Director

**Hope Centre International**  
35 Thomas St, Bowen Hills, QLD

**Saturday October 19th**  
9:30am - 4:30pm

**Rego Cost - \$45.00**  
Includes lunch

This one day conference will help equip those working with or interested in working with ex-offenders and prisoners, with the understanding of how to make a genuine difference for this group of people in our society.

Throughout the day Rev Paul Cowley will speak. Paul is the International Director of Alpha for Prisons & Caring For Ex-Offenders and is a former prisoner himself. He also sits on the International Board of Prison Fellowship. Alongside Paul's sessions there will also be a Q&A panel and elective sessions.

For more info & for online registration go to:  
[www.alpha.org.au/paulcowleytour](http://www.alpha.org.au/paulcowleytour)  
Or call 1800 811 903

Sponsored by:

For Postal Registrations Please Return (by 16th OCT) to: Paul Cowley Tour, PO Box 10, Kerrimuir, VIC 3129 or scan and return by email to [admin@alpha.org.au](mailto:admin@alpha.org.au)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Ministry, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: Cost: \$45.00 per person (includes morning & afternoon tea, lunch)  
☐ Cash ☐ Cheque (payable: William Wilberforce Foundation)  
☐ Credit card: Visa / MasterCard / Diners  
Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Amount to charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

ELECTIVES (please preference from 1-4):  
☐ Helping those with drug and alcohol addictions. ☐ Helping Indigenous prisoners and ex-offenders.  
☐ Helping ex-offenders. ☐ What is prison really like? An insider's perspective.

Month for Mission expo with many mission groups represented





## Easterfest goes undercover

EASTERFEST HAS just announced that they will be having an undercover Mainstage in 2014 for the first time.

This major development will see a venue erected, which will put both the whole stage and 8-10,000 people under cover.

Essentially it will be amalgamating the current Mainstage and Big Top venues, replacing them with the massive new undercover venue called 'Big Stage'.

Event Director Dave Schenk says this change will have major benefits both to concert-goers and nearby residents.

'We are creating a festival that will be less impacted by unpredictable weather. Even though there has only been two major weather events in the past three years, the new undercover Big Stage will mean the festival will

go on rain, hail or shine and festival attendees won't even get their hair wet!' says Schenk.

Big Stage will be programmed until 10 pm meaning it will conclude one hour earlier so noise spill from the park will be dramatically reduced with the merge of the two venues.

This stage will be directed towards the centre of Queens Park, further buffering noise for residents.

The venue capacity will be similar to that of the previous Mainstage in the amphitheatre with the option to expand as the festival continues to grow.

Festivals like Splendor in the Grass and Byron Bay Bluesfest use similar venues.

Easterfest is held annually and will be from 18-20 April in 2014.



## VACANCIES CHURCH OF ST ANDREW - CANBERRA

The Pastoral Charge of the Church of St Andrew has become vacant following the retirement of its Senior Minister, Rev. Joy Bartholomew and Colleague, Rev. Arnold Bartholomew.

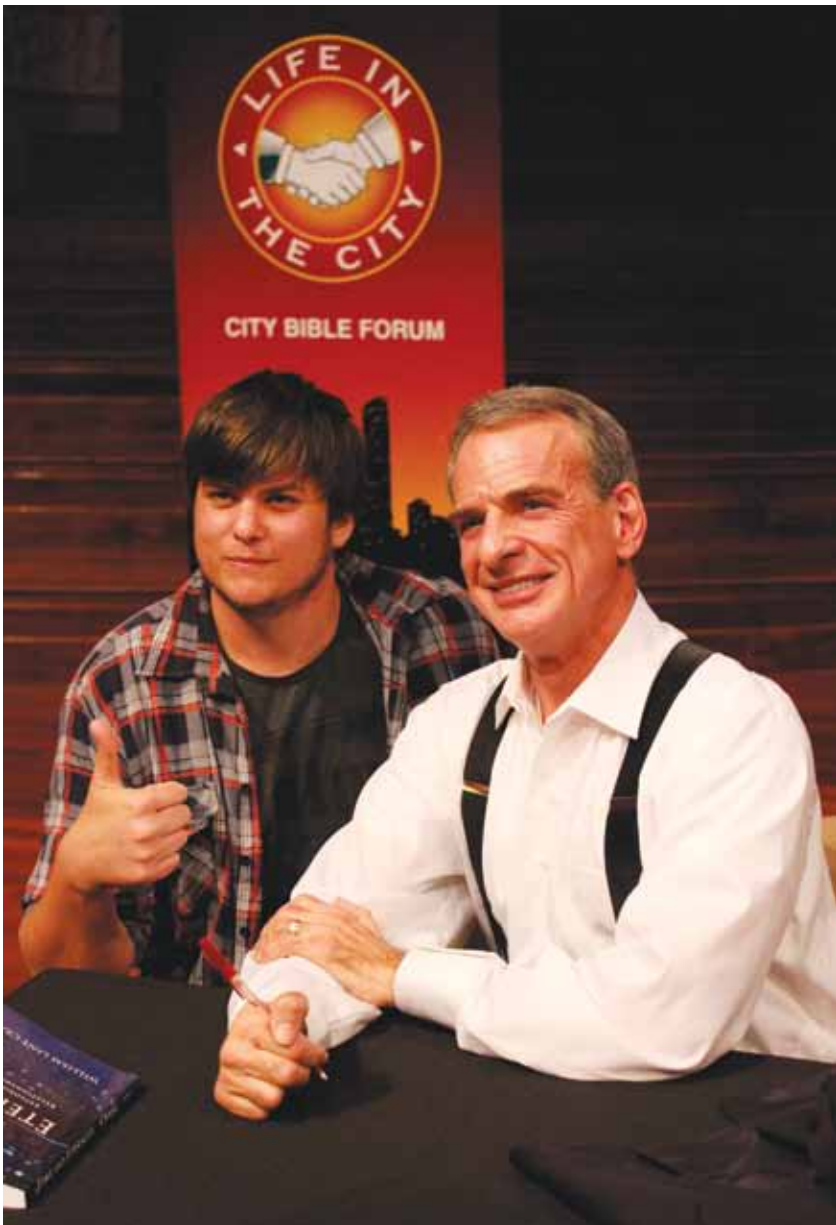
Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia who would like more details on either of the positions of Senior Minister or Colleague are invited to contact the Parish Office for a comprehensive package of information.

For further information please contact the Interim Moderator or Session Clerk.

**PARISH OFFICE**  
P O Box 3177  
MANUKA ACT 2603  
☎ (02) 6295 3457  
✉ [standrewcanberra@bigpond.com](mailto:standrewcanberra@bigpond.com)

**INTERIM MODERATOR**  
Rev Peter Gobbo  
(02) 6292 6772

**SESSION CLERK**  
Mr Doug Lennie  
(02) 6286 3440



QTC student Jamey Mohr meets Dr William Lane Craig after *Life, the Universe and Nothing*



## Life, the Universe and Nothing Has Science buried God?



QTC staff members Stuart Hoadley, Gary Millar, Andrew Bain and Wes Redgen at the QTC stand

THERE WAS a sell-out crowd for *Life, the Universe and Nothing* on 7 August at City Hall. QTC partnered with the City Bible Forum to run the evening, which featured Christian apologist Dr William Lane Craig and atheist Prof. Lawrence Krauss.

Over 1600 people turned out to hear the two speak on the topic of 'Has science buried God?' Though you would think the topic more suited to Prof. Krauss, who is a scientist and cosmologist, he chose to spend a significant amount of time raising his objections to Dr Craig's views on God's judgement on the Canaanites, rather than on giving a solid argument for his own viewpoint.

It was a lively evening with supporters from both sides of the fence cheering on their 'contestant'. Prof. Krauss has made several appearances on the ABC's Q&A and is well-known for being a rare example of a public intellectual - and he lived up to his reputation, keeping his supporters entertained.

He was at times very antagonistic towards Dr Craig. However Dr Craig remained polite and attempted to respond to questions that were off topic and aimed at raising emotions. Dr Craig came across as winsome and reasonable and did the audience the justice of addressing the topic in his opening comments.

Those people who had invited non-Christian friends felt that a major benefit of the evening was in opening up further discussions. Though it was great to have someone of the calibre of Dr Craig putting forth the Christian viewpoint on the topic, what non-Christians tend to find most engaging is authentic Christianity displayed in the lives of God's people.





## “Pedal power” motivates Cairns kids to brighter future

PRESCARE RECENTLY donated ten new bicycles to help children strive to improve their wellness and education.

The bikes, worth \$1000, were donated to the Smith Family in Cairns to support its Learning for Life program.

Regional Manager North Queensland Wayne Snelson said PresCare had been part of the Cairns community for three years, assisting seniors stay in their homes longer and stay connected to their friends and families.

“We provide aged-care packages in the home, enabling elderly clients to stay supported in their homes and local communities as well as provide chaplaincy and other services. The physical and mental wellbeing of all generations is vital for healthy communities”, Wayne said.

“That is why we are also supporting the Balaclava Primary School to reward children who keep fit and active in spirit, body and mind.”

The Smith Family’s Learning for Life Program Coordinator Donna McCulloch said the bikes would be used to incentivise children aged from five to seven years in their scholarship program.

“It was wonderful to receive Wayne’s call on behalf of PresCare and be considered for this kind and generous donation. We are so pleased to be passing along these bikes to the school where we are co-located”, Donna said. “Balaclava offers such a variety of innovative and meaningful experiences to the children and families, including safe travel, maintaining bikes, and healthy lifestyle programs. We appreciate the support offered to us, The Smith Family Cairns, and that which is provided to our local families.”

Wayne said it was a natural extension of PresCare’s work to give back to the younger generation.

“We know how valuable the Learning for Life Program is in supporting older children and saw an opportunity to help the younger kids. We’re part of the Cairns community and believe in helping families young and old”, Wayne said.

## PresCare expands their mission in Maryborough

IN JANUARY this year, the State Government announced expressions of interest would be sought from private and not-for-profit groups to take over management of Maryborough aged care facility, Yaralla Place. This is in line with their strategy to transfer care of the elderly from the state-run system into the mainstream, where not-for-profit and independent operators are the benchmark, enabling government to focus its attention on core elements of hospital and health service delivery.

PresCare has been successful in its bid to acquire and manage the facility.

CEO Greg Skelton said that Yaralla Place will enable PresCare to build on the work they’ve already been doing in the Maryborough community, and is a natural fit with their current aged care services in the region.

“PresCare will offer the same high level of care to the residents of Yaralla Place that we have been offering at Groundwater Lodge and across our other residential facilities in Queensland,” Greg said. “Through this facility, we will continue our mission to care for Queensland’s seniors.”

Yaralla Place is located adjacent to Maryborough Hospital. It is a single level facility consisting of three separate houses, with each house consisting of four wings. Yaralla Place currently has 96 beds, 16 of which are secure dementia beds.

The services provided include high care, dementia, transition and respite.

## Sponsors dig deep to improve elderly residents’ lives



‘Alfie’ Langer with new smart cart

EVERY YEAR for the past seven years, PresCare and Woollam Constructions have hosted three charity golf days – in Mackay, Rockhampton and Brisbane, to raise funds for PresCare’s operations in Queensland.

PresCare is extremely pleased to announce that funds raised in 2013 exceeded initial targets, with the three events bringing in over \$100,000.

Funds raised at these events will be used towards the implementation of a new \$150,000 electronic medication system. The new system will incorporate a fleet of 18 high-tech medication “Smart Carts” with built-in computer tablets and will see the replacement of the existing manual medication system with an integrated electronic system that links the aged care facilities, medical practitioner and pharmacy.

PresCare welcomed football legend Allan “Alfie” Langer to the Brisbane event, where he was able to road test one of the new smart carts.

“My mum is still healthy and lives in the home my brothers and I grew up in,” Allan says. “But at some point down the track she will probably need assistance and it’s good to know that PresCare is there to help care for her either in her home or in one of their facilities.”

CEO Greg Skelton says PresCare is always looking at ways to improve systems and processes, which in turn assists carers to improve residents’ quality of life and health outcomes.

“This system will ensure our people have more time to attend to resident needs and provide quality services,” Greg says. “Anything we can do to ensure the care we provide is of the highest quality is valuable.”

Thanks go to the PresCare and Woollam Constructions volunteers that helped pull together three very successful events and also to the companies and individuals who contributed to a record-breaking round of fundraising.

## Health Minister launches \$55,000 fitness program for 1000 aged-care workers



Queensland’s Minister for Health, Lawrence Springborg, helps launch “One Body for Life”

PRESCARE AND the Queensland Health Minister Lawrence Springborg recently launched a \$55,000 “workplace health” program targeted at 1000 aged-care workers across the state.

CEO Greg Skelton said the One Body for LIFE initiative aimed to help the organisation improve the health and well-being of its workforce across Queensland.

“The health of every one of our people is vital to PresCare. Our employees need to be fit and able to not only perform their daily duties at work but also go home and enjoy their time with their families without worrying about ill health,” Mr Skelton said.

“A caring organisation such as ours can’t only care for our clients, we need to take a level of responsibility and accountability to ensure we can look after ourselves as well.”

Mr Skelton said PresCare cared for more than 5500 seniors across

the state through in-home care, residential aged-care facilities, health and well-being services, chaplaincy, affordable accommodation and nutritious meals.

“The One Body for LIFE initiative runs for a year and includes a six-month Weight Loss Challenge,” Mr Skelton said.

“The program empowers local staff to design their own programs to meet their needs and help sustain their motivation to keep active and healthy. This may include walking groups, education sessions and fitness classes such as boxing or Tai Chi.”

At the program launch held at the Vela Aged Care Facility at Carina, Mr Springborg congratulated PresCare for its initiative.

“The Queensland Government is funding \$25,000 through a work health funding program for members of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland’s Zero Harm at Work Leadership Program (ZHAWLP).

PresCare is matching funding with an additional \$5000 for its Weight Loss Challenge. This shows PresCare’s commitment to a healthy workforce”, Mr Springborg said.

“We are pleased to be working with PresCare. A healthy workplace improves the general well-being of staff, increases safety, productivity, job satisfaction, staff relationships and improves workplace morale.”

Mr Skelton said that under the One Body for LIFE initiative each PresCare site would have access to exercise groups and a confidential telephone-based support and advice service. This would be provided along with regular education seminars.

The ZHAWLP Work Health Matched Funding Program is a key activity of the Queensland Workplaces for Wellness Initiative. This is a joint Australian, State and Territory Government initiative under the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health.



## Apron strings calm emotions for people with dementia

ALZHEIMER’S AUSTRALIA (QLD) has commended PresCare for its innovative “Aprons Program” for supporting people with dementia.

PresCare’s Groundwater Lodge in Maryborough uses activity aprons to help people with dementia keep mentally and physically active.

The activity aprons include pockets, zippers, buttons and shiny objects which people with dementia can touch to keep active. Activities which focus on enjoyment help relieve restlessness, one of the symptoms of the disease.

Teresa Chorazyczewski, a registered nurse and dementia behaviour consultant with Alzheimer’s Australia in Queensland, says tools such as the activity apron, which Groundwater Lodge introduced in 2012, help manage a number of behaviours common with dementia patients.

“Activity aprons can be used as a calming tool, helping encourage a person to engage in a quiet, sit down activity”, Teresa says. “They’re also great to provide an alternate activity for a person to focus on if they are prone to anxiety and calling out.”

Groundwater Lodge’s Care Manager Steve Leggett says some people with dementia can engage in concerning behaviours such as removing clothing and fidgeting.

“We were looking at activities to help our dementia residents, and thought they might benefit from activity aprons. Memory activities allow recall and bonding of simple everyday tasks. Other items on the apron help stimulate motor functions: bright soft pockets with elastic for pulling, fun printed fabric pocket with memory cards, clear plastic pocket for viewing photos, felt pockets with shoe string, zippers and buttons for counting and touching”, Steve says.

“Activity aprons are designed to provide different tactile, auditory and visual stimuli giving people with dementia opportunities to do familiar activities such as fastening and unfastening items such as buttons and zippers. We’ve been using them for over a year now and have had some great results.”

Teresa Chorazyczewski says the activity apron is one of a number of tools Alzheimer’s Australia recommends.

“Activity aprons have various pockets with items and fabrics attached, so the wearer can explore the activities while wearing the apron. The aprons provide a regular mental workout and keep the hands and brain busy”, she says.

**A very special way you can help**

Your donations and bequest gifts can help PresCare improve the quality of life for elderly people in care.

To make a donation or bequest gift in your Will, visit: [www.prescare.org.au](http://www.prescare.org.au) or phone: (07) 3223 4444

**PresCare**  
Compassionate Care



# What's on ...

**the wild, wild west**  
kids weekender camp

Pull on your boots, slap on your cowboy hat and get ready for a wild weekend as you discover what it means to ride alongside Sheriff Jesus!

**GRADES 4-7 only!**

For 2 night's accommodation, 5 meals and all of the activities, you pay a **SPECIAL PRICE... \$90**  
or - If you get in early - \$80 (by 20 Sept)  
transport available for \$18  
--- camp closes 18 October ---

**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!**  
[www.ynet.org.au/kidsweekender](http://www.ynet.org.au/kidsweekender)  
like us at [facebook.com/kidsweekender](https://www.facebook.com/kidsweekender)

**25-27 OCTOBER  
TWENTY THIRTEEN**

**pce camping**  
Presbyterian Church of Queensland



**18th - 22nd nov  
twenty thirteen**

jumpstart your future.  
life changing bible talks.

**jumpstart schoolies**

register online today at  
[www.ynet.org.au/jumpstartschoolies](http://www.ynet.org.au/jumpstartschoolies)

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p: 0438 538 480 e: [johnm@pcq.org.au](mailto:johnm@pcq.org.au)

**eating. sleeping. chatting. time to chill.  
surfing. swimming. beach footy.  
table tennis. lazing around in the sun.  
snorkelling. pool. mini golf.**

cost \$340  
includes food, accommodation & these activities...

pay-as-you-go for kayaking, sandboarding, 4wd-ing & crazy killer lawn bowls.



**REFORMATION  
DAY**

**2013 Reformation Thanksgiving Service**

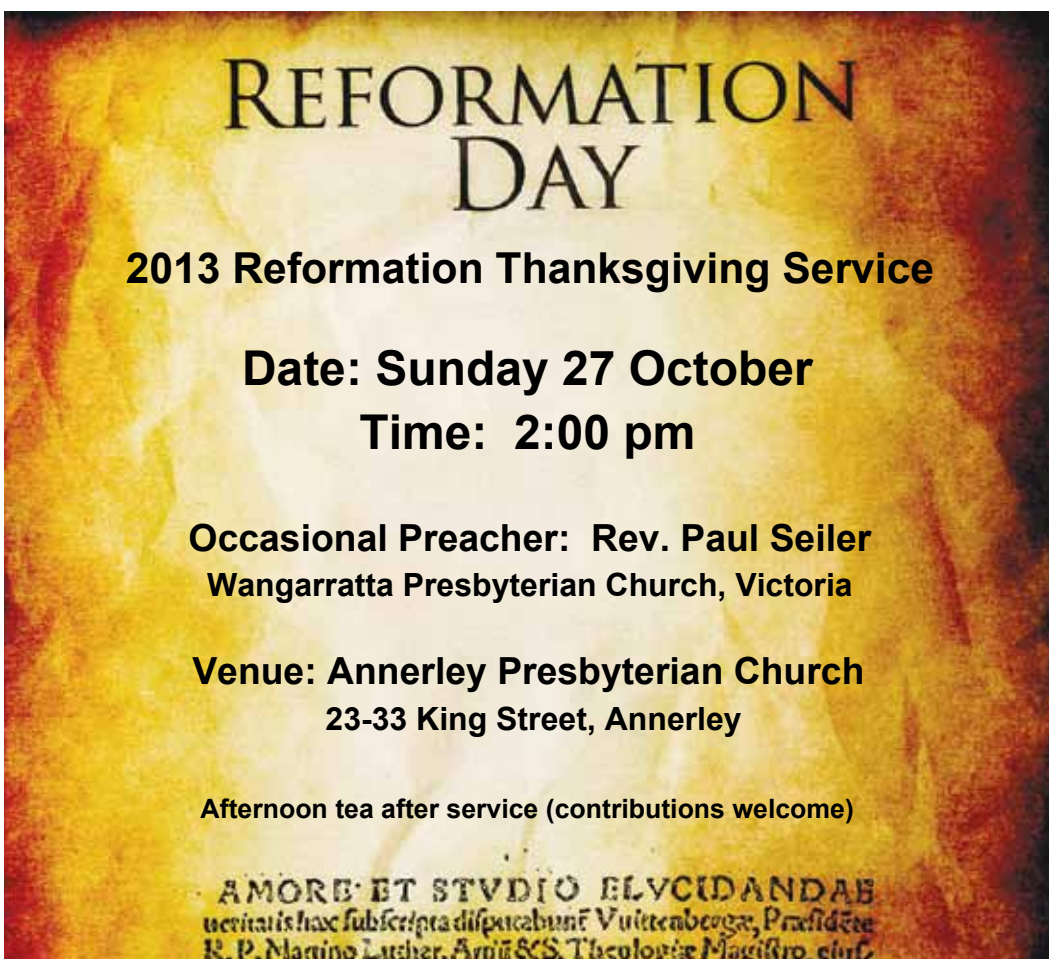
**Date: Sunday 27 October**  
**Time: 2:00 pm**

**Occasional Preacher: Rev. Paul Seiler**  
Wangarratta Presbyterian Church, Victoria

**Venue: Annerley Presbyterian Church**  
23-33 King Street, Annerley

Afternoon tea after service (contributions welcome)

AMORE ET STUDIO ELUCIDANDAE  
veritatis hanc subscripta disceptabunt Vultenbeoga, Praesidete  
R. P. Martino Luther, Amici & S. Theologiae Magistro, clauf



**Are we there yet?**

**2013**

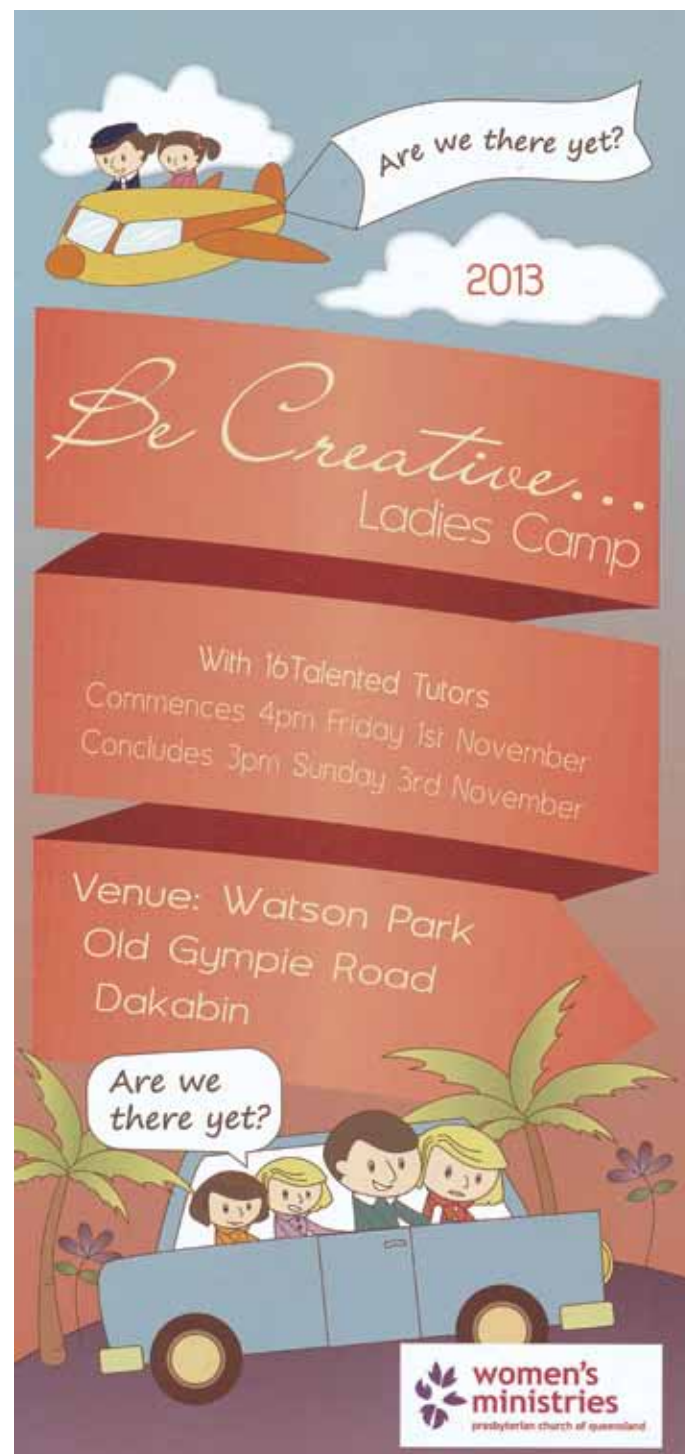
**Be Creative...  
Ladies Camp**

With 16 Talented Tutors  
Commences 4pm Friday 1st November  
Concludes 3pm Sunday 3rd November

Venue: Watson Park  
Old Gympie Road  
Dakabin

**Are we there yet?**

**women's ministries**  
presbyterian church of queensland



## briefly

### 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).

### 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)

### PREPARE - CUSTOMIZED VERSION

PREPARE and ENRICH have been used for many years by those working with couples planning to marry, couples wanting to strengthen their relationship and facing new challenges, and couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. The inventories have a reputation for accuracy, reliability, sensitivity and relevance. PREPARE-ENRICH CUSTOMIZED VERSION has been used to great effect for 4 years now. It is accessed via the internet and is customised to suit each couple. Training in the use of this new resource will be available at Brisbane Boys' College, Toowong on Thursday 12th December. For Registration details, contact the trainer, Graham Cole, on 3309 3558 or at [gcole@bbc.qld.edu.au](mailto:gcole@bbc.qld.edu.au).

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

### CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

on **Saturday, 26 October**

with Guest Speaker

**DR ALLAN HARMAN**

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

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

commencing at **5.30 pm for 6.00 pm**



Reformation Sunday services at  
Caloundra Presbyterian Church  
with Dr Harman preaching

**8.30 am & 10.30 am**

**Sunday 27 October**

For dinner bookings, please phone 07 5437 3494

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICE

**on Sunday, 15 December 2013**

**CALOUNDRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Cnr Ormuz Avenue and Kalinga Streets, Caloundra

**commencing at 7.00 pm**


*Singing of favourite Christmas Carols*

*Special Guests: The Amen Choir*

*Delicious supper*

*Christmas light display*

*View our nativity scene during supper*





# What a wonderful celebration it was

## St Paul's sums up their Sesquicentenary Celebrations

### Grand Organ Concert

IN CELEBRATION of the 130th anniversary of Brisbane's first pipe organ recital, given on this organ on 31 July 1883, eight recitalists - four teenagers and four experienced organists - gave the 140 strong audience a real treat as they demonstrated the full potential of this Hill & Son (London 1882) organ.

The concert was enhanced by a video link, showing a close up of the technique of the hands and the feet.

The audience applause spoke volumes of the appreciation of the feast of music, some of which had been played in 1883 and also at the Centenary recital in 1983.

They warmly acknowledged our recently retired organist of forty years, Neil Taylor, and also the relatives of two other long-serving organists - Mr R. Newman and Mr L. Rhodes-Hart.

With spontaneity, the audience rose to their feet for the last piece - the *Hallelujah Chorus* - which was a fitting finale to a truly memorable event.

The talent of these young organ students gives us the assurance that the complex and masterful art of bringing the 'King of Instruments' to life is in good hands!

### St Paul's congregation, celebrating 150 years of God's providence, then, now and to come

Over the past two years, monthly meetings of the 150th Anniversary Steering Committee sought to

- delve into our history and heritage
- develop a significant and varied program of events
- determine networks and publicity avenues
- disseminate information to the congregation and the community
- draw on congregational involvement
- deliver high quality and enjoyable events

The intent of the year's program can be summed up with this acronym ...

- F Foster Fellowship
- I Invite Interest
- S Share the Spirit
- H Highlight our History
- E Enjoy the Events
- R Raise Revenue
- S Strengthen our Service

"I will make you FISHERS of men if you follow me"

The wide variety of events that have been held at St Paul's over the course of the last twelve months have brought many visitors into our worship sanctuary with opportunity to experience the peace that this heritage space offers by the very nature of its architecture, and to feel a spiritual uplifting and connection to God in an atmosphere of reverence.

We have celebrated the 'Then' and the 'Now' and our prayer is that the 'To Come' will be a continuation of the vitality of our Sesquicentenary Year to take St Paul's congregation forward with drive and spirit-filled purpose.

All praise to God our Lord and King.

The 150th Anniversary Steering Committee expresses its sincere thanks to all who have celebrated with us and lent their support in practical and prayerful ways in our celebratory year.

### Tennis Social



Margaret Bunker (daughter of Rev. Ron Pashen) with her husband Bob. Still very active tennis players.

ON A glorious winter's day, a good morning of tennis was enjoyed by all, re-living the old days of St Paul's Tennis Club when the Rev. Ron Pashen and his family could step outside the manse and have a hit on the courts behind the church.

His great grand-daughter Poppy had fun keeping up with the ball machine, proving that the tennis talent still runs in the family.

### Kirkin' o' the Tartan

THIS COLOURFUL occasion at St Paul's drew many people with Scottish connections and interest to join in the worship service, which was enriched by the Elan Sopranos' rendition of *Amazing Grace*.

Official guests were the Rt Hon. Earl and Countess of Dunmore (Malcolm and Joy Murray) and Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service, Mr Ian Stewart and Mrs Stewart.

The Scottish Clans' Congress of Queensland is made up of appointed representatives from Scottish clan groups and societies and aims to give clans a collective voice within the wider community.

The Kirkin' is the principal activity for the Congress.

Sincere thanks go to the organisers and to the boys from Brisbane Boys' College for their stirring playing.

### '150 years of worship and witness serving the Lord' culminates in Service of Thanksgiving

IT WAS a delight to see 260 people gather in St Paul's on Sunday 18 August for the 150th Anniversary and Service of Thanksgiving.

A choir of 70 girls from Clayfield College added to the occasion with their delightful rendition of 'Glory to God' as the introit, the anthem 'Alleluia' and a recessional 'Eagle's Wings'. The congregation too, were in good voice and lustily sang five hymns.

Pastor Theo Masselos, Senior Chaplain at St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital, gave the address and took his theme, *Then, Now, To Come*, from the 150th Anniversary focus statement. Scripture passages were from Micah 6:6-8 and Mark 12: 28-31.

The children's address also followed that theme with a PowerPoint presentation showing how transport, clothing, music and teaching have all changed through the ages but God is the same - He is unchanging.

The Governor of Queensland was represented by Flight Lieutenant Tim Daelman ADC (Hon) and other special guests included elected representatives of Local and Federal Government, the present and past State Moderators (Hon. Greg Rodgers and Rev. David Niven) and representatives from PresCare, Samaritans' Purse and from various denominations.

Past members of St Paul's enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with friends, and in the presence of members of the McGavin family, the Rev. Matthew McGavin was remembered for his role in establishing the first congregation on 20 August 1863.

The anniversary cake was cut by our oldest member and one of our youngest. Following morning tea, a catered luncheon was enjoyed by 100 people. Two of our young people prepared PowerPoint presentations for the day and historic material was on view courtesy of our archivist. A photographic display of the events of the last twelve months also captured much interest.

It was a wonderful culmination to our year of special events and varied celebrations.



Organ concert



Brisbane Boys' College



Kirkin' o' the Tartan

### Scottish Night

WITH THE church hall adorned with Scottish teatowels and the tables set with Scottie dog cut-outs and tartan serviettes, the haggis was carried aloft with pomp and ceremony to the skirl of the bagpipes.

Following an entrée of scotch broth, the haggis was served as a side accompaniment to the main course meal of mince, tatties and vegetables. Dessert was shortbread and cupcakes iced with Scottish emblems of the thistle and St Andrew's cross.

The highland dancers displayed their fitness and the guests also had their chance to be energetic with a little Scottish country dancing.

A more sedate activity was the sing-along of Scottish songs and, of course, the most appropriate ending was the joining of hands in a circle for the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne'.



St Paul's pipe organ



Table decorations



Enjoying the Scottish night